

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



NEWSLETTER DATED WEDNESDAY 17TH DECEMBER 2025

Dear Families,

As we approach the end of another busy and joyful term, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the many achievements of our wonderful school community and to thank you for your continued support.

A Term Full of Achievement and Joy

This term has been filled with so much to celebrate. Above all, we are proud of the happy, confident children who come into school each day ready to learn, grow and live out our Catholic values. Classrooms have been full of challenging and engaging learning, with children encouraged to think deeply, work collaboratively and take pride in their achievements.

Our reading breakfasts, shared with parents and carers, have been a highlight of the term. These mornings have strengthened our partnership with families and reinforced the importance of reading for pleasure and purpose.

We have been fortunate to be well supported by the Friends of St John's who are always working away in the background to support the school and supplement wider opportunities for your child which we would otherwise not be able to afford. We have enjoyed cake sales, car boot sales, theatre workshops, the Christmas Fayre and this week the visit from the wonder dome. A huge thank you to everyone involved with the Friends but in particular to all those who make things happen – we are very grateful! If you think you have some time to join the group in 2026 please do speak with the representatives or a class teacher who will point you in the right direction – together we are stronger.

Our Catholic Life

The Catholic life of St John's continues to flourish. We have gathered together for Masses and services including reconciliation throughout the term, strengthening our faith as a community. We were delighted to celebrate the children who received their First Holy Communion, a truly special and prayerful occasion for families and the parish. As always, we are very grateful for the ongoing support and guidance from Fr Richard and the wider parish.

The EYFS Nativity was a beautiful reminder of the true meaning of Christmas and brought great joy to all who attended. Our children continue to show generosity and compassion through their charity work, living out our mission to serve others. Our challenge from Sr Judith Russi is now to go deeper and higher in our thinking and actions.

Visits to Clifton Cathedral with the Chapel Champions have enriched children's understanding of their faith and provided powerful moments of reflection and awe. We are delighted to be working in partnership with other Catholic Schools across the Diocese.

Mrs Graham, one of our wonderful Lunchtime and Extended Day supervisors will be leaving St. John's Catholic Primary School at the end of this term. Mrs Graham has been working at the school for over ten years and dedicated her time, love and commitment to the children. We wish her all the very best in her next chapter and say a huge "thank you" for all her work over the years.

Enriching Experiences Beyond the Classroom

Learning at St John's extends far beyond the classroom. Year 3 visited a local restaurant to reflect on different foods around the world whilst Year 5 thoroughly enjoyed their visit to the Art Sculpture Park in Salisbury, where creativity and curiosity were brought to life. These experiences help broaden horizons and deepen understanding across the curriculum.

We continue to have excellent links with Trowbridge library and Trowbridge museum where every year every child at St John's visits the museum and library each academic year or the museum can sometimes even travel to their classroom!

Residential visits and educational trips remain a vital part of our wider offer, helping children to grow in independence, resilience and teamwork. We are extremely proud of our Year 6 children who engaged so well in their residential visit to Skern Lodge – they came back full of stories and successes!

Our Dedicated Staff Team

None of these opportunities would be possible without our exceptional staff team. They consistently go above and beyond what their job descriptions ask of them, always seeking new ways to improve the curriculum and enrich the wider life of the school. Their dedication, professionalism and care for every child is something we are incredibly proud of.

Recognition and Success

This term, we have welcomed visits from Wiltshire Local Authority, educational experts supporting early reading, and, of course, our Section 48 inspection, where we were delighted to be judged Outstanding across all areas. This outcome reflects the strength of our Catholic ethos, the quality of teaching and learning, and the shared commitment of staff, pupils, parents and governors.

A Christmas Message for Families

As we prepare for Christmas, we are reminded of the importance of love, hope and family. In his Christmas message to parents, Pope Leo speaks of the vital role families play in nurturing faith, kindness and compassion in children. He encourages parents to take time for reflection and prayer during this season.

Some families may wish to explore Pope Leo's reflections further by reading *Dilexit Nos*, which offers a thoughtful meditation on love, faith and our relationships with one another.

On behalf of everyone at St John's Catholic Primary School, I would like to thank you for your continued support and partnership. We wish you a holy, peaceful and joyful Christmas, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in the New Year.

May God bless you and your families.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs O'Rourke

Headteacher

A Christmas Prayer

Loving God,

We thank you for the gift of our children, for the joy they bring and the love they share.

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus this Christmas, fill our homes with peace, kindness and hope.

Bless our families, our school community and all those who care for and guide our children.

May your light shine in our hearts this Christmas and lead us into the New Year with faith and joy.

Amen.

St John's Catholic Primary School, Trowbridge

We are now welcoming bookings for our upcoming open day on
7th January 2026. Please call 01225 752006 or email
office@st-johns-trowbridge.wilts.sch.uk to arrange your visit



www.st-johns-trowbridge.wilts.sch.uk

Upcoming Dates

Thursday 18th December at 9.15am – Christmas Carol Concert in St. John the Baptist Church.

All welcome or watch via the live stream on the parish website

Monday 5th January – T. D. Day – School closed to all pupils

Tuesday 6th January at 1.30pm – Whole School Mass celebrating the Feast of the Epiphany

Wednesday 7th January – Open Day for new families

Tuesday 20th January – Year 3 Reading Breakfast

Sunday 25th January – Children's Mass at 10.30am

Sunday 8th March - St John of God Feast Day

Friday 22nd May - Sports Day

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

Friday 10th July from 4.30pm – 7.30pm

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

T.D. Day on Monday 5th January 2026

A reminder that there is a **T.D. Day on Monday 5th January 2026** so the school will be closed to all pupils.

