

# WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



NEWSLETTER DATED FRIDAY 18TH JULY 2025

*"We are many parts, we are all one body..."* – 1 Corinthians 12:12

Dear Families,

As we come to the close of another academic year, I find myself filled with both gratitude and pride. This has been a year of many milestones — not least of all, it marks my first year in headship here at St John's Catholic Primary School. It has been an honour and a privilege to lead such a vibrant, compassionate, and faith-filled school community.

I would like to express my deepest thanks to all of you — our families — for your support, encouragement, and prayers throughout this year. Your kindness and partnership have helped guide me through this first chapter of leadership, and I feel truly blessed to walk this journey alongside you.

One of the highlights of this term was undoubtedly our fantastic 'Farm Fest' school fayre. Organised by the tireless efforts of the Friends of St John's, it was a beautiful celebration of everything we value — community, joy, and togetherness. The afternoon was filled with laughter, music, and children enjoying simple pleasures which will remain as precious memories. Thank you to every volunteer, every stallholder, and every family who attended — you made it a day to remember.

This year has also brought us moments of deep sadness. In **November**, we lost our dear colleague and friend, **Mr Adrian Smith**. His passing touched every corner of our school family. Adrian served St John's with incredible dedication and care, and his absence is still keenly felt by us all. Yet, in our grief, I have witnessed the most powerful signs of love and resilience — in the quiet strength of our children, in the unwavering compassion of our staff, and in the prayers and support from you, our parents.

Together, we have carried one another through the hardest days. That, in itself, is the truest expression of our Catholic faith — to be community, even in sorrow. To lift each other up in love.

As we move into the summer break, I pray that you all find rest, renewal, and precious time with loved ones. Let us take forward the hope and unity we've built this jubilee year, and return ready to grow in faith, learning, and joy once more.

Thank you for making my first year as headteacher a truly memorable and meaningful one.

With every blessing,

Mrs O'Rourke

### Commemorative Bookmarks

We are delighted to share a very special moment in our school's faith journey: the celebration of our new patron, **Pope Leo**. As we officially place our school under his guidance and example, we have marked the occasion in a meaningful way — **each child has received a commemorative bookmark** to keep and treasure.

These bookmarks, featuring Pope Leo and a message of his strength, wisdom, and devotion, are more than just a memento. They serve as daily prompts — small but powerful reminders of the values Pope Leo embodied: courage in leadership, deep faith, and a commitment to truth and justice. These are the same values we aim to nurture in every pupil, every day.

Recognising moments like this is essential for our children. In a world full of noise and distraction, they need clear, tangible signs to help them connect with their faith and understand its place in their lives. The bookmark is one such sign — something they can return to during quiet moments, in times of prayer, or simply while reading a book.

We encourage you to speak with your child about Pope Leo — why he matters, and what his example can teach us today. These conversations help deepen their understanding and help build a living faith that grows with them.

### Children's Mass

There is a Children's Mass on Sunday at 10.30am - the last one for this year.

Everyone welcome and the children will be leading the singing and readings.

### Dates For Your Diary 2025

Sunday 20th July—Children's Mass at 10.30am in St. John's Church

Wednesday 23rd July—Last Day of Term 6

Wednesday 23rd July—Year 6 Parents Pilgrimage around school site at 1.15pm

Wednesday 23rd July—Year 6 Service of Celebration in School Hall at 2pm

Thursday 24th July—T.D. Day. School is closed to all pupils

Monday 1st September—T.D. Day. School is closed to all pupils

Tuesday 2nd September—T.D. Day. School is closed to all pupils

Wednesday 3rd September—First Day of Term 1 School Year 2025/26



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

23<sup>rd</sup> September 2025

16<sup>th</sup> October 2025

15<sup>th</sup> November 2025

7<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.st-johns-trowbridge.wilts.sch.uk)



### Class 6 Violin Performance

On Tuesday 15th July, Class 6 held their violin concert. Families came to see what pupils have learnt to play and how well they have progressed over the last two terms.

They all played beautifully and were a credit to St. John's.



## Year 5 Faith Day – Pilgrims of Hope

On Friday 27th June, Year 5 came together for a special day of reflection, creativity, and prayer, dedicated to deepening their faith and living out the themes of Catholic Social Teaching. This year, our focus was on spreading hope within our school and beyond—especially meaningful as 2025 is the Year of Jubilee, a time when we are all called to be Pilgrims of Hope.

