



**Respect   Kindness   Confidence   Tolerance   Self-Discipline**

### Key Dates

#### Start of Term 5

Tuesday 16th April

#### Year 5 Class Assembly—Families welcome

Wednesday 17th April 2.45pm

#### Class 6B Test Trialling

Thursday 18th April

#### Year 2 Trip—Lincoln Cathedral

Tuesday 23rd April

#### Website Photographer in school

Tuesday 23rd April

#### Parent Book Look

Thursday 2nd May

#### Bank Holiday

Monday 6th May

#### Year 6 SATs Week

Monday 13th—Friday 17th May

#### **Contact us:**

01522 530954

#### **Email:**

[enquiries@st-johns.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@st-johns.lincs.sch.uk)

#### **Website:**

<http://www.stjohnsprimaryacademy.co.uk/>

Dear St John's Families,

We've made it to the end of term and it has been a brilliant one! I had one of my proudest moments yet as Headteacher of St John's when I was able to attend the Lincoln Music and Drama Festival with the KS2 choir. They performed beautifully and it was a real honour to sit in the audience and watch the result of all their and Mrs Ballard's hard work and dedication. You can read more about how they did in this newsletter.

We also had a fantastic talent show for Comic Relief and the children certainly made me smile with their added extras to their uniform that day. Thank you to our families for your generosity and support of Comic Relief.

Today to finish the term off, we had an Easter assembly with plenty of songs and poems. We were delighted to be joined by Reverend Jacqueline who explained the Easter story to the children.

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, your feedback from the parent survey was much appreciated. I have collated the views of our families and set out the plans for addressing some of the key areas in this newsletter. Together, we can continue making sure that the children at St John's are having a fantastic experience at school.

Finally, I hope you all have a fantastic Easter break. The children deserve a very well-earned rest as do all of the dedicated staff team at St John's. We look forward to seeing you back on Tuesday 16th April for another great term.

*Mrs Emma Jefferson*

*Headteacher*



GROWING YOUNG MINDS: A GREAT PLACE  
TO ENJOY LEARNING!



# Attendance and Safeguarding

**MOMENTS  
MATTER,  
ATTENDANCE  
COUNTS.**



FS RJR	93.2%
FS RAS	97.7%
Y1CT	92.5%
Y1RT	98.6%
Y2ST	92.7%
Y2F	95.8%
Y3B	95.7%
Y3HC	95.3%
Y4O	96.8%
Y4BC	93%
Y5M	95.6%
Y5N	94.9%
Y6B	93.9%
Y6D	91.4%

## Attendance for the week:

**94.8%**

## Attendance for the year to date:

**95%**

**NB: A school day is split into 2 sessions—AM and PM**

## Attendance Updates

The DfE continues to make attendance a priority and the Working Together to Improve School Attendance document becomes statutory from August 2024.

After Easter, we will be writing to all families detailing the attendance policy to be implemented at St John's from September 2024. This will be in line with the Priory Federation of Academies Trust attendance policy and framework. This will highlight some key changes to how the school will respond to unauthorised holidays in term time and we will ensure you have full clarity on this in the coming weeks. We continue to urge families to not book holidays in term time.

We aim to continue supporting families to ensure attendance is as high as possible so that the children are achieving as much success as possible at St John's.

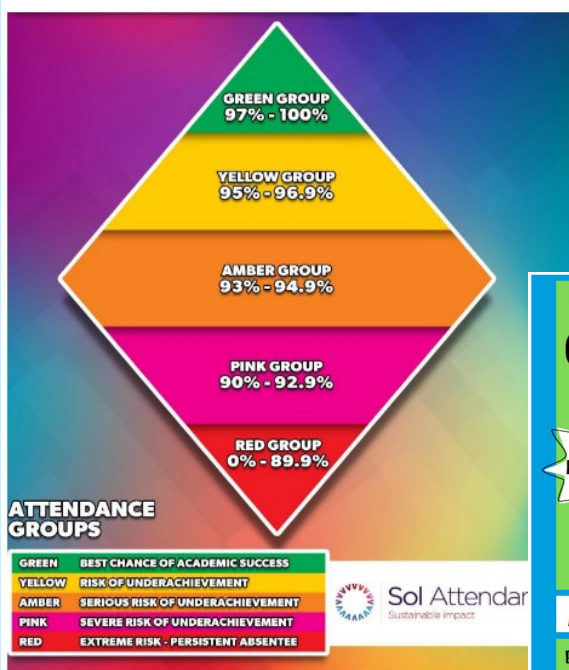
If you want to discuss anything related to attendance, then please don't hesitate to contact the school office.

