

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



NEWSLETTER DATED FRIDAY 13TH JUNE 2025

Dear Families,

As we come to the end of a very busy and uplifting fortnight here at St John's Catholic Primary School, I want to take a moment to give thanks for all that we have experienced and achieved together.

A heartfelt *well done* to our wonderful children who have completed their statutory assessments over the past two weeks. Our Year 4 pupils approached the Multiplication Tables Check with great focus and resilience, and our Year 1 children tackled their Phonics Screening Check with enthusiasm and growing confidence. We are so proud of their hard work – it is a real testament to their commitment to learning and to the support you provide at home.

We have also been truly blessed with the richness of community spirit that has filled our school. Sports Day today was a stunning success, and I would like to say a sincere *thank you* to all the families who came to support. The sunshine was matched only by the smiles on the children's faces as they gave their all. Your cheering, encouragement and presence brought such joy and truly allowed our school's Gospel values and Catholic ethos to shine brightly throughout the day.

It has also been wonderful to see such strong parental engagement in other areas of school life. Our OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) afternoon was a joyful and memorable event – thank you for joining us and embracing the spirit of play and exploration that is so important for our children's development.

Thank you, too, for taking the time to complete our parent surveys. Your thoughtful responses are currently being carefully analysed and will play a key role in helping us shape the ongoing growth and improvement of St John's.

These past two weeks have truly shown what we can achieve when we work in partnership – with faith, with love, and with a shared sense of purpose. Thank you for walking this journey with us.

Wishing you all a peaceful weekend and continued blessings in the weeks ahead.

Warm regards and God bless,

Mrs O'Rourke

Whole School Photo and Class Photos

Please ensure your child is wearing their summer uniform on Thursday 19th June as we have organised for our first ever whole school photo and class photos to be taken by David Wiltshire. If your child has PE on that day they will just need to have their trainers in school and not wear PE kit.

Wacky Hair Day To Support Summer School Fayre on Thursday 26th June 2025

The Friends of St John's have been working hard over the past few months to plan and prepare our wonderful Summer Fayre which is a hugely enjoyable community event and also a fundraiser for new opportunities for the children. The Fayre takes place on Saturday 5th July at 12.00pm and we are looking forward to celebrating together. In support of this we invite all children to take part in a wear your own clothes day on Thursday 26th June in return to bringing a bottle for the Tombola Stall. Please drop the bottle into the boxes at the gate or into main reception.

Dorothy House Fundraising

On the evening of Saturday 5th July the staff team from St John's are taking part in the Midnight Walk organised in aid of Dorothy House in aid of our dear friend and colleague Mr Adrian Smith RIP. If you would like to support this cause a link will be sent out for families to support.

Thank you

School Reading and Phonic Book Amnesty

Please take a look at home to check if you have any school library books or Phonics books that need to be returned - children can hand them over to their Class Teacher or add to the baskets on the playground.

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.

Dates For Your Diary 2025

Tuesday 17th June—Class 8 Mass in Class at 9.05am

Wednesday 18th June—Leavers Mass at Clifton Cathedral—pupils to wear Winter Uniform

Wednesday 18th June—KS1 Dance Festival at the Bath Forum

Thursday 19th June—Class and Year 6 Photos

Thursday 19th June—New Starters EYFS Stay and Play Session 1.00pm—2.15pm

Monday 23rd June—Open Morning—Tours around the school site for prospective new families

Tuesday 24th June—Class 7 Mass in Class at 9.05am

Thursday 26th June—Wacky Hair Day

Friday 27th June—Year 5 Faith Day

Monday 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—Year 6 Service of Celebration in School Hall at 2pm

Wednesday 23rd July—Last Day of Term 6

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

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

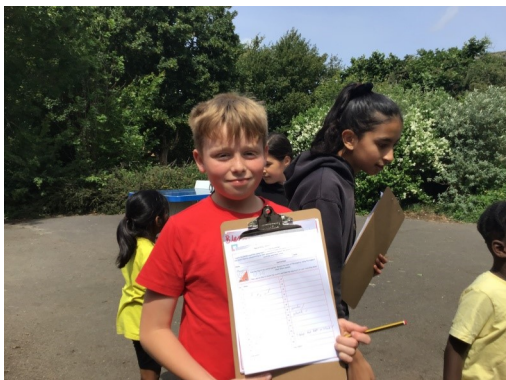
Tuesday 2nd September—T.D. Day. School is closed to all pupils

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

House Saints Afternoon

Last Friday the whole came together to remember our dear friend and colleague Adrian Smith. Pupils competed for the “Mr Smith Orienteering Shield” awarded for their orienteering skills. It was an afternoon of sportsmanship, fun, singing and laughter.

