

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



NEWSLETTER DATED FRIDAY 5th JUNE 2026

Welcome Back to Term 6

Dear Families,

It has been a wonderful start to Term 6, and we have been delighted to welcome the children back to school. They have returned with beaming smiles, full of enthusiasm for the weeks ahead, and looking incredibly smart in their summer uniforms. Their pride in wearing the school uniform reflects our shared value of the dignity of work and the importance of always striving to do our best. Thank you for your continued support.

We hope that all our families enjoyed the recent half-term break and were able to make the most of the beautiful weather. As we move into the final term of the academic year, we will be revisiting and reinforcing important learning around water safety with the children. With warmer weather and increased opportunities to spend time near water, this remains a vital area of learning to help keep our children safe.

The past few days have also been marked by the sudden and deeply sad passing of Mike Simmons, RIP, our Chair of Governors. Mike was a passionate advocate for our school family and gave generously of his time, wisdom, and support. He will be greatly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing and working alongside him.

Mike's family have shared that his funeral will be held on Wednesday 17th June at 10:00am at St John the Baptist Catholic Church. All are welcome to attend. A book of condolences will be available on the playground from Monday for adults who wish to leave a message or share their memories. We know that many members of our community will appreciate the opportunity to express their condolences and celebrate Mike's life and contribution to the school.

We also keep in our prayers all the children who will be celebrating the Sacrament of First Holy Communion in the coming weeks. This is a very special milestone in their faith journey, and we look forward to hearing all about their celebrations. We keep the children and their families in our thoughts and prayers as they prepare for and receive this wonderful sacrament.

We wish everyone a happy and successful Term 6 and look forward to all that we will achieve together in the weeks ahead.

Mrs O'Rourke

A Prayer for Our School Family

Loving God,

As we begin this new term, we thank You for the gift of our school family. Bless our children as they learn and grow, our staff and governors as they guide and nurture, and our families as they support one another.

We pray especially for the repose of the soul of Mike Simmons. May he rest in Your peace and may his family find comfort in Your love at this difficult time.

We pray for all the children preparing to receive the Sacrament of First Holy Communion. May they grow ever closer to You and experience the joy of Your presence in their lives.

Help us to live each day with kindness, courage, and faith, following the example of Jesus in all that we do.

Amen.

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you."

— Numbers 6:24–25

Upcoming Dates

Tuesday 9th June – LKS2 Science Fair at The Clarendon Academy

Wednesday 10th June – Knowledge Class Liturgy at 2pm

Thursday 11th June – Class and Year 6 School Photos

Thursday 11th June – OPAL Stay and Play 2.15pm – 3.15pm

Friday 12th June – EYFS Trip to Longleat

Tuesday 16th June – Joy Class Mass in School Hall at 9.05am – Parents Welcome

Tuesday 16th June – Mission Review Evening from 5.00pm – 6.30pm

Wednesday 17th June – Year 6 Leavers Mass at Clifton Cathedral

Friday 19th June – Year 5 Faith Day

Tuesday 23rd June – Love and Peace Class Mass in School Hall at 9.05am – Parents Welcome

Thursday 25th June at 2.00pm - Doodle Workshop for Year 2 Families

Friday 26th June – Wacky Hair Day/Mufti Day

Saturday 27th June - St John the Baptist 150th Celebration – being celebrated at St Augustine's Catholic College – All Welcome

Sunday 28th June – Children's Mass in Church at 10.30am – All Welcome

Tuesday 30th June – Courage Class Liturgy at 9.05am – Parents Welcome

Friday 3rd July – Whole School Pilgrimage

Friday 10th July from 4.30pm – 7.30pm – The Friends Summer Fayre

Friday 17th July – End of Academic Year School Mass in Church

Tuesday 21st July – Year 6 Parents' Pilgrimage from 8.35am – 10am and Year 6 Leavers Assembly

Tuesday 21st July – Last Day of Term 6

Wednesday 22nd July – T. D. Day – School Closed to all Pupils

Thursday 23rd July - Start of the Summer Holidays

New Absence Reporting Email Address

There is a new email address for reporting your child absent from school. This email address is:

absence@st-johns-trowbridge.wilts.sch.uk

When leaving a message, please include the following information:

Child's Name

Class

Reason for Absence

If you are unable to email, you can still leave a message on the school answerphone.

A reminder that you need to report your child's absence every day.

