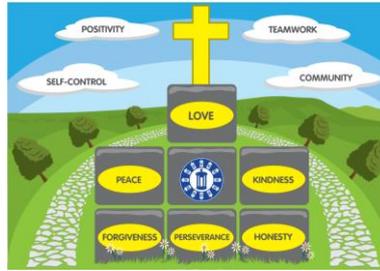




Higham St John's C. of E (Controlled) Primary School



Higham Hall Road
Higham
Burnley
Lancashire
BB12 9EU
Tel: 01282 772376

bursar@higham.lancs.sch.uk
www.higham.lancs.sch.uk
Twitter: @HighamSchool

Headteacher: Mrs H. Shaw FCCT NPQH

Weekly Newsletter - w/b 14th October 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

As we reach the end of our first half-term, the key theme of this week's newsletter is... **COMMUNICATION**. As a friendly, church community school, we are committed to building positive relationships with parents, carers and the wider community. Staff make themselves available on the school yard at the beginning and end of each school day to answer any questions you may have and our helpful office staff are always here to support parents and carers.

For working parents, we appreciate that it is not always easy to come into school during the day and so finding ways to communicate important messages about your child's education is important to us. We are happy to receive feedback on the changes we have made so please do get in touch.

School office phone line

Ongoing issues with the school phone line have now been fixed. Please note: the school office is open between 8:30am and 4pm. Any phone calls outside of these times will be redirected to our voicemail service. We are in the process of purchasing a new mobile phone for Extended Services so that you can phone the team directly. Until this is available, please could you email Mrs Jefferson if you need to contact the Extended Services team urgently outside of office hours at: e.s@higham.lancs.sch.uk There is a contacts page on our new app which links directly to this email address. Thank you.

New School Website now LIVE!

Please visit our new website at: www.higham.lancs.sch.uk

Our old website - www.highamstjohns.com - will be linked to the new one so that internet traffic is redirected to the new site. It may take a couple of days before this is working perfectly however. After a few weeks, search engines including Google should adjust so that when a search is entered for our school, the top link should become our new address.

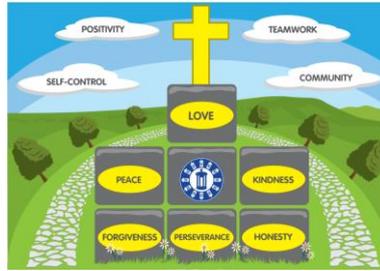
I have learnt rather a lot about webpage development over the past few weeks - or being totally honest, I have learnt who to call for help with this!!

School Jotter Mobile App

Our mobile app is free to download. A letter with instructions on how to do this was sent out in the children's book bags last Friday. I can tell you that already in our first week following its launch, a grand total of **61 users have downloaded our app!** I hope those of you who have downloaded the app are finding it useful. We are learning as we go so please let us know if you think there is anything we can do to improve this service.



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Receiving Newsletters

We are aware that not all parents choose to use a smart phone so it will be possible to view our newsletter in other ways:

- Our newsletter will be uploaded each week to our website on the 'Recent Letters' page (usually on a Friday however this may sometimes vary)
- We will continue to email the newsletter via Parent Pay for now during this period of transition
- And if all technology fails, parents can always pop into the school office and collect a paper copy of our latest newsletter from our newsstand - although I have no doubt that my eager Eco-Committee will soon be insisting that we try and reduce our paper usage!!

Text messages or Notifications?

Each time we send a text message, we incur a cost which runs into hundreds of pounds per year. When purchasing the new mobile app, this was a consideration because the notifications feature allows us to send messages instantly FREE OF CHARGE (I have been testing this and you should have received a couple of notifications already).

Please note: In order for the notifications feature to work, you will need to go into your phone settings and enable Notifications for this app.

Do I need to log into the app?

It is not necessary to log into the app to view the generic content. In time, we may be asking parents to do so as we will then be able to tailor specific content but we will provide further information at a later date.

Twitter Feed

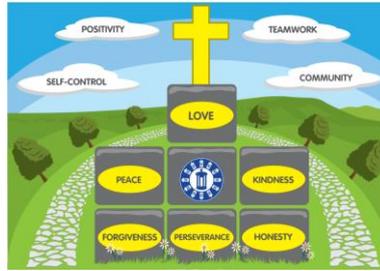
Our old website had the recent content of our Twitter feed embedded on the main page. On our new website, if you scroll down past the quick links and Head's Welcome, you will see there is a direct link to our Twitter feed. You do not need to be on Twitter to view the posts but - if you are on Twitter - please consider following us as we do enjoy seeing who has 'liked' our recent posts! 😊

Higham St. John's C E Primary - RUNNERS UP!

Congratulations to everyone at Higham St. John's C E Primary School for winning the runner up award in the school grounds category of the annual Lancashire Best Kept Village Awards! Our grounds and maintenance team are rightly proud of this award and are already talking about aiming for first place in 2020! Check out our Twitter page of our News Feed on the app for pictures.



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Parents' Evening

Thank you to all parents and carers who attended parents' evening this week. It was lovely to see so many of you there and see the children smiling proudly as they led you to their classrooms to show you their work. Thank you also for all of the positive comments many of you took the time to make about our school and the education your child is receiving; staff were thrilled to receive this feedback and it has given us all a real boost before half-term! ☺ If you were unable to attend for any reason, please contact the school office and make an appointment with your child's class teacher at a mutually convenient time after the half-term holiday.

Children In Need - Friday 15th November 2019

The children in our School Council, led this year by Mrs Spence, have expressed a wish to take part in Children In Need once more in 2019. Further information will be sent out in a separate letter after the holiday.

Attendance

Congratulations to Ash class who won the best attendance last week and Birch class who have all been in school every day this week! ☺ You have the honour of looking after Archie the Attendance Pup for the first week after half-term!

Elm Class	91.7%
Ash Class	92.4%
Birch Class	100%
Sycamore Class	89.8%
Oak Class	97.8%

Diary Dates

To find out about key dates in the school diary, please visit the Calendar page on our new website or alternatively, view the calendar within the School Jotter app.

All that remains to be said is - have a wonderful holiday everyone!

Please remember: School re-opens to the children on Tuesday 29th October 2019.

Best wishes

Helen Shaw
Headteacher