

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



NEWSLETTER DATED WEDNESDAY 22ND OCTOBER 2025

Dear Families,

As we come to the end of our first autumn term, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the many blessings we have shared together over these past weeks. It has been a truly joyful and enriching start to the academic year, filled with vibrant learning, deepening faith, and a real sense of community.

Our classrooms have been alive with curiosity and creativity. From exploring new books to solving tricky maths problems, our children have embraced every opportunity to learn and grow. We've seen children flourish in all areas of the curriculum, supported by dedicated staff who continually go above and beyond to provide a broad, engaging, and nurturing education.

Faith continues to be at the heart of everything we do. Our prayer life this term has been especially rich, with children leading beautiful reflections and acts of worship. Whether it has been through classroom prayer, whole-school liturgies, or our weekly assemblies, we have seen our pupils grow in confidence and spirituality.

It has also been wonderful to witness the many leadership opportunities our children have embraced — from school council members to eco champions and house captains — showing maturity, responsibility, and a real desire to make a difference in our school community.

Our wider curriculum has been buzzing with activity. Year 2 have enjoyed weekly swimming sessions, showing fantastic progress and resilience. Forest School continues to thrive, running twice a week and offering children the chance to connect with nature and build valuable life skills. Our Year 3 and 4 pupils in Love Class have been developing their musical talents by learning the violin, which has been a delight to hear drifting down the corridors.

We've also had some wonderful local visits and experiences — from tasting new cuisines at local restaurants to inspiring support from the Ramsbury Hub and local authority to enhance our reading and phonics provision. These partnerships have had a real impact on our children's learning, and we are deeply grateful.

We are also blessed with the ongoing support from our fantastic parent community and dedicated governors. Your engagement and encouragement are felt in so many ways — through your attendance at events such as the House Saint afternoon, the Year 5 Reading Breakfast, the EYFS Parent Pilgrimage and Welcome Service, and the Upper Key Stage 2 class Masses. Thank you for walking alongside us in the formation and growth of your children.

This term, we also say farewell to a few much-loved members of staff.

Mr Coleman retired after 12 years of service to St John's Catholic Primary School. Mr Coleman supported children across the lunchtimes ensuring every child could enjoy a hot meal or packed lunch alongside their friends. He also supported the play and looked after our grounds. We are blessed with the support and service he has shared with the school community. We wish him well on his retirement and look forward to hearing about his travel plans and adventures!

Mr Miller, who has been a part of the St John's family for an incredible 22 years, will be retiring at the end of this term. His commitment, kindness, and unwavering support for the children and staff have made a lasting impact, and he leaves behind a legacy of care and service that we will always remember with gratitude. We wish Mr Miller every happiness in the years ahead and hope he enjoys his new adventures and travel plans.

Ms Byrne, who has worked tirelessly in the school office for the past five years, is also moving on. Her role has been vital in ensuring the school runs smoothly every day. From organising trips and first aid to being a friendly face to parents and staff alike, she has kept the wheels of the school turning and the children safe. We wish her every happiness in the future.

We also say goodbye and thank you to Miss Williams, who has completed her maternity cover with us. Her dedication and warmth have helped ensure our youngest children had the very best start to school life. We wish her well as she moves on to a new role in another school.

Looking ahead, we are delighted to welcome back Miss Fallows, who will be working in Understanding Class every Thursday and Friday. We are also pleased to announce that Mr Mike Brown has been appointed as our new caretaker and will begin his role at the start of Term 2. We warmly welcome him to our St John's family.

As we now look forward to a restful half-term break, I want to thank each and every one of you — staff, parents, governors, and most of all, our wonderful children — for making this first term such a special one.

May God bless you and your families with peace, rest, and joy this holiday.

With every good wish,

Mrs O'Rourke

We are excited to launch a brand-new initiative starting at the beginning of Term 2 — Movement Monday!

Every Monday morning, children will enter the main playground ready for a joyful, energetic start to the week. **At 8:40am sharp**, we'll come together to dance, sing, and move, celebrating the beginning of a new week filled with learning, laughter and love.

Movement Monday will be led by the always-enthusiastic Mr Emil, supported by a group of KS2 children who will help plan and lead the sessions, including choosing the music and choreographing the moves. It's a brilliant opportunity to get active, boost wellbeing, and build a positive, vibrant school spirit right from the start of the week.

For Term 2, Movement Monday will be for children only. We kindly ask that parents say their goodbyes at the bell and leave the playground promptly to allow the session to begin smoothly.

We can't wait to see the smiles, energy and joy this brings to our Monday mornings!

