



September News from St John's

Welcome to our September round up of news from school. Across the school we have seen:

- Excellent attitudes to learning – many children reading at home every day and practising those times tables – thank you
- Kindness and support shown towards friends – helping new children to settle into school and older children taking on jobs and responsibilities
- Resilience when facing new challenges – we know change can be unsettling and we are so proud of the way children are adapting to new routines, especially those children who find change hard to manage
- Respectful behaviour around school – this is always commented on by visitors and thank you for supporting with smart uniform
- Enthusiasm for learning and exploring new topics – we hope you enjoyed seeing what your child is learning in their class newsletter

Attendance Matters

Thank you to all families for supporting good attendance. Every day in school counts and gives children the best opportunity to learn, grow and be successful. We know there are some illnesses around where children do need to rest and recover at home, but sniffles can be supported in school. The **target for attendance is 96%** - below this the Council Attendance Officer does look at individual reasons for absences and Bury are now issuing penalty notices for 4 days of unauthorised absence (this does not count genuine illness).

Attendance	School Days Missed Per Year
100%	0 days
98%	4 days
96%	8 days
95%	10 days
90%	19 days (almost 4 weeks)



96% attendance means children are off for 8 school days over the year which should cover an average child's typical illnesses. Whilst 90% sounds good for most tests – in attendance terms you can see that a child would miss huge amounts of learning – nearly a month of school – and they will struggle to catch up with that amount of absence. At Parents Evening teachers can tell you what your child's current attendance looks like.

September Highlights

- Y3 and Y5 have had storytelling workshops about the outdoors and been told about a great trail at Close Park where they can use QR codes to listen to stories
- We have had some wonderful new graphic novels in our library to help children develop their reading skills and love of books
- Our School Council and Shades (faith and racial justice) Ambassadors have met
- We have had some wonderful performances from a live band and Bury Music Service
- Our KS2 after-school clubs have started with sign language, art, music, netball and football

Thank You to Families

A huge thank you to all parents and carers for your continued support. Strong partnerships between home and school help children thrive, and we greatly appreciate everything you do. Don't forget we have **Parents Evening tomorrow on Wednesday 30th September** so you can hear more about how your child has settled into school. Call the School Office if you haven't yet booked in.

Looking Ahead

We are excited about the many opportunities planned for October, including:

- Placement students (trainee teachers) working in Reception, Y1 and Y2 alongside our class staff – so if children mention new names and you see new faces they are there as extra adults to support learning
- October is Black History Month which will help us learn about some great role models who used their talents and positions to support others
- Bikeability for Y5 (5th to 8th October)
- Individual School Photos (Monday 12th October)



- An Open Morning in Reception and Nursery for those wanting a place in January 2027 or September 2027 (Monday 12th October at 10.30am)
- Harvest Celebration – please send in cans or packets of food donations on Wednesday 13th October for our in-school assembly
- A trip to Manchester Museum for Y4 (Thursday 15th October)
- An Autumn Walk for Reception (Friday 16th October)
- Family Breakfast with Educational Psychologists coming to support you with tips on children's wellbeing (Thursday 22nd October at 8am)
- Screen Time limits causing 'Scream time'? – how to help children with boundaries around phone and tablet use – a workshop for parents (Thursday 22nd October at 9am – stay on after breakfast)
- Librarians trip to Manchester Library (Friday 23rd October)

We look forward to another month of learning, achievement and celebration.

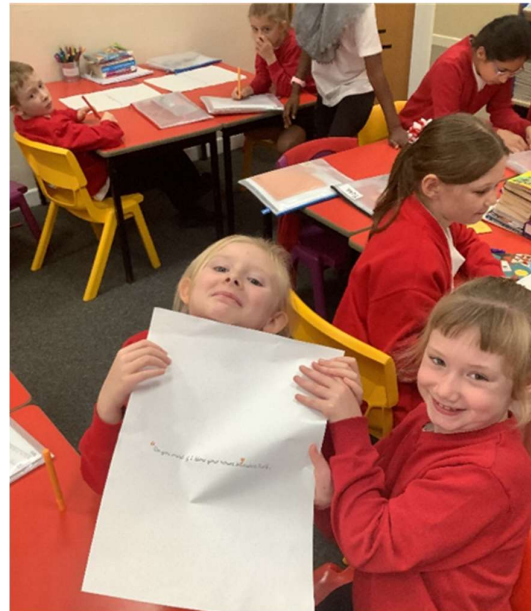
Thank you for helping us make such a positive start to the year. Together, we are building a school community where every child can flourish. We hope you enjoy a selection of photos from the school showing you a little of our September start.



Reception busy crafting – developing their creativity and fine motor skills

Nursery enjoying the water in the EYFS outside area and learning about colours





Y3 cake making, Y4 practising punctuation, Y5 learning about decimals and Y1 enjoying the challenges in their classroom.