

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



NEWSLETTER DATED FRIDAY 20TH MARCH 2026

Dear Families,

As we come to the end of what has been a short but incredibly positive term, I would like to take a moment to reflect and give thanks for the many blessings within our school community.

Last week, we were privileged to welcome the missionary priests into our school. Their visit was a wonderful affirmation of all that we strive to achieve each day. I would like to share a reflection they offered, which truly captures the spirit of our school:

"I am amazed at your wonderful schools in this area. We have spent some time in your schools and they are marvellous. Absolutely marvellous. I have really enjoyed being there – seeing the staff – the dedicated staff. The wonderful children who have been remarkably well behaved. Maybe just in front of us – I don't know. I remember a number of times praying the Mass here in the morning and I forgot that the children were right next to me. All because they were so quiet and attentive and well behaved. They are wonderful."

Their words are a testament to our dedicated staff, our exceptional children, and the strong sense of community that makes our school so special. We are deeply grateful for their visit and for the encouragement they have given us all.

I would also like to thank all parents and carers who attended Parents' Evening in such large numbers. Your support, engagement, and partnership with the school make an enormous difference to the children's learning and wellbeing. We truly value the opportunity to work together.

During Term 5, the beginning of the Summer Term children are invited to wear the school summer uniform – this includes:

a gold polo shirt with a logo and brown shorts should be worn with shoes or sandals (3/4 length shorts and Bermuda or surfing shorts are not acceptable). Socks must be worn at all times.

a yellow and white checked dress may be worn (white shorts may be worn under dress) with either white or dark shoes or sandals. Again socks must be worn at all times.

When we return from the Easter break we are delighted to be welcoming If Opera Schools Programme to St John's Catholic Primary School for the very first time! Since 2010, If Opera

has been inspiring school children across Wiltshire and Somerset, providing opportunities for children to work alongside outstanding professional vocal animateurs, singers and musicians. With a proven track record for the quality of its performances, young artists' programme and schools' projects, they want to introduce many more young people to the wonder of opera, and the schools projects are central to this mission. The UKS2 children in Patience? Class will be working alongside the professionals during the summer term and preparing for a performance to family and friends on Monday 15th June 2026.

Looking ahead to next week, we will be holding our annual Easter Raffle in support of Dorothy House. Raffle tickets will be on sale every break time and lunchtime, organised by our Chapel Champions. Tickets are 50p each, and the draw will take place on the final day of term, Friday 27th March. We are very grateful for your continued generosity in supporting this important cause.

In addition, one of our talented school families has created a selection of beautiful Easter cards, which will also be on sale during break times next week. These cards will be sold in support of CAFOD and will cost £1.00 each. We encourage you to support the children and this worthy cause.

As we enter the holy season of Easter, we are reminded of the heart of our faith: hope, renewal, and the promise of new life through the Resurrection of Christ. This is a time to pause, to give thanks, and to reflect on the love, sacrifice, and joy that Easter brings to us all. May this season inspire us to show kindness, compassion, and generosity in our daily lives, just as we see so beautifully within our school community.

I wish every family a truly blessed and joyful Easter. May your homes be filled with peace, hope, and love, and may you enjoy special time together with family and friends as we celebrate this most important season in our Church's year.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs O'Rourke

Dear Friends of St John's,

We thank you for all the precious books you bought us for World Book Day.

The book I got is called: The Vanquishers. It is about vampires taking over the world and the supernatural family's (The Van Helsings) home. Their two best friends have been bitten by a vampire so now they are vampires too. Because their house has been taken over by vampires, they need escape to the countryside and inside a mountain where a secret laboratory that has not been used in years, is hidden. Their vampire friends came with them, and are now sleeping in a black room, while the others are making a formula to prevent them from being a vampire. Zosia (in Patience Class)

Upcoming Dates

Wednesday 25th March – Year 5/6 Desert to Garden – Children Leading Stations of the Cross Reflections