Through a range of thoughtful and creative activities, the children explored what it means to bring hope to others and to live out their faith in action.

Here's what the Year 5 children had to say about their experience!

Kacper M: "I liked researching on the laptops because I found out new things about inspiring people, like Prince William, that I didn't know before."

Jacob L: "Researching about different bringers of hope inspired me."

Amy-Teresa J: "I enjoyed selling the toast because we raised money for a charity – Mary's Meals. It was practical help."

Amy P: "I liked visiting the Nursing Home because I could interact with different people. They asked good questions too!"

Thomas M: "I liked making the snack bags for the Storehouse (food bank). It meant that others could have a lunch."

Nataniel J: "I liked packing the snack bags for the Storehouse (food bank) as it brought hope to others."

Bethel I: "I liked the gong baths. It allowed me to relax, meditate and reflect."

Livia T: "The gong baths were so calm and peaceful that I fell asleep!"

Edward R: "I liked making the bracelets because each colour thread symbolises a different feeling. For example, blue symbolises peace."

William F: "I liked the bracelets as we could keep take them home as a souvenir to remember our day."

Lottie H: "Making the bracelets was relaxing because my mind was focused entirely on what I had to do."

Nancy E: "I liked writing and drawing postcards to the children in the Children's Hospital in Bristol. It made me reflect on those less fortunate than myself, which we might forget about."



### Fiver Challenge

This term, our Year 6s have taken part in the 'Fiver Challenge,' where each child was given £5 and asked to develop a business plan to grow their money and make a profit. We were so impressed by the hard work and enthusiasm our Year 6 children showed, dedicating their own time to making and creating items for their stalls.

A big thank you to all the families and friends who supported the Year 6 children in the lead-up to and on the day of the Fiver Challenge.

Thanks to everyone's support, the children successfully made a total profit of £321.80! A large percentage of this money will be donated to the 'I Can, I Am' charity, who recently visited the Year 5 and 6 pupils in their double-decker bus. The rest of the profit will be used to fund a special celebration for our Year 6 children during their final week at St John's.



### Summer Planner

With the holidays fast approaching we have attached a weekly planner that you might find useful to use over the summer.

A visual timetable helps children to see what is happening - just write in each box what is planned for each day.

### Rainforest Trust

KS1 as a part of their RE and PSHE learning organised a fundraiser for the Rainforest Trust. They donated toys, cakes, books and toys, and raised £176! Thank you for your support.

Cillian said " It made me feel responsible to help others"

Freya said " They help to educate people to not cut down the trees and look after the animals"

Riona said "We are stewards and are helping to look after God's creation"



### Summer Reading Challenge Assembly

We were delighted to welcome Tracy Hager from Trowbridge Library on Thursday 2nd July – a familiar and friendly face we all recognise from our library visits. Tracy joined us to share details about this year's Summer Reading Challenge, an exciting opportunity for children aged 4 to 11 to read six library books over the summer holidays.

In return for completing the challenge, children can earn a range of fun rewards, including a certificate and a badge. The theme for 2025 is Story Garden – Adventures in Nature and the Great Outdoors. This inspiring new theme encourages children to immerse themselves in a world of imagination, discovering the magical link between storytelling and the natural world.

As an extra treat, there's also a drawing competition running alongside the challenge. Children are invited to design their own dragon – and the most creative entries will be in with a chance to win a Dragontastic prize! Zofia W in Class 8 has already created her own magical dragon.

We can't wait to see how many of our pupils rise to the challenge this summer!

To find out more, click here: <https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/libraries-childrens-area-summer-reading-challenge>



### Oliver With A Twist

Our amazing Year 6s recently took to the stage for their end-of-year production, performing *Oliver With a Twist*. Their energy, talent and teamwork shone through in every scene and it was a joy to watch them bring the story to life. A heartfelt thank you to all the families who joined us – your support meant so much. With such budding actors in our midst, who knows? We may one day see some of them performing at the West End!



