

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



NEWSLETTER DATED FRIDAY 10TH OCTOBER 2025

Dear Families,

It has been a fantastic start to the term, filled with learning, celebration, and a real sense of community. We've been delighted to welcome a number of visitors into school, including Fr Richard, representatives from CAFOD, Fairtrade, Wiltshire Local Authority, and our School Governors. Each visit has enriched our pupils' understanding of the wider world and strengthened the important links between our school, the Church, and our local community. We are blessed with the team who go over and above in their work to ensure every child has opportunities above and beyond the statutory curriculum. I know you will share this view,

We are also thrilled to share some wonderful news! This week we heard that our school has been awarded the National Silver Healthy Schools Award – a recognition of our ongoing commitment to promoting children's wellbeing, healthy lifestyles, and positive choices. This achievement has been driven by the dedication and leadership of Mrs Warren, and we are incredibly proud of all that we do to be guardians of children's childhood, wellbeing, and health.

In addition, we are delighted to have achieved the National Music Mark, celebrating the richness and quality of our music curriculum. This success reflects the passion, creativity, and commitment of Miss O'Mahony, whose leadership has inspired our pupils to develop their musical talents and confidence.

As we move through October, we also celebrate this special month dedicated to Mary, the Mother of Jesus. On the Feast of the Living Rosary, all of our children took part in the Aid in Church Challenge, joining together in a moving and beautiful act of collective prayer. It was a moment of great faith and reflection, as the whole school prayed the Rosary together. Children in Key Stage 2 were gifted their own set of rosary beads to take home, encouraging them to continue praying and reflecting with their families. Moments like this remind us of the deep spiritual life that underpins everything we do as a Catholic school community.

As we celebrate these successes, we also want to take this opportunity to remind everyone of the importance of keeping our children safe at the start and end of the school day. Our school is situated on a very busy main road, and it can be extremely dangerous when drivers make U-turns or take short cuts outside the school premises. Please help us to keep all our children safe

by driving and parking considerately — a few extra minutes can make a huge difference to everyone's safety.

Please take note of the dates for your diary including our first 'Reading Breakfast' for Year 5 children and their families on Wednesday 15th October from 8.40am – 9.30am in the school hall. We also look forward to seeing as many families as possible at our first Children's Mass on Sunday 12th October at 10.30am at St John the Baptist Catholic Church – ***everyone is very welcome.***

Wishing you a peaceful weekend with your loved ones.

With best wishes

Mrs O'Rourke

Dates for Term 1

Year 6 Maths Workshop – 14th October

Y5 Reading Breakfast with parents 15th October from 8.40am to 9.30am

Open Morning for new families – 16th October

Parents Evening – 16th October

Movie night for KS2 – 3.30pm – 5.30pm – 17th October

House Saints Afternoon – 20th October - parents welcome from 2.50pm

EYFS Parents Pilgrimage around school site and EYFS Welcome Service 21st October

End of Term – 22nd October

Upcoming Dates

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

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

Y6 Skern Residential – 11th November to 14th November

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

Open Morning for new families – 15th November

Odd socks Dy for Anti-bullying week – 19th November

Scholastic Book Fayre – Thursday 20th November

Christmas Fayre – Thursday 20th November – 4.30pm – 7.30pm

Year of Jubilee Celebration afternoon – 21st November

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

Class 9 Mass – 25th November

TD Day – 28th November

Y4 Reading Breakfast in school hall with parents – 3rd December from 8.40am – 9.30am

EYFS Nativity in St John the Baptist Church – 11th December at 2.00pm

St John of God Feast Day – 8th March

Sports Day – 22nd May

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

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

Parent & HT meetings – EYFS/KS1 9.00am – 9.30am



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.

