

NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

I can't quite believe we have reached the October break already. The children have had a very settled start to the new academic session. We are delighted that there seems to be more of a sense of 'normality' and I am sure you will agree that our relationships are strengthened through the return of face-to-face contact.

Meet the Teacher

We are delighted that Meet the Teacher on Thursday 15th September was so well attended and we hope that you found the sessions worthwhile. As you know, we asked for parental feedback to support us in planning future events of a similar nature. We are pleased that a response was submitted for **84 pupils**. An overview of feedback is provided below.

How helpful did you find tonight's session? **Average response of 9.77/10**

Most beneficial aspects

- Seeing the learning environment
- Insight into the daily timetable
- Meeting the teacher
- Overview of curriculum
- Information about homework
- Explanation of teaching approaches

Suggestions

- Time gap between sessions
- Further information on supporting learning at home
- Access to concrete resources

Meet the House Captains and Vice-Captains

After a tough panel decision based on thorough applications and impressive video communication, we are delighted to share the successful house captains and vice-captains for Session 2022-2023. I am sure they will be excellent role models and will rise to the challenges ahead. Well done everyone!





Religious Education

First Friday Mass

We are really pleased that we have been able to attend First Friday Mass once again. Primaries 5 and 6 have already participated, with each year group having an opportunity to attend across the session.

Sacraments

This is a very special year for our Primary 4 and Primary 7 children who will be receiving the Sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation respectively. Dates for each have been shared with the relevant parents/carers.



First Reconciliation (P4) - Monday 6th March 2023 - 6:30pm

Confirmation (P7) - Thursday 27th April 2023 - 6:30pm

First Communion (P4) - Saturday 6th May 2023 - 10am



The Relics of Saint Bernadette

Some of our Primary 7 pupils represented St John's at a Mass at Carfin and had the opportunity to venerate the relics of Saint Bernadette which was a lovely experience for all involved.





Prayer Spotlight

The children have learned a new prayer at assembly. It might be nice for you to say this prayer with your child at home as we continue to support the children's spiritual development in partnership with each other.

Angel of God, my guardian dear
To who God's love commits me here
Ever this day be at my side
To light, to guard, to rule and to guide,



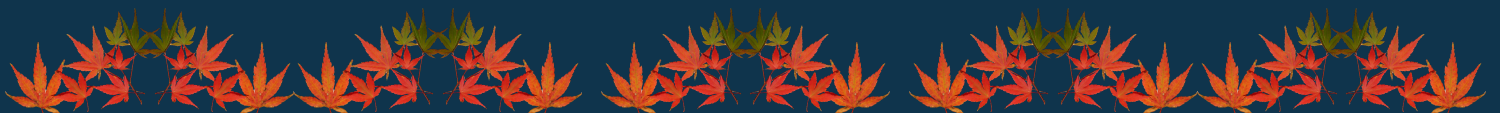
Archbishop Tartaglia Football Tournament

Some of our Primary 6 and 7 pupils had a great day at the Archbishop Tartaglia Football Tournament on Sunday 2nd October. They were excellent ambassadors for our school and we are very proud of them. Thank you to all parents/carers who attended and supported throughout the day and, as always, a special thank you to Mrs Aitken for giving freely of her time once again.



Diocese of Paisley Reflection Time for P4-P7 Pupils

The Diocese of Paisley will be holding a Reflection afternoon for Primary School Pupils in P4-P7 (inclusive) at St. James', Paisley on Sunday 23rd October. The session will last from 2-6pm. The day will include activities, Mass and dinner. No pre-registration is necessary but your child will be required to complete a consent form on arrival. If you require any further information please contact Fr. John Morrison on 01418892602 or at vocations@rcdop.org.uk



Seasons for Growth

Change and loss are issues that affect all of us at some stage in our lives. At St John's Primary we recognise that when changes occur within families through death, separation or related circumstances, young people may benefit from learning how to manage these changes effectively. To help support our young people who are impacted by change and loss, we will continue to run the Seasons for Growth programme, which uses the imagery of the seasons to illustrate the cyclical nature of grief and change. It aims to strengthen pupils' wellbeing by:

- exploring the impact of change and loss on everyday life
- learning new ways to respond to these changes



The programme runs for 8 sessions, where children have an opportunity to share (if they choose) some of their experiences and can work together to support each other to learn new ways to help them to cope with difficult situations. This is carried out with a trained companion and confidentiality is strongly emphasised.

