# St John's Primary School

La Rue De La Mare Ballam,
St John, Jersey, JE3 4EJ
Telephone: 01534 861692 Email: admin@stjohn.sch.je

Friday 16th October 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we reach the end of another busy fortnight, I would like to thank our families for their continued support in helping make school life so rich and rewarding for our children. A particular thank you goes to everyone who contributed to our Tinathon collection in support of the Shelter Trust, where your generosity will make a real difference to those in need within our community. I am delighted to share more school updates with you in this edition of the newsletter.

**Run for Pudsey**



We are delighted to announce that St John's School will once again be supporting BBC Children in Need this year by taking part in the Run for Pudsey Challenge. Over the two weeks leading up to Friday 13th November, every class will be working together to complete the distance of a marathon (26.2 miles) by running, jogging or walking laps of our school field. Each class will aim to cover the marathon distance collectively, with pupils contributing as much as they can throughout the challenge period. As cohort sizes vary, children in smaller classes will need to complete more laps than those in larger classes. To ensure the challenge is achievable for our youngest pupils, Nursery and Reception will combine as one team and work together to complete their marathon distance. The challenge is not about speed or competition. Instead, it is about teamwork, determination and raising money for a fantastic cause that supports children and young people across the UK and beyond.

We hope to encourage pupils to seek sponsorship for their efforts. We know that families are often asked to support a number of fundraising events throughout the year, so to help keep this accessible for everyone, we kindly ask children to seek sponsorship from no more than four sponsors. Rather than focusing on the number of sponsors, we encourage children to share the challenge they are undertaking and invite family and friends to contribute whatever they feel able to give. Any money raised will be donated directly to BBC Children in Need, helping to make a positive difference to the lives of children who need support. Sponsor forms are attached to the newsletter.

Throughout the fortnight, classes will keep track of the distance they have covered and celebrate the progress they make towards their marathon goal. We are also hoping to share updates with BBC Radio Jersey as part of the island-wide challenge. Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to seeing every child play their part in helping St John's School make a difference for Children in Need.

The challenge is not just for the children! Several members of staff have volunteered to complete the full 26.2-mile Run for Pudsey Challenge in their own time during the fortnight. We will be sharing updates with the children throughout the event so they can see how their teachers are getting on and cheer them along the way. I have rather enthusiastically agreed to take part too, so I am sure the children will be keeping a close eye on my progress and making sure I reach the finish line!

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*Together, if every class completes its marathon and several staff step up to the challenge, St John's staff and pupils will collectively cover more than 200 miles in support of Children in Need!*

**Litter and Unwanted Presents from Four-Legged Friends on our School Field**

We are fortunate to have a school field that can be enjoyed not only by our pupils and families, but also by members of the wider community outside of school hours. We are keen to maintain this positive relationship and, wherever possible, continue to make this valuable space available for everyone to enjoy. Unfortunately, there have been a couple of recent occasions where litter has been left on the field, along with some unwelcome "presents" from four-legged friends. Whilst we cannot assume that those responsible are members of our school community, the impact is the same. Before children can use the field for learning, play and sport, staff must ensure it is safe and clean. I would therefore kindly ask everyone who uses the field to dispose of litter responsibly and to ensure that any dog mess is cleared up immediately. A reminder that dogs should not be allowed on the 3G surface at any time. If there are concerns about individuals using the site, or if you witness behaviour that may affect the safety or enjoyment of others, please feel free to share this with me directly. The school field is first and foremost a resource for our pupils and families, but it is also a valued space within our wider community. I want to leave it open to the benefit of all, and with everyone's support I am confident we can continue to do so.

**Cross Country**




Last week, pupils from across Year 5 and 6 proudly represented St John's School in the Cross-Country event at Les Quennevais. The challenging course took our runners across grass, track, and even sand – testing both stamina and determination! Each child showed fantastic effort, resilience and team spirit, and we are very proud of the way they supported each other throughout the event. Well done to all our runners for their commitment and enthusiasm.

