

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



NEWSLETTER DATED FRIDAY 6TH MARCH 2026

Dear Families,

As we begin Term 4, it has been wonderful to see such a positive and purposeful start across the school. The children have returned with great enthusiasm for their learning and have been working hard in every classroom. We have been particularly proud of the determination and effort they have shown across the whole curriculum, embracing new challenges and striving to do their very best.

This week has also brought some very special news for our school community. Following our OPAL audit with Helen Easton, we are delighted to share that St John's Catholic Primary School has achieved the **Platinum Level Award**. This is a significant recognition of our commitment to ensuring that every child has the opportunity to play, explore and develop through high-quality outdoor provision each day. Play is such an important part of children's wellbeing, creativity and social development, and we are incredibly proud of the opportunities available to our pupils. My sincere thanks go to our staff team, children and wider school community whose dedication and support have made this possible. In particular, I would like to thank the parents who were able to support the sand pit – including Mr & Mrs Davies who dedicated time, energy and muscle to the project. We are so grateful for the payment of the digger hire and your workforce! Stronger Together. In addition, Mr Butler, Mr Potem and Mr Zhuravel gave up their time and energy to support the importance of play for every child.

We must share our thanks for the donations from The Friends which have ensured we could purchase the incredible reading cabin on the school site. This will provide a beautiful space for all children to rest, relax and read during their lunch break. We are currently working on ensuring the space is safe and equipped to be used – photos to follow!

I am pleased to share a message we received from Michael Follett

'I would like to offer my heartfelt congratulations on your recent achievement in gaining an OPAL award at St John's Catholic Trowbridge. Changing the culture of an organisation is not easy but you have done it, to become one of the best schools in the country for the quality of your playtime provision. Along the way I am sure you have had ups and downs dealing with the common issues of rain and mud, tidying-up and broken loose parts,

but the fact that you have gained an award proves you have succeeded in transforming playtimes for all your children.

Best wishes Michael Follett OPAL Director.

In the coming weeks we will share a date in the summer term when we will invite parents and the wider community to celebrate the Platinum Play Award alongside the children.

As we move quickly into the second week of the season of Lent, our children have been reflecting deeply on how they can live out their faith through action. This year we are working alongside the Little Vinnies charity with a Lenten focus of “Heart to Heart.” Through prayer, discussion and their learning in school, the children have been considering how they can respond to the call to care for others, particularly by thinking about what they can do to help stop the spread of loneliness in our society. It has been inspiring to hear their thoughtful ideas about small acts of kindness, reaching out to others, and showing compassion within our school and wider community. We are excited to see how the children will live out this message in the weeks ahead.

Within the parish of St John the Baptist, we will also be embarking on our Parish Mission Week beginning on 9th March. This will be a special time for our parish community to come together in prayer, reflection and renewal of faith. As part of this, children in UKS2 will have the opportunity to attend Mass during the week, which will be a wonderful experience for them to deepen their faith and feel part of the wider parish community. For further details about the Parish Mission Week and the events taking place, please refer to the parish website.

Finally, a future date for your diary is Wednesday 20th May, when we will be holding our Mission Review Evening from 7.00pm – 8.30pm. Parents, governors and members of our wider community are warmly invited to join us for an evening of reflection and conversation, accompanied by wine and cheese. During this session we will come together to reflect on the mission of St John’s Catholic Primary School and consider how we continue to live out our values as a faith-filled community. This is an invaluable opportunity for you to have your voice heard and to help shape the future direction of our school. We look forward to welcoming you to this important event.

We look forward to all that this term will bring and thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Mrs O’Rourke

Upcoming Dates

Sunday 8th March - St John of God Feast Day

Thursday 12th March – Parents Evening (1) 3.30pm – 6pm

Tuesday 17th March – Parents Evening (2) 3.30pm – 6pm

Tuesday 17th March – Year 1 Reading Breakfast from 8.40am – 9.30am

Wednesday 25th March – Year 5/6 Desert to Garden

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

Friday 24th April – LKS2 Trips to Trowbridge Library

Tuesday 28th April – Counsel Class Liturgy at 9.05am

Thursday 7th May – Joy Class Benediction at 1.30pm

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

Tuesday 12th May – Knowledge Class Liturgy at 9.05am

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

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 – 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 at 9.05am