Our Seasons for Growth groups will be starting in January. If you would like your child to be included in these groups, please access the form by [clicking here](#).

If you would like to find out more about Seasons for Growth, have any questions or you would like to discuss anything in relation to the programme, please contact the school office and arrange to speak with Miss Dunsmuir.

Primary 1 Lunch Experience

Primary 1 loved welcoming an adult into school to have lunch with them in September. Thank you to those of you who came along to share this experience with them!



Extra-Curricular Activities

Our lunchtime and after school clubs are going to be starting after the October break. To apply for a club, please [click here](#) and fill out the online form by Tuesday 25th October. Please complete one form per child. There are a limited number of spaces available and a letter will confirm if your child has been allocated a place by Friday 28th October.

TIME & VENUE	ACTIVITY	OPEN TO	DATES
MONDAY			
3-4pm P2a Classroom	Lego Club	P1-2	7 th , 14 th , 21 st , 28 th November (4 weeks)
TUESDAY			
3-4pm Gym Hall	Judo	P5-7	1 st , 8 th , 15 th , 22 nd , 29 th November, 6 th December (6 weeks)
WEDNESDAY			
3-4pm Gym Hall	Athletics	P3-4	2 nd , 9 th , 16 th , 23 rd November (4 weeks)
1-1.20pm P4b Classroom	Spanish	P1-3	2 nd , 9 th , 16 th , 23 rd November (4 weeks)
3-4pm P4a Classroom	Chess	P6-7	2 nd , 9 th , 16 th , 23 rd November (4 weeks)
THURSDAY			
3-4pm P1b Classroom	Bracelet Making	P5-6	10 th , 17 th , 24 th November, 1 st December (4 weeks)
FRIDAY			
1-1.20pm Gym Hall	Mexican Dodgeball	P5-7	4 th , 11 th , 18 th , 25 th November, 2 nd , 9 th December (6 weeks)

October Holiday Camps

ER Culture and Leisure October Holiday Camps are running again this year with the following on offer:

- All Star Sports Camp at Eastwood High School
- All Star Activity Camp at Barrhead High
- Beginners Intensive Swimming Lessons at various venues
- Pre-School Intensive Swimming Lessons at various venues
- Learn to Dive Course at Neilston Leisure Centre & Eastwood Park Leisure.



To find out more and to book please [click here](#).

Attendance and Late Coming

As I am sure you will agree, your child's regular attendance at school is extremely important. Below is an indication of the correlation between the number of days missed and attendance percentages for each child. Target attendance for each child is 96%.

Number of days missed	Attendance Percentage
0	100%
10	95%
19	90%
29	85%
38	80%
47	75%

We understand that personal circumstances can result in poor attendance or regular late-coming for your child and are sympathetic to this. If this is the case, please don't hesitate to contact us and we will work together with you in the best interest of your child. Attendance data is analysed every month and we will be in touch to discuss any concerns as they arise.

Since our return in August there has been a stark increase in the number of children going on holiday during term time. Whilst we appreciate that there can be extenuating circumstances that contribute to the decision to remove children from school, we ask that you are mindful of the length of holiday and the regularity of removing your child(ren) for this reason.



As a result of the above, many parents have requested alternative parents' evening appointments. Whilst we are keen to make every effort to cooperate, the number of children on holiday and the resultant number of requests for us to facilitate separate appointments is logistically challenging. Class teachers fulfil their collegiate duties on the evening set aside for parent appointments. Given the fact that the number of families on holiday has risen over the last couple of weeks, and initial requests were granted, we will facilitate these in this instance. Moving forward, however, it is unlikely that we will be able to make alternative arrangements. Should you wish to discuss individual circumstances please don't hesitate to contact me.



