

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



NEWSLETTER DATED TUESDAY 25TH NOVEMBER 2025

Dear Families and Friends of St John's,

This has been a hugely successful Term 2, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to every member of our school community. Your support, encouragement and partnership have been deeply appreciated, and they continue to make St John's the vibrant, faith-filled community we are so proud to be.

This term has been marked by many successes across the school. Most notably, we welcomed our Section 48 inspection team last week. I am incredibly grateful to everyone—staff, pupils governors and families—for the warmth, honesty and openness shown throughout the process. The inspectors spoke highly of the ethos and spirit within our school, and we look forward to sharing the full report with you as soon as it is released in the coming days.

I would also like to thank the large group of parents who took the time to complete the questionnaire. Your responses were overwhelmingly positive about the quality of Catholic education at St John's, and your affirming comments mean a great deal to us. They strengthen our resolve to continue placing Christ at the centre of all we do.

Across the school, the children have worked with enthusiasm, creativity and determination. I am especially proud of our Year 6 pupils, who represented St John's so brilliantly on their residential visit to Skern Lodge. Their maturity, teamwork and joyful spirit were noted by everyone who worked with them, and they were exemplary ambassadors for our school. It was also noted by the instructors that the children's den building was very impressive – thank you OPAL!

This Friday our whole staff team will be taking part in a dedicated yearly RE Training and Development Day with Sr Judith Russi. This will be a valuable opportunity to reflect together on our mission and to deepen our understanding of how we continue to shape and strengthen Catholic education for every child entrusted to our care. Please note school is closed all day this Friday.

As we approach the sacred season of Advent—our time of waiting, hope and joyful expectation—I would like to end with a prayer:

Advent Prayer

Loving God,
As we enter this season of light and promise,
Open our hearts to welcome Your presence anew.
Guide our preparations, calm our busy minds,
And help us to recognise You in one another.
May our school community grow in faith, hope and love,
And may the peace of Christ fill our homes this Advent.
Amen.

Wishing you and your families a peaceful and hope-filled Advent season.
With every blessing,
Mrs O'Rourke

Dates For Term 2

Patience Class Mass – Tuesday 25th November
TD Day – Friday 28th November – school closed to all pupils
Y4 Reading Breakfast in school hall with parents – Wednesday 3rd December from 8.40am – 9.30am
Parent Carer PINS Coffee and Chat – Friday 5th December – 2.15pm -3.15pm
OPAL Stay and Play – Monday 8th December 2.00pm -3.00pm. Parents Welcome
Kindness Class Mass – Tuesday 9th December at 9.05am
EYFS Nativity in St John the Baptist Church – 11th December at 2.00pm
Whole School Carol Concert in St. John the Baptist Catholic Church – Thursday 18th December at 9.15am

Upcoming Dates

St John of God Feast Day – Sunday 8th March
Sports Day – Friday 22nd May
St John the Baptist 150th Celebration – Saturday 27th June being celebrated at St Augustine's Catholic College
Summer Fayre – Friday 10th July from 4.30pm – 7.30pm

T.D. Day on Friday 28th November 2025

A reminder that there is a T.D. Day this Friday 28th November so the school will be closed to all pupils.



We are delighted to be hosting Open Days on the following dates

23rd September 2025

16th October 2025

15th November 2025

7th January 2026

All families welcome including applications for EYFS September 2026.

Please contact Miss Byrne on 01225 752006 to book an appointment for a tour with our Headteacher. We look forward to welcoming you to our wonderful school.

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



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

Chaplaincy Day at Clifton Cathedral

On Thursday 20th November, our Chapel Champions enjoyed a very special trip to Clifton Cathedral.

Bishop Bosco celebrated Mass with us and then commissioned our new leaders for the year ahead.

The children were wonderful ambassadors for our school - respectful, prayerful and joyful throughout the day. We are incredibly proud of them.

Thank you to the governors who attended and supported the children on this memorable occasion.



A Message from the Friends of Saint John's

Hello everyone,

As Chair of the Friends of Saint John's, I wanted to share a little update following our **Christmas Fayre & Market on 20 November**.

First and foremost, thank you!

