

# Penistone St John's CE Primary School Newsletter

May 2025

## Sumer Term

### Message from Mrs Arnold - Headteacher



Dear parents and carers,

I hope you have had a good half term and enjoyed some of the better weather and the extra bank holidays.

We have had a busy start to the summer term so far with classes being involved in music and computing projects as well as continuing to work hard on our core subject teaching of reading, writing, maths, science and RE. It has been lovely to hear the song Mamma Mia being sung and accompanied to on the glockenspiels in Y4 and the Y5s practising ukulele.

SATs test have taken place in Y6 during May. Although we try and keep national assessments low key some children, staff and parents can find this time stressful. In all tests and assessments, we try and prepare our children so they are ready to face what is presented but we are all now glad these are over and we can enjoy continuing our learning in the summer term.

Other news – we have some further staffing changes. After many years serving the school, Miss Mellor and Mrs. Anger will be leaving their roles as Teaching assistants to enjoy a well-earned retirement. Miss Mellor has been with the school for 10 years and Mrs Anger has been at school for 27 years. Mrs Anger has been linked to the school as a parent and has gone on to have many hats-Governor, an after school club lead, PTA lead and Higher Level Teaching Assistant. Both children and staff will miss her commitment, hard work, positivity and infectious smile. We will be marking the end of an era in school with various events.

Next half term looks just as busy with lots of exciting events coming up to make sure our children have access to a broad and balanced curriculum. We will start the term with a cross curricular project which is called Keeping Healthy, Keeping Safe as well as having the usual end of year events such as sports days, transition, the Y6 production and Y6 Leavers Service.

Please check the calendar or ring the office if you need further information.

Please get in touch if you feel you have a concern but also to praise us when we get things right.  
Kind regards,

### School Values



**L OVE**

"Let all that you do be done in love (1 Corinthians 16:14).



**HON E STY**

"Let all of us speak the truth." (Ephesians 4:25)



**F A ITHFULNESS**

The Lord rewards those who are faithful and righteous (1 Samuel 26:23)



**FO R GIVENESS**

"Forgive, and you will be forgiven (Matthew 6:14)



**KIND N ESS**

"Whoever pursues righteousness and kindness will find life" (Proverbs 21:21)

# St. John's School

We are excited to announce we are going to be joining the Children's University.

Children's University is an award scheme that encourages and celebrates children's participation in learning activities beyond the classroom. Children earn stamps online in a 'Passport to Learning for their participation in a wide variety of activities. These stamps collate towards certificates and graduation ceremonies. It is a national program that encourages children to engage in learning outside school, including after-school clubs, community visits and self-led activities. Children's University helps children develop a love of learning, builds confidence and promotes independence.

All children have their very own dashboard which will help them see how they're progressing towards the next award level; reflect on the skills they're building and help them find new activities to take part in. There are also online-only exclusive badges that can be collected between graduations.

I'd say watch out for more people information about how to sign up.



## Road Safety

Our new Key Stage 2 Road Safety Officer team have worked very enthusiastically with the team from the Council to devise an excellent strategy for St John's.

They delivered a lovely assembly to KS1 children, standing up bravely to share the key messages of Beep, Beep Day. They demonstrated the importance of using car seats, holding hands and looking both ways before they cross the road.

Our next project is to share information about school parking to keep our whole community safe.



# Curriculum

## Pupils at St Johns

At St Johns the mental health and wellbeing of all our pupils continues to be a priority.

Through our PSHE curriculum children continue to have opportunities to identify and develop understanding of their own mental health and wellbeing, developing skills and strategies to support them.

As part of the graduated support offer to all our pupils we have enjoyed pupil workshops from Compass Be including Healthy Peer Relationships, Self Esteem and Positive Mental health. Coming up this term are workshops focusing on Transition in Year 6 and Year 2.

Incredible Me – The power of connection programme we use in school to support individuals, groups of children and whole class teaching is building on making meaningful connections with our peers.