Congratulations to Saint. Don Bosco House who won the Shield.



KS1 Trip to Farleigh Hungerford

KS1 had a fantastic time exploring Farleigh Hungerford Castle, linked to our history project. We dressed up, looked at artefacts and played in the ruins. Thank you very much to all the parents who were able to help out on this trip.



I Can & I Am

Children in Years 5 and 6 took part in a series of engaging wellbeing workshops, all centred around the idea of “inflating our own balloons.” This idea encourages children to recognise the importance of self-worth and confidence. When we feel good about ourselves, we’re better equipped to cope with life’s ups and downs.

The ‘I Can I Am’ bus has been creatively transformed into a range of inspiring workspaces, including a fully equipped kitchen. One of the highlights for many children was the chance to make their own pizzas – a wonderful way for them to try something new and experience success (inflating their ‘balloon’). Of course, after making their pizza the children were allowed to eat them! The team also led discussion workshops with the children, encouraging them to focus on the positive qualities in themselves and in one another.

Pupil Voice:

“It made me feel calm and content. It was a fun and peaceful place to be.” Sienna

“It made me happy.” Brianna

“I enjoyed meeting the staff (Tom and Sam) because they were kind and helpful. I also liked making the pizzas because it was something that I had never done before.” Finley

“It was a difference experience for me! It felt weird handling the dough, but I enjoyed chatting about myself and others too. It gave me a chance to show kindness to other people.” Lorenzo

“It made me feel calm. We had the opportunity to talk about our challenges and steps towards this. I felt determined, like I could take on my challenge.” Jenny



OPAL

We had an absolutely wonderful time at our Parent Play Day last week, and we were thrilled to see such a fantastic turnout from our parent community! A heartfelt thank you to everyone who was able to attend. Your presence and support truly made the day special.

We're also incredibly grateful for the generous donations of loose parts and sand, which have already brought so much joy and creativity to the children's playtime. Thanks to your kindness, we raised an amazing £270! These funds will go directly towards the new sand pit we hope to build in the future.

Thank you once again for your continued support - we couldn't do it without you! Look forward to future Parent Play days in the next academic year and keep checking our Facebook page (OPALatStJohns) for more updates and photos from the Parent Play day.



EYFS September 25 Intake Stay and Play

It was wonderful to welcome our new starters to St John's this week as the children attended their first Stay and Play session. Jacob even remembered to put on his St John's badge for the occasion! We can't wait for next week when they will be back for the next session (Thursday 19th June at 1pm - 2.15pm)



Encouraging Girls in Computer Science Club

In a small, but positive, step towards bridging the gender gap between girls and boys studying and entering a career in Computer Science, Mr. Somerville is running a club just for KS2 girls at St. John's. We'll be meeting on Wednesdays at 3.30pm-4.15pm in Term 6.

During each session we will be looking at different aspects of Computer Science, from coding to discussing the pros and cons of computers. It will be a safe and calm space for girls to enjoy and develop skills and may go some way to encouraging them to develop an interest in Computer Science. Please join by signing up at the school office.

KS2 Netball Club on Wednesdays

There are still some places left in the KS2 Netball Club that takes place after school in the playground from 6.15pm—7.15pm.

There is no cost for this club. If your child would like to join, please contact the school office.

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.

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.

Thank you

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

Lilly B	Olivia B	Jubal S
Phoenix G	Elacia G	Hunter J
Aria S	Sofia S	Jayden F
Aleksander L	Giulia O	Azalea G
Cherish B	Amelia W	



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 words are HOLY TRINITY.

<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.

Taster Sessions for Year 5 Pupils at St. Augustine's Catholic College

If your child would like to attend one of the Year 5 Taster sessions at St Augustine's Catholic College, please complete the form below. They run in the mornings from 23rd—26th June.

<https://forms.office.com/e/U2KmUkfjKq>

After you have booked a place, please can you let the office know so we are aware of their absence on that day. Thank you. Your child will be expected back in school in the afternoon.

The College hope that you will be able to go and see what they have to offer at St Augustine's.

