

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



NEWSLETTER DATED FRIDAY 17TH APRIL 2026

Dear Families,

I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable Easter break. It has been a pleasure to welcome the children back to school for the start of the summer term. In the Catholic tradition, the celebration of Easter continues for 50 days, and we look forward to marking this special season together in school.

The children have made a fantastic start to the term and are looking very smart in their summer uniforms—thank you for your support in ensuring they are so well presented each day.

Learning continues to be a key focus across all classes. This week, we were pleased to welcome a visitor Tracey Dunn from Anaphylaxis UK, who delivered an informative session to the whole school about supporting children living with allergies. This is such an important area of awareness, and we are planning a fundraising event to support this valuable charity.

We have also enjoyed hosting IF Opera, which was a wonderful experience for the older children, and a group of our Year 6 pupils have begun their swimming sessions at Trowbridge Swimming Pool. Year 3 and 4 parents were invited to a multiplication check workshop which was another example of the importance of school and home working together to accelerate the learning for your child.

At the end of Term 4 we hosted Richard Pomfrett in delivering an online evening workshop for parents named 'Parenting in the Digital World'. Thank you to the 19 families who were able to attend - I have received such positive feedback about the content and how it will support parents to guide children with living alongside technology. I am really hopeful next year we will be able to engage even more families in this vital issue which is changing rapidly.

Looking ahead, we are excited about the events planned for this term. In particular, the Colour Run, organised by the Friends of St John's, will take place on Friday 22nd May. Please do add this to your diary and refer to the attached advert for further details.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincere thanks for the generous contributions to our annual Easter Raffle in support of Dorothy House. This year, we raised an incredible £304.13—a

phenomenal amount. We are very grateful to all the families, friends, and governors who donated prizes or purchased raffle tickets.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs O'Rourke

Upcoming Dates

Wednesday 22nd April – EYFS Reading Breakfast from 8.40am – 9.30am – Parents Welcome

Friday 24th April – LKS2 Trips to Trowbridge Library

Tuesday 28th April – Counsel Class Liturgy at 9.05am – Parents Welcome

Thursday 7th May – Joy Class Benediction at 1.30pm – Parents Welcome

Sunday 10th May – Children's Mass in Church at 10.30am – All Welcome

Tuesday 12th May – Knowledge Class Liturgy at 9.05am – Parents Welcome

Thursday 14th May – Feast of the Ascension – Whole School Mass at 1.30pm in Church – All Welcome

Friday 15th May – Love Class Benediction at 1.30pm

Tuesday 19th May – EYFS Trip to Trowbridge Library from 2pm – 2.45pm

Wednesday 20th May – Mission Review Evening from 7.00pm – 8.00pm.

Friday 22nd May - Sports Day and Friends of St. John's Colour Run

Sunday 24th May – Feast of Pentecost

Monday 1st June – First Day of Term 6

Tuesday 2nd June – UKS2 Steam Fair

Wednesday 3rd June – Knowledge Class Liturgy at 1.30pm

Tuesday 9th June – Love Class Mass in School Hall at 9.05am – Parents Welcome

Thursday 11th June – Class and Year 6 School Photos

Friday 12th June – EYFS Trip to Longleat

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

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

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

Wednesday 24th June – Parish Celebration Mass with Bishop Bosco at 7.30pm – All Welcome