## Safeguarding

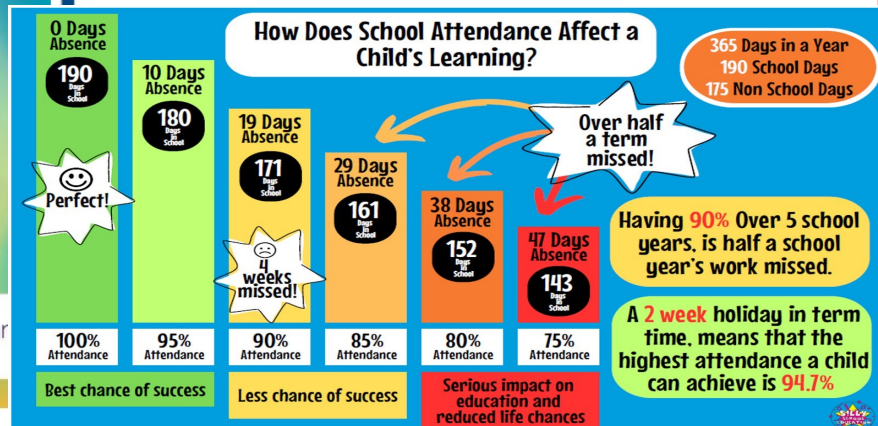
Please can we ask that you leave the playground as soon as you have collected your children. As part of our safeguarding and security procedures, we need to start locking the main gate as soon as all children are picked up. We know that younger children enjoy playing on the trim trail whilst they're waiting for their siblings and that parents enjoy catching up with one another but if you could do this off site then it would be much appreciated and allow us to secure our site promptly.

We also have some after school clubs which use the playground and they want to be able to start as promptly as possible. Thank you for your support with this.

## Attendance Ladder



## How Does School Attendance Affect a Child's Learning?







## Music Festival Success!

We are so thrilled with the musical success of our students in this years Lincoln Music and Drama Festival. There was tough competition in the junior choir category. St John's performed two brilliant songs— Do, Re, Mi from The Sound of Music and What About Us by Pink. The children were commended by the judge for their beautiful sound and how well they watched Mrs Ballard. They came an incredible 3rd! A huge thank you to Mrs Ballard for all of her work preparing the choir and allowing them to flourish in this way. Thank you also to Mr Ballard for accompanying the children and also congratulations as his school St Hugh's came away with 1st place! We also want to celebrate Claudia's incredible achievement as she finished 1st in her piano solo category. One thing is for sure—St John's definitely has talent!

## Year 6 Art



We have been inspired by the artist Mike Barrett. We studied some of his work and created a self portrait by using our sketching skills. We used pens to add shading with hatch marks and tried to keep the facial details simple. Following that, we used collage, water colour and pens to create a personalised background which would make our black and white images 'pop' off the page. We chose some of our favourite colours and thought about our hobbies and interests to make our work unique. The final step was to take a photo of the images and then, using Paint software, add more details and textures. 'I liked having the freedom to be creative and see where the art would take me' said one year 6 pupil.



## Year 2 Pirate Day

Year 2 had a fabulous pirate day this week to celebrate the end of their topic. They completed pirate crafts, had a pirate lunch and even discovered their pirate names! They all looked brilliant—thank you families for your support with the outfits. Days like these are what create the lasting memories for children. I popped in to 2F to tell them my best pirate joke "Why are pirates called pirates? Because they aaarrrrrrrrrrr!"

# In Other News

## Red Nose Day



Thank you to our amazing families for helping us raise £223.75 for Comic Relief. The children looked fantastic in their funny accessories and I had the best time with Mr Thornton and Mr Drury judging the St John's Talent Contest. It was such a fun experience for all of the children and again showed what a variety of talent we have at St John's. We had everything from football skills, magic tricks, ukulele playing and much more! What I was especially proud to see was how much support the children had from their peers. The encouragement and huge applause after each act was just brilliant. Well done St John's!



## School Council



The school council did a brilliant job raising money by selling books and cuddly toys last week. Thank you so much to all of our families who donated for their cause. They were raising money for a new basketball hoop for the playground and did incredibly well, raising £220! Great job school council!



## FoS

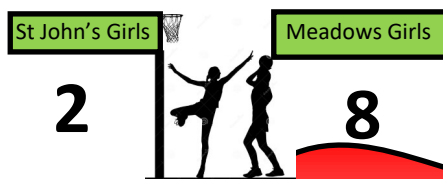
FoS had their AGM last week. They have worked tirelessly to continue raising funds for the school. Their long term project is to raise enough money for a new Trim Trail in KS1. They have also agreed to fund a History timeline which will go up the main staircase and should be a fantastic resource for us to use to secure children's understanding of chronology and outline the key parts of our History curriculum. FoS also fund new book bags for every child who starts in our new Reception class, getting them off to the best possible start and welcoming them and their families to St John's. Without their support, the school really would struggle to afford some of these 'extras' which make such a difference. I'd like to personally say a huge thank you to them and please come along and join and volunteer at events if you can help.

Our information evening for our new starters to Reception is coming up in May. FoS usually have a table with pre-loved uniform for families. If you have any good condition, smaller sized uniform which you no longer need and would like to donate then please can you hand this in to the office. Thank you!

