

SIR JOHN BARROW SCHOOL

WEEKLY SNIPPETS



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Monday 4th September 2023

Dear parent/carers,

We hope you have all had a wonderful summer break whether you have stayed close to home or travelled far afield. We are looking forward to welcoming all the children back on Wednesday 6th September 2023.

We thought it might be useful to include a few reminders in preparation for the new term including times, gates, classes, uniform etc. We will be reinforcing school uniform this term so please can we ask that parent/carers check the uniform carefully. We are seeking to follow guidelines to keep motifs to the minimum and therefore keep costs down. If anyone has any difficulties providing uniform please contact the school and speak to Mrs Pearson, Mrs Fletcher or Miss Robinson. We will do our utmost to help. In addition we would like to encourage the use of 'pre-loved' clothing. This helps save money and helps our environment. Please email school or contact the PTA if you would like to see what is available in school.

Whilst everyone has been off on their holidays there has been a lot of activity here at SJB. We have had the painters in school. They have painted some of the corridor and the Year 2 and Year 6 classrooms. We are hoping to get more of the school painted throughout the year.

We are also excited to have had the new adventure playground installed and set up some new zones for our new OPAL project. OPAL stands for 'Outdoor Play and Learning. We are hoping the children will have far more to choose from at playtimes and that play times will be as much about learning as time in the classroom as well as lots of fun. The children will be encouraged to take the initiative, explore and try new things. We will send more information in the coming days and weeks. In the meantime we would like to say thank you to the Playdale team and to Mrs Sainsbury and her band of wonderful volunteers and to Stuart our local joiner.

See you all very soon.

Kind regards,

Mrs Pearson and Mrs Fletcher

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SCHOOL UNIFORM - September 2023

Please can we remind parent/carers to ensure children have the correct, full school uniform for September 2023.

Black Shoes or trainers only please. (no coloured/white stripes/lines/logos)

As the school year goes by, please DO NOT let your children persuade you they can have any shoe (or trainer if wearing it as a school shoe) that is not plain black - no coloured/white logos/stripes. **This did slip for some children at the end of the summer term and staff will be reinforcing the uniform policy in September**

Children are not allowed to wear earrings for PE. Please ensure that your child can either remove their earring themselves or does not wear earrings on PE and swimming days. County guidelines do not allow us to tape earrings. Long hair should be tied back for PE and some practical activities.

We believe at SJB that policies can/should be influenced/ guided by parent/carers but once they are in place they should be followed by all. We really value your support in maintaining high standards across our school.

The full list of uniform can be found on page 4

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CLASSROOMS and SCHOOL GATES

The classrooms for each year group remain the same for next year as do the school gates. Your children have been told which gates they will enter school in September.

SCHOOL START AND FINISH TIMES

(Please note initial starting times for EYFS (Nursery and Reception) may differ during transition. Please make reference to information given to you by the EYFS staff)

Nursery 8.45am-11.45am 12.15pm-3.15pm EYFS Playground Large Gate

Reception 8.50am - 3.10pm EYFS Playground Large Gate

Year 1 and 2 8.50am-3.10pm Front Main Gate

(Gate will be open and a member of staff present 8.40am-8.55am)

Year 3 and 6 8.50am-3.15pm Football Area Large Gate

(Gate will be open and a member of staff present 8.40am-8.55am.)

Year 4 and 5 8.50am-3.15pm Large Playground Argyle Street Entrance

(Gate will be open and a member of staff present 8.40am-8.55am except

Reception class. Reception class wait until nursery are in school before coming in)

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School uniform:

Dark blue sweatshirt or cardigan with SJB logo

White or navy blue polo shirt with or without the SJB logo

Dark blue, grey or black trousers/skirt

Suitable plain black footwear

(These can be trainers if **completely plain** black and can be used for P.E)

Pale blue checked dress or dark blue, grey or black tailored shorts in summer

We are also currently allowing completely plain dark blue, grey or black jogging trousers as we encourage outdoor teaching and daily adventure play.

The school does not permit children to have haircuts, styles or hair colour that could serve as a distraction to other children. This includes shaved hair patterns.

P.E Uniform

Yellow, green, blue or red t-shirt according to the child's allocated 'House'.

(Please note children are allocated the same 'House' as any siblings attending the school)

Navy shorts

Pumps/trainers

Completely plain dark blue, grey or black jogging trousers are also recommended for outdoor P.E./activities when the weather is colder. Children can bring their own waterproof clothing but this can be provided by school.

We do go out in all weathers.

We are introducing our new OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) project at playtimes this year and we want to be out and about in all weathers but comfortable with the correct clothing.

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FUNDRAISING and OUR NEW ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND

We are very excited to have installed our new adventure playground. The children of SJB decided what activities they wanted for the playground and have been busy fundraising alongside the PTA. We are very grateful to all our contributors, big and small. This was part 2 of the adventure play development. Last year we installed a new swing and a climbing frame in the EYFS

The PTA, with the children, alongside donations raised £11,000 toward our playground.. We are also able to use some of our Sports Funding toward the project. The children have been fundraising for over a year now and the old adventure playground was falling into disrepair. We did not want the children to have to wait any longer so we decided we would take the plunge and fund the remaining cost through the school budget and hopefully further fundraising over the year. The school budget in the current climate, as you will appreciate, is always stretched and it is for this reason we set up a JUST GIVING page to offset costs currently coming out of the school budget.

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/sjb-playgroundappeal>

We have further decorating to do in school plus continuing to update resources so every little helps. As a school we have a natural affinity to lean towards additional staffing when allocating the budget as we know how powerful human resources are when supporting your children. This has especially been the case over the past years of austerity. However, there comes a time when the physical resources need to be refreshed and updated and for SJB this is the time.



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You may have noticed an article in the newspaper about our Just Giving page. Though we are grateful to the newspaper for their interest, we want our local community to know we did not request this. Our Just Giving page is for our community, for those who are particularly interested in and invested in our children. The children, with the help of the PTA, have sent letters to local businesses to see if they would like to help.



We have a dream at SJB - that we never have to charge or ask any individual for money for any event or activity or resource in school - that we have an SJB voluntary giving pot instead filled by anyone at any time who has the heart and the cash. We are not there yet but we hope that you understand any fundraising requests are always to help us to provide the best for your children and there is never any expectation. If you can help us, however small - 50p, £1, £10 please click on the link below and invest in a very worthwhile cause. Thank you once again for always partnering with us.

JUST GIVING LINK <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/sjb-playgroundappeal>

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OPAL- Outdoor Play and Learning

We are very grateful to Orcina Ltd, who have generously funded a number of schools in the local area to implement OPAL. This has included funding some resources and most importantly funding staffing time to help make it happen. So often as staff we have great ideas and vision but not enough hours in the day. Thank you Orcina.

Thank you too to Mrs Sainsbury and Miss Porter and their team for leading on this project and for all the volunteers and professionals who have been involved so far. I am sure they will be sharing more news in the days ahead.

Have a look at the playground transformation so far....



Kind regards,
Helen Pearson