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

Emily B	Solomiia Z
Bethel I	Pippa W
Zofia M	Carlita F
Niamh D	Darcey V
Violetta B	Callie E
Samuel G	Daniel N-A
Freya B	Aoife E



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 week's word is THANKFULNESS

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

New 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

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

Living Rosary

On Thursday morning, the children in Years 5 and 6 took part in a beautiful Living Rosary in honour of Mary, as October is the month dedicated to her. Together, they prayed the Luminous Mysteries, showing deep reflection and respect throughout. Each child read clearly and confidently, helping to create a calm and prayerful atmosphere. It was a wonderful opportunity for the children to come together in faith and devotion.

‘It made me feel peaceful’

‘I felt more connected to Mary’

‘I liked that everybody was able to participate’



Volunteers in School

At our school, we are blessed with a strong sense of community rooted in our Catholic values of service and working together for the good of all. One of the most wonderful ways this spirit shines is through our volunteers — parents, grandparents, and friends who give their time to support our children's learning and creativity.

We are always looking for more volunteers to join us! Whether it's listening to children read, helping with early number work, sharing in arts and crafts, or accompanying classes on school visits, your support makes a world of difference.

Without volunteers, we are often limited in how many school visits we can offer — those special experiences that bring learning to life beyond the classroom. By giving even a small amount of time, you can help make these opportunities possible for all our pupils.

If you would like to register your interest, it's simple: please complete a DBS check with Mrs Poulter, who will be happy to guide you through the process.

Together, as one community, we can continue to nurture our children's growth — in faith, learning, and love.

CAFOD Workshops

We were delighted to welcome David Brinn, the School Engagement Manager at CAFOD, to our school on Friday 26th September. David led engaging sessions with children across all year groups, helping them to deepen their understanding of the Jubilee Year of Hope and how we can live out our faith through action.

In the afternoon, he worked closely with our Chaplaincy Team, exploring ways to put Catholic Social Teaching into practice in our daily life. The Chaplaincy Team have made an action plan for the upcoming year using what they gained from this CAFOD day.

David spoke very warmly of his visit, commenting that our *EYFS children were delightful and joined in well with the songs and stories*, and that *KS1 gave some very unique answers during the backpacking exercise!* He also noted *the confidence of the older children* and said our school has *a great atmosphere that feels genuine and faith-filled*. David summed up his visit by saying, *"What I saw is what I would expect in a Catholic school — Catholic Social Teaching in action. Faith being lived out."*

SEND Dance Workshop

This Wednesday the 8th, the SEND Dance workshop at the Civic Hall was so much fun for all the children. The six girls in Year 3 and 4 were either dancing all together with children from the other participating schools or in groups using different props to be creative with shapes surrounding the theme LOVE, Around the World and Myths and Legends.

Celebrating 20 years of dance workshops the morning was a fun filled 2 hours of continuous dance and music!

Savannah "It was so much fun I want to come back again!" Lacey "My favourite part was when we threw the globe in the air and caught it." Annabelle C "I enjoyed the fitness from dancing and the Myths and Legends dance routine ." Freya "I enjoyed passing the globe and throwing it to each other"



Boys Dance Workshop

Four boys from Year 5 had a wonderful time at the boy's dance workshop at Matravers school celebrating 20 years of this workshop.

All children from other schools across Wiltshire were taught a dance sequence to the soundtrack for Lord of the flies. They were taught how to move to music and to follow choreography into an amazing dance sequence.

Kacper, Lucas, Ethan and James were great role models for the school and really enjoyed themselves.



St. John's Book Fair 2025



Next term there will be a chance to celebrate the school's "Love of Reading" by buying new books at below the normal retail price found in the shops. The school is running a Book Fair on

Monday 24th November 2.30pm – 3.30pm in the school hall.

Parents are invited to pick their children up at 2.30pm from the doors on the inner playground and take them to the hall to view and buy books on the day of the Book Fair. Please note, parents that are able to do this must be prompt when picking up their child at 2.30pm. Once they have visited the Fair, parents can take their child home.

