



Dear Parents,

I wanted to end this academic year by saying “thank you” for your help, support and commitment to St John’s School and share a few things that have taken place during the last few weeks. This year has not been without its challenges, especially relating to the on-going COVID situation. Thank you for all your help, commitment and support. Even though we have been battling this third covid wave, we have **so many wonderful successes to share with you.**

Thank you, Mrs de Prey, for organising the Le Quesne Garden Competition Judges to come and judge our sensory garden for the ‘patio/courtyard’ entry, the wild patch for the ‘wildlife’ entry and the general raised beds for the ‘vegetable garden’ entry. Thank you for organising pupils to talk about our garden areas and for preparing the gardens. The outdoor space looks engaging, neat and full of interest. Thank you, Year 2, who helped harvest and organise our delicious crop of new potatoes and create our vegetable and herb bed. Mrs Paul has her planting and weeding well and truly sorted. 😊. **And... just in ...some good news!**

The sensory garden won 1st prize in the ‘patio/courtyard garden’ class. Our vegetable/herb beds won 2nd prize in the ‘vegetable garden’ class and our wild patch won 3rd prize in the ‘wildlife garden’ class. We have also won a £25 gift voucher from Le Quesne’s Garden Centre.

We are really thrilled with these results!

To try and make all the upcoming changes for our classes easier and less daunting, we have been busy with our programme of transition. Our Year 6 pupils have spent transition days at their new secondary schools. The other classes have spent time with their new teachers (and vice versa!) We have also cast the main roles for next year’s KS2 Christmas Production of Dick Whittington~ so organised!

We are very proud of our Year 6 leavers. Despite the challenges, they have had a happy and fulfilling year and judging by reports from their respective schools, have made excellent impressions on their secondary school teachers. They have been a resourceful and caring cohort of children, as well as being supportive in upholding the values and ethos of the school. They should feel confident that they have developed the skills needed to spread their wings and embrace all the opportunities that await them at secondary school. Good Luck all of you!

We are saying goodbye to some people from our school community. We have a couple of Nursery pupils moving to schools around the island and one pupil from the main school, is travelling further afield. We would like to thank them and their families for being an important part of St John’s School. We will miss you. We also say “Goodbye” and thank you to Ms. Byers who, this year, has worked in KS2 teaching French. We are also saying “Goodbye” to Mr De La Haye and wishing him great success in his new teaching position. We are grateful for all his hard work over 9 years: his dedication to pupils in school, his willingness to share his knowledge and skills in art and writing and his calm response to different situations. He will be missed, but we know he will stay in touch. Gifts bought from your generous donations include an overnight stay at Durrell in one of their hubs, and a full Relish hamper ... with a few beers. 😊

Many thanks must go to the PTA under the leadership of Natalie Jardine. The team commitment in planning and organising fund raising events, has been amazing. We are grateful for *all* their hard work. It is fantastic that you put so much effort into providing varied experiences/ opportunities for the pupils in school. We have appreciated the financial support given by the PTA. Recently, they paid for ice creams for Sports Day/celebrations and organised the amazing month of well-being activities for the school community. Sadly, we have to say “Goodbye” to Natalie and Rebecca, who are retiring as Chair and Vice-Chair. We are so grateful for all your energy, hard work and commitment to our school and for helping us enhance our children’s learning. We wish you well and look forward to Rebecca carrying on as part of the PTA Committee for a couple more years and truly hope Natalie, that you pop in and see us, even though you are moving to “pastures new”.

I would like to **thank the staff** for their hard work and commitment over this year. Each of you are a credit to our school and everyone who works on the staff at St John’s School, is dedicated, supportive and very special. Thank you for everything you do. All teachers and LSAs are relentless in planning, teaching and caring for your children; the lunchtime staff look after your children during lunchtime in all weathers – never moaning; Mr Fallaize, Mrs Falle, Mrs Bisson, keep the school operating in a safe, calm manner, irrespective of the pressures they are facing. Mrs Eldridge-Mrotzek leaves us this term as our school’s Senior Adviser. We will miss her wisdom, kindness and

support. We look forward to beginning a new journey with our next Senior Adviser in September. We held a different, yet an amazing sports day too ~ thank you Mr Le Rossignol for your wonderful organisation of this. We were thrilled by the many pupils in KS2, who challenged themselves with the various sprints and races. It was an afternoon of personal challenge, fun, laughter and resilience. Even the rain could not dampen our spirits. My thanks go to the KS1 staff for the organisation of their individualised sports celebration and also to the EYFS team for your fun sporting morning. COVID did not cancel these events, even though we had to compile many risk assessments, clean all equipment rigorously between events and keep bubbles well separated.