Halloween

There will be Halloween Parties in classes on Friday 28th October. Children are invited to come to school in fancy dress and do not need a change of clothes. Thank you to those of you who donated preloved costumes to the school office. We received a lot more donations than we expected! Members of the Parent Council have organised these into age categories and they will be on display at Parents' Night tonight.

Please have a look and take anything you think might be suitable for your child.



All Saints Day



Tuesday 1st November is All Saints Day and is a holy day of obligation. All classes in the school will walk over to St John's church to celebrate Mass together at 10am.



Parent Workshops

Over the last few weeks the focus of our parent workshops has been within the area of Literacy. Thank you to those of you who attended our P1-3 and our P4-7 Home Reading sessions as well as our TRAIL (Together Raising Attainment in Literacy) session. Thank you to Miss Dunsmuir and Mrs Millar for leading these sessions; feedback has been very positive.

Mrs Heron and Ms Webster will be leading a health and wellbeing session for parents focused on the theme of 'Anxiety' in the coming weeks with more information to follow.





Sustainability

Pupils across the school regularly participate in outdoor learning sessions and we would therefore be grateful if you have any spare wellies at home that are no longer required. These would be put to good use as it would be helpful to be able to ensure we have enough wellies for everyone to use.



We also use Lego in school for various STEM activities and clubs and would appreciate donations if anyone has Lego that is no longer used at home. This would allow more pupils the opportunity to participate in being creative with various Lego activities.

Thank you for helping us to create a sustainable environment!

ERC PE Code of Practice

The ERC Code of Practice for PE states that no items of jewellery, including earrings, can be worn during PE lessons. This is to avoid the increased risk of items becoming caught on clothing or equipment and causing injury to the wearer or to a fellow participant.

Taping of jewellery is not permitted as it can create a perception of safety but can easily come off, therefore not reducing the risk of a compression injury.

Any pupil who is unable to remove an item of jewellery by themselves should be discouraged from wearing it to school.



CLASS NEWS

Class updates focus on the interdisciplinary nature of 'themed learning'

• Primary 1a •

This term our focus for our learning and play, as decided by children's vote, has been 'Fairy tales' and we have been very busy. In Maths, we have measured the length of Jack's beanstalk and the length on Rapunzel's hair. We have also been exploring 2D and 3D shapes and have shown creativity and independence when making and comparing excellent 2D and 3D castles and towers, as well as identifying 3D shapes in fairy tales.

"The pumpkin and carriage was a sphere shape" - Luke

"Rapunzel's tower is a cylinder and a cone on top" - Lilly

Alfie showed curiosity when he wondered how Rapunzel first got into her tower if there were no windows or door?

We have also created wonderful imaginative drawings of our fairy tales during our weekly writing lessons. We are focusing on adding lots of detail and then describing what is happening in our pictures. Our words are written underneath which helps us to see what sentences look like. There's so much learning to be had with fairy tales!



Class updates focus on the interdisciplinary nature of 'themed learning'

Primary 1b

We voted for what we wanted to find out this term and decided we wanted to know all about Planets and Space before planning the questions we wanted to research. We enjoyed using songs to help us learn all the names of the planets and some of their features. We used different art techniques to make pictures of space. We have been studying shapes in Maths so we created rocket pictures using 2D shapes and 3D rocket models. We researched star constellations then created our own out of toothpicks and mini marshmallows. After finding out about the jobs you can do in space, we used our listening skills to help us to follow instructions to draw an astronaut.

