

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



NEWSLETTER DATED FRIDAY 27TH JUNE 2025

Dear Families,

As we reach the midpoint of our final half-term, we have much to celebrate and look forward to.

First Holy Communion Celebrations

Last Sunday, a group of our Year 3 pupils received their First Holy Communion at St John the Baptist Catholic Church—a truly special and sacred moment in their journey of faith. We were so proud of their prayerful participation and the way they approached the Sacrament with such reverence and joy. Congratulations to all the children and their families on this blessed occasion.

We now look ahead to this coming Sunday, when another group of children will receive the Sacrament for the first time. Please keep them in your prayers as they prepare to welcome Jesus in the Eucharist. May this be the beginning of a lifelong relationship with Christ for each of them.

A heartfelt thank you to Fr. Richard, our parish catechists, and all parents and carers who have supported the children so beautifully throughout their preparation.

Transition Morning – Tuesday

Next Tuesday morning will be our Transition Morning, when all children will spend two hours in their new classrooms with their new teacher for September. This is an exciting and important part of helping the children feel confident and prepared for the next stage in their school journey. We know they will benefit from this opportunity to begin forming relationships and getting to know the learning environment they'll step into in September.

Year 6 children moving onto St Augustine's Catholic College in September will be attending the College for the full day.

Thank You for Your Feedback

We would also like to thank all of you who responded to our parent questionnaire regarding the organisation of classes in the next academic year. Your thoughtful and supportive feedback has been invaluable.

After carefully considering your views and working closely with the teaching team, we are pleased to share that next year, the children will be learning in split year group classes. For Maths and Phonics, however, they will be taught in dedicated year groups, to ensure targeted teaching and progression at the appropriate pace for each child.

This will look like the following:

Early Years Foundation Stage: Two classes

Years 1/2: Three split classes with Year 1 and Year 2 taught separately for Maths and Phonics

Years 3/4: Three split classes with Year 3 and Year 4 taught separately for Maths

Years 5/6: Split classes with focused teaching by year group where appropriate, including Maths

We are confident that this structure will continue to support high-quality teaching and learning, and provide a nurturing and effective environment for every child.

In addition, we listened to the voice of the children, staff team and parents and in September will be changing Class Numbers to Class Names based on the gifts and the fruits of the Holy Spirit – linked to our school logo.

Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership as we continue to grow and develop as a school community rooted in faith, learning, and love.

Please note the final newsletter for this academic year will be Friday 18th July.

With every blessing,

Mrs O'Rourke



Supporting Children's Emotional Wellbeing

Gemma Howard, from the Charlie Waller Trust, will be returning to run a one-hour session that looks at how we can support the emotional wellbeing of our children and young people. In this session she will be exploring the developing brain, stress and impacts on emotional regulation. She will explore useful tools that can help us connect with, calm and support our children's emotional wellbeing whilst building and strengthening the relationships we have with them and ourselves.

When: Thursday 17th July

Time: 7.45-9pm

Where: Online: Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85677496300?pwd=aUp3Z3RuSU0vbXhVeitOZ0RGNGsrdz09>

Meeting ID: 856 7749 6300

Passcode: 725141

We really hope you can join us

Dates For Your Diary 2025

Tuesday 1st July—Moving Up Day/Transition Day to St. Augustine's College

Thursday 3rd July—Class 6 Mass in Class at 9.05am

Saturday 5th July—The Friends Summer Fayre

Friday 11th July—Whole School Pilgrimage to Bradford on Avon

Tuesday 15th July—Class 6 Violin Concert

Tuesday 15th July—Y6 Oliver Performance from 5.30pm

Wednesday 16th July—Y6 Oliver Performance from 5.30pm

Friday 18th July—End of Academic Year Mass in St. John's Church at 9.15am

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

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





Year 6 Enterprise Challenge

Over the past few weeks, our Year 6 pupils have been busy putting their entrepreneurial skills to the test! Working in small groups, each team was given a budget of just £5 and challenged to develop a product or service that they could offer to others in the school in order to generate as much profit as possible.

The aim of this exciting project is not only to encourage creativity, teamwork, and problem-solving, but also to give pupils a real-life experience of budgeting, marketing, and profit-making. All the money raised will be split between a charity chosen by Year 6 and a special Leavers' Celebration to mark the end of their time at primary school.

The big day will take place on **Wednesday 2nd July**, when pupils will be selling their products and services during **breaktime, lunchtime and after school (outside the KS2 classrooms)**. If your child would like to bring in some money to purchase items or take part in any activities, they are very welcome to do so.

Please see below for a full list of what's on offer – thank you in advance for your support! *Children **will not** be able to eat the sweet treats during the school day.*

Candyfloss & Popcorn

Make your own slime & bracelet

Cake & sweet treats

Homemade stress balls

Guess the number of sweets in the jar

Football penalty shootout

Sport games

Handmade crocheted products

Fidget toys

Jelly

OPAL Updates

Congratulations to Cassidy H who won the Golden Welly Award last week for showing stewardship of creation by rescuing a ladybird.

