

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



NEWSLETTER DATED FRIDAY 9TH MAY 2025

Dear Families,

Welcoming Our New Holy Father – Pope Leo



It is with great joy and reverence that I write to you today as the Catholic world welcomes our new Holy Father, Pope Leo. In these times of global uncertainty and spiritual need, the election of a new pope brings renewed hope, unity, and direction for our faith.

Pope Leo, taking the name of a great line of pontiffs before him, reminds us of the rich tradition and continuity of the Church. We especially remember Pope Leo the Great, whose wisdom and courage helped shape the Church in its early days. We now pray that Pope Leo will be guided by the same Holy Spirit as he begins his papal ministry.

As a Catholic school, this is a special moment to reflect on the role of the papacy and the importance of leadership rooted in service, compassion, and truth. In Celebration Assembly today children reflected on the significance of the Pope and celebrating this historic moment with prayer and thanksgiving.

Let us unite in prayer as a school community:

"May the Lord bless Pope Leo with wisdom and strength. May he be a shepherd after Christ's own heart, leading the Church with faith, hope, and love. Amen."

Next week, our Year 6 pupils will be taking their national SATs, and we want to take this opportunity to wish them all the very best.

Our children have worked incredibly hard throughout their journey at St John's, which has included the disruption of COVID. The children have showed focus, determination, and a positive attitude to their learning. These assessments are just one part of their school journey, and we are proud of everything they have achieved so far.

We encourage families to support children by ensuring they are well-rested, eat a good breakfast (*still time to join the Year 6 Big Breakfast if they haven't yet signed up*) and arrive at school on time each day. Most importantly, we remind our pupils that all we ask is for them to try their best—they are already a credit to themselves and to our school.

Let's keep Year 6 in our thoughts and prayers as they take this important step with confidence and courage.

Finally, a reminder that our next Children's Mass takes place this Sunday at 10:30am at St John the Baptist Church. This is a wonderful opportunity for pupils to lead and participate in the liturgy through readings, singing, and prayer. It is always a joyous celebration!

Everyone is warmly welcome—please join us to support and celebrate our children as they grow in faith.

With every blessing,

Mrs O'Rourke

Headteacher

Continuing to Support Trowbridge Storehouse Foodbank

We continue to collect foodbank donations every Friday in support of Trowbridge Storehouse.

Last week, Jill from the foodbank visited our whole school assembly to thank the children for their generosity over the years. She shared how the demand for their services has grown, and how grateful they are for the consistent support from our school community.

Punctuality Matters – A Reminder

Children are expected to be on the school site by 8:40am, ready for the register at 8:45am each day.

Being on time helps ensure a calm, focused start to the day and supports your child's learning. If you're experiencing any challenges with morning routines, please speak with Mrs. O'Mahony, who is available to offer friendly advice and support.

Dates For Your Diary 2025

Sunday 11th May—Children's Mass at 10.30am in St. John's Church

Monday 12th—Thursday 15th May—Year 6 SATS Week

Monday 12th May—House Group Singing on Playground at 2.50pm

Tuesday 20th May—New EYFS Year 25/26 Welcome Meeting at 5pm

Friday 23rd May—Last Day of Term 5

Monday 26th—Friday 30th May—End of Term Holidays

Monday 2nd June—First Day of Term 6

Tuesday 3rd June—EYFS Trip to Longleat

Wednesday 4th June—OPAL Afternoon For Parents 1.40 –3.15pm

Tuesday 10th June—KS1 Trip to Farleigh Hungerford Castle

Friday 13th June—Sports Day

Monday 16th June—Open Day

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

Wednesday 18th June—Leavers Mass at Clifton Cathedral

Thursday 19th June—Class and Year 6 Photos

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

Friday 27th June—Class 5 Faith Day

Monday 1st July—Moving Up Day/Transition Day to St. Augustines College

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

Friday 4th July—Sports Day if 13th June is Cancelled

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

Friday 18th July—End of Academic 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

Building Cultural Capital Through Enriching Experiences

We're delighted to share two fantastic experiences that are taking place this term, both of which help broaden our pupils' horizons and deepen their learning:

Scaling New Heights – Climbing Wall Experience

The week beginning 19th May, a mobile climbing wall will arrive on site, and our playground will be transformed into a zone of courage and adventure! We can't wait to see how the pupils tackle the wall with enthusiasm, learning not only physical skills but also building resilience, teamwork, and confidence. I am confident many children will surprise themselves by reaching higher than they thought possible! Please return permission slips in order that your child can take part.

Skipping John – A Joyful Day of Movement

We are also planning to welcome back Skipping John to St John's. He is a dynamic skipping coach, who we know leads fun and energetic workshops. Children will learn new skipping skills, rhythm, and coordination—all while celebrating a timeless playground tradition that crosses generations and cultures.