"The planets in our Solar System are called Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune" - Dominic

"Pluto was a planet but now it's a dwarf planet" - Layla-Leigh



Class updates focus on the interdisciplinary nature of 'themed learning'

Primary 2a

Primary 2a chose 'Space' as our theme for this term. We have been learning about how the planets in our solar system orbit the sun. We learned this through a game in PE where some children were a team of 'planets' and had to run as fast as they could to orbit the 'sun' team who had to keep throwing a ball around the sun. We also researched space rockets and learned the names of some of their features. We used this information to design our own sketches of a space rocket and we labelled the parts. We used our designs to work collaboratively in groups to build our rockets using big wooden blocks. We have continued the theme of space in our story writing. Last week we used our imaginations to write stories about an alien party on the moon. We wrote very exciting stories and tried hard to remember our capital letters, full stops and finger spaces. We developed our fine motor skills through creating little aliens from clay. We worked in pairs as 'planet detectives' to research information about the planets in our solar system. We made notes of our findings and drew pictures of the planets. We also discovered that the length of a year is different in all the planets. Some years are longer than our whole lives!



Class updates focus on the interdisciplinary nature of 'themed learning'

Primary 2b

Primary 2b had lots of different suggestions but after a class vote the winning theme was Magic. We have been learning about a very famous wizard called Harry Potter. We used a sorting hat, like Harry Potter, to help us remember our own houses in St. John's. We also used clay to create our own sorting hats. In Literacy, we continued with the theme of Magic as we used our imaginations to write wonderful stories about a fairy garden. We also read the story Room on the Broom and we even had a shot on a broomstick! We used the information from the story to help us sketch and label our own broomstick design. After this, we put all of our ideas together and worked in small groups, using the building blocks, to create our new improved broomsticks.

"We read Room on the Broom. We had a shot at sitting on a broom but it wasn't comfortable. Then we had to design our own broomstick. I gave mine a seat, a bed for my dog and a cup holder."

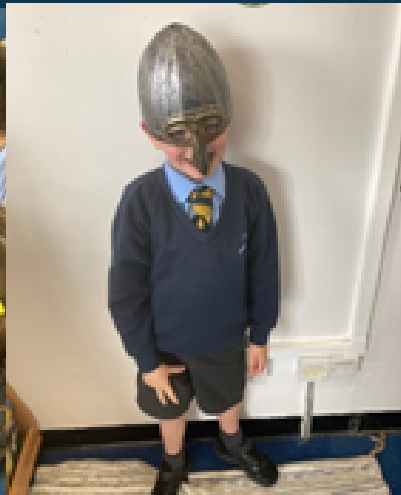
"We had fun making witches hats using clay. I put a love heart on the front of my witch's hat because my witch is a good witch."



Class updates focus on the interdisciplinary nature of 'themed learning'

Primary 3a

P3a have recently embarked on their journey to learn all about the Vikings. We have even brought in Viking books and helmets from home! We started by exploring Viking homelands and settlements. We learned that the Vikings came from Scandinavia and invaded places across the UK. When we looked at the map, we could see why the Vikings travelled by sea. We're excited to learn more about Viking longboats. We then moved on to investigating the Viking gods. We made interesting fact files and included an eye-catching illustration. We understand that in Norse mythology, the gods had their own areas of responsibility and we loved using our imaginations to design our own Viking gods. We are excited to begin learning about Viking battles and weapons next week and putting our artistic skills to the test by designing our own shields!



Class updates focus on the interdisciplinary nature of 'themed learning'

• Primary 3b •

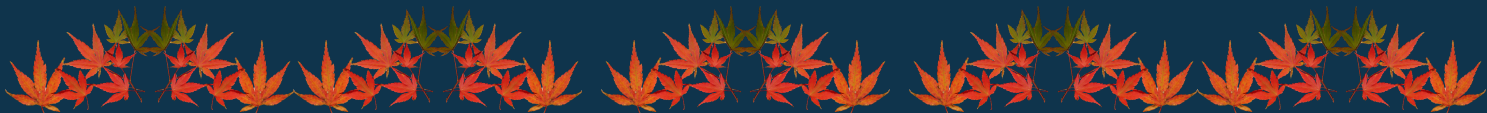
The Romans was the winner of our class vote on themed learning. As an introduction to our theme, we were able to identify Italy on a map of Europe and locate Rome, its capital city. We know that Rome was a very important city in the Roman Empire. We heard all about Romulus and Remus and were able to summarise the story and sequence it correctly. Next we investigated all the different Roman gods and goddesses. We loved learning about their roles within Roman culture and what they were worshipped for. We learned how to use Google to find out information about our favourite gods and we were able to use our research to create fact files and record important facts on a Google Doc. We are becoming really confident using the chromebooks. We are now learning about the Roman Army and are looking forward to designing and making our own Roman Shields.



