

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



NEWSLETTER DATED FRIDAY 7TH FEBRUARY 2025

Dear Families,

I hope this newsletter finds you well. We are continuing to have a fantastic term during this Jubilee year, and I would like to take this opportunity to share some highlights and upcoming events with you.

We are incredibly proud of our pupils for their enthusiasm and dedication to learning. This term, our Year 5 and 6 have been taking part in challenging learning in RE focussed on the Transfiguration, exploring the wonders of scripture and linking to their lives today. The quality and their depth of knowledge is very impressive. Meanwhile, pupils in Lower Key Stage 2 have been getting creative with drama and art, producing some wonderful drama based on Luke's scripture and also making their very own stunning Class Rosary. Photo attached! EYFS and KS1 are working hard every day with a particular focus on their phonic skills, reading and handwriting - