

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



NEWSLETTER DATED FRIDAY 13TH FEBRUARY 2026

Dear Families,

As we reach the end of Term 3, we pause to celebrate what has been a truly wonderful and productive term in our school community. Across every year group, we have seen so many examples of success, perseverance and incredible progress in learning. From improved confidence in the classroom to achievements in sport, music and wider enrichment opportunities, our children continue to grow not only academically but also in faith, kindness and resilience. We are very proud of them all.

The half-term break now offers a valuable opportunity for rest and recovery. After such a busy and fruitful term, this is a time to slow down, enjoy family moments and return refreshed for the term ahead.

As we begin the next half term, we enter the sacred season of Lent. We mark this important time in the Church's year with the celebration of Shrove Tuesday, followed by Ash Wednesday. Lent is a special period of prayer, reflection and preparation as we journey towards Easter. We look forward to sharing this meaningful season with the children and helping them to grow in faith and understanding.

We would also like to inform parents that the Online Safety Workshop, originally planned for last Monday, will be rearranged in the Summer Term due to very low attendance. Online safety is an increasingly important area, with rapid changes in technology and social media presenting new challenges for families. We strongly encourage all parents and carers to make a determined effort to engage with these workshops, particularly around online safety, as there is so much for adults to be aware of in order to support and protect our children effectively. Working together, we can ensure our children are safe, informed and responsible users of technology.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of our school community. We wish you all a restful and joyful half-term break and look forward to welcoming everyone back, refreshed and ready for the journey through Lent.

Mrs O'Rourke

Headteacher

Upcoming Dates

Thursday 26th February – Year 3 and 4 Multiplication Workshop at 8.45am
Friday 27th February – Classes Counsel and Kindness Cake Sale after school
Friday 6th March – 2.30pm Parent Café with Wiltshire Parent Carers Council
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
Friday 24th April – LKS2 Trips to Trowbridge Library
Thursday 14th May – Feast of the Ascension – Whole School Mass at 1.30pm in Church
Friday 15th May – Love Class Benediction at 1.30pm
Friday 22nd May - Sports Day
Tuesday 2nd June – UKS2 Steam Fair
Tuesday 9th June – LKS2 Science Trip to Clarendon Science Show
Thursday 11th June – Class and Year 6 School Photos
Wednesday 17th June – Year 6 Leavers Mass at Clifton Cathedral
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
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

Internet Safety Visit

On Monday 9th all the KS2 children at St John's were treated to an engaging talk by Richard Pomfrett all about staying safe online. It is part of the school's efforts to keep all the children here safe at school but especially at home. In that regard, Richard gave a talk to parent using an online platform ensuring that St John's parents also have all the tools at their disposal to keep their children safe when online. As the technology we use advances it is certain that children and adults will need to learn how to stay safe online into the future.



LKS2 Visit to Trowbridge Museum

On Thursday and Friday of last week all the children in LKS2 visited Trowbridge Museum due bring alive their learning in History. The team of volunteers and the Museum Director, David, explained to the children the Anglo-Saxon culture as it might have been in Trowbridge. Through their clothing, writing and fighting the children learned that our early ancestors were similar in some ways and different in others - our names included. The Museum created these workshops especially for St John's and the children's experience was made all the better by the care and attention the team gave to them. Thanks to them and the parent volunteers who joined the teaching staff for this unforgettable excursion.



Times Tables Parent Workshop

There was a great turnout on Wednesday 11th for the Times Tables Parent Workshop at St John's. Nearly a third of the LKS2 children were joined by an adult to find out all about how the Year 3 & 4 children learn and practice the times tables. There was a short introductory talk about why the times tables are so important for children to learn, then a demonstration of how the children do it in class and then a concluding talk about the Multiplication Check all Year 4s will do in June this year. Thank you to all the adults who attended and remember there is another workshop for those who were not able to come on Thursday 26th February from 9.00-9.30am. If you haven't already competed an RSVP then please let the office know so we can prepare resources and seating - we had to find extra on Wednesday!



Multiplication Facts

During Celebration Assembly today 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 so many children being awarded the 'St John's Catholic School Times Tables Star' badge. We can't wait to recognise more children during Term 4.

Bethel I	Amy P	Maya S
Jakub S	Edward R	Sofia B
Luca O'N-C	Nancy E	Scarlet A
Albert W	Nataniel J	Gabriela SC
Darcey V	Caden S	Mason L
Lilly B	Amelia S	Kuba J
William S	Mylo G	Toby F
William F	Lottie H	Neyo A
Aidan N	Teddy H	Thomas H
Alicja S	Alex S	Jack B
Nell G	Phoenix G	Alan S
Caden S	Jase F	Michelle I
Nimisha E	Tristan H	Aaron K
Kacper H	Cloe M	Jackson G
Kacper M	Louisa C	Oskar K
Hope M	Emilia K	
Alan S	Sofia S	

Movement Monday

On Monday mornings the whole school come together before lessons start to participate in Movement Monday. It's a great way to start the week, waking up our bodies and minds ready to learn.