Class updates focus on the interdisciplinary nature of 'themed learning'

Primary 4a

Primary 4a have enjoyed learning through their exciting Disney topic. They started by learning all about Walt Disney. They learned how to line draw an early version of Mickey Mouse and, Walt's first character, Oswald the Lucky Rabbit! In writing, P4a have been learning how to write fact files whilst finding out all about EPCOT, one of the parks in Disney world. They researched different countries in the World Showcase, as well as some of EPCOT's rides. From researching EPCOT rollercoasters, they were challenged to build their own rollercoaster. They also took part in a design challenge after receiving a very special letter from Walt Disney World, having to design a Disney themed t-shirt from a design brief set by Disney. They learned about the history of animation, investigating how sound was first added to cartoons. They then worked together to create their own sound effects for Disney's first ever audio synchronised short film, Steamboat Willie.



Class updates focus on the interdisciplinary nature of 'themed learning'

• Primary 4b •

Primary 4b have been learning about many Inspirational People. The first person we were very excited to learn about was Sir Isaac Newton. He was a famous scientist who discovered the laws of gravity and motion. We learned that Earth's gravity is what makes things fall. The children communicated their learning of gravity through fantastic poems. We have also learned about Andy Warhol and J.K. Rowling! We used the visual elements of line, shape and colour to design our own. J.K. Rowling inspired the authors in Primary 4b. We learned that she was one of our dispositions - resilient! She never gave up and created the wonderful world of Harry Potter! She inspired us to write a persuasive letter to Dumbledore, asking him to accept us as students at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry! We even designed our own wands. We can't wait to learn about more inspirational people!



Class updates focus on the interdisciplinary nature of 'themed learning'

• Primary 5 •

Primary 5 chose Kings and Queens as their themed learning topic this term. They have been comparing and contrasting Egyptian and Victorian life with that of their own and have been discussing the similarities and differences between these societies. Primary 5 created their own crowns and developed their art skills when learning all about contrast colours. They also completed their own family trees when learning all about inherited and non-inherited characteristics in Science. During Literacy time they wrote about what they would do if they were a King or a Queen for a day and learned what good features of writing are and how to include them in their work. In particular, P5 are focusing on VCOP this term; vocabulary, connectives, openers and punctuation. They are working so hard!



Class updates focus on the interdisciplinary nature of 'themed learning'

• Primary 6a •

Primary 6a have chosen The Victorians for our themed learning this term. We began by looking at a timeline of British history and placing the Victorian era in time (1837 - 1901). We then learned about the life of Queen Victoria and created her family tree. It was interesting to see the links between her family and the current royal family! We have looked at the effects of the Industrial Revolution and the impacts it had on society. We have learned about Victorian inventions and did a 'Dragons Den' style pitch on what was the most important invention of the Victorian era! After much deliberation between the groups we chose Michael Faraday, 'the electricity king' and his electricity generator! Daniel enjoyed learning about the British Empire and looking at the maps, "It was interesting to see the maps change over time!"