## Parents and Families of St Johns

Looking after our mental health is not something we should just do if we are struggling, or feeling low, anxious or stressed. It's actually something we should think about all the time and really invest in, just like with our physical health. Staying on top of our mental wellbeing is good for us it helps us manage difficult times in the future. Over time, it can also reduce our risk of physical health problems. There are lots of things we can do to look after our mental health and wellbeing every day. Make a start with 7 top tips from the NHS "Every Mind Matters" website at <https://www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters/mental-wellbeing-tips/top-tips-to-improve-your-mental-wellbeing/>

This website includes short video clips to support you with (amongst other things) mindful breathing, healthy living, how to improve your sleep health and how to reframe negative thoughts.



# Curriculum

## Computing Curriculum

This half term, all year groups will be developing their Computer Science skills through the use of Scratch. At St John's, we define Computer Science as: Understanding how computers work and how we can use them to solve problems and find solutions. It includes learning how to think like a computer (computational thinking), creating step-by-step instructions (algorithms), and writing code (programming) to make computers perform different tasks.

In older year groups, children will deepen their knowledge in this area by writing their own code to control sprites, using commands, creating algorithms and considering how to make effective decisions within their programs alongside debugging.

Our younger learners in Year 1 will be introduced to Scratch for the very first time. They'll explore what sprites are, how to change backgrounds and begin to build their understanding of how we can control what happens within a program.

By Year 6, learners will be applying all their skills to design and create their very own games-including using variables to make their projects more engaging and interactive.

We're excited to see the creativity, problem-solving and collaboration that will come from this exciting unit of work.



# Curriculum

## Science

During spring term, children have taken part in a Science project linking to the British Science Week theme of 'Adapt and Change' and learnt about natural adaptations or those that humans have made to the world around them.

Alongside this, they also looked at famous scientists who have changed the world and the UN sustainability goals, including how they link to learning to help children to become better global citizens of the future. Each class has had a different topic:

EYFS – Precious Planet

Year 1 – Fairy Fanatics

Year 2 – Animal Adaptations

Year 3 – Silly Science

Year 4 – Slinky Science

Year 5 – Packets for the Planets

Year 6 – Incredible Inventions

Children also had the opportunity to take part in an exciting workshop from 'Kids Invent Stuff' where children welded chocolate to create the tallest tower!





# Reminders

Don't forget :

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### School Day

Just a reminder about the school start and finish times.

**Nursery am opens 8.30 and closes 11.30 - Nursery pm opens 12.10 closes at 3.10.**

**KS1 doors open 8.40am. Children should be on task by 8.45am. Children leave at 3.15pm.**

**KS2 doors open 8.45am. Children should be on task by 8.50am. Children leave at 3.20pm.**

Please can you make sure you arrive at school on time between these times. Gates will be locked at 8:55am in order to allow a prompt start to the school day.

If you need to speak to a member of staff, please can you ring or email the office and arrange an appointment. We are happy to speak to parents on the phone, meet face to face or on Teams but its difficult to meet to discuss things at adhoc times when children are arriving at school or whilst dismissing children. Please help us to keep children safe.

Thank you for your support.



## PE at Penistone St John's

We are once again allowing children to come to school in PE kit on PE days so children don't have to waste time getting changed in school. Please make sure you know what day PE kits are needed for your child. Please make sure the PE school uniform is followed.

Children to come to school in School PE kit and suitable for the weather. Black shorts or dark tracksuit bottoms, or leggings black, ,plain white t-shirt, black hoody/jumper/zip up top, black trainers/pumps.

Earrings need to be removed at home on PE days. (please talk to the teacher if earrings are newly pierced). **School and school staff can not take responsibility if earrings are not removed and there is an injury. We don't tape children's ears anymore. Children to wear stud earring only and no other jewellery.**

We will be attending a variety of sport competitions and events this year. More information to follow.