Friday 26th June – Wacky Hair Day/Mufti Day supporting The Friends Summer Fayre

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

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

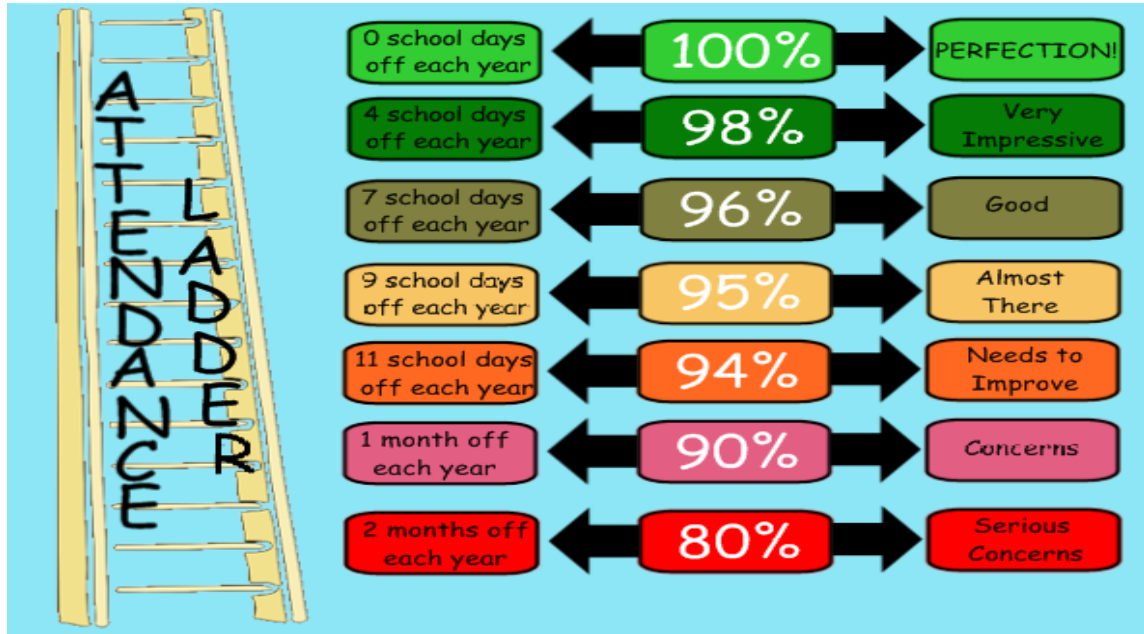
Tuesday 14th July – Year 6 Play

Wednesday 15th July – Year 6 Play

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

Attendance Matters



We are encouraging every child to be an Attendance Hero!



Reading Breakfast with Families

We are warmly inviting parents and carers into the school hall on the following date to enjoy a relaxed start to their day with coffee/tea and croissants with their child and sharing high quality books together. We look forward to welcoming you into school to share your love of reading and power of the word!

EYFS – Wednesday 22nd April from 8.40am – 9.30am

Year 4 and Year 6 Residential Visit's Academic Year 2026 - 2027 – Parent & Children Information Session

There will be a parents information evening for parents of pupils in going into Years 4 and 6 in September 2026 who will be going on residential visits during the school year.

The meeting details are as follows:

Date: Monday 20th April

Time: 5.45pm – 6.45pm

Location: School Hall

We strongly encourage all current Year 3 and Year 5 parents to attend with their child, as it will be a great chance to receive essential information and we hope it will help your child prepare for this exciting adventure.

Easter Cards

Annabelle O made some Easter cards at home to sell to other pupils in school during the last week of Term 4.

They were very popular and she made £40.50.

The money raised will go to CAFOD.

Congratulations and well done Annabelle for all your hard work.



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 5 – 10th May 2026

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

Joy Class Violin Concert

On Tuesday 24th March parents, friends and children of St John's were treated to a violin concert performed by the children of Joy Class. It was the result of lots of hard work and learning with Charlotte who delivered high quality music teaching in the short period that Terms 4 and 5 allowed. It was great to hear all children playing in unison and bringing the arts and culture so intimately to the school community.



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.

Multiplication Facts

During Celebration Assembly we were delighted to recognise the efforts of the older children who can confidentially recall all their multiplication facts. We know that when children have secured this essential knowledge they will find future learning more achievable and gain satisfaction, motivation, leading to pride in their learning.

It was incredible to celebrate children being awarded the 'St John's Catholic School Times Tables Star' badge.