A huge, heartfelt thank you to everyone who came along, helped, donated, or supported the event in any way. It was wonderful to see so many families gather together, and the blessing of a crisp, serene winter evening added its own magic to the night.

Father Christmas, the market stalls, the volunteers, the lights, the food, the singing... every part of it contributed to such a special community moment.

We're really overjoyed that the event was such a success, (the precise figures raised will be shared soon). Please remember all funds are reinvested directly into giving the children more great activities, experiences, and equipment, so your support truly makes a difference.

What the Friends Have Funded Recently

Thanks to your support, we've been able to offer the children some wonderful experiences even beyond the Friends-run events themselves, including:

- **RISE Theatre Group visit**
- **Christmas crackers**
- **Planetarium dome experience**

What's Coming Up

To keep the festive spirit going, here's what to look forward to:

- **Christmas Gift Sales**

Small and big presents sold after school by the uniform shed.

Dates TBC -please keep an eye on ParentMail and our Friends Facebook page.

- **Christmas Disco – 12 December**

Two sessions (split by KS groups).

More details coming soon, *please keep an eye on ParentMail and our Friends Facebook page.*

Christmas outfits encouraged... even for volunteers! 🎄 😊

Our Next Big Project

The school has asked us to fundraise for an exciting new addition:

Shepherd's Hut (Outdoor Library Project)

A beautifully crafted, fully customisable 2.4m x 4.8m shepherd's hut—intended to become a magical **outdoor library space** for all children to enjoy.

Cost: £5,499 (incl. VAT)

Product info: <https://www.tuin.co.uk/paddy-gypsy-wagon/>

Thanks to the Christmas Market, recent bake sales, the Car Boot Sale and Movie Nights, we're delighted to confirm that the Friends will be allocating **£2,000** towards this project straight away.

That leaves **£3,499 still to raise**—and with your support at our next events, we know we can make this beautiful space a reality for our children and school.

Stay Connected

We regularly update the total raised from each event on our Facebook page:

🔗 <https://www.facebook.com/groups/fosjohns>

Please do come and find me on the playground if you'd like to join the Friends (and don't worry, there's no set time commitment), volunteer in any way or simply share ideas.

KS1 Updates



The children in KS1 have been absolutely loving our **Top 200 Books**. They enjoy choosing a new story to take home each day, and we've seen a hugely positive impact on reading for pleasure across the phase. We also love sharing these books in class and it's been wonderful to see the children so excited about stories.

Thank you for your continued support. To help us keep the collection complete and ensure every child can enjoy it, we'd be grateful if **KS1 parents could please check at home for any Top 200 Books that you've finished with and return them to school.**

Thank you for helping us keep the joy of reading going!

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!

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.

Rise Theatre Visit

On Wednesday 12th November St John's were treated to a visit from a Catholic theatre company called Rise Theatre. They were here to help the children learn about the Catholic Social Teaching themes that are embedded in the teaching and learning of the school.

Through performance which used puppetry, film, theatre and song the children followed the journey of a fictional school child as he looked for hidden gems through interactions with characters such as Ivor Bigbrain, a junk shop owner, a trawler fisherman and the Saint, Oscar Romero.

The children went further in the workshops in their classrooms which focused on Dignity of the Person and Rights and Responsibilities. Thanks to the Friends of St John's who provided the funds for the day's activities.



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 word is MERCY.

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

Anti-Bullying Week

On Monday, the well-being ambassadors led a whole school assembly on Anti-Bullying week. They have worked hard to train as an ambassador with Gemma from the Charlie Waller Trust. The children reminded everyone about what bullying is and how to stand up to bullying. We also took part in odd socks day on Wednesday to celebrate how we are all unique and celebrated our differences.



Leaders in Faith Award

Congratulations to the following pupils who have earned this award:

Bronze Award: Cillian J
Luke S
Lucas T

Silver Award: Zofia W



Lost Gold Anklet

A parent of a pupil in LKS2 has lost a very expensive gold anklet this week. It may have been dropped in the school grounds.

If you find it, please can you hand it into the school office. The family would be very grateful. Thank you.