These experiences form part of our commitment to building cultural capital—providing rich, meaningful experiences that shape the whole child.

Save the Date – Annual Summer Fayre

A big thank you to the Friends of St John's, who continue to work hard behind the scenes organising enriching events and raising vital funds for our school. We're excited to announce that the Annual Summer Fayre will take place on Saturday 5th July on the St John's School Grounds

Please mark your calendars and spread the word to family and friends. It promises to be a wonderful community celebration, packed with fun, food, and festivities!

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

Leo R

Sofia B

Ha D

Devansh N

Leran F

Bruno J

Henry F



House Saint Afternoon

We will be having our next House Saint afternoon on Monday 12th May. At 2.50pm the school will be on the playground to pray and sing together. You and your families are all very welcome to join us in the celebration. You may wish to join in us in saying the same house prayer verse as you child.

Loving God,

Thank You for our school,
A place of faith, learning and friendship.

Guided by the example of St. Francis,
May we be instruments of peace, caring for all creation.

Inspired by St. Mother Teresa,
Teach us to serve with love,
Seeing You in everyone we meet.

Following St. Don Bosco,
Help us to live with joy and kindness,
Always encouraging and supporting one another.

Like Blessed Carlo Acutis,
May we seek You in all we do,
Using our gifts to share Your light with the world.

Bless our school community,
That we may grow in faith, wisdom, and love,
Becoming Pilgrims of Hope, people You call us to be.

Amen.

We will be singing 'Hope' if you would like to join

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r_t5xitQjIc

Safeguarding Updates

This week we are highlighting what you need to know as parents/carers about Supporting Children To Develop Emotional Literacy.

Please see the leaflet attached to this newsletter.

Roles of Priests and Deacons in the Catholic Church

This week, Years 5 and 6 have been learning about the roles of priests and deacons in the Catholic Church, particularly how their roles are similar and different. They were lucky enough to have Kwame, a trainee deacon from St John The Baptist parish, visit. He spoke clearly about the process of becoming a deacon and what his role entailed. The children listened beautifully, asked lots of interesting questions and scribbled down lots of notes ready to write up what they have learnt in their next RE lesson.



Class 6 & 7 Benediction on Friday 9th May 2025

Fr Richard led Class 6 and 7 in Benediction today. It was a beautiful time of stillness, quiet reflection and prayer in God's presence. The children were a credit to our school and it was lovely to share this with member of our school family.

Thoughts from the children:

Araon ' I felt peaceful because I knew I was with God.

Trust - I felt blessed because God was with me.

Jude - I felt confident because I knew God was going to help me.

Amy - When we sang the Taize I felt like I entered God's kingdom. 'Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom'

Emily - I felt happy and calm singing the Taize.



LKS2 Trip to Trowbridge Library

On Thursday 8th May the entire LKS2 visited Trowbridge Library to discover the treasure trove of books housed there. We were greeted warmly by the librarians there and one of them read a favourite picture book of hers. Children who had library cards on them took out a book, but not the maximum amount of 12 as we had to walk back to school! Those children who did not have a library card were given a valuable insight into the benefits of having one and we hope will manage to visit some time soon to take advantage of this valuable and free service. All they need to do is persuade an adult to accompany them with an item of paperwork to prove their address (e.g. Utility bill, Driver's Licence, Invoice).





OPAL Lunch time play has been a fantastic addition to school life and is really reaping results in the children's wellbeing and attitude to learning. It is helping so much with the social and physical skills all children need. If you're interested in learning more about it, join us for our **Parents' Play Day on Wednesday 4th June from 1.40pm—3.15pm.**



CONGRATULATIONS to

Fiorella L, Mari G, Grace D, Violetta B and Nell G who won the Golden Welly Award last week for their consistent help with tidying the wellies.

And Gabriella C S who won this week for always helping younger children in their play.

Please continue to drop off all and any OPAL donations at the front of school. OPAL recommend that we aim for 4 loose parts per child in order to sustain our fantastic lunch times. Any time you have a clear out – **Think PLAY before you throw it away!**



Leaders in Faith Award.

Congratulations to the following pupils who have earned these awards:

Bronze Award:	Jenny M	Toby F
	Kaja J	Dina D'S
	Annabelle C	Isabella S
	Alan S	Nancy E
	Ben D	Hope M
	Milo G	Neyo A
	Caleb C	Sylvia H
	Amelia	Dawid W
	Pippa W	Thomas M
	Grace D	Leon S
	Blanka C	Izabella P
	Rutendo M	Alex S
	Charlotte H	Jonatan A
	Marcel Z	



Silver Award: Florence L

The certificates were presented in Celebration Assembly today.

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 LIFE.

<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.