

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



NEWSLETTER DATED FRIDAY 28TH MARCH 2025

Dear Families,

I hope this newsletter finds you well. Term 4 continues to bring us new opportunities and we are thrilled with the progress the children are making in their faith journey, learning and of course play! Over the past few days we have been delighted to welcome three external visitors to work with the school team to monitor our outcomes and provide challenge. We make no apology of being highly ambitious for all children. The feedback from the visits included:

'Thank you for a great day working with your team at St John's Catholic Primary School. You are such a strong team and are always so reflective on how you can make learning the most effective for your children'. Ramsbury Hub Specialist Literacy Group, Department for Education

'Across all areas seen during my visit, there were clear threads that are building consistency in teaching and pedagogy. As a result, progress can be evidenced and pupils are enjoying their learning. The school is to be commended on the success of the implementation of OPAL.' Wiltshire Local Authority School Advisor

It goes without saying we are blessed with our dedicated and talented team of adults who constantly strive to improve outcomes for all children and develop the change makers and leaders of the future that our world so desperately needs.

As part of our ongoing commitment to the safety and well-being of all our pupils, I would like to take this opportunity to share some important updates and reminders regarding safeguarding at St John's Catholic School.

Keeping Our Children Safe

Safeguarding is at the heart of everything we do. We work hard to ensure that our school remains a safe and supportive environment where all children feel protected and valued. Our staff receive regular training on safeguarding procedures, and we encourage all members of our school community to be vigilant and proactive in promoting child welfare.

Online Safety

This week we have added additional information to the newsletter in connection to Online Safety - please do take the time to read. With children spending increasing amounts of time online, it is essential to remain aware of potential risks. We encourage parents to:

- Regularly check privacy settings on devices and social media platforms.
- Have open discussions about online safety and responsible internet use.
- Monitor the apps and websites children access to ensure they are age-appropriate.

We also teach online safety as part of our curriculum, empowering children to navigate the digital world safely.

Mental Health and Well-being

Supporting the emotional well-being of our pupils is a priority. We have a dedicated team that provides support to children who may need help managing their emotions, stress, or any concerns they may have. If you feel your child needs additional support, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Reporting Concerns

We all have a responsibility to safeguard children. If you have any concerns about a child's safety or well-being, please speak to our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), Mrs O'Mahony. Concerns can also be reported anonymously via our school safeguarding email address:

safeguarding@st-johns-trowbridge.wilts.sch.uk

Preventing Absenteeism and Promoting Attendance

Regular school attendance is crucial for a child's education and overall well-being. We kindly remind parents to inform the school immediately if their child is absent and to work with us to address any attendance concerns.

Holidays and long weekends away during term time can not be authorised, please continue to support our ambition for all children to achieve a minimum of 96% attendance rate.

Working Together

Safeguarding is a shared responsibility, and we appreciate the role parents and carers play in keeping children safe. By working together, we can ensure that our school remains a secure and nurturing place for all.

Thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our team.

Best wishes,

Mrs O'Rourke

Lent Penitential Service

Today the children and adults gathered together for our Penitential Celebration. The choir once again sang beautifully and the psalm was sung by four of our Year 5/6 girls. At this time during Lent we gather together and listen more closely to God's word, and reflect on our lives in the light of that word. It is also a time for contemplation, for being attentive to those things that at other times we cannot find time to focus on. The children showed great reverence throughout.



Dates For Your Diary 2025

Sunday 30th March—Children's Mass at 10.30am in St. John's Church

Thursday 3rd April—EYFS Trip to Trowbridge Library

Friday 4th April—Last day to order a meal for your child on the Aspens Select website for the First Day of Term 5

Friday 4th April—Last Day of Term 4

Monday 7th April—Monday 21st April—Easter Holidays

Tuesday 22nd April—T.D. Day. School is closed to all pupils

Wednesday 23rd April—First Day of Term 5

Friday 25th April—Class 8 Benediction in St. John's Church at 10.30am

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 10.30am

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

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

Dates for Your Diary

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

Easter Raffle

St. John's Catholic Primary School is hosting an Easter Raffle to support Dorothy House. The raffle will be drawn on Friday 4th April during Celebration Assembly. Year 5 and 6 Leaders will sell tickets near the outdoor classroom during break and lunchtimes throughout the week leading up to the raffle. Tickets are priced at 50p each or £2.00 for a strip. Prizes include Easter eggs, toys, and cuddly teddies.

Dorothy House is a wonderful local charity offering compassionate care and support for individuals with life-limiting illnesses, focusing on enhancing quality of life and providing comfort to patients and their families. The care the hospice provided for our dear friend and colleague Mr Smith will be forever remembered.

If any family would like to donate an Easter prize we would be delighted to receive them, please drop into the Office Team before Friday 4th April.

We invite all pupils and parents to participate in this meaningful event to support a very worthy cause.



Divine Mercy Novena led by Sinead Peacock.

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope this letter finds you well. As we continue our journey through the Easter season, I would like to take a moment to share with you the forthcoming celebration of **Divine Mercy Sunday** and the powerful devotion of the **Divine Mercy Novena**. Unusually this year, we will be at school during the novena and we would like to pray this together as a community.

What is Divine Mercy Sunday?