First Holy Communion Enrolment

The next First Holy Communion and First Confession preparation programme at St John the Baptist will start on 29th January and run on certain Thursday evenings at St. John's Parish Centre until June (dates will be given to parents upon registration).

If your child has been Baptised and is in school year 3 and above you can enrol them by filling in the online form: [First Holy Communion Registration 2026](#) Alternatively, the form can be found on the St John the Baptist parish website: www.stjohnthebaptisttrowbridge.co.uk

Deadline for registration is 5th December. There will be no registrations past this date. Baptism certificate's need to be emailed to Eve in the Parish Office to complete your registration: trowbridge.stjohnthebaptist@cliftondiocese.com

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

Esme C	Nancy D
Jerome A	Patrick H
Mari G	Zoe M
Oscar M	Sophia D
Diego S	Kacper H
Grayson D	Amelia M
Kuzey K	Louie P
Yaman K	Oskar G
Beatrice M	Maria M



Reading Breakfast with Families

We are warmly inviting parents/grandparents 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 4 – Wednesday 3rd December from 8.40am – 9.30am

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

Football League Success! ⚽

Our Year 6 football team put on an incredible performance at the John of Gaunt Football League! In a tense and exciting finale against The Mead, St John's claimed victory with a 2–0 win. Neyo and Jack scored the all-important goals that secured the shield, while Nataniel shone throughout the tournament and was named Star Player overall.

A huge well done to the whole team for their teamwork, determination, and fantastic sportsmanship — you've made St John's proud! 🙌

And a big thank you to everyone — parents, teachers and children — who supported the team through it all. Your encouragement made a real difference! ❤️ ⚽



Bonfire Night

On Wednesday 5th November, EYFS celebrated Bonfire Night and learnt about being safe. They experienced lots of creative activities in class including painting and messy play!



Our EYFS children were excited to take home a special treat this week - a board game created by RealPE. These fun, interactive games are designed to help children develop their fundamental movement skills while playing and having fun

Not only do the games promote active lifestyles, but they also support the development of both mind and body. Most importantly, they provide a wonderful opportunity for families to spend quality time together and share in the joy of being active.

Parents are very welcome to share any photos of you and your child enjoying the game - we'd love to see them!

Wiltshire Young Musicians

Give your young person the gift of music this Christmas – try out a musical instrument in one of our pick up and play groups!

For a no obligation taster session in January please get in touch:

info@wiltshireyoungmusicians.org.uk

PICK UP AND PLAY

TRY VIOLIN, CELLO, TRUMPET, TROMBONE, FLUTE OR CLARINET IN A FUN-FILLED SMALL GROUP LESSON!

INSTRUMENT HIRE INCLUDED!

STRINGS :	MONDAYS	4.15 TROWBRIDGE
	TUESDAYS	4.00 WILTSHIRE MUSIC CENTRE BOA
WOODWIND :	THURSDAYS	4.00 WILTSHIRE MUSIC CENTRE BOA
BRASS :	THURSDAYS	5.00 WILTSHIRE MUSIC CENTRE BOA

INFO@WILTSHIREYOUNGMUSICIANS.ORG.UK
WWW.WILTSHIREYOUNGMUSICIANS.ORG.UK

Year 5 and 6 Singing

Our Year 5 and 6 pupils have been busy developing their singing with the generous support of members from our parish. Together, they have been practising a range of beautiful hymns in preparation for our Children's Mass, which was celebrated on Sunday 16th November.

The children sang with confidence, clarity, and joy, and their hard work truly shone through. We are grateful to our parish volunteers for sharing their time and musical talents.



Remembrance Poppies

Annabell, Eloise and Louis O sold poppies in Morrisons in Westbury for three Saturdays in a row for 4 hours each time. They did brilliantly accompanied by their Papa who is a Royal Navy officer.



Collection for the Rainforest Trust

Following a fundraiser in the summer term, we donated £176.00 to the Rainforest Trust.

This will be directed towards the [Rainforest Climate Action Fund](#). This will enable the Rainforest Trust to permanently protect 89 acres of threatened rainforest, which is an area 3x the size of the Eden Project!

This fund supports their most urgent carbon-rich rainforests projects, whose protection is vital in the fight against climate change.

100% of our donation will go to conservation action.