Also, Devonte G and Harry H won this week for excellent turn-taking and imaginative play!



We've had another fantastic, play filled fortnight that's been packed with joyous play and lots of laughter!

Please remember to send in coats or waterproof jackets even in the summer months, as sometimes surprise rain showers can still catch us out on hot days. All weather play is fantastic for the development of all children, so we appreciate them being prepared.

We're looking forward to introducing Scooty boards and other forms of wheeled play, so ask your children about it next week!

Doodle Maths and English Spring Challenge Certificates

The following pupils was awarded certificates for Doodle Maths and English Spring Challenge in Assembly.



Maths

Dina D'S

Sylvia H



English

Dina D'S

Sylvia H

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

Edward R

Daniel I

Jalen E

Nathania E

Gautham B



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 CHURCH

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

We hope you enjoy sharing the Bible Scripture together with your child.

Leaders in Faith Award.

Congratulations to the following pupil who has earned this award:

Bronze Award: T-Ondre K



Class 6 Violin Concert

Families of pupils in Class 6 are invited to the Violin Concert in the Hall at 2.40pm (arrive 2.35pm) on Tuesday 15th July. This is a concert to celebrate the learning that the children have achieved with Charlotte in their violin lessons during Terms 5 and 6.

Please come to the school office to sign in the visitors book.

Thank you.

Parish Festival

The Polish Catholic Mission in Trowbridge are holding a Parish Festival on Sunday 29th June.

Please see the posters attached (in both English and Polish) for more details. The address is:

Our Lady of Czestochowa, 6 Waterworks Road, Trowbridge, A14 0AL

EYFS Trip to Longleat

Foundation Stage had a fantastic trip to Longleat at the start of Term 6! The fun began when we boarded our lovely coach and started our journey to Longleat.

The coach was full of excitement and anticipation! When we arrived we went straight to our “Amazing Animals” workshop with two of Longleat’s keepers. The children had the opportunity to touch, hold and observe cockroaches, snakes, guineapigs and Miss O’Mahony was nominated to hold the tarantula!

After that we took shelter from the rain and enjoyed a delicious picnic. Once refuelled we boarded the Longleat express to take us on a train journey around the park and then hopped on the boat to see the sealions.

We finished the day with a drive through the safari park looking out for many different animals. It was a wonderful day!



Sports Day

Last Friday we welcomed families to join us for our annual Sports Day. The focus for the day was Solidarity and how we are stronger together. The children were incredible ambassadors for their house saints and after a day of varied competition, St. Francis of Assisi were declared the winning house and completed a lap of honour.



Contemporary Christian Pop

KS1 welcomed Isabella Leathley on Monday 16th June to support our learning about Christianity. Isabella is a Contemporary Christian Pop artist from the UK. She found the joy of writing songs about the Jesus' love and forgiveness. The children were inspired by her music. Her website is <https://www.isabellaleathley.com/> if you wish to listen to her beautiful worship songs.



Choir Workshop

On Monday 16th June the choir had a wonderful workshop from Kate Courage who came to help us in preparation for our upcoming "Songs From The Shows" concert. We learnt some super warm-ups and had such an enjoyable time singing through the songs from The Sound Of Music, The Jungle Book, Les Mis and The Secret Garden.

Kate commented on the choir's enthusiasm saying "they were brilliant!".



KS1 Dance Festival

Last week, 15 children from KS1 attended the West Wilts Dance Festival at the Bath Forum. Their dance was based on the book "Tuesday by David Wiesner" to the song "Rock Around The Clock by Bill Haley".

Before their big performance, the children spent the afternoon completing different activities such as Toga, dance booklets, PE games and even got to rehearse on the big stage.

The children got to perform their dance in front of their families, as well as those from 11 other local schools. All children should be extremely proud of all their hard, dedicated work they had put in towards their performance.

We are looking forward to attending the Dance Festival again next year!



Appropriate Clothing

During the summer term, the weather can be very changeable.

Please can you look at the forecast and send your child into school wearing the appropriate clothing.

Your child needs to bring a water bottle into school every day.

If it is wet, please can you ensure that they bring in a waterproof coat, and if it is sunny that they bring a sun hat and suntan lotion (to be applied themselves) if required.

As we are an OPAL school, pupils go outside for both break times and lunchtimes in all weathers so need to be dressed accordingly.

If your child wears earrings, please can you ensure that they are studs only, no hoop earrings.

Parental Controls

With so many of our children having access to electronic devices, we thought that sharing these guides on how to set up Parental controls might be useful.



Andriod Parental Controls:
EASY SETUP GUIDE
Using family link & built-in settings

- 1 Download Google Family Link App
- 2 Link child's device to your account
- 3 Set daily/weekly screen limits
- 4 Set bedtimes and daily downtime
- 5 Block or allow app downloads
- 6 Filter web & search results
- 7 Turn off location sharing

Use Safesearch in Chrome & Youtube for extra filtering.



