

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



NEWSLETTER DATED FRIDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER 2025

A Fabulous Start to the Term!

Dear Families,

The past two weeks at St John's Catholic Primary School have been fantastic! Children have settled into their learning with focus, creativity, and enthusiasm, and our playgrounds have been full of collaboration, laughter, and imaginative play.

Earlier this week, we held a practice fire drill, and the children were incredible. Special mention goes to our EYFS pupils, who showed remarkable calm, respect, and independence.

We were delighted to welcome Bev Ball (Wiltshire LA) and Helen Easton (OPAL) to school this week. Both consultants praised our children for their excellent learning behaviours and the warmth of welcome they experienced—testament to the strength of our Catholic school community.

We ensure that all children have access to high-quality texts, and we are ambitious for every child to thrive in their reading. *We remind parents that reading every night is a vital way to support learning, and if you have any questions, please speak with your child's class teacher.* Please take note of the Reading Breakfast events being held across the academic year when families are invited to join their children to start the day with tea/coffee croissant's and a good book!

Thank you also to all the families who attended our 'Meet the Teacher' workshops on Tuesday evening—the largest turnout we've had in some time. It was wonderful to welcome families into classrooms, share our learning environments, and discuss the exciting challenges and opportunities ahead.

We are so proud of our children's curiosity, creativity, and compassion. Their dedication and joy in learning is a wonderful reminder of the strength and spirit of our school community.

With best wishes,
Mrs O'Rourke

Dates for Term 1

Fairtrade Fortnight – 22nd September – 3rd October
School photos – individual and siblings – 30th September
Y6 Bikeability – Group 1 – 1st October
Y5 Sculpture Park Visit – Salisbury – 2nd October
Friends of St John's AGM at 7pm followed by chocolate bingo night – 3rd October
Faithfulness Class Mass – 7th October at 9.05am – all welcome
Taize Reflections with KS2 – W/B 6th October
Parents Evening – 3.30pm – 6.00pm – 7th October
Living Rosary Year 5 & 6 – 9th October
Friends of ST John's Meeting – 3.30pm – 4.30pm in school meeting room – 9th October
Harvest Service in school hall – 10th October
Harvest cereal challenge for Trowbridge foodbank– 2.45pm at 10th October
Parent and Headteacher Meetings – EYFS & KS1 at 9.00am KS2 at 9.40am on 13th October
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
Car Boot Sale – Saturday 18th October 10am – 12pm
House Saints Afternoon – parents welcome from 2.50pm
EYFS Parents Pilgrimage around school site and EYFS Welcome Service 21st October
End of Term – 22nd October

Upcoming Dates

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
Christmas Fayre – Thursday 20th November – 4.30pm – 7.30pm
Year of Jubilee Celebration afternoon – 21st November
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 – Saturday 27th June being celebrated at St Augustine's Catholic College
Summer Fayre – Friday 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



Phonics Books and Worksheets

As part of our phonics scheme, your child will be bringing home a selection of books and reading sheets linked to the sounds we have been learning in class.

Sometimes a book or sheet may be sent home more than once, or kept for longer than a week. Please don't worry if this happens – repetition is an important part of embedding phonics knowledge and developing reading fluency.

Reading at home should be enjoyable and is also a chance for your child to read with expression and confidence. The texts they bring home will usually be familiar, as we will have already explored them together in class.

We encourage you to enjoy this time with your child and celebrate their reading as they share these books and sheets with you.

School Photos

David Wiltshire Photography will be in school on **Tuesday 30th September** to take pupil's individual photos. Pupils with siblings in our school will also have a photograph taken together during the school day. Unfortunately, we are not able to take photos with children who are not currently at St. John's or any other family relationships other than siblings.

All pupils should come into school in their **Winter** uniform on this day.