Doodle Maths and English Spring Challenge Certificates

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



Maths

Nathania E

Aaron K

Kimpreet D

Nell G

Daniel G

Oskar K

Max L

Sebastian H

Lucas N-A

Daniel N-A

Simreet D

Kacper H

Oskar H

Margot F

Evelyn L

Sophie H

Emilia K

English

Nathania E

Aaron K

Kimpreet D

Nell G

Daniel G

Oskar K

Max L

Sebastian H

Evelyn L

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about EMOJIS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Emojis are more than playful expressions – they form a fast-evolving digital language that many adults struggle to decode. For young people, this 'secret code' is central to how they communicate identity, humour and emotions. With over 5 billion emojis sent daily on Facebook Messenger alone, understanding these symbols is key to engaging meaningfully with digital youth.

GENERATIONAL MISCOMMUNICATION

An emoji like 🍑 (thumbs up emoji) might seem friendly to adults, but teens often interpret it as sarcastic or passive-aggressive. These differing interpretations can create confusion or unintended tension in cross-generational conversations.

SHIELDING BULLYING OR PEER PRESSURE

When embedded in emojis, mean-spirited jokes or exclusionary language can fly under the radar. Terms like 'mid' or 'delulu' may seem harmless, but they can be used to undermine peers in subtle ways.

RAPIDLY SHIFTING MEANINGS

Emoji meanings can change overnight. A person standing emoji (🧑) once signified awkwardness but might now be repurposed for something entirely different. This ever-changing lexicon can leave adults in the dark and young people vulnerable to misunderstanding or misuse.

MASKING DISTRESS OR HARM

Some emojis are used to discreetly signal troubling behaviours. For instance, 🍷 (wine glass emoji) or 🍑 (pill emoji) might suggest drug use, while 🌧️ (wilted flower emoji) could hint at emotional struggles. Such usage can obscure serious issues, making them harder for trusted adults to detect.

NORMALISING RISKY BEHAVIOURS

Emojis can make harmful actions seem light-hearted or fashionable. Strings like 🍷🍷🍷 (wine + 'woozy' face + pill emoji) may appear humorous but can reference partying, intoxication or dangerous challenges, which might otherwise raise red flags.

Advice for Parents & Educators

LEARN THE LINGO

Stay updated with emoji trends and definitions using resources like emojipedia.org or Urban Dictionary. Knowing current meanings builds confidence when engaging with young people and helps spot potential concerns early.

CREATE SAFE SPACES FOR DISCUSSION

Encourage casual chats about emojis, online slang, memes, or social media trends. Showing interest without judgement reassures young people that they can talk about their digital world openly and safely.

ASK, DON'T ASSUME

Approach unfamiliar emojis with curiosity rather than suspicion. A light-hearted "What does 🍷 (juice box emoji) mean these days?" can open conversation and show that you respect their knowledge.

PRIORITISE TRUST OVER SURVEILLANCE

While parental controls and monitoring tools can be useful, emotional safety matters most. Be someone children and young people feel they can come to – not just someone who's watching them.

EMOJI CHEAT SHEET - The following slang terms and emojis are some common examples - please be aware this isn't an exhaustive list.

COMMON EMOJIS:

🤡 (Clown face) Foolishness or clowning around	👉 (Pointing hand) Over-affectionate or 'singing'
😐 (Cold face) Cool, stylish or ruthless	👁️ (Eyes) Watching drama unfold
😍 (Heart face) Intense attraction or excitement	👑 (Crown) Greatest of all time (G.O.A.T.)
😐 (Mood) Stone-faced, unbothered	👑 (Crown) Confidence, sassiness, or indifference
👑 (Crown) 'Slaying', as in doing great	🚩 (Triangular flag) Red flag; a warning sign about someone's behaviour

POTENTIALLY CONCERNING EMOJIS

🍷 (Jar of corn) Slang for pornography (avoids censorship algorithms)	🌧️ (Wilted flower) Often used to convey emotional struggle or sadness
❄️ (Snowflake, snowman, snow cloud) Can symbolise cocaine	👤 (Snake) Can represent betrayal or being 'two-faced'
🗝️ (Key, lying face) Related to cocaine use	💧 (Water pistol) Sometimes used to reference violence or self-harm
🌿 (Falling leaves, herb, maple leaf) Can symbolise cannabis	⚠️ (Warning) Used to emphasise drama, threats or emotional turmoil
💊 (Pill) May reference drug use or prescription misuse	🍜 (Steaming bowl) Refers to nudes ('noods' is an abbreviation of noodles)

Meet Our Expert

Keith Bruni is a globally renowned emoji expert and the Editor in Chief of emojipedia.org, the world's number one emoji resource. He has an MSc in Business Psychology from University College London and an MBA from Quantic School of Business and Technology.



The National College