Please leave your message **before 8.30am**. Thank you

Volunteers to help with the Whole School Pilgrimage on Friday 3rd July 2026

Our Whole School Pilgrimage is taking place again this year on Friday 3rd July 2026.

We are asking for volunteers to accompany pupils in all age groups by either walking to Bradford on Avon or travelling on the coach.

If you are free on this date and are willing to help, please email:

reception@st-johns-trowbridge.wilts.sch.uk with the following details:

- Name
- Contact email address and phone number
- Preference walking or travelling on the bus
- Confirming your availability between 9am – 3pm

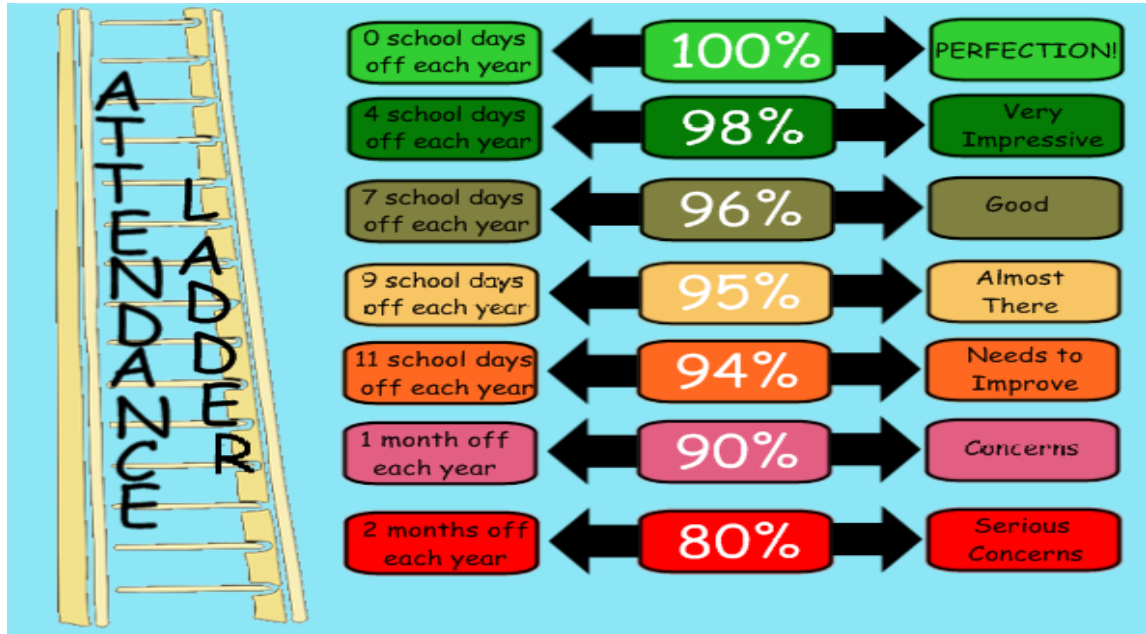
Sunday Children's Mass

Once again this year we are delighted to be working in partnership with St John the Baptist parish and all children are warmly invited to join our celebration of Mass. Miss O'Mahony will be organising readers and singers. Everyone is welcome!

Sunday Children's Masses:

Term 6 – 28th June 2026 - St John The Baptist Church 150th Anniversary Celebration Mass

Attendance Matters



We are encouraging every child to be an Attendance Hero!



Patience Class Prepares for the Big Performance!

Patience Class have been busy putting the finishing touches to their final Opera performance, which takes place on Tuesday 9th June. On Tuesday, the children enjoyed a rehearsal session with Lynsey and Tim, helping to refine their singing, acting and stage presence ahead of the big performance. Earlier in the week, they also took part in a prop-making workshop, where they created colourful fans and capes inspired by the Spanish setting of their Opera, based on *Carmen*. The children have shown great creativity, enthusiasm and teamwork throughout the project, and we are all looking forward to seeing the final production!

Living Rosary

During the Month of Mary, our school community has been focusing on the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary, which invite us to reflect on key moments in the public life and ministry of Jesus: His Baptism in the Jordan, the Wedding at Cana, the Proclamation of the Kingdom of God, the Transfiguration, and the Institution of the Eucharist. These mysteries help us to see more clearly how Christ is the light of the world, guiding us in faith, service, and love.

The Year 5 and Year 6 children, including a group of selected pupils who helped to lead the prayer, have approached these reflections with great reverence and maturity. Each mystery has provided a meaningful opportunity for quiet meditation, prayerful listening, and thoughtful discussion.