Earlier this term, Paul and Pippa Adams came and led some excellent drama games, activities and fun tasks with our children – each in their own bubble. Every class participated and took risks, laughed, communicated and enjoyed their time. A wonderful addition to a year when our opportunities to work with outside experts have been greatly curtailed.

This term, we have worked on internal consistencies including Health and Safety policies and risk assessments to ensure your child is safe at school. All these take time and I am grateful to everyone who thinks through and develops these policies with me. Our COVID risk assessment continues to be the length of a short novel, as we have continued to ensure rigorous safety measures and procedures throughout our school.

We have completed 3 weeks of school evaluations and feel very proud of the conclusions. The Government of Jersey organised a review of the provision provided for pupils with educational needs. Mrs Loveless and her incredible file of evidence, demonstrated that our hard-working learning support assistants, target pupils with very clear interventions, so all pupils make excellent progress. Our school data supported the findings.

Two weeks ago, we had a 3-day rigorous “Virtual Visit” from an HMI Education Inspector/ Education Consultant. These visits are taking place across Jersey schools up until Christmas. This was a very full inspection, where our school development plan was reviewed and triangulated with our evaluation report for the year. Our data was analysed and highly praised, as we have managed to achieve exceptional and aspirational end of year results, as well as bridge any gaps in learning due to the pandemic. Subject Leaders shared different ways they had led, monitored and evaluated their subjects. We will share findings from the report at the PTA AGM in September. These are some bite sized comments from the reviewer:

- The format of the school’s improvement planning clearly shows how subject leaders across core and foundation subjects have regularly reviewed and adapted the curriculum to address gaps.
- Across the school pupils achieve well. The school’s most recent assessment data shows pupils continuing to achieve high standards in reading, writing and mathematics, despite the disruption of COVID.
- Pupils spoke with evident pride about their written work. They were quick to share examples of their writing, showing how they have completed a wide range of genres.
- Excerpts of videos, photos and examples of work shared during the meeting, captured pupils’ high-quality outcomes across the curriculum.
- The breadth of the school curriculum and the quality of experiences it provides for pupils is a notable strength of the school.
- The school’s approach to improvement planning is highly effective.
- Collaborative team working and strong professional relationships have developed across the school to the stage where all teachers complete monitoring. These reciprocal arrangements have helped to develop professional dialogue and drive improvement.

Our target going forward is to continue with our purposeful use of existing planning, monitoring, assessment and pupils’ voice, so that the curriculum continues to motivate and engage pupils and maintain the highest achievement and standards of pupils.

Hot off the press! This week, St John’s School achieved silver accreditation as a Rights Respecting School. This has been a focused three-year project, led by dedicated planning and organisation from Mrs Loveless and the Rights Respecting School Council. All staff have actively supported this, and we are very proud that this award celebrates our “Thinking, Learning and Caring” across the school and illustrates, our focused care and understanding of Children’s rights and how to stay and be safe.

Our **Learning Behaviour Beads**, given out for **Thinking, Learning and Caring**, have been counted. This year, **243** beads have been given out for **caring**, **322** beads have been given for **Learning** and **408** beads have been awarded for **Thinking**. So, for the **2020:21** academic year, St John’s pupils have shown themselves to be a **successful “Thinking” school**.

And finally!

Reflecting on the children at St John's School – thank you, each and every one of you, for the joy and enthusiasm you bring each day. Each of you is valued and unique. I would like to thank our parents for your support and good wishes for the summer break. I hope that every one of you has a wonderful summer and our children return to school on **Tuesday September 7th between 8:30 - 8:45 am (unless I notify you of continued bubble start times in the holidays)**, rested, ready for another exciting year and all the great things planned to support breadth of learning within our school. **St John's School PTA Curriculum Evening** will take place **Monday 20th September at 7:00 pm**. This is a very important meeting as the PTA and staff members will be outlining important plans for the year, as well as classroom expectations. Many of you have been before and whilst the format is familiar, detail changes year on year. Please make every effort to be there and support your school community.

Best wishes,

Mrs De La Haye.

The school will be closed on **Monday 6th September 2021, Thursday 9th September 2021 – Battle of Britain Day, and Monday April 25th, 2022, all day**, for our Staff Inset Days. The **Summer Term 2022** will begin at St John's School on **Tuesday April 26th, 2022**.

The school will also be closed on Monday 27th September as the Island celebrates the impact and effect of the Corn Laws.