Luke S

Anaphylaxis UK

On Tuesday morning we were delighted to welcome Tracey Dunn from the charity Anaphylaxis UK for a highly informative and engaging assembly on anaphylaxis. The session provided our children with valuable knowledge about allergies and how they can affect the body.

During the assembly, pupils learned about the different types of allergies people may have, ranging from food allergies to environmental triggers. Tracey explained how the body reacts during an allergic response, describing it as a “chain reaction,” where the immune system overreacts to a substance that is usually harmless. This helped the children understand why allergic reactions can sometimes become very serious.

Importantly, the children were also encouraged to think about how they can be more aware and supportive in their everyday lives. They discussed simple but meaningful actions, such as being mindful of what others may be allergic to, not sharing food, washing hands and recognising when someone might need help.

The assembly was both educational and empowering, helping our pupils to develop greater awareness, empathy, and responsibility towards others. We are very grateful to Tracey for delivering such an important message in a way that was accessible and memorable for all. We are now planning a charity event to raise money for this vital charity.

Well done to all the children for their excellent listening and thoughtful participation.



Leaders in Faith Award

Congratulations to the following pupils who have earned these awards:

Gold Award: Louisa C

Bronze Award: Jack B
Charlie B
Sofia B
Jakub S
Caden S
Jase F
Tristan H
Alicja S
Alex S
Zofia W
Nataniel J
Ethan M
Maya S
Hunter J
Kacper M



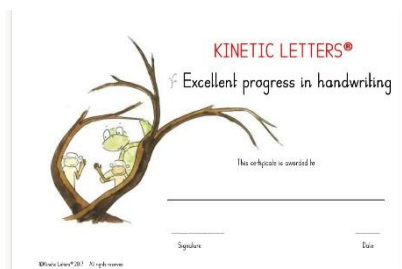
Iford Manor Opera Visit

Patience Class had their first session with Iford Manor Opera yesterday afternoon. They began with warm-up activities, where they learned new vocabulary related to staging, such as *upstage* and *downstage*. The children were then introduced to a French song, *Carmen*, by Lynsey, the opera singer. Even without understanding the language, they were able to interpret its meaning through Lynsey's expressive movements, facial expressions, and body language. The class went on to act out scenes inspired by the song and even had the opportunity to perform for one another.

- "I enjoyed learning the lyrics of the song." Sera
- "I enjoyed learning about theatrical movement when we had to move around the stage in a theatrical way." Dalia
- "I liked acting out different characters." Zofia



Celebrating Handwriting Progress - EYFS And KS1



To raise the profile of Kinetic Letters handwriting in school we will be celebrating 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:	Nelly F
Understanding Class:	Amelia G
Counsel Class:	Dyllan A
Courage Class:	Louis O
Knowledge Class:	Michael S

Birthdays

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

Pupils

Amelia G	Tabitha A	Phoebe S
Liberty S	Dalia E	Devansh N
Ethan M	Emilia K	Simreet D
Saffron S	Jack D	Josel F
Zofia W	Nimrat S	Jonah P
Zofia W	Raphael M	Choppy W
Penelope F	Zuzanna S	Bobby J
Gabriela G	Devonte G	





doodlelearning
By Discovery Education

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

750 Days	Tabitha A
	Evelyn L
500 Days	Samuel G
100 Days	Daniel N A
	Maia P
50 Days	Adam W
	Arthur R
	Jase F
	Aoife E
	Emilia K
	Gabriela S-C
	May D
	Jalen E
	Alex D
	Elijah D
	Xorlataeye A
	Max L

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

Week Ending 27th March: Year 2 (74% of pupils in the green zone)

Week Ending 3rd April: Counsel Class (44% of pupils in the green zone)

Week Ending 10th April: Courage Class (43% of pupils in the green zone)

Week Ending 17th April: Knowledge Class (70% of pupils in the green zone)