We have also been weaving the spirit of the Luminous Mysteries into daily school life—encouraging pupils to recognise God’s presence in their learning, their relationships, and their actions. Whether through classroom prayer, collective worship, or moments of reflection, the children are learning to carry the light of Christ into their everyday choices and interactions.



Inclusion and SEND Drop In Meetings for Parents

If parents have already spoken with their child’s class teacher and would now find it useful to make an appointment with Mrs O’Mahony our inclusion lead please do contact Mrs Burden in the school office who will be able to offer a time and date for you to meet.

School Photos

On Thursday morning children will have their class photos taken by David Wiltshire Photography. Please ensure your child is wearing summer uniform. We will not have a whole school photo this year – but arrange this again for summer 2027.

KS1 Trip to Trowbridge Museum

KS1 had a fantastic trip to Trowbridge Museum where we had the opportunity to learn all about the Great Fire of London. The children explored what life was like during this period, discussing the fashion and materials people wore and used in their daily lives. They also had the chance to write with quill and ink, experiencing how people recorded information in the 17th century. As part of their visit, the children looked at maps and discussed how they can help us understand places and events from the past. We were so impressed with the children's excellent behaviour, curiosity and enthusiasm throughout the visit. Thankfully, unlike London in 1666, everyone returned safely and no fires were started during our adventure!



Year 6 Junior Good Citizen

On Wednesday 3rd June, Year 6 visited the Wiltshire Scout Hut in Potterne, Devizes, to take part in the annual Junior Good Citizen programme. This valuable event is designed to help children recognise and avoid situations that could put them at risk of accident or injury, while raising awareness of important safety issues they may encounter in everyday life.

Throughout the day, the children participated in a range of interactive workshops, including:

- Rail Safety, led by the British Transport Police
- Road Safety, delivered by the Wiltshire Road Safety Team
- Drug and Alcohol Awareness, run by Motiv8 and Wiltshire Police

The children were incredible ambassadors for the school. They engaged enthusiastically in every workshop, demonstrating maturity, curiosity and respect throughout the day. They asked thoughtful, insightful questions and contributed confidently to discussions, showing a genuine interest in learning how to keep themselves and others safe.



Sports Day

We ended Term 5 on a high with another highly successful Sports Day. The sun was shining, and the atmosphere at St John's was fantastic.

Sports Day is always a highlight of our school calendar and a wonderful community event. Thank you to everyone who contributed to making the day so special. The enthusiasm, encouragement, and support shown throughout the day helped create a memorable experience for all involved.

William Year 6 shared,

“I enjoyed that people cheered on everyone – even from different teams”

Cloe Year 5 shared,

“I enjoyed the choice of activities. We had a really fun day”

Julia Year 1 shared,

“I really liked the howler and the bean bags. We had so much fun”



OPAL News – Come and Play!

On Thursday 11th June, from 2:15pm–3:15pm, we will be celebrating the International Day of Play and our recent achievement of OPAL Platinum Accreditation (the highest level of recognition for schools committed to providing outstanding play opportunities).

Families are warmly invited to join us outside to experience OPAL in action and spend time playing alongside their children. We are also delighted to be welcoming a number of special guests, including our local MP and representatives from the Friends of St John's, who will be helping us celebrate this fantastic achievement.

This accreditation reflects the hard work, creativity and enthusiasm of our whole school community, and we look forward to sharing the afternoon with you. We are incredibly proud to have achieved OPAL Platinum. It has been wonderful to see children embracing imaginative, creative and active play across the school. Thank you to our families for their continued support of the programme.

As the event will take place outdoors, please come dressed appropriately for the weather. See the attached poster for further details. We can't wait to play with you!



The Friends Colour Run on Friday 22nd May 2026

Thank you to all the families who took part in our first ever Colour Run!

It was such a wonderful occasion organised and supported by the Friends of St. John's. We are blessed to be able to offer such rich and varied opportunities to the children and families.

If you are interested in offering support to the Friends please contact Friendsofstjohnstrowbridge@gmail.com If everyone does a little, it makes a huge difference.

A GoFundMe page has been set up if anyone would like to contribute to raising money for Dorothy House in memory of Mr Smith.

<https://gofund.me/adfb33e12>



Author visits UKS2

Years 5 and 6 were delighted to welcome special visitor John Dougherty into their classrooms on Thursday morning. John is a well-known author, poet and songwriter who inspired the children with his enthusiasm for reading, writing and, most importantly, poetry.