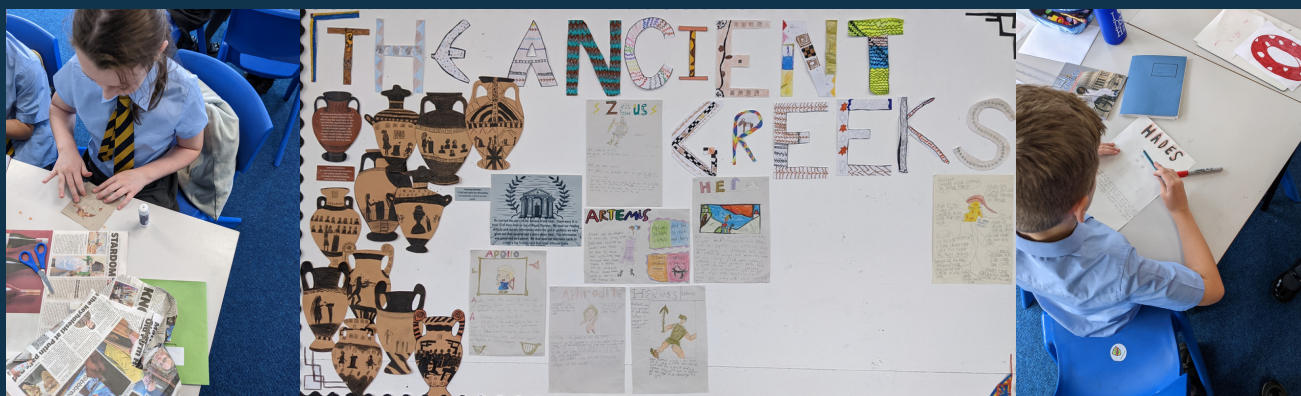


Class updates focus on the interdisciplinary nature of 'themed learning'

Primary 6b

In Primary 6b, lots of our learning has been around the theme of The Ancient Greeks. So far we have looked at the Ancient Greek period as a whole, creating a timeline of key events. After that we considered life in those times; each person created a character with an authentic Greek name and thought about what their life would have been like.

Since then we have created Greek vases, inspired by the traditional style, but having learned about the role of women in Ancient Greek times, we depicted scenes that show women who have overcome gender inequality. We also learned about the Greek gods and goddesses involved in mythology, using our reading skills to find information about them, and summarise an interesting story from their lives. We have made a Top Trump card for each one and hope to have a go at the game soon. We have also learned about Ancient Greek mosaics and have been working on making mosaics of some gods.



Class updates focus on the interdisciplinary nature of 'themed learning'

Primary 7

In Primary 7, we have been using the theme of the 1980s to develop our skills across a number of curricular areas. We have eagerly participated in a range of learning experiences enhancing our knowledge of this decade. One of our first tasks was to explore fashion of the 80s. Wow! People then liked vibrant colours and an accessory or two! Our artistic skills were put to test when we decided to design and create 80s sunglasses. What do you think? We also used our Listening and Talking skills whilst listening to a selection of 80s music. We were able to identify instruments being played and discuss how each song made us feel. Likewise, we explored the history of the Nintendo games console and were able to place each of these in chronological order. We can't wait to explore more of this decade and look forward to sharing this with you on Twitter. Stay tuned!





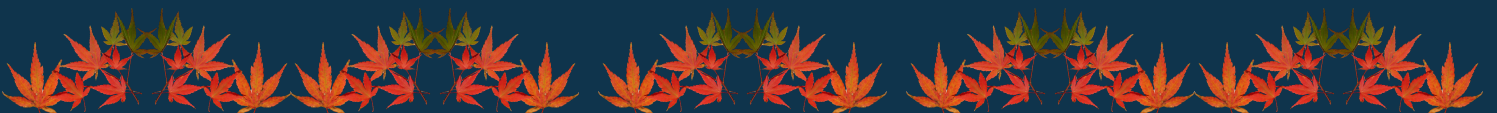
Winter Emergency School Closure



During severe winter weather, schools and services can be affected for a variety of reasons, such as those noted below:

- **The access road is not on a priority or severe weather route and is therefore untreated**
- **Insufficient staff are able to reach their place of work to maintain minimum ratios**
- **Pupils are unable to reach school safely**
- **School buses stop operating and public transport is severely disrupted**
- **Problems with the heating supply**
- **Water supply is compromised resulting in disruption to sanitation services and**
- **Access routes around the establishment are considered hazardous or are blocked by snow and ice**

Whilst every effort is made to keep schools open, there may be occasions when emergencies make it necessary for pupils to be sent home prematurely. The decision to close a school rests with the Director of Education and parents will be notified through our school website and via email and text message. Please ensure all contact details are up to date. For those of you who live or work some distance away it would be beneficial, where possible, to have a contact close to the school for situations such as heavy snow fall.