Early Years had a fantastic time taking part in their easter egg hunt provided by FoS as you can see from these photos!



## Sporting News



A special mention to James Fellows in 3B for an incredible job, finishing 6th in the East Midlands Sumdog Maths contest out of 800 children taking part! This is an amazing achievement and we are really proud of you!



# Parent Survey



ST JOHN'S  
A PRIORY ACADEMY

Thank you so much for the responses to our parent survey. We had over 90 responses from families and the information gathered will support our school in making further improvements in the way we work with you. There were so many positive comments, some of which are detailed below. We have started to work through the common themes for areas to develop and have outlined our planned actions below. I will cover more of the themes in the next newsletter.

*"St. John's has committed and passionate teachers who go above and beyond to support their students' learning."*

*"Great support with pastoral and mental wellbeing."*

*"Communication has hugely improved recently."*

*"We are very happy with our children attending St John's. They are both happy and thriving. I feel I can talk to the teacher if I have any issues or questions."*

## You said...

## We'll do...

"We don't always know what our children are learning about each term. It would be great to know the topics they're doing so we can talk about it with them at home."

Each term, information about the curriculum in each year group is uploaded to the school website, however, I appreciate that this can be difficult to navigate and find. From next term, we will send out year group curriculum newsletters via email with details about what your child will be learning about in each subject. We hope you find these informative and that it gives you a greater sense of what the children are being taught in their lessons!

"We would like more variety in after school clubs and more trips / experiences for the children!"



So would we! From Easter, we are adding new clubs with Dance for KS1, Drama for Years 3 and 4 and Magical Maths for Y1-6. We have also sourced a new Art club to start from September. We will swap which year groups access these clubs each term. We continue to run choir, signing choir, gardening and our sports clubs too.

In terms of trips, we'd love to offer more and we're currently looking at which trips best enrich our curriculum. However, we are finding that we're receiving less contributions for trips than ever before and without these, we simply cannot afford to run the trips. We appreciate that the cost of living has made finances much tighter and we endeavour to keep the cost of trips to a minimum but cuts to school budgets mean we simply can't finance these by our self. Your contributions make a huge difference in a trip being able to go ahead so we'd love to offer more but please contribute where possible.

"We'd like to be invited in to school for more events and when we are, we'd like more notice about when these will be so we can organise work commitments."



We would love to welcome parents into school more and for you to have the opportunity to be more involved. In addition to the current events like book looks, productions and Christmas concerts, each class next year will lead an assembly where they will share their recent learning with parents and families. These will be included on the diary dates sent out at the beginning of the year to provide families with as much notice as possible to be able to attend. Not only is this wonderful for you as families to experience but it also provides the children with really valuable speaking and listening opportunities and develop their confidence in presenting to an audience!

# In the Community



ST JOHN'S  
A PRIORY ACADEMY



## The Heath Village Hall and Library

I know we have some very keen chess players at St John's so please see the dates to the left if anyone fancies a play at The Heath library. No need to book, just turn up and play and brush up those skills!

## Ramadan Mubarak

Ramadan Mubarak to the Muslim community. Our assembly with Mr Hussain was brilliant. We learnt so much about the month of Ramadan and why Muslims fast during this time. The children engaged brilliantly and had some great questions. It was wonderful to see the children really living out our values of tolerance and respect. Thank you to Mr Hussain for giving up his time to come and educate our pupils.



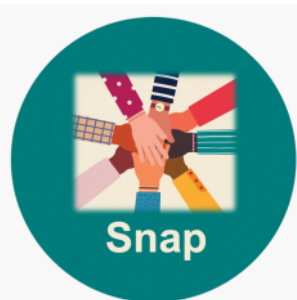
## Scouts



The 21st Lincoln (Bracebridge Heath) Scout group provide fantastic activities and adventure for young people age aged between 6 and 14 years. (Beavers, Cubs and Scouts) To enable the group to continue their successful work, they are looking for volunteers as Leaders/ helpers and three Trustees. Full training will be provided and if you feel you could offer your time, please contact Paul Drury at [enquiries@st-johns.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@st-johns.lincs.sch.uk) They look forward to hearing from you.

## EYFS Outdoor Area

Our Early Years outdoor area is in need of some investment and development. We'd really like to work with the local community on this and look for some sponsorship from local companies to transform this area for our youngest pupils. Outdoor learning and play is incredibly important and we're blessed with a great space which could become something spectacular. If you work for a company or business that may be interested in investing in a community project like this or you know some other means which could support us raising some funds for this, then please can you get in touch with me via the school office. We have big plans which we'd love to turn into a reality! Thank you in advance.



## SNAP

SNAP (Supporting, Nurturing, Accepting People) are a group of volunteers who support families affected by disability and special educational needs. They can support with signposting to appropriate support and provide a listening ear when life isn't easy. More information can be found by scanning the QR code.

Want to know more?



Use your phone camera to scan this QR Code.