Friday 27th March – EYFS Trip Visit to see the Ducklings at Wingfield Care Home

Monday 30th March – Friday 10th April – Easter Holidays

Monday 13th April – First Day of Term 5

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

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

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

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

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

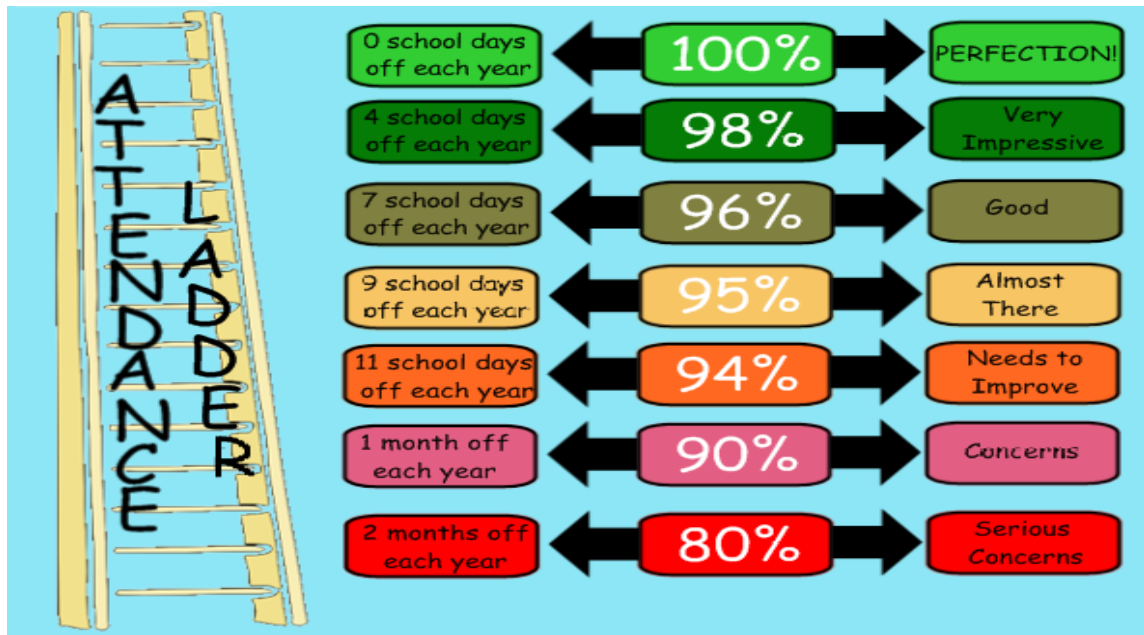
Friday 3rd July – Whole School Pilgrimage

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

Attendance Matters



We are encouraging every child to be an Attendance Hero!



Class Joy Violin Concert on Tuesday 24th March 2026

Families of pupils in Joy Class are invited to their Violin Concert at 2.40pm on 24th March in the Hall at St. John's. This is the result of their violin learning since January this year. Expect singing, rhythm and an exciting orchestra of violins in this customary celebration of all their efforts.

We look forward to seeing you there. If you can definitely attend, then please let us know by contacting the office or emailing reception@st-johns-trowbridge.wilts.sch.uk

Supporting Children's Experiencing Anxiety

Gemma Howard will be joining us to deliver a webinar designed to help parents and carers understand what happens in the body when children experience anxiety, including how the nervous system responds to stress and perceived threat. The session will explore how these physiological responses can influence children's thoughts, emotions and behaviour, and will introduce practical strategies to help calm the nervous system and manage anxious feelings. Parents and carers will gain simple, supportive approaches they can use at home to help children feel safer and better able to cope. The webinar will also signpost families to trusted sources of further support.

- When: Tuesday 24th March
- Time: 7.45-9pm (with 10 minutes extra for Q&A)
- Where: Online – Zoom link:

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83911739507?pwd=ianW8HvJUyLOQnS3OLw79iqV0vxh.1>

Meeting ID: 839 1173 9507

Passcode: 227645

Please email gemma.howard@charliewaller.org to book onto this session. If numbers are below 4, they will not be able to run the session which is why booking is essential.

You are welcome to join with your camera and microphone on or off— whatever feels most comfortable. We want this to be a relaxed and supportive space for everyone.

We really hope you can join us.

Breakfast Club, Extended Day and School Clubs

Bookings will open before Easter for you to book your child into Breakfast Club and Extended Day for Terms 5 and 6 on Parents Booking. You will be sent an email to alert you that bookings are open.