Thursday 11th June – Class and Year 6 School Photos

Friday 12th June – EYFS Trip to Longleat

Tuesday 16th June – Joy Class Mass at 9.05am

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

Tuesday 23rd June – Peace Class Mass at 9.05am

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

Tuesday 30th June – Courage Class Liturgy at 9.05am

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 Assembly

Online Parent Workshop on Thursday 26th March 2026

We are delighted to invite parents and carers to attend our upcoming online parent workshop, designed to support you in helping your child grow, learn and flourish both at home and at school. The 1 hour workshop is planned for Thursday 26th March from 7.00pm – 8.00pm online with Richard Pomfreet.

As a school community, we believe that strong partnerships between parents and school make a powerful difference in children's lives. When families and educators work together, children feel supported, confident and ready to succeed. This workshop is a wonderful opportunity to strengthen that partnership and gain practical ideas that can make everyday parenting just a little easier.

During the session, parents will hear helpful guidance, strategies and insights that can support children's wellbeing, learning and development. The workshop will also provide an opportunity to reflect on some of the challenges families can face and offer simple approaches that can make a positive impact at home.

Because the session is online, it is easy to join from home using a phone, tablet or computer. Even setting aside a short amount of time to attend can provide useful tips, reassurance and ideas that many parents find valuable.

Workshops like this also help to build a stronger sense of community. They allow us to share experiences, learn from experts and continue working together to give every child the very best support possible.

We warmly encourage all parents and carers to attend if you are able. Your involvement plays an important role in your child's journey, and opportunities like this can be a helpful and supportive space to learn and reflect.

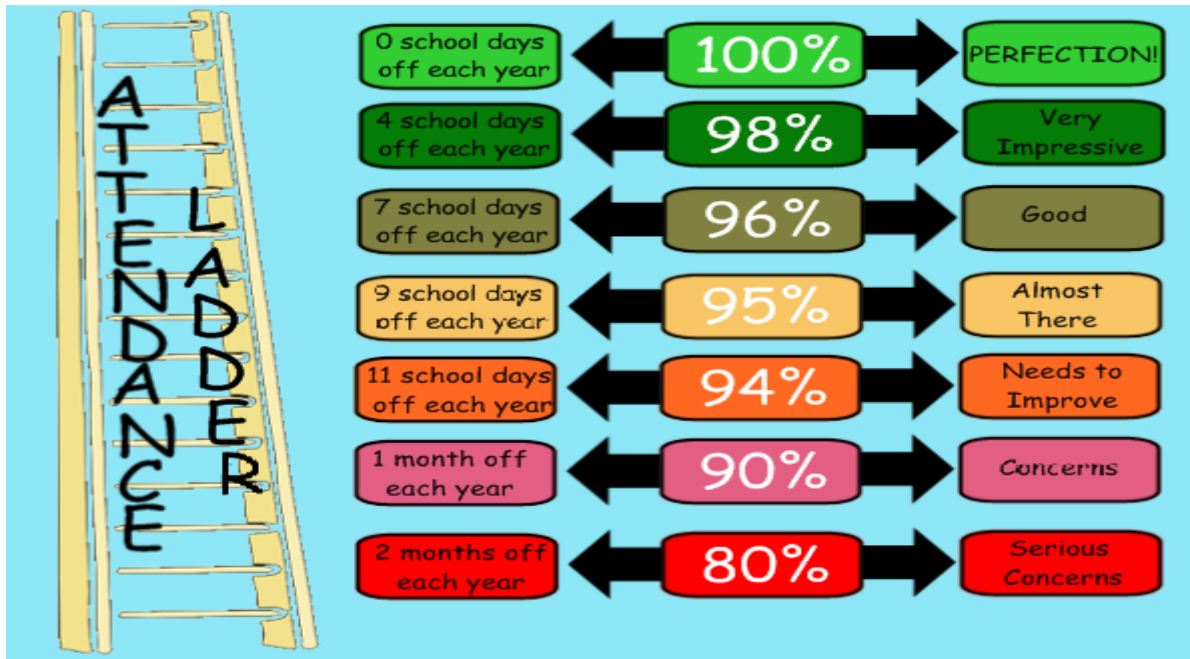
Class Joy Violin Concert on Tuesday 24th March 2026

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**

Attendance Matters

Next week you will receive your child's school report.
You will also receive information about your child's attendance for the first three terms of this year.