This feast was established by Pope Saint John Paul II, inspired by the visions of Saint Faustina Kowalska, a Polish nun who received revelations from Jesus about His boundless love and mercy for all. Divine Mercy Sunday, celebrated on the Sunday after Easter, is a day dedicated to God's unfathomable mercy. On this day, we are encouraged to trust in God's mercy, seek forgiveness, and extend mercy to others. Jesus Himself revealed to St. Faustina Kowalska that on this day, He offers extraordinary graces, promising that **any soul who approaches Him in trust, receives Holy Communion, and goes to Confession (within a reasonable time) will be completely forgiven of sins and punishment.** This is a profound gift of renewal and grace!

What is the Divine Mercy Novena?

In preparation for this special day, we also encourage you to take part in the **Divine Mercy Novena**, which begins on **Good Friday** and lasts for nine days. Each day, we pray for different souls as Jesus instructed St. Faustina, leading us to a deeper understanding of His love and mercy.

Join Us in Prayer

To help deepen our understanding and experience of Divine Mercy, we invite you to join us in the prayer garden on **Wednesday 23rd, Thursday 24th and Friday 25th April at 14:55** to learn how to pray the **Divine Mercy Chaplet**. This is a wonderful opportunity to come together as a faith community, reflect on God's mercy, and grow in prayer.

We hope you can join us for this special time of prayer. A leaflet with more details and the novena prayers will be sent home next week. We encourage you to take this opportunity to grow in faith together as a family. May the mercy of Jesus fill your hearts and homes with peace and grace.

God bless,

Mrs S Peacock

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5pdnzUjmkzA> The Divine Mercy Chaplet

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HKlOLyYs3Os> The Divine Mercy Chaplet (Sung)

<https://divinemercyapostolate.co.uk/> For further information

OPAL Update: A Week of Fantastic Play and Stewardship!

This week in OPAL, we've had some truly wonderful playtimes! The children have been making the most of their time outside, demonstrating incredible creativity, teamwork, and, most importantly, a real sense of stewardship for the earth. It has been inspiring to see how they care for their environment while enjoying all the fun OPAL has to offer.

One of the most heart-warming aspects of OPAL continues to be the mixed-age play. Since we introduced OPAL, we've seen children of all ages playing together, learning from one another, and forming strong friendships. Lunchtime play has never been better, and it's a joy to see everyone so engaged and happy.



A huge **congratulations** to our most recent **Golden Welly winners**:

□ **Class 5** – For winning OPAL Bingo!

□ **Marlow G** – For being a wonderful friend to others and helping with wellies.

□ **Nancy D, Freddie P, Mollie H, Aubree P, Amelia G, Phoebe S, Eloise O, and Hattie T** – For choosing to do litter picking during playtime and showing great care for our school environment.

Moving forward, we will be celebrating our **Golden Welly winners** in each newsletter. It's been fantastic to see the children embracing OPAL so enthusiastically, and we look forward to sharing more of their achievements with you!



Chapel Champions Litter Pick

Our Chapel Champions spent time this afternoon being Stewards for the Environment by litter picking along Wingfield Road.

Altogether they collected 5 bags of rubbish.

Thank you for helping to keep the areas around our school tidy.



Class 7 Violin Concert

On Tuesday 25th March the children of Class 7 put on a great music extravaganza using violins, voices and sunglasses! There were songs from different cultures - a tango dance, a Hollywood theme song and a Gaelic ballad. Also, as some children from Class 7 participate in violin lessons, there were solos, duets as well as a class ensemble. The staff were impressed at the progress the children had made over two terms and this is credit to the children and Charlotte the music teacher, who has guided them throughout. Many parents and other relatives turned out to watch in a great reflection of the strength of our school family and the support the parents of our children give to it.



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	James C
Frankie R	Liberty S
Joanna S	Rolisha M
Aaron K	Tobi A
Amelia G	Ethan M



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 CHANGE.

<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 week's word is FORGIVENESS.

<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.

Online Safety

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

Please see the leaflets attached to this newsletter.

PHSE and RSE Parent Presentation

We would like to invite you to a Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE) and Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Parent presentation on Monday 28th April at 2.15pm in the school hall. We will share with you the schools curriculum and have time for discussion and questions.

Please find attached to the newsletter a letter that was previously emailed to you with the link to the form for you to complete if you would like to attend.

Governor News

Dear Parents and Carers

As we move into the second half of the school year, it is a good time to say hello and write an update.

We continue to support Mrs O'Rourke and the school team. While the school team are operational, we governors are strategic and so often operate behind the scenes and in areas such as safeguarding, health and safety, finance and monitoring performance.

In finance we secured funding to upgrade Lower Key Stage 2 toilets, which we hope will happen during the summer holidays.

In supporting the OPAL scheme, we have seen amazing welfare benefits for both the children and staff

We are about to welcome a new foundation governor. We have a vacancy for a parent governor.

If you are interested in finding out about the role, please contact me via the school office or email

chair@st-johns-trowbridge.wilts.sch.uk

As volunteers, for governors there are rewards for the time and effort required, such as: -

Seeing every child reach their potential which will carry them forward in life.

Supporting the school professional team.

Being part of a school family that are very respected in the diocese, the parish and the local community.

Governors are always pleased to meet parents and hear how well the children are.

Joining a skilled team focused on creating the best learning environment for children is highly rewarding.

As we continue to the end of our Lenten Journey the Governors wish you A Very Happy and Blessed Easter.

Best Wishes

Mike Simmons

Chair of Governors