

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



NEWSLETTER DATED FRIDAY 25TH APRIL 2025

Dear Families,

A very warm welcome back to the summer term! I hope you all enjoyed a peaceful and joyful Easter break with your loved ones. It has been a delight to see the children return to school so smartly dressed and full of enthusiasm – thank you for ensuring they were so well prepared for the term ahead. Their pride in their appearance reflects their readiness to learn and be part of our wonderful school community.

As we return to school, we do so with heavy hearts following the sad passing of Pope Francis on Easter Monday. Each class has taken part in a special time of reflection and prayer, and we have come together as a school to honour his life, his leadership, and his deep commitment to love, peace and compassion. The children are inspired to become Pope Francis's pilgrims of hope. We invite all members of our school community to join us for a Mass this evening at 6pm in St John the Baptist Catholic Church, where we will continue to pray for his soul and give thanks for his wonderful service to the Catholic Church and Catholic education.

As part of our commitment to continued professional development, our staff team took part in a Training and Development Day on Tuesday 22nd April focused on deepening our faith and teaching of Religious Education during this Jubilee year. During the day we were fortunate to hear an inspirational talk from James Shone, founder of the I Can & I Am charity. James shared powerful insights about self-belief and resilience, and we are excited to welcome him back in June, when he will be working directly with our Year 5 and 6 pupils.

I would also like to express heartfelt thanks for your generous support of our Easter Raffle and Penny Challenge organised by the Friends of St John's. Together, we raised over £700 with some of the money supporting Dorothy House, a local charity close to our heart that provides compassionate care and support for people with life-limiting illnesses. Your contributions will help make a real difference – thank you.

Before the break, we were blessed to share some very special moments as a school community. Thank you to all the mothers and motherly figures who joined us for the EYFS Mother's Day service – your presence made the occasion truly memorable for the children, and it was a beautiful celebration of the love and care you give every day.

We also want to commend our Year 5 and 6 pupils who led the Stations of the Cross reflection with such reverence, maturity, and thoughtfulness. Their leadership and reflection during this important part of our Lenten journey helped the whole school community prepare our hearts for Easter in a truly meaningful way.

As we look ahead to the summer term, we are excited to continue our weekly Book Club Fridays supported by the Friends of St John's Catholic Primary School. These sessions provide a wonderful opportunity for children to explore a love of reading, select a book alongside their friends, and build confidence in their literacy skills. We encourage all pupils to bring in a few pennies to save towards a book of their choice and enjoy the joy of reading!

As ever, we step into this new term with hope, joy, and a shared commitment to growing together in faith, learning, and love.

With every blessing,

Mrs O'Rourke

Dates For Your Diary 2025

Monday 5th May—May Day Bank Holiday

Thursday 8th May—LKS2 Trip to Trowbridge Library

Friday 9th May - Classes 6 & 7 Benediction in St. John's Church at 10.00am

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

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

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

Safety of Pupils

While the summer term is filled with opportunities for outdoor activities, school trips, and fun learning experiences, it's crucial that we remain vigilant in ensuring our children's safety, both in and out of school.

Here are a few key safeguarding reminders for the term ahead:

1. **Online Safety:** With the increased use of devices and social media, especially during school breaks, it's important to continue to talk to your child about staying safe online. Encourage them to be respectful and cautious when sharing information, and always remind them to speak to a trusted adult if they encounter anything unsettling or harmful.
2. **Supervision and Outdoor Safety:** As the weather improves, children are more likely to spend time outdoors. Please ensure your child is supervised while playing, particularly in unfamiliar areas. Talk to them about not going off with strangers and about playing in safe, well-populated areas.
3. **Mental Health and Wellbeing:** While the summer term is often an exciting time, some children may also feel anxious or stressed as the end of the school year approaches. If you notice any changes in behavior or emotional wellbeing, please do not hesitate to contact us so that we can offer support. Our staff are here to help and listen.

Emergency Contacts: Please ensure that we have the most up-to-date contact details for your family, including any changes in emergency contacts or medical information, so we can continue to provide the best care for your child. The office team would be delighted to hear from you if you need to update your details, ideally we will have three contacts in case of an emergency.

Let's work together to keep our children safe and happy throughout this busy and enjoyable term. If you have any concerns or would like advice regarding safeguarding, please do reach out to us. We're here to support you and your child.

Summer Uniform

During the summer term pupils are invited to wear the summer uniform.

A gold polo shirt with a logo and brown shorts should be worn with shoes or sandals (3/4 length shorts and Bermuda or surfing shorts are not acceptable). Socks must be worn at all times.

A yellow and white checked dress may be worn (white shorts may be worn under dress) with either white or dark shoes or sandals. Again socks must be worn at all times.

No children are allowed to wear trainers unless they are taking part in a PE lesson. Jewellery must not be worn with the exception of a watch and one small pair of stud earrings. Nail varnish and dyed hair is not allowed and fashion or extreme hairstyles are not permissible, long hair to be tied back.

OPAL

OPAL continues to enrich our lunch time play and the children are embracing a new approach with maturity and enthusiasm.

Recently we have introduced tyres, which has seen a whole new layer of creativity and challenge.



Huge **congratulations** to our most recent **Golden Welly winners**:

- ☐ Kacper Marziaz and Teddy Hughes – for showing fantastic resilience
 - ☐ Jubal Santosh and Alex Sijo – for excellent team work
- Keep up the great play!

Don't forget: Parents Stay and Play on Wednesday 4th June!



Desert to Garden – Wednesday 2nd April 2025

To celebrate Lent, on Wednesday 2nd April, our Years 5 and 6 pupils led prayerful reflections for the whole school, focusing on Jesus' final week on Earth – Holy Week. With clear Gospel readings, confident voices, and thoughtful leadership, the children guided the younger children through meaningful activities that brought the Easter story to life. Younger pupils commented on how brave, helpful, and inspiring the older pupils were. A huge well done to Years 5 and 6 for being such wonderful role models!



Birthdays This Week

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

Zofia W	Emilia K	Gabriel G	Jonah P
Devonte G	Jack D	Phoebe S	Theo K
Tabitha A	Raphael M	Amelie A	Freddie H
Dalia E	Zuzanna S	Simreet D	Sera S
Isla C	Blessing A	Camila W	Persephonie D
Lilly R	Liviah T	Margot F	Annabelle O
Teddy H	Joseph P		



Wednesday Word

Please find below the link to the **Wednesday Word** which can be copied and pasted into your browser. This week's word is the Easter holiday booklet.

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

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

Safeguarding Updates

This week we are highlighting what you need to know as parents/carers about Making Friends Online.

Please see the leaflet attached to this newsletter.

EYFS Mother's Day Celebration

On Friday 28th March Foundation Stage had a wonderful Mother's Day Celebration. The children showed their appreciation and love through song and prayer. There were not many dry eyes in the house!