# Reminders

Don't forget:

## HEALTHY SCHOOL

At Penistone St John's we encourage healthy eating. For morning break children can bring in a healthy snack. Reception/Key Stage One children are provided with a piece of free fresh fruit or vegetable through a government initiative.



If children bring a packed lunch to school families are encouraged to provide children with healthy options.



Reminder, due to allergies we are a nut free school. Please do not send any products containing nuts.



If you would like your child to have milk at school, you can sign up via the Cool Milk website. Each child that registers with Cool Milk will receive a portion of semi-skimmed milk every day, delivered fresh and chilled to the classroom. If your child is under five, they will receive milk for free, otherwise there is a small termly fee. Children on free school meals are also entitled to free school milk.

*Cool Milk*

We encourage children to have water throughout the day. Please send a named water bottle for your child. We encourage children to keep hydrated which then ensures that they are able to concentrate more and improve their learning skills.



# Attendance

At the beginning of each half term, we continue to generate attendance data, sharing the information with parents/carers of students who have attendance below 90%, and offer support from school to make the necessary improvements for positive learning outcomes.

It is vital that your details are correct to ensure that the correspondence is directed to the appropriate named contact and so please contact school when changing information such as:

- mobile phone
- email addresses
- work contact details
- home address
- emergency contact

Changes to the Fixed Penalty Notice system from September 2024 by the authority has seen a reduction in holidays taken in term time with the exception of family weddings abroad, which will now be reviewed and advice taken from the Education Welfare Service.

The attendance figures from September to Easter at St Johns was 96.5% which is above the national expectations and shows the outstanding commitment from parents and children.

*Success is earned one day at a time,  
start by showing up!!*



Attendance  
Matters





# Illness

## Do I need to keep my child off school?



### Chicken Pox

Until all spots have crusted over

### Conjunctivitis

No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed

### Diarrhoea & Vomiting

48 hours from last episode

### Glandular Fever

No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed

### Hand, foot & mouth

No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed

### Impetigo

Until lesions are crusted & healed or 48 Hours after commencing antibiotics

### Measles or German Measles

4 days from onset of rash

### Mumps

5 days from onset of swelling

### Scabies

Until after first treatment

### Scarlet Fever

24 hours after commencing antibiotics

### Slapped Cheek

No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed

### Whooping Cough

48 Hours after commencing antibiotics

### Flu

Until recovered

### Head Lice

No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed

### Threadworms

No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed

### Tonsillitis

No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed

# Diary Dates



## Summer Term 1 Dates 2025

Thursday 22nd May	KS1 Disco in School
Thursday 22nd May	KS2 Disco
Monday 26th May-Friday 30th May	Spring Bank Holiday

## Summer Term 2 Dates 2025

Monday 2nd June	Transition workshops Y6 with Compass BE
Tuesday 10th June	Y6 Friendship Photos
Friday 13th June	Careers Fair am KS2 Only
Monday 16th June—Friday 27th June	Y5 Bikeability
Friday 20th June	Whole school Sports Day @ tbc
Monday 23rd June	Wear Something Blue for Diabetes
Monday 23rd June—Wednesday 25th June	Y6 Productions @ tbc
Thursday 26th June	Y5 Music Festival @ Metrodome Barnsley
Thursday 26th June-Friday 27th June	Y6 Residential
Tuesday 1st July	EYFS Summer Concert @ 9:30am & 2:00pm
Tuesday 1st July-Thursday 3rd July	Y6 Transition to PGS
Friday 4th July	Teddy Bears Picnic Fundraiser (Sheffield Children's Hospital)
Monday 7th July-Friday 11th July	Whole School Transition
Wednesday 16th July	Y6 Bible giving
Thursday 17th July	Y6 Leavers Service in church @ tbc
Thursday 17th July-Friday 18th July	KS2 Drumming Workshops
Friday 18th July	Last day of term.