During his visit, John spoke about how he did not enjoy poetry when he was at school because he found it boring and difficult. However, over time, he discovered that poetry is a wonderful way to express yourself and “put your mind on the page.” He encouraged the children to see poetry as something fun and creative, explaining that there are no strict rules and that writers can let their imaginations run free.

The children were thoroughly entertained as John performed some of his most popular works, including *The Bear-Shaped Hole*, poems from *Zooming the Zoo* and his hilarious song, *My Teacher Always Picks on Me*. His performances had everyone laughing, listening carefully and eager to hear more.

The children were fascinated by John’s career and asked many thoughtful questions. Here are some of the highlights from our Q&A session:

Q: What inspired you to become a writer

- I used to be a teacher, but being a writer is even more fun... and less exhausting!
- I love being creative.
- I want to make stories that people enjoy reading.
- I like making readers feel different emotions, such as joy, humour and even fear!

Q: What is your favourite book that you have written?

- It is impossible to choose just one favourite!
- *Zeus on the Loose* is special because it was my first published book and tells the story of a Greek god causing chaos in a school.
- *The Hare-Shaped Hole* is my bestselling book and the one I will probably be remembered for.

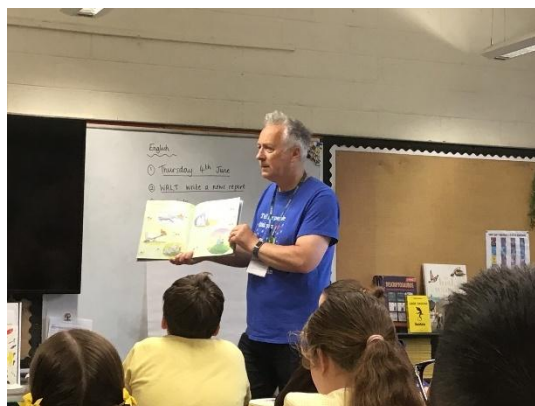
Q: How many books have you written?

- Around 42-43 books.

Q: What is the best thing about being a writer?

- Seeing my books in shops.
- The satisfaction of finishing a piece of writing.
- Spending time daydreaming and coming up with ideas.
- Meeting other writers.
- Being my own boss and making tea whenever I want!

A huge thank you to the Friends for generously funding this fantastic event. Without their continued support, our children would not have access to these extra-special opportunities that enrich their learning beyond the classroom. Experiences such as meeting inspiring authors help to foster a love of reading, writing and creativity, and we are incredibly grateful for everything the Friends do to support our school community.



Birthdays

During Celebration Assembly we celebrated all children who have had birthdays and presented them with a St. John's birthday pencil.

Pupils

Xorla A

Mia S

Filip S

Maximillian S

Vrithiha VH N

Lilly B

Lilly S

Phoenix G

Aarush R

George H

Aidan J

Aria S

Elena D

Alex L

Reggie C

Cherish B

Michelle I

Olivia B



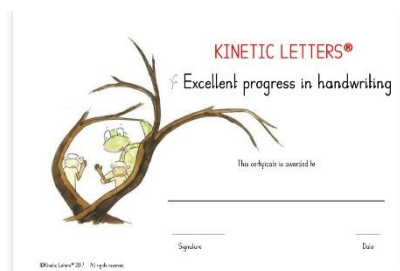
PE Hoodies/Tops

Please can you ensure that your child wears either a PE hoodie with the school logo on it or a plain black hoodie.

No hoodies with labels such as Adidas or Nike are allowed to be worn.

Thank you

Celebrating Handwriting Progress - EYFS And KS1



We celebrate the progress of pupils in EYFS and KS1. Fluent handwriting is an essential skill that the children work to master.

The Following pupils have been awarded certificates for their excellent progress:

Wisdom Class: Harriet B

Understanding Class: Mikolaj Z
Saffron S

Counsel Class: Max P

Courage Class: Noah W

Knowledge Class: Beatrice M



The following pupils have achieved these Doodle Streaks in Doodle Maths:

1000 Days Evelyn L – who received a trophy

500 Days Amelia M

100 Days Alexander D

Elijah D

Xorla A

Gautham B

50 Days Reggie C

Joanna D C

Here is the Top Doodling Class at St John's Catholic Primary School for:

Week Ending Friday 22nd May – Year 2 (65% of pupils in the green zone)

Week Ending Friday 29th May – Knowledge Class (33% of pupils in the green zone)

Week Ending Friday 5th June – Year 2 (55% of pupils in the green zone)