Pupils really enjoy this activity and look forward to dancing and singing along to the music.



OPAL Updates

The introduction of bikes, trikes and scooters has already made a fantastic difference to lunchtime play. They have been hugely popular, and it's been wonderful to see children enjoying these new opportunities. Dressing up and the additional equipment under the KS1 shelter have also expanded the range of choices available each day, giving children even more ways to play creatively and actively.

We are delighted to see children arriving prepared for all-weather play. Even if your child doesn't plan to head for the mud, slips, trips and dropped items can happen! Having a spare set of clothes in school means your child can fully embrace all the play opportunities on offer and still be comfortable and ready for learning afterwards. Please note that children are expected to change independently. Adults will remind and encourage, but children need to take responsibility for getting themselves changed.

There is exciting progress with the sandpit, too. A huge thank you to Mr Brown, Mrs Wade and the many parent volunteers who have helped, or offered to help. An enormous shout out to Mr Davies and team who have been instrumental in bringing this project to life. Thank you so much for your continued efforts!



Netball Club

St John's Netball Club – we are back!

Netball sessions are starting on Monday 23rd February with Annie O'Rourke – Current Netball Ireland Player and Team Bath player.

Time: 6.15pm – 7.15pm

Location: St Augustine's Catholic College

Price: £6.00 per session

Open to Years 4, 5 and 6 girls and boys.

Please confirm your attendance to 07443653149 or anniemorourke@hotmail.com

Year 4 Trip to Braeside

Year 4s rose to the challenge of their residential stay at Braeside last week. It was more than the average school trip as children had to prepare themselves for a night away from home, a couple of days packed with activities (that did not include a device) and some challenges that they were meeting for the first time. For instance, in order to abseil they had to climb to the height of the average two storey house with wooden blocks as foot and hand holds (strapped into a harness though) - then take on the challenge of going down a sheer wall with a rope and harness as their only support. Although the instructors, and the child's group, did a great job of reassuring and motivating them as they came down to earth. This was what it was truly about for each individual - finding and getting the strength from within, from our Catholic faith and from others in the St John's family. Well done Year 4s for living the spirit of adventure.



Foundation Stage Food Bank

The children in Foundation Stage have been learning about the catholic social teaching of solidarity. They have been reflecting on the scripture of feeding the 5000 and also read a book called 'It's a no money day', as part of their reading lessons last week. The message being, to share what we have with others.

The children and their families lived out this message and shared what they have by bringing in donations for Trowbridge Food Bank. We collected 84 donations for the foodbank!

Thank you, Foundation Stage children and families.



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

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

Helping My Child with Anxiety and Worry

The Family And Community Learning team have sent us information about a workshop which they are running - Helping My Child With Anxiety and Worry - Tuesday 24 February 10am – 12pm.

Helping My Child With Anxiety and Worry is a family skills course that supports parents and carers to understand how anxiety works and to develop accessible tools to help in tricky times. Booking closes next week on 17 February.

To make a booking, new learners need to complete an enrolment form either by phone on 01225 770478 or online here: [Enrolment - Work Wiltshire](#).

Please see the poster attached to this newsletter.

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.

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 is the half-term booklet.

<https://www.paperturn-view.com/wednesday-word/holiday-booklet?pid=MTA101634&v=167.5>

Leaders in Faith Award

Congratulations to the following pupil who has earned this award:

Bronze Award: Florence H
Aubree P
Violetta B
Mari G
Fiorella L
Esme C



Silver Award: Lucas T

Fair Trade Competition



Fair Trade have invited us to enter a competition by drawing, colouring or painting a poster on the theme of '**The Easter Story**'.

Please have your entries into the school office by **March 20th**. Please include your name, school and year group. Winners will receive a Fair Trade Chocolate Easter Egg. We look forward to your entries.

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

Dyllan-Briendon A

Alex D

Johan S

Trixiana W

Jacob L

Thomas M

Rose B

Max F

Kimpreet D

Oliver T

Lucas N-A

Holly A

Flourish I

George M

Alicja P

Riona R

Adam W





doodlelearning
By Discovery Education

The following pupils have achieved these Doodle Streaks in Doodle Maths since September 2025:

500 Days	Amelia W
250 Days	Elizabeth D
50 Days	Harry W

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

Year 2 62% of pupils in the green zone

Use of School Car Park For Breakfast Club

Please can we remind families that you are not entitled to use the staff car park to drive in and drop off or park for your child to attend Breakfast Club.

The car park is for staff use only unless you have a disabled badge and have permission from school to drive in.

Please can you also not use the car park entrance to turn your vehicle around. This is very dangerous for staff turning in at the same time as you are blocking the road.

Thank you for your co-operation.