We are encouraging every child to be an Attendance Hero!



World Book Day

Yesterday (Thursday 5th March), St John's celebrated **World Book Day** in style! Children and staff arrived at school dressed as their favourite book characters, filling the classrooms with colour, creativity and excitement. The day began with a whole-school assembly led by Mrs O'Rourke, who was wonderfully dressed as Bluey, where she introduced the purpose of World Book Day – to remind us all that reading is both fun and enjoyable.

Throughout the day, the children took part in a range of activities designed to inspire a love of reading. These included book-themed quizzes, quiet time to sit and enjoy a good book, designing their very own National Book Token, and creative writing inspired by the magic that a great story can bring.

At the end of the day, each child took home a reading poster or bookmark filled with recommendations of great books to explore, a special key symbolising that reading unlocks the world for us, and a £1 book token to spend. To make the day even more special, the Friends of St John's kindly gifted every child a book – thank you!

What a wonderful day celebrating the joy and power of reading! 📖 ✨



St. John's School Wins Top Platinum Award for Outstanding Playtimes

St John's Primary School in Trowbridge is celebrating after being awarded the **OPAL Platinum Award**, the highest level of accreditation in the Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) programme.

The award recognises schools that provide outstanding play opportunities for children and have embedded high-quality play across the whole school environment. Following a full audit of playtimes, St John's was recognised for its creative play spaces, rich use of loose parts, and a culture that encourages children to explore, imagine and play together across year groups.

Children at the school now enjoy a wide range of play opportunities including den building, sand and water play, wheeled play, climbing, digging and nature exploration. The programme has helped transform playtimes into active, creative and inclusive experiences for all pupils.



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 dates to enjoy a relaxed start to their day with coffee/tea and croissants with their child and sharing some high quality books together. We look forward to welcoming you into school to share your love of reading and power of the word!

Year 1 - Tuesday 17th March from 8.40am – 9.30am

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

Leaders in Faith Award

Congratulations to the following pupil who has earned this award:

Silver Award: Florence H
Thea R

Bronze Award: Phoebe S



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. This week's Words are GOD'S LOVE.

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

Multiplication Facts

During next week's Celebration Assembly we will be 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.

Finley T
Riona R
Dyona C

Edward B
Oscar B

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

Alice H

Aniello L

Charlotte H

Gabriela S C

Theo M

Ruben V

Florence H

Jacob F

Trust V

Amelia S

Alex C

Hope M

Lucas T

Bella L

Eloise O

Melody M

Louis O



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.



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

100 Days	Nathania E
50 Days	Mia S
	Amelia G
	Amelia A
	Penelope F

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

Week Ending Friday 20th February: Courage Class 43 % of pupils in the green zone

St Augustine's Catholic College Annual Young Musician Awards Evening

We are very grateful to St Augustine's Catholic College for kindly offering a number of tickets to their Annual Young Musician Awards Evening, which will take place on Wednesday 11th March.

The tickets are free of charge and this promises to be a wonderful evening celebrating the musical gifts and talents of the students at the college. It is a fantastic opportunity for our families to experience the high quality of music and performance from older pupils and to be inspired by their dedication and achievements.

If you would like to attend the evening alongside your child and make use of one of the available tickets, please contact the school office who will be happy to assist. We wish all the musicians all the very best for the evening!

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 the final week of term before Easter.

Trowbridge Symphony Orchestra - Invitation to a Free Open Rehearsal 21st March 2026

The Trowbridge Symphony Orchestra has extended an invitation to all at St John's to attend an open rehearsal from 2.30pm on Saturday 21st March 2026 at the Wiltshire Music Centre, Bradford on Avon.

Vincent Ling who attended St John's from 2004 - 2011 will be performing Brahms Piano Concerto No 2 as soloist. Vincent is an extremely talented pianist and will be returning from Austria especially for this performance! It will be a great opportunity for the children to experience live orchestral music and to hopefully be inspired! Please note that parents and guardians will need to stay with their child, however, people are free to come and go as they please and siblings / friends are also welcome. Free admission - no tickets required.