• Parent Council •

Thank you to all parents/carers and local businesses who supported our family night. We raised a massive £932.28. A special thank you to our office staff who support everything we do and help make sure our events run very smoothly.

We have our Annual Shoppers' Night on Friday 11th November in St John's Church Hall. Doors open at 7pm and tickets are available on the door.

Thank you to those who have supported the Cluster 100 Club. We are still waiting on numbers from St Thomas' and St Mark's and once we have them we will be doing our September and October draws.

Remember we have preloved uniform and Halloween costumes, get in touch if you need anything. There will be stalls for both at Parents Night.

If you would like to be more involved with PC or even just help out with our fundraising events please let us know. Find Annmarie on our FB page - St John's Parents/Carers or contact via st.johns.pc7@gmail.com.

Family Night



Office Bearers

Chair: Annmarie Strain

Vice-Chair: Sharon Gray

Secretary: Kathleen Fallon

Treasurer: Mairi Watson

Lead Fundraiser: Lisa McDaid

Shoppers' Night

Help support local businesses and raise funds for our school at the same time!

DATE

11th November 2022
@7pm

WHERE

St John's Church Hall

ENTRY COST

£2 per person - Pay on door.

STALLS CONFIRMED SO FAR

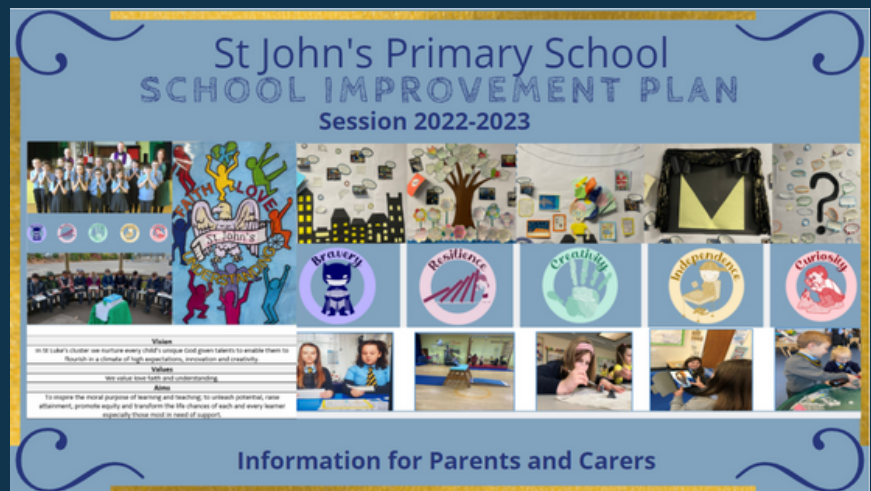
The Accessory Pod
Arlene's Wax Melt's
Scraggy Dolls
Catherine's Jewellery
Gingers Craft Shack
IVAD
Temple Spa
AC Personalised Gifts
Catherine Rose
Bows by Kirsty
Nelly Boxes
Lorrs Books
Mortimer Woodery
Preloved Uniform & Toys
P7 Jewellery and Crafts

Thank You

A note of thanks is owed to all parents and carers for your ongoing support of the school in the many forms that takes.

School Improvement Plan

Please click the image to take you to the parent version of the School Improvement Plan which was shared with you in September



Education Scotland Follow-Through Report



Please click the image to take you to the Education Scotland Follow-Through Parent Information leaflet which was also shared with you in September

Senior Leadership Team (SLT) Drop-In

The Senior Leadership Team look forward to welcoming any parent/carer who wishes to drop in for a cuppa on Friday 4th November from 9:15am-9:45am. This will be an informal opportunity to meet with us to discuss any ideas you may have to further strengthen the existing parent/school partnership. If you would like to come along please [click here](#) to indicate your intention to attend.

All that remains for me to say is thank you and to wish you a lovely October break. A reminder that Monday 24th October is an Inservice Day. We look forward to welcoming the children back at school on Tuesday 25th October.

Kind Regards,
Marie Kane
Acting Head Teacher