**Year 5 Visit L'Hermitage Care Home**



Our Year 5 pupils recently enjoyed a wonderful visit to L'Hermitage Care Home, where they spent time playing board games with residents and sharing stories, laughter and conversation. The visit provided a valuable opportunity for children and residents alike to connect across generations and enjoy each other's company. We were delighted to receive a message from the Activities Coordinator following the visit, who wrote:

*"It was a genuine pleasure to meet such lovely young people and see them interacting so warmly with our residents. We truly appreciate your support in making the event so special."*

We are incredibly proud of our Year 5 pupils, who represented St John's School with kindness, respect and maturity. Their warmth and enthusiasm made a lasting impression and reflected our school's

values beautifully. A huge thank you to the staff at L'Hermitage for their warm welcome. We look forward to strengthening this special partnership in the future.

**Wellbeing Week**





This week, the children enjoyed a special Wellbeing Week, providing an opportunity to step away from our usual routines and focus on looking after our minds, bodies and relationships. The highlight of the week was undoubtedly Thursday's mixed-age wellbeing morning. Pupils from across the school were grouped together, allowing our oldest children to work alongside our youngest. Staff led a range of wellbeing-focused activities, including mindful colouring, yoga, scavenger hunts, sports challenges and many more creative experiences. It was wonderful to see children of all ages learning, laughing and supporting one another. Our older pupils demonstrated remarkable kindness, patience and leadership, while younger children embraced the opportunity to make new friendships. The care, compassion and sense of community on display reflected the very best of St John's and reminded us all of the importance of taking time to connect, support one another and look after our wellbeing.

**Mustard Seed Shoebox Appeal Reminder**

A huge thank you to everyone who has already supported our autumn charity initiatives. There is still time to donate! We are collecting for the Mustard Seed Christmas Shoebox Appeal, supporting underprivileged children in Romania and Ukraine. Shoeboxes should be returned to school by Friday 23rd October. Thank you for helping our children demonstrate kindness, generosity and care for others in our local and global communities.

**Football and Netball Updates**

Last week our netball team played in their opening fixture of the netball session. We were hopeful going into the season that the team could do very well however we were not expecting them to perform quite as well as they did! We stopped counting once we were 8 goals ahead, however the children reliably inform me that we won 18-1! This week the team played their second fixture

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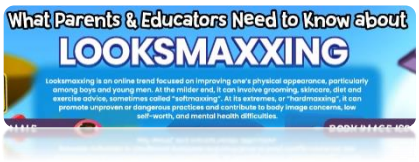
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against Helvetia School. This game was a far tighter affair. It was equal for the vast amount of the game, with Helvetia snatching a winner close to the final whistle.

Our football team competed in their first game on Monday against Bel Royal School away from home. Our Team, who have largely played together at school for the last two years, won comfortably against Bel Royal's A Team, playing some very intricate football for children so young. I am very excited to see how well this team can do this year. Our B Team has far less experience. For 7 of them, this was their first game for our school. I was blown away by how well they played; by their attitude and by the fact that they all played with huge smiles on their faces.

**Online Safety**

For this newsletter, Miss Clavel has asked me to share the National Online Safety Poster "**Looksmaxxing**" with you. The National Online Safety posters are designed for parents to keep you up to date with current protocols and suggestions to follow to keep your child safe online.




**Dates for your diaries for <u>this half term</u> (Monday 21st September to Friday 23rd October)**

**Wednesday 21st October**- Parent Consultations- 4:30pm- 7:00pm

**Friday 23rd October**- Deadline for Shoebox Contributions

**Friday 23rd October**- Go Orange Day- in support of the Love Beth Fund from Bone Cancer Research Trust

**Monday 26th October to Friday 30th October**- Half Term

As always, our door is open should you have any questions, queries or concerns.

Kind regards

**Mr Jamie Hazley**
**Headteacher**