### Paulton's Park

Year 6 had a fantastic time on their end-of-year trip to Paulton's Park! From fast rollercoasters to spinning and soaring rides, Year 6 were full of laughter, excitement and adrenaline as they enjoyed every moment. It was a joy to see them enjoying themselves after such a hardworking year. Their behaviour throughout the day was excellent—they represented the school brilliantly and made us all very proud.

### Whole School Pilgrimage on Friday 11th July 2025

Last Friday, the whole school took part in a special pilgrimage to St Thomas More Church in Bradford on Avon to mark the Jubilee Year of Hope. Throughout the day, the children showed great reverence and took time for thoughtful reflection along the way. A highlight of the journey was Mr Brown leading groups in song as we walked along the river, filling the air with joyful voices. Once at the church, the children took part in a series of reflections and prayers, deepening their understanding of hope and faith. It was a beautiful day of unity, reverence, and spiritual growth, and we are proud of the respect and participation shown by all the children. A huge thank you to all the parents and volunteers who helped make the day so special.



### School Holiday Ideas, Activities and Events

Please see below links to some holiday ideas, activities and events during the summer holidays.

40 School Holiday Ideas - Anna Hardy Photography

<https://annahardy.co.uk/40-school-holiday-ideas-that-wont-break-the-bank/>

Family activities and events for primary school children

<https://www.primarytimes.co.uk/wiltshire/listings>

## Staying Safe Near Water This Summer

As the summer holidays approach and the weather warms up, we know many children and young people will be spending more time outdoors. While rivers, lakes, and other open water areas can seem like fun places to cool off, they can also be extremely dangerous.

The [Royal Life Saving Society](#) has some important information around staying safe and below is some key things to be aware of and how to stay safe.

### **Key dangers of swimming in the river**

- Cold Water Shock: Even on hot days, river water can be extremely cold. Sudden immersion can cause panic, gasping, and even heart failure.
- Strong Currents: Rivers often have hidden currents that can quickly sweep even strong swimmers away.
- Hidden Hazards: Rocks, rubbish, and underwater plants can trap or injure swimmers.
- No Lifeguards: Unlike swimming pools, rivers and lakes are not supervised. Help may not be available in an emergency.

Water Quality: Open water can contain harmful bacteria or pollutants that can cause illness.

### **How to stay safe**

- Never swim alone and always let someone know where you are.
- Stick to supervised areas like swimming pools or lifeguarded beaches.
- Avoid jumping into water from bridges or rocks – you don't know what's underneath.
- Wear a life jacket if you're near or on the water, especially when boating or paddleboarding.

Call 999 immediately if you see someone in trouble – do not enter the water yourself.

Thank you for your support in keeping our young people safe.

## Waterstones

Mrs O'Rourke and 7 children nominated by their class teachers visited Waterstones to choose a book to enjoy over the summer holidays.. Congratulations on achieving the summer term reading award.



### Leaders in Faith Award.

Congratulations to the following pupils who has earned these awards:

Bronze Award:                      Zofia W  
                                                 Annabelle O  
                                                 Tyron S

Silver Award:                      Grace D  
                                                 Dawid W  
                                                 Nikola G

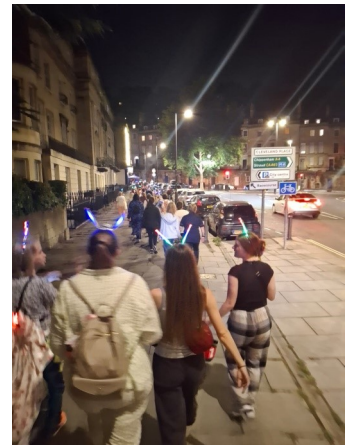
Gold Award:                      Joshua S  
                                                 Dawid W

Platinum Award:                      Joseph P



### Dorothy House Midnight Walk

Some members of St. John's staff took part in the Dorothy House Sponsored Midnight Walk on Saturday 5th July. We walked 10k around the streets of Bath in our pyjamas in memory of our dear friend and colleague Adrian Smith. Mrs Ladner talked us into walking 10K instead of the initial 5k we had intended to walk—2 loops of the circuit! We were all very tired with sore legs afterwards but very happy to have contributed to this amazing charity and the service they provide to the community.