The school re-opens to all pupils on **Tuesday 6th January 2026**.

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 3 – 25th January 2026

Term 4 – 22nd March 2026

Term 5 – 10th May 2026

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

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.

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

Finley T	Kaleb-Theo B-T
William H	Max L
Phoenix-Jett H	Ivy P-F
Harriet T	Aveline-Rose S
Antony M	Tahlia H
Nataniel J	Caden S
Alfie W	Jase F
Elliot P-F	Noah P
Aubree P	Dyona C
Ted T	Albie A



EScooter Safety

Please see the letter attached to the newsletter from Wiltshire Police raising awareness of e-scooter safety this Christmas.

Leaders in Faith Award

Congratulations to the following pupil who has earned this award:

Bronze Award: Gabriela S C



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 it is the **Christmas Holiday Booklet**.

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

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 6 – Thursday 15th January from 8.40am – 9.30am

Year 3 – Tuesday 20th January from 8.40am – 9.30am

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

Year 2 – Thursday 5th February from 8.40am – 9.30am

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



Wiltshire's Children & Young People's Health and Wellbeing Survey 2026

Our school will be taking part in Wiltshire Council's Children and Young People's Health and Wellbeing Survey between 5th January and 6th February 2026. Children and young people aged 8-18 across Wiltshire will be completing the survey to help the Council and schools understand how pupils feel about school, health, friendship, safety, and wellbeing.

The survey is **anonymous**, and no child can be identified. It takes around 30 -45 minutes and will be completed in school.

If you have any questions, please contact the school office.

The Secret Camp

We have been sent some information about an event that is taking place in the summer holidays:
The Secret Camp out - please click on the link below. and enter the code, SECRET SEN to find out more.

[Secret SEN Camp Out | The Secret Camp Out](#)

Put in the code SECRET SEN to access the tickets as they are currently only available to families locally to Wiltshire before being released to general public in January.

Kindness Class Mass - Tuesday 9th December

On Tuesday 9th December, Kindness Class celebrated their Class Mass in the school hall, joined by family members and friends.

The Mass focused on the Gospel of Matthew 18:12-14, the Parable of the Lost Sheep, which the children had been exploring beforehand. Through this Gospel, the pupils reflected on what it means to be lost, who might feel lost in our world today and how we can all be change-makers by showing care, kindness and inclusion.

The children shared their many gifts and talents through singing, music, reading and leading prayers. It was lovely to see Kindness Class come together to celebrate their faith. Thank you to all the family and friends who were able to join us on this special occasion.

Pupil voice:

- “I enjoyed singing the hymns and going to the front for the Psalm” – Violetta
- “I felt like the Gospel was meaningful for me because of all the learning we did on it in class” – William

Parent voice:

- “The children’s reading and singing was lovely”
- “I liked the children’s involvement in the service”

Term 2 at Forest School!

This has been a busy term for all our Forest School groups! We've continued to explore our wildlife area, deepen our ecological knowledge and enjoyed making a range of nature crafts. Year 1 have loved playing games of sardines and learning all about fire and how to stay safe. KS2 have developed their confidence using a range of tools such as bow saws, palm drills and loppers, and, after school club have enjoyed campfire cooking and making 'God's eye' poppy crafts for Remembrance Day.



The adults are really looking forward to another term of Forest School. If this looks fun (and you don't mind getting a little muddy!) we would love to hear from you as **we are looking for a volunteer to help support KS2 Forest School on a Thursday afternoon.** Please contact the office for further information if this interests you!

OPAL Updates



Embracing All-Weather Play!

As part of our OPAL approach, children are enjoying the chance to play outdoors in all weathers. All-weather play supports resilience, creativity, problem-solving, and physical development, as well as allowing us to get fresh air all year round. It's one of the things children tell us they love most about their school day!

To make sure they can join in comfortably and safely, please **send your child to school dressed for the weather each day**. This includes:

- A warm, waterproof coat
- Wellies
- Layers for colder days

Additionally, you may wish to send children in with waterproof overalls or puddle suits OR spare uniform for changing.

Thank you for helping us make playtime active, joyful, and accessible for everyone, whatever the weather. Let's keep embracing the outdoors!

Year 2 Swimming

Year 2 have loved their weekly swimming lessons! All children have made amazing progress, developing their water confidence and skills. From all children and staff we would like to say a massive THANK YOU to all our amazing volunteers for helping us get to our lessons safely - in rain or shine! We can't wait to continue our lessons next term!

Just like reading and writing, swimming improves with practice, so we encourage families to enjoy some fun time at the local pool or build water confidence at home over the holiday (children that are learning to swim in Wiltshire Council Aqualetes lessons can swim for free in relevant public sessions - including fun swims!) For more information on winter water safety please visit <https://www.rlss.org.uk/pages/category/winter-water-safety>

Pupils in Year 2 will continue to swim in Terms 3 and 4, starting back on Tuesday 13th January 2026.





doodlelearning

By Discovery Education

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

1500 Days	Lucas T
750 Days	Evelyn L
	Felicity W
	Amelia G
500 Days	Henry F
365 Days	Holly A
	Simreet D
	Kacper M
	Callie E
250 Days	Amelia M
100 Days	Cloe M
	Raphael M
50 Days	Reggie C
	Maia P
	Alex S
	Lucas N A
	Monty C
	Finley W
	Harriet T

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

DoodleMaths: Courage (42% of pupils in the green zone)