Iphone Parental Controls:
STEP-BY-STEP
Safer screen habits in minutes

Set up family sharing (on your device):
GO TO SETTINGS ➔ [YOUR NAME] ➔ FAMILY SHARING ➔ SCREEN TIME ➔ INVITE YOUR CHILD TO JOIN AND CREATE ACCOUNT

Turn on screen time (on your device):
GO TO SETTINGS ➔ SCREEN TIME ➔ TURN ON SCREEN TIME ➔ SELECT 'THIS IS MY CHILDS IPHONE'

Downtime (on your device):
Set quiet hours (e.g. 8pm-7am)

App limits (on your device):
Set daily time limits by category (e.g. 1 hr for social)

Content & Privacy Restrictions (on your device):
Enable ➔ Content restrictions ➔ Web content ➔ Limit adult websites
Itunes & App store purchases ➔ Don't allow in-app purchases

Lock all settings with a screen time passcode

KS1 Rainforest Fundraiser

Class 3, 4 and 5 are running a Rainforest Fundraiser on Monday 14th July after school. We will be selling cakes, books, games and much more.

You are kindly invited to bring in cash and help support us in raising money for the Rainforest Trust.

Music Lessons in School

We welcomed Mrs Avison to our assembly today who demonstrated a range of brass instruments and played the piano for us.

We are pleased to be welcoming Mrs Avison as a peripatetic music teacher at St. John's from September.

If you are interested in your child learning either piano or a brass instrument, please contact Mrs Poulter on admin@st-johns-trowbridge.wilts.sch.uk

Mr Barkwill, our guitar teacher also has some availability from September if your child is interested in learning the guitar.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about YOUTUBE KIDS



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT BYPASSING FILTERS

YouTube Kids is less likely to show inappropriate material than YouTube, but there have been reports of the app showing age-inappropriate content to young viewers. One investigation found that YouTube Kids had shown videos that promote skin bleaching, weight loss, drug culture and firearms to children as young as two, as inappropriate content had bypassed the platform's algorithms and human moderators.



BE WARY OF ADVERTISING

Like Google's regular YouTube app, YouTube Kids features pervasive advertising before a video plays. While these adverts are designed to be family friendly and are subject to a strict review process, it's worth noting that YouTube Kids collects information around children's viewing to inform targeted content and advertisements.



DESIGNED TO BE ADDICTIVE

YouTube Kids is designed to be addictive. The platform's design features, such as the constant stream of new videos and the reward system of points or virtual stickers, can be very engaging and make it difficult for children to switch off. Research has shown that spending too much time using digital services such as YouTube can lead to screen addiction, affecting children's daily routines, studies, and even their social lives.



SETTINGS CAN BE CIRCUMVENTED

YouTube Kids offers built-in parental controls, enabling you to set screen time limits and curate the content children are able to view; however, children are often more tech-savvy than we think. They can easily bypass or tweak these settings if they have access to the associated Google account password, thereby exposing themselves to age-inappropriate and potentially dangerous content.



AI-GENERATED MISINFORMATION

There is also a risk of children accessing videos that contain disinformation and misinformation. A BBC investigation found that some YouTube channels are using artificial intelligence (AI) technology to create misleading 'scientific' videos that are recommended to children as educational content. These videos included conspiracy theories and ideas that lack scientific backing.



DATA COLLECTION RISK

While there are limits on the data that YouTube can collect on children under 13, children can still inadvertently give away sensitive information when using YouTube Kids. The platform collects data on children's viewing habits, content searches and location, which YouTube and third-party advertisers can use.



Advice for Parents & Educators

PARENTAL CONTROLS

YouTube Kids offers several settings that allow you to manage what content children can view. For example, you can choose what level of content you want them to access, such as 'Preschool' or 'Younger'. You can also turn off the search function, so that only those videos approved by the YouTube Kids team themselves will appear on a child's recommendations list.



CHECK WATCH HISTORY

YouTube Kids has made it easy for you to keep an eye on what the children in your care have been watching on the app. By clicking on the 'Recommended' icon at the top right of the home screen, you can see which videos they've been viewing, and how much of each. If a child watches YouTube Kids while signed into a Google account, you can check their history through Google's 'My Activity' page.



SET TIME LIMITS

The built-in parental controls let you keep a tab on how long children spend watching videos. You can set a timer that limits screen time and disables the YouTube Kids app once a specified length of time has been reached. It's also worth speaking to children about the dangers of spending too much time on YouTube, to ensure they remain focused on other, more important activities.



WATCH TOGETHER

It's important that you try to make YouTube Kids a fun and positive experience for children. One way to do this is by introducing watching sessions, where you all gather around and share the most enjoyable videos that you have recently watched. This can be a great way of giving you both new things to talk about and of keeping an eye on what they're watching.



Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced journalist with more than 10 years of experience covering the technology industry. Previously a senior cybersecurity reporter at TechCrunch, Carly is now a freelance journalist, editor, and copywriter. Her bylines include Forbes, TechRadar, Tes, The INQUIRER, The Metro, Uswitch, and WIRED.



The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/youtube-kids-2025>



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