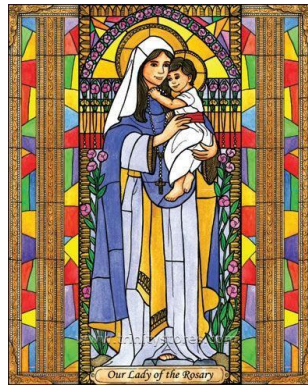
Parents who cannot attend at 2.30pm will be able to pick their children up at the normal time and visit the Fair but please be aware it closes at 3.30pm.

Children will bring home a "wish list" during the week of the Fair. They will get a chance to look at the books on offer throughout the previous week. This will allow parents to make decisions about what is affordable. The Fair will accept payments in cash and card on the day.

Faithfulness Class Mass – Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary

On Tuesday 7th October, we gathered together to celebrate the Faithfulness Class Mass, marking the memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary. It was a truly special occasion, filled with prayer, song and reflection. The children participated beautifully throughout the celebration - reading with confidence, singing joyfully, accompanying the music and responding reverently.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the families who joined us in prayer and supported the children on this important day. A special thank you also to Father Richard for celebrating the Mass and to Joel Almeda for leading the music so wonderfully.



Parent/Carer Information

Important Safeguarding Notice: Children's "Spy" Books

We want to make you aware of a recent issue affecting some popular children's books by Andrew Cope, including the *Spy Dogs*, *Spy Cats*, and *Spy Pups* series.

Some editions of these books include a printed web address at the back. This link used to go to the author's website, but the domain is no longer under his control. It has since been taken over by another party and now leads to inappropriate adult content.

The publisher, Puffin, has paused sales and distribution of the books and is working with schools, libraries, and retailers to remove copies from circulation. They have stressed that the website has no connection to the author or publisher.

What this means for you:

- If your child has any *Spy Dog*, *Spy Cat* or *Spy Pups* books at home, please check the back for website links and make sure they do not try to visit the site.
- It is safe for children to continue reading the stories themselves — the concern is only with the outdated link.
- We recommend talking with your child about the importance of not following web addresses in books without checking with an adult first.

We will continue to share updates from the publisher as more information becomes available.

Harvest Service

This week, our school community gathered for a joyful Harvest Service, led by members of our Chaplaincy Team. Together we gave thanks for God's wonderful creation and the blessings we share. Our school choir led the hymns beautifully, helping everyone to join in with enthusiasm and joy. The whole school community participated wonderfully, reflecting on how we can show generosity and bring hope to others in our everyday lives. Thank you to the families who have donated boxes of cereal, which will be shared with the Trowbridge Storehouse to support local families in need — a true reflection of the harvest spirit in action.



OPAL

It's been another fantastic fortnight of play! The children have continued to enjoy the increased space and wider range of play opportunities available during the lunchtime period. It's been wonderful to see so much creativity, teamwork and active play taking place across the playgrounds.

A gentle reminder that OPAL equipment (including items such as the slack line) is for supervised use during the school day only. For safety reasons, we kindly ask that parents, children and siblings do not use or play with the OPAL equipment before or after school. Thank you for helping us to keep our play spaces safe and ready for everyone to enjoy.

As we continue to embrace outdoor play in all seasons, please ensure your child comes to school ready for all-weather play. This might include a waterproof coat, wellies, or warm layers depending on the forecast - a little preparation makes a big difference to their comfort and enjoyment.

Finally, we'd like to say a huge well done to our newly recruited Year 5 and 6 Play Rangers, who are already doing a fantastic job helping to organise games, support younger children, and keep our playtimes inclusive and fun for everyone.

LKS2 Trip to Wagamama

Throughout this week the children LKS2 have visited Trowbridge Wagamama restaurant as part of their learning in Science about nutrition and as part of our extra cultural capital opportunities for our children. The children learnt about Japanese cuisine and took part in juice tasting, sampling ingredients and a chop-stick challenge. It was finished off with a lovely meal which some of the children chose to eat with chopsticks. The LKS2 phase team would like to send a huge thank you again to Mrs. Maziarz and the team for all their hard work in giving children such a fun and memorable experience and the parent helpers who made this trip possible.

