



Newsletter
Term 3
Friday 10th February 2023

Dear parents and carers,

What a busy end to a very busy term. Thank you to all the staff across the sites who have worked incredibly hard to ensure 2023 started so well at our school.

This week, we have focused on promoting Children's mental health across the sites. We have learned about E-Safety on Safer internet day, participated in a swimming gala, held two family worships, taken part in a football match and held two very busy learning review evenings. Not to mention all the fabulous class learning going on. Please do follow your children's class teachers on Twitter to see lots of photos and videos of your children and their learning. Twitter feeds link to the class pages on the website too if you are not a Twitter follower.

This term has felt very long and it's been one of the coldest that I can remember. Your children have been absolutely amazing and worked very hard. The enthusiasm for learning on display across the sites has been incredible. Every week, teachers find it very difficult to choose learning champions. I am not surprised as I am always blown away with the learning on display as I regularly visit classrooms. I have included just a snippet of the photos from the class pages on social media.

Hopefully, next term will see the arrival of Spring with more sunny longer days! No more scraping the ice off the car in the morning would be very welcome.

We wish everyone a lovely half term and we will see you all back on Monday 20th February for yet another busy term.

Happy Half term everyone!

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ATTENDANCE - AUTHORISED ABSENCES

Thank you for supporting the drive to improve punctuality and school attendance at St Anne's even with the many challenges of illness, traffic congestion and icy roads we have faced this term. Currently our whole school attendance is 94% which is just a fraction below the expected 96% for primary schools.

The DfE has recognised that attendance is a national priority and have produced the following guidance for all schools to follow. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-improve-school-attendance>

As a part of TPLT, we are currently making some changes to our whole Trust attendance strategy which will be shared with all academies later in the year.

Unfortunately, we are unable to authorise absences like family birthdays or sporting tours unless in exceptional circumstances so please consider this when booking events during term time.

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

Thank you to everyone who took part in children's mental health week this week. We think about mental health throughout the year but this week is a chance to really focus on the things we can do to look after our mental health. During our introductory worship children said 'Mental health is just as important. The theme this year was about connecting with others. Some of the activities the children have taken part in this week include drawing to music, wellbeing walks, body scans and bubble blowing. Ask your children about how they have connected with each other this week. There is more information about children's mental health below. Thank you to Mrs Manning for organising the events this week.

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/>

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/>



LEARNING REVIEW MEETINGS

Thank you to all our parents and carers who attended learning review meetings. We hope you found them to be useful. If you were unable to attend or have not yet booked a meeting with your class teacher, please contact your child's teacher or the school office to arrange an appointment.

HELPING HANDS ETHOS GROUP

Yes, you can!

We have set up new Ethos groups on both sites. The children in these groups will be our charity champions and will lead the work we do as a school helping our local and wider community. The children have got lots of ideas about who they want to help and what we can all do. To start with, the children in our 'Helping Hands' club would like to invite you all to bring in just one can of something for the food bank during term 4.

If every child brought in just one can, we would have a couple of hundred cans to pass on to the food bank. The Ethos Club's mission is to help our community and this is one of their first initiatives - please support if you can and watch this space for more of their amazing fundraising ideas. The slogan above 'Yes you can' came from the children. Let's support this group to help us all make a real difference. Weston Foodbank volunteers will be coming into school to present a worship at Hewish during term 4.



READING FOR PLEASURE WEEK – From Monday 27th February

St Anne's Book Bake Competition – (closing date Monday 27th February)

Following the success of last year's 'reading in unusual places' competition, we would like to invite the children to bake something book inspired. Please send your entries into school on Monday 27th February when the winners will be chosen. After school, we would like to sell the cakes to raise money to buy more books for the children to enjoy in school. Please could we ask that a list of ingredients is included alongside all baked goods – we will not be able to sell any products without specified ingredients. Winners will be announced in Friday's Celebration Worship. Below are some examples of book inspired bakes - hopefully these will help to get your creative juices flowing!



KS1 Bedtime Story Pyjama Evening – Tuesday 28th February

KS1 children are invited to come back to school at 5pm dressed in their pyjamas, ready to listen to some bedtime stories. On arrival, children will be allocated to one of three rooms where they will enjoy a selection of quality children's stories and some hot chocolate. Children are welcome to bring one soft teddy with them. Siblings of our EYFS and KS1 children may accompany families. The evening will finish by 5.45pm. Please note: children must be accompanied by an adult throughout the evening.

Dress Up Day – Friday 3rd March

Please come to school dressed as a character from a book of your choice. We are mindful of the pressures and expense that can be involved in organising costumes and so we would like to encourage as many homemade costumes as possible. If you have any pre-loved costumes that you would like donate to school, we would be very grateful to receive them before half-term. We will then make them available to parents in the first week back after half-term. Thank you to those parents who have already donated costumes.



APPS FOR HOME LEARNING

We have a number of subscriptions for Apps that support children's learning. These can be found on class pages on the school website.



Your children have individual log ins for Spelling Shed and Times Table Rock Stars. They are very useful Apps for your children to use at home to support regular practise of spellings and times tables. Please

HEALTHY SNACKS

Please can we remind everyone that snacks provided for children to eat at breaktime should be **fruit or cereal based**. Fruit is provided for children in EYFS and KS1 and children in KS2 are welcome to bring in a fruit snack for breaktime. This should be separate from their lunch. We are seeing an increase in sugary snacks being brought in as snacks and in lunchboxes. Children will be reminded that their snacks should be healthy snacks and on rare occasions may be asked not to eat their snack and save it for after school if it is not appropriate. Please support us to encourage healthy snacks and meals for your children. Ideally water bottles should contain water, not sugary juice or squash. Many thanks for your cooperation.



As you know, we are a **nut-free school**. Snacks and lunch boxes must **not** contain anything nutty including chocolate hazelnut spreads like Nutella or peanut butter. Please consider the safety of others. Your consideration and co-operation is greatly appreciated.

DIARY DATES

Monday 20th February – First day of Term 4

Tuesday 21st February – Stone Age day at WW for all year 3 children

Wednesday 22nd February – Busy Bees trip to Court Farm

Monday 27th February – Start of 'Reading for pleasure' week

Tuesday 28th February – Bedtime stories at school from 5pm @ Hewish and WW

Thursday 2nd March – Potential strike day for NEU members – TBC – more information to follow about arrangements

Friday 3rd March – Book day celebrations – dress as a book character.

Tuesday 14th March – Year 2 trip to SS Great Britain

Monday 20th March - Year 3 family worship

Friday 24th March - Walk to Water walk for Kenya Hope. – More details to follow.

Friday 31st March – Last day of Term 4