### 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

|                  |            |            |
|------------------|------------|------------|
| Robbie R         | Evelyn L   | Maya P     |
| Brianna B        | Ella H     | Sylvia H   |
| Louis T          | Mollie H   | Jackson G  |
| Mila-Elizabeth B | Evelyn A   | Jude B     |
| Kuba J           | Lewi G     | Daisy M    |
| Stanley R        | Nimisha E  | Sofia C    |
| Amy-Teresa J     | Maya S     | Henry C    |
| Charlie B        | Amaria P   | Omarri E   |
| Jennifer M       | Emma S     | Iwin J     |
| Annabelle C      | Helena S   | Louisa C   |
| Gabriel K        | Sophia E   | Kacper M   |
| Harry H          | Izabella P | Sophie H   |
| Mason L          | Daniel V   | Amelia A   |
| Rory D           | Ignacy I   | Flourish I |



### 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 NEIGHBOUR

<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 is the holiday booklet

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

# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

## STAYING SAFE AROUND WATER

Enjoying time in, on, and around water plays a vital role in a young person's overall development, offering a healthy and exhilarating way to have fun. This guide outlines essential safety advice, based on the Royal Life Saving Society UK's Water Safety Code, to help ensure children can enjoy swimming and similar activities safely and responsibly.

### 1 STICK TO LIFEGUARDED AREAS

It's never advisable to enter unsupervised bodies of water, especially alone. Instead, it's considered best practice to accompany children to places with lifeguards, as they will be trained to respond swiftly in emergencies and provide first aid when needed.

### 2 LEARN SIGNS AND FLAGS

When going to a new environment, it's important to research the local area and make children aware of safety signage before entering the water. If visiting the seaside, make sure children are always supervised by an adult and that they know what different beach flags mean, so they're knowledgeable of where and when they can enter the sea.

### 3 STOP AND THINK

Young people should be cautious before entering water, as it's difficult to know what hazards could be underneath. Use the Water Safety Code and encourage children to ask themselves questions such as, "Is the water too deep or too shallow? Are there currents, tides, or underwater objects?" Make sure children know never to enter water from a height, as what lurks below could cause serious injuries.

### 4 CONSIDER WATER TEMPERATURE

Even on hot days, water can be deceptively cold. Tiredness strikes when young people experience cold water shock. Never let children enter water quickly; instead, ensure that they enter slowly and carefully to allow their bodies to adjust to the temperature or exit easily if needed.

### 5 INFLATABLE SAFETY

Although inflatables may seem like a fun idea when visiting locations like the beach, they can float further out from shore and into more dangerous water. It's advisable only to use inflatables in spaces like appropriately managed swimming pools, where they're used in more controlled and supervised environments.

### 6 SUPERVISION IS KEY

For young children, and particularly those under the age of five, it's important for them to be supervised at home, outside and at the pool at all times. It's essential for parents and educators to understand that young children can drown quickly and silently; therefore, anyone supervising them must maintain constant watch in case they get into difficulty.

### 7 DON'T GO TOO FAR

When swimming, especially in open water, it's best to teach children to stay within a safe depth, share advice with them such as only entering water up to a standing depth, and in the case of visiting the beach, swim parallel to shorelines. This will allow a child to stay in control and get out of the water easily.

### 8 KEEP POOLS AND TUBS DRAINED

For parents of young children, a simple way to protect them at home is to keep outdoor spaces and bathrooms tidy after playtime. This includes removing water from paddling pools after use and turning them over, returning lids to hot tubs and taking toys out of baths, so all water can be fully drained from the tub.

### 9 FLOAT AND CALL 999

If a child gets into difficulty in the water, they should try to float on their back, stay calm, and call for help. If a young person sees someone else in trouble, they should dial 999 or 112 immediately, then shout to reassure their friend, encouraging them to float on their back, and letting them know that help is on the way. Children should never enter the water to attempt a rescue or retrieve belongings.

### 10 TEACH WATER SAFETY

Beyond swimming lessons, children should be educated in school on water safety. Use RLSS UK's accredited programme, 'Water Smart Schools', which offers free lesson plans and resources on how to be safe on, near and around water by following the Water Safety Code.

### Meet Our Expert

The Royal Life Saving Society UK (RLSS UK) is a national water safety charity that gives children the chance to enjoy a lifetime of fun in the water, safely. Water safety education provided in schools is vital and, in some instances, could be a child's only opportunity to learn about the water.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College