First Holy Communion Mass in school

We were delighted to come together as a school community to celebrate Mass in thanksgiving for the children who made their First Holy Communion last academic year. We are very grateful to Fr Richard for celebrating Mass with us and to Joel for leading the music so beautifully. The children were reverent, prayerful and looked wonderful in their special outfits. Our readers read with confidence and the singing was particularly special – it was a truly joyful occasion for all. We also thank the parents and families who joined us and helped make the celebration even more special.



Year 5 Sports Ambassadors Take the Lead!

On Thursday 25th September, four enthusiastic Year 5 students attended their first Sports Ambassador training at Trowbridge Civic Centre. Their exciting new role is to help make PE and physical activity more inclusive, fun, and important for everyone across the school.

Here's what they said about their day!

- "I liked that we could play new games with different children from other schools." Emilia K
- "I liked making new friends. I'm already excited to see them again in January for the next training session." Jerome A
- "I liked learning about my new responsibility." Hunter J
- "I look forward to making PE fun and better for all ages." Kacper H



Mobile Phones in School

If parents in UKS2 believe it is essential for their child to bring a mobile phone into school they must have completed a permission slip which will ensure the mobile device is locked away during the school day. On no account should children have phones in their rucksacks or school bags. Finally, it is also not appropriate for children to have their mobile phones in their hands or being used on the primary school playground.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

Trowbridge Foodbank and Foodbank Friday

Thank you for your ongoing support for the Trowbridge Foodbank and Foodbank Friday – we have now been supporting this local charity for over five years. After the incredible work the whole school has committed to vulnerable families in our local area have benefited. For this academic year we will be continuing with the Foodbank Friday with the addition of each class having a week to work towards.

Friday 3rd October – Faithfulness Class

Friday 10th October – Kindness Class

Friday 17th October – Patience Class

Friday 7th November – Peace Class

Friday 14th November – Joy Class

Friday 21st November – Love Class

Friday 28th November – T.D. Day. School closed to all pupils

Friday 5th December – Knowledge Class

Friday 12th December – Courage Class

Friday 19th December – Counsel Class

Friday 9th January – Understanding Class

Friday 16th January – Wisdom Class

Mission Review Evening

On Tuesday 18th November I would like to warmly invite all parents and grandparents to join school representatives and governors to a Mission Review Evening. The event will be held in the school hall with cheese and wine refreshments. The evening will allow all adult stakeholders to reflect and review our school mission statement and consider options for the school mission going forward into our centenary year in 2026-2027. The evening will commence at 6.15pm with a key note speech from Mrs O'Rourke at 6.30pm and then time for adults to discuss and review our school mission, the evening will close before 7.45pm.

We have gathered pupil voice regarding the mission statement, logo and ethos, please note this event is aimed at adults only. We look forward to welcoming you all in order that we can work together to make our Catholic school the finest place it can be.

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.

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

Sebastian K	Pola J
Maximus L	Alex S
Robin F	Alfred W
Julia M	Neyo A
Barney W	Maximilian P
Jack B	Oliver P
Mia S	Harry W



Parent/Teacher Meetings

We will be holding our autumn parent teacher meetings on Tuesday 7th October and Thursday 16th October between 3.30pm and 6.00pm. Booking are made using the Parents Booking system and will open at 6.00pm on Friday 26th September and will close at 9.00am on 3rd October. Instructions on how to access the system can be found in the attached letter. Appointments are limited to one per child. Should you require an additional appointment, please telephone the school office and we will arrange a telephone appointment with the class teacher. There will also be the opportunity to arrange a meeting with Mrs O'Mahony our Inclusion Lead by contacting the school office.

Wednesday Word

Please find below the link to last week's copy of the **Wednesday Word** which can be copied and pasted into your browser. Last week's word was TRUSTWORTHY.

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

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 SHARING.

<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

GDPR Regulations

Under GDPR regulations, you may review the consent that you have previously provided the school.

Should you wish to do so, please email admin@st-johns-trowbridge.wilts.sch.uk

Copies of our privacy notices can be found on the school website www.st-johns-trowbridge.wilts.sch.uk

Football Tournament Kicks Off with a Strong Start! ⚽

The annual football tournament got underway this Thursday, and our Year 6 football team stormed into action with two brilliant wins!