Dates For Term 2

The Friends Car Boot Sale in school car park – 1st November

Whole School Remembrance – every Monday in November – 8.50am – 9am

Mr Adrian Smith's first year anniversary Mass at St John the Baptist Catholic Church – Tuesday 4th November – All welcome at 9.15am

Y6 Skern Residential – Tuesday 11th November to Friday 14th November

Last Post – Tuesday 11th November at 10.50 – 11am. Parents Welcome

Rise Theatre visit – focus on Catholic Social Teaching themes – Wednesday 12th November

Open Morning for new families – Saturday 15th November

Sunday Children's Mass – Sunday 16th November at 10.30am

Mission Review Evening – Tuesday 18th November 6-7.30pm

Odd socks Day for Anti-bullying week – Wednesday 19th November

Christmas Fayre – Thursday 20th November – 5.30pm – 7.30pm

Year of Jubilee Celebration afternoon – Friday 21st November

Scholastic Book Fair – Monday 24th November – 2.30pm – 3.30pm

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

OPAL Stay and Play – Monday 8th December 2.00pm -3.00pm. Parents Welcome

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



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 1 – 12th October 2025

Term 2 – 16th November 2025

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

School Nurses Drop In Session

On Tuesday 18th November from 9.00am – 10.00am our team of school nurses will be hosting a parent drop in session in the school hall. The aim of the drop in is to allow parents a quick and easy way to access professional medical advice in confidentiality about their child or children. Ruth Noakes is highly skilled medic and we are delighted that she is able to work in partnership with the St John's school community. Please note the conversations parents may have with the team are strictly confidential and could include, sleep patterns, eating issues, emotions and dealing with family matters. There is no limit! We encourage all families to make use of this opportunity. If there is a high demand for slots we will ensure this a regular diarized event in the school calendar.

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.

Leaders in Faith Award

Congratulations to the following pupils who have earned this award:

Bronze Award: Michelle I
Jacob F



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

Grace D	Alicja S	Hannah N
Giavanna B	Louis C	Aleia F
Daniel G	Sara G	Hazelpreet S
Douglas R	Luca O'N-C	Alysha J
Ruben Q P	Lily T	Angeliki K
Thomas H	Oskar K	Ruby M
Natalia P	Zara K	William S
Maicah D	Francesco O	Starrla W
Aubree T		



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 5 – Wednesday 15th October from 8.40am – 9.30am
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

Calling all readers!



Join our fun competition to find books that show the beautiful values of Catholic Social Teaching.

How to enter:

1. Find a book that connects to one of the CST themes.
2. On any piece of paper **write your name and class name**.
3. Write down the **title of the book** (An adult can scribe for you if needed)
4. Name the **Catholic Social Teaching theme** it links to.
5. Explain **why** the book fits this theme in a sentence or two.

Catholic Social Teaching Themes to explore:

- **Dignity of the Human Person:** *Every person is precious and deserves respect because we are all made in the image of God.*
- **Rights & Responsibilities:** *These include the right to life, basic necessities like food, shelter, and education, and the right to be raised in a family and community.*
- **Dignity of Work:** *Emphasizes the need to protect the rights of workers, especially children, who are especially vulnerable.*
- **Solidarity:** *Interconnectedness of individuals and the importance of working together for the well-being of all, especially children.*
- **Stewardship:** *Learning to respect and protect creation, recognizing that everything is a gift from God and should be shared with others, especially the vulnerable, now and in the future.*
- **Family & Community:** Everyone is valued and loved.
- **Option for the Poor & Vulnerable:** Learning to support our sisters and brothers, wherever they live in the world.

Submit your entry via your class teacher by: **Friday 21st November 9.00am**

All entries will be put in a box and the first 5 pulled out will receive **£5 book voucher** to spend at the **School Book Fair**.

You can enter as many times as you like but you can only win once!

Get reading, get thinking, and share your favourite stories that show kindness, justice, and love!

Lost Property

Lots of items have been handed into lost property (including coats, water bottles, shoes, book bags). Lost property is now in the band stand/outdoor classroom next to the Friends uniform shed. Please take home anything that belongs to you.



Children's Mass

The Children's Mass held at St. John The Baptist Catholic Church on Sunday 12th October was a lovely celebration with many families coming to join us. We had the "Sunday Singers" to lead us in the music and individuals who read beautifully.

Our next Children's Mass is on Sunday 16th November. All welcome.



Toasting Mr Miller

Pupils took part in toasting marshmallows with Mr Miller on his last day as caretaker of St. John's.



EYFS Welcome Service

Foundation Stage children and parents had their EYFS parent pilgrimage and Welcome Service. It was a wonderful occasion full of singing, prayers and smiles! It was fantastic to be joined by Fr Richard and many of our older siblings who helped lead us in our worship.



House Saints Afternoon

On Monday afternoon, all our children took part in a special *House Saints Afternoon*. Children from across the school gathered in their saint groups to learn, share and celebrate together. Each group revisited key facts about the life of their house saint before taking part in a fun quiz held in the school hall, with two representatives from each house competing on behalf of their teams.

Congratulations to our joint winners, St Carlos Acutis and St Francis of Assisi.

We ended the afternoon by singing *Pilgrims of Hope* for our parents and joining together in our whole-school prayer. It was a wonderful occasion, full of teamwork and joy - especially seeing our older children supporting and encouraging the younger members of our school community.

'I really enjoyed the quiz because it was the first time we have done this and it helped us to learn more about the lives of our saint.'

'I enjoyed singing the hymn as it was nice to sing to parents.'

'I really liked being with other people in my house – I got to know some of them more.'

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

We will once again be selling poppies in aid of the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal the first week back after the end of term holidays.

If your child would like to buy one, please can they bring a silver coin into school.

Thank you

