



Weekly Newsletter – Summer Term 2023

Week 12 Issue date 14.07.2023



Dear Families,

For this week's newsletter, we are trialling an electronic version which is hopefully easier to read on handheld devices. If you are reading this on the traditional style of newsletter, you can find the new format at:

<https://express.adobe.com/page/fAssAWFR1bfnc/>

It has been an emotional week as we near the end of our Year 6s' time at Dodworth St John's. This is always a sad time, but it is also a time to reflect upon how proud we are of them. Attending Primary School is unique in that children make so much progress in every way, and there is no better opportunity to reflect on that progress than in the final few weeks and days of Year 6. On Tuesday afternoon, Dodworth St John the Baptist Church hosted our wonderful leaver's service - the first of these I've had the pleasure of attending. It was a lovely ceremony with some great moments. On Thursday, Year 6 performed their end-of-year shows after performing the dress rehearsal for the whole school on Wednesday. These are truly special opportunities for children to shine in ways that we don't get to see on a regular basis. I'm sure there were a few proud parents, as there were certainly more than a few proud staff! On the topic of being proud, I must also say a big well done to every single Year 6 for their performance in the SATs, for which we received the results on Tuesday.

This week, we our Year 5s ventured out to their Junior Wardens presentation event and were superb. A big thank you to them for representing our school so well, and to Mrs Greenwood and Mrs Barber for facilitating this scheme for us this year.

On Monday we had our transition event for the whole school. I have had so many positive comments about this experience from the children. I would like to thank them for being such superstars, and thanks also to our staff for putting on a lovely morning.

As we go in to our final week of the year, I once again say thank you for your support. Please do get in touch if we can be of any help, and have a lovely weekend.

Jon Smith (Incoming Head of School)

Communications Guide

Earlier this week, a 'Communications Guide' went live on the website. This details the current methods of communication we are using, and what we use them for. Please note that this is very much a 'current' guide and that we will regularly review our communications based on the needs of our community and feedback. Thank you to those who have filled out the survey on this subject sent out a couple of weeks ago. If you have not yet had a chance to respond to this, you can find the survey at <https://forms.office.com/e/sngfvUkmV6>

Attendance

Good attendance is vital for children's education and means they can make the most of all aspects of school life. Here's how our attendance looked this week:

This Week's Attendance:

F1 AM (incl 30 hours): 88.7%

F1 PM (incl 30 hours): 83.3%

F2: 88.7%

Year 1: 84.7%

Year 2: 98.5%

Year 3: 86.8%

Year 4: 96.7%

Year 5: 94.2%

Year 6: 94.3%

Congratulations to this week's attendance stars, Year 2!

Next week we will be saying a very sad goodbye to our wonderful Miss Norton – she will be sadly missed by all.

Miss Norton says "I would like to thank each and every parent/family member I've had the pleasure of working with as either class teacher or SENDCo during these last 5 years at Dodworth St John's. Your children are the reason I come to work everyday and to watch them grow and flourish as they have is the highlight of my job. I wish your child all the luck in the future as they grow into mini adults! Thank you again, Miss Norton! X"

HOW TO HELP WITH... MATHS

MAKE IT THE NORM

Incorporating Maths into every day activities such as shopping and cooking can allow children to become comfortable with simple calculations and see how useful Maths is on a daily basis.

PLAY MATHS GAMES!

Engage children in enjoyable maths games whenever you can. Board games, card games, and online maths games can provide entertaining opportunities for children to enjoy maths. Encourage friendly competition and celebrate small achievements to boost confidence!

CELEBRATE PROGRESS

Acknowledge and celebrate small accomplishments. When your child accurately tells the time, or can work out how much change we should have from a £5 note, recognise their achievements. This will foster confidence and a love of Maths!

FIND MATHS IN THE WORLD

Maths is all around us! Point out shapes, patterns, and numbers during walks, outings or even while watching TV. Encourage your child to observe and ask questions to nurture their curiosity.

HOW TO HELP WITH... READING

PICK A READABLE BOOK!

It sounds obvious, but if lots of the words in a book are too difficult to read it can stop children from understanding the content. As a rule of thumb, children should be able to read at a pace of about 100 words per minute, and understand about 85% of the words in a text.

SHOW THEM HOW IT'S DONE!

Spending time reading to your child will show them how to use their voice and tone to get the most out of their reading. Reading a passage of text (or a whole text, if it is short) to your child and asking them to read the same text back to you is a good exercise!

SUBSTITUTE DIFFICULT WORDS

When encountering an unfamiliar word, using context clues and elements of phonics instruction (e.g. breaking the word down into sounds) can be helpful. Where a word can be read but the meaning is unknown, try covering the word up with your finger. Can your child think of a substitute word that would make sense for the sentence? Whilst this won't work all the time, it can be a useful strategy.

READ REGULARLY

Nothing is as important in developing the reading abilities of children than regular reading. Reading sessions do not have to be long or intensive - giving children regular opportunities to read is the most important thing.

HOW TO HELP WITH... WRITING

PRACTICE HANDWRITING

Just like we need to be able to read quickly enough to understand what we're reading, we also need to write fluently enough so that we can think about what we're writing. Practising clear, fluent, and joined handwriting can help children to put greater focus on the content of their writing.

TALK ABOUT PURPOSE

It is important to talk about why we're writing what we're writing. Even something as simple as writing in a birthday card can prompt discussion about what to write, why we're writing it, and what we want the reader to feel!

PRACTICE SPELLING

Talking about spelling rules, spelling patterns, and even talking about how some words are similar are all useful things to talk about when your child is practising their spellings!

TALK ABOUT THEIR READING

Good readers have a better chance of becoming good writers. Talk with your children about the words an author has chosen, why they have chosen them, and some other words that the author might have used instead.

Upcoming Dates

Tues 18th July
Fri 21st July

1.30pm - Rock Steady Performance
School breaks up for Summer holidays

Wed 6th Sept

Return to school after the summer break

Our INSET days for 2023-2024 are:

Monday 4th September
Tuesday 5th September
Friday 22nd December
Monday 19th February
Monday 22nd July

Karate Lessons

There is no class next week – 21st July.

There are places in the Friday karate sessions if anyone would like to join.
The restart date is 15th September – there are 6 lessons in the block costing £28 in total.



FS2

- Ivy Some great phonics and writing work this week. Well done Ivy!
Ellia For being a great explorer and showing fascination and appreciation for everything wild!
George – For always wanting to know more!

Y1

- Lotibea Absolutely fabulous with her maths this week – all about time!

Y2

- Jessica Trying her best and always being kind to others.
Vaughan Amazing participation & concentration throughout his morning tasks/lessons.

Y3

- Elliot For showing resilience in PE and having a never give up attitude.
Martha For beautiful singing at the Y6 leavers ceremony at church this week

Y4

- Vinnie F For working really hard on his reading.
Alfie For working well on his presentation on Ancient Greece.

Y6

ALL YEAR 6 ARE STAND OUT STARS THIS WEEK DUE TO AMAZING SATS RESULTS AND AN OUTSTANDING LEAVERS CONCERT.