The Clubs letter for Terms 5 and 6 will be emailed out to parents next week.

Please note that all payments will now be made on Parents Booking. You will be asked to pay for the club at the same time of booking.

Please click the link below to make all bookings.

<https://parents-booking.co.uk/login.jsp>

Meningitis – Signs to Look Out For

We are aware of the current situation regarding meningitis cases in the Canterbury area. Health authorities have reported a number of cases linked to a recent outbreak, particularly affecting older students and young adults, with a small number of cases also identified in schools.

While this remains a rare illness, it can develop very quickly, and health professionals are advising everyone to remain vigilant. The risk to primary-aged children remains low; however, awareness of the symptoms is very important. Early diagnosis and treatment are vital and can save lives.

We encourage all parents to take a moment to familiarise themselves with the signs of meningitis and septicaemia, and to seek medical advice promptly if you have any concerns about your child's health.

Please read the meningitis leaflet attached.

Lent Penitential Service

The whole school family gathered together with Fr Richard and Fr Peter (Mission Priest) for our Lenten Reconciliation Service. It was a time to reflect on our behaviours and say sorry for when we have made poor choices – knowing that we are always loved by God. It was a beautiful service with singing and reflection led by the children in KS2. A particular congratulations to the children in Year 3 who have today celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. We are very proud of you all.



Year 4 Multiplication Workshop on Wednesday 15th April 2026

We are holding a final parent workshop for times tables on Wednesday 15th April.

This is for any Year 4 parents who were not able to attend the morning sessions held earlier this year.

You would need to attend with your child at 3.30pm. The session will be held in Love Class.

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

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

Stonehouse Food Bank

Pupils and parents at St John's School gave generous food donation to the Storehouse Food Bank. Their support demonstrates solidarity and care for members of our community who may be struggling. We were very proud of children in KS2 who visited The Stonehouse in Trowbridge to deliver the donations.



Easter Raffle

During this time of year we prepare for our annual Easter raffle – again this year we are collecting money to raise funds for Dorothy House. The hospice that cared for Mr Smith so beautifully and does amazing work in our community. We warmly welcome any contributions from families which could be added to our donations – big or small – every item makes a difference! Raffle tickets will be sold during next week – every break and lunchtimes. Tickets will cost 50p each.

KS1 Reading

Reading in KS1 is all about first learning to decode and then developing fluency, expression, confidence and a genuine love of reading. Linked to our phonics scheme, SoundsWrite, we send home books or sheets that directly match what your child has been learning in class. Some sounds are taught over one week, while others are revisited over two weeks to ensure children have secure understanding before moving on.

Research shows that just **10 minutes of reading a day adds up to around 60 hours of reading practice across a year**, which has a significant impact on progress. Even short, regular sessions at home really do make a difference.

Once your child has had a go at decoding their school text, they are encouraged to read for pleasure. This can be any book of their choice and can also include listening to you read. In fact, children who are read to regularly are exposed to a much wider vocabulary, which supports both reading and writing development.

Do remember that we have our **“Top 200” books**, where children are welcome to borrow a new book every day if they wish, as long as the previous one is returned. We also visit the library at least once a week, so please ensure your child brings their library book back so they can choose a new one.

KS1 Spelling

As part of SoundsWrite, children are also given opportunities to practise spelling the sounds they are learning in class. This is why they bring spellings home. Every two weeks, they complete a short check to see how many words they can spell using the patterns they have been taught.

Spelling can feel tricky because English has many exceptions, but regular practice really helps. Studies suggest that **frequent, spaced practice (little and often) is far more effective than longer, less frequent sessions**, so even a few minutes a day can make a noticeable difference.

All of the words sent home are ones children have already been taught and practised in school, so this is about building confidence and fluency rather than introducing anything new. Over time, this supports children in becoming more accurate and independent writers.

OPAL Updates

Our Platinum Playtimes continue to go from strength to strength, and the recent Spring weather has brought an extra burst of creativity, enthusiasm and independence from all of our wonderful, playful children. It has been fantastic to see how confidently the children are engaging with the wide range of play opportunities now available, using their imaginations and collaborating with others in increasingly purposeful ways.

With so many different choices on offer, children are not only having fun but also developing key life skills such as problem-solving, teamwork, resilience and communication. These rich play experiences are a vital part of their development and support their learning in meaningful and lasting ways.

As we move into the new season, please remember that we remain an all-weather play school. The children go outside in a variety of conditions, so it is important they are dressed appropriately each day. Please ensure your child comes to school with suitable clothing for both wet and sunny weather, including waterproofs, wellies, sun hats, and always a set of spare clothes and socks.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support in making our playtimes such a success.

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook @OPALatStjohns for updates and snapshots of our play in action!



Wednesday Word

Please find below the link to this week's copy of the **Wednesday Word** which can be copied and pasted into your browser.

<https://www.paperturn-view.com/wednesday-word/good-news?pid=MTA101634&v=163.4>

Fairtrade Art Competition

Thank you to these children:

Louisa C - Year 5
Nathania E –Year 5
Kimpreet D -Year 5
Simreet D -Year 1



for your beautiful entries to the Fairtrade Art Competition.
These were collected on Thursday and we are sure they are each worth a chocolate bar for their efforts.

Leaders in Faith Award

Congratulations to the following pupils who have earned this award:

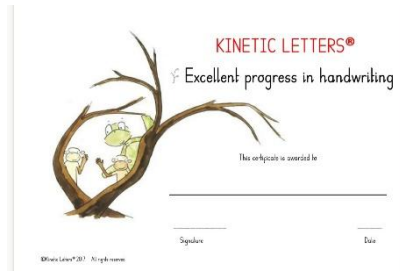
Bronze Award: Gabriela G
Mia S
Luca O’N
Jackson G
Jerome A
Ivy K
Ignacy I
Phoenix G
Sofia C
Aidan N
Litiana V



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.

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:

Toria W
Giavanna B

Aubree T
Lily T

Josel F
Angeliki K

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.

Annabelle C

Parenting In The Digital World

Please ensure that you have added the online meeting “Parenting In The Digital World” being held on Thursday 26th March starting at 7pm into your calendar. We highly recommend that EVERY family represented – it will be of your time and support your vital parenting role for your child from 4 years to 11 years old.

The letter with links is attached.

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

Levison T	Frankie R
Felicity W	Joanna S
Amelia G	Aaron K
Tawana M	Elliott S
James C	



Online Safety

This week we are highlighting what you need to know as parents/carers about Whatsapp. Please see the leaflet attached to this newsletter.

Year 2 Roller Skating Experience

Year 2 recently enjoyed an exciting roller skating session delivered by Sk8Hire. Many of the children were trying roller skating for the first time, and it was wonderful to see their enthusiasm and determination as they developed new skills.

This opportunity was made possible through our PE Premium funding, allowing children to experience a new form of physical activity in a fun and supportive environment. The day ended with a roller disco, creating a real sense of enjoyment and achievement for all.

The session supported not only physical development, but also confidence, resilience and teamwork — key aspects of our commitment to developing the whole child.





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

500 Days	Simreet D
100 Days	Adam L
	Saffron S
50 Days	Gabriela G
	Nancy D
	Niamh D
	Ivy P-F
	Gautham B

Here is the Top Doodling Class at St John's Catholic Primary School for the last seven days:
Week Ending 20th March: Year 5 (82% of pupils in the green zone)



The Spring Challenge starts soon!



Pupils are invited to take part in the Doodle Maths Spring Challenge between 1st – 30th April. Please see the information attached to the newsletter giving details on how to register your child. They will receive a pin badge and a certificate when they complete the challenge.

Girls' Football Tournament

On Monday 23rd March, a group of Year 5/6 girls proudly represented the school at a football tournament in Trowbridge. They played four matches against a range of local schools and showed fantastic determination throughout.

Although they did not progress to the final, the girls represented the school brilliantly, demonstrating passion, enthusiasm and excellent teamwork. Their excitement was evident and they supported one another every step of the way.

A big thank you to the families who came along to support and cheer from the sidelines – your encouragement made a real difference!



Wiltshire 3 Peaks Challenge

Families are invited to join the Wiltshire 3 Peaks Challenge on Saturday 13th June. It's a fantastic way to get outdoors, explore our local landscape, and support a great cause.

The Details:

- Routes: Choose a family-friendly 10km, a Half Marathon, or (new for this year!) a full Marathon circular route.
- Support: All routes are signposted and marshalled.
- Perks: Under 12s go free with an adult, and every finisher gets a medal and well-earned cake!

You can choose the entry style that works best for you:

- Fundraising Entry: Pay a lower registration fee and commit to raising a target amount for the Youth Adventure Trust. This directly funds our work with local young people!
- Self-Funded Entry: Pay a higher upfront fee that covers the cost of your place. There's no pressure to fundraise, though any extra donations are always welcome.
-

Early Bird Discount: As a thank you to our local school community, you can share the code **SCHOOLEARLY10** to get 10% off registration fees! This code is valid until 31st March, so be sure to sign up soon to save.

Link: <https://www.youthadventuretrust.org.uk/wiltshire-3-peaks-challenge/>

Trowbridge Town Park Consultation

Trowbridge Town Council have contacted us regarding their current Town Park consultation.

They are currently working on plans to redevelop the playpark, adventure golf and park kiosk and install 2 covered padel courts. They are also applying for a loan which will be paid back through income generated from these projects so that the residents of Trowbridge do not see an increase in their council tax.

They are currently consulting with residents of Trowbridge on the concept designs and as you can imagine children and parents are key target audiences for them.



Please use the QR Code or have their say.

<https://forms.office.com/e/Z6hvFsTjYR?origin=lprLink>

I Can & I Am Triathlon-4-All on Saturday 16th May 2026.

You are invited to join the I Can & I Am Triathlon-4-All on Saturday May 16th.

Important detail!! It's NOT a traditional triathlon for elite sports people! It's an option for anyone of any age or ability to take part in a challenge to suit them - a very 'I Can & I Am' philosophy.

The start is at the Dundas Aqueduct in Bath and all 3 events take place in the gorgeous surroundings of the canal and the River Avon. The event consists of:

1. **Cycling** (bikes available to hire) with 3 distance options: 8km, 20km, 40km
2. **Kayaking** on the canal in 4 person boats (no experience necessary) travelling a distance to suit your crew. We can allocate crews or you can select your own
3. **Run or walk** along the canal at a distance to suit: 3km, 5km or 10km.

Every year, this creates an amazing atmosphere of a community getting together to take on a challenge that ALWAYS leads to inflated balloons of self-belief!

Any fundraising is greatly appreciated as this supports their bus programme and the renovation of their new third bus.

There are also further details and a sign up form here: [The I Can & I Am Triathlon-4-All Saturday May 16th 2026 – Fill in form](#)

Please see the poster attached to this newsletter.

SEN Fun Swim 2.30-3.30

Monday 30th March

Trowbridge Sports Centre/Clarendon, BA14 0DN

£7 per Child/Young Adult

Including supporting Adult.

£3 under 3 years (with adult)

3-18 years

(with flexibility)

We have booked the pool for sole use for SEN families, so the prices are set by us to cover costs and give families a chance to enjoy the pool and have fun in a comfortable session. NOTE this means booking is with us directly and not through the pool staff.

Swim nappies must be worn by any child that requires, must be purchased yourself, only limited toddler sizes available at the pool reception. ADULT MUST BE IN THE POOL WITH THE CHILD.

Pool rules also state that all under 8s must be supervised in the pool AND the changing rooms.

(Extra caution should be taken regarding photos that NO OTHERS should be in the pictures unless you have consent)

Booking is required, spaces are VERY limited. To book scan the QR code to find our Kay-OSS Facebook page, or email kayossevents@gmail.com



SEN Stay & Play Police 10-11am

Calne Scout Hall, SN11 0ED Tuesday 7th April

£6 Per child/young adult
(including supervising adult)

Ages 2-18 years
with flexibility

Special needs inspired,
but everyone welcome.

Come along for some colouring with police officers, learn about their uniform and kit, maybe have your fingerprints taken and if we are really lucky have a look around a police car.

Police are on duty and may have to leave unexpectedly or cancel on short notice

Booking is required, spaces are limited.
Email kayossevents@gmail.com or scan our QR code to message and follow us on Facebook.