Game 1: St John's 3–1 Staverton

Scorers: Neyo (2), Nataniel (1)

★ *Star Player:* Nataniel

Game 2: St John's 2–0 Walwayne

Scorers: Neyo (1), Nataniel (1)

★ *Star Player:* Neyo

The whole team played with fantastic teamwork, energy and skill – a superb start to the competition!



Doodle Learning

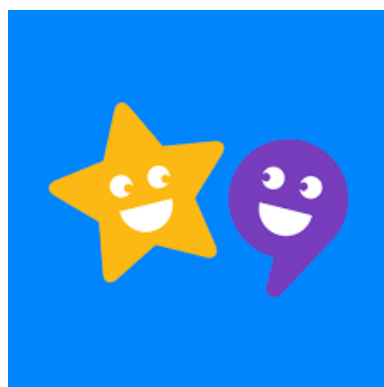
Our children will continue to enjoy full access to **DoodleMaths** and **DoodleTables** through the school – great tools to keep their number skills sharp both in class and at home!

We'll no longer be subscribing to **Doodle English** or **Doodle Spell**, but families who'd like to carry on using these at home can easily purchase their own subscriptions.

Thank you for encouraging your child's learning journey – every little bit of practice makes a big difference!

Doodle Summer Challenge for Maths/English.

Congratulations to the following pupils who completed the Doodle Summer Challenge for Maths and English.



Maths

Aaron K	Aidan N	Alex S	Barney W
Nell G	Daniel G	Lucas N-A	Daniel N-A
Evelyn L	Felicity W	Henry F	Jacob F
Mia S	Kimpreet D	Simreet S	Maia P
Margot F	Max L	Kacper H	Oskar H
Sebastian Hall	Oskar K	Louis C	Emilia K
Sophia E	Nancy E	Stanley R	Tabitha A
Sophie H			

English

Aaron K	Alex S	Evelyn L	Felicity W
Max L	Nell G	Daniel G	Oskar K
Sebastian H	Nancy E	Sophia E	Sophie H
Tabitha A	Kimpreet D		

Pupil Premium Eligibility

The Pupil Premium provides additional funding to schools to target specific groups of children who are vulnerable to underachievement. These include pupils from low income families, children in care and the children of armed service personnel.

You can register your entitlement for Pupil Premium/Free School Meals if:

- You have children who attend a school in Wiltshire, **and**
- You are in receipt of any of the qualifying benefits listed below.

Qualifying benefits for Pupil Premium/Free School Meals:

[Please click here for Free School Meals Guidance](#)

www.wiltshire.gov.uk/schoolseducationandlearning/schoolsandcolleges/parentadvice/educationgrants/freeschoolmeals/freeschoolmealsform.htm

- Income Support
- Job Seeker's Allowance (income-based)
- Employment and Support Allowance (income-related)
- support under part six of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit - providing you are NOT entitled to Working Tax Credit and your family's annual income (as assessed by HMRC) is not more than £16,190 (as at 6 April 2012)
- Working Tax Credit 'run-on' - the payment you may receive for a further four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)

How to register

- Visit www.wiltshire.gov.uk/schoolseducationandlearning/schoolsandcolleges/parentadvice/educationgrants/freeschoolmeals/freeschoolmealsform.htm and complete the online application form or
- Print and complete the form below and return it to the school office

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/downloads/12893>

Pupil premium funding can be used to support the cost of extra curricular activities while your child is at St John's including music lessons, residential trips and outside clubs and activities. It is also used to provide additional support in school. All children in EYFS, year 1 and year 2 receive a free school lunch under the Universal Infant Free School meal scheme however, meals are payable from year 3 upwards unless your child is registered for benefits related free school meals.

If you have any questions or require any additional information, please speak to the school office or email office@st-johns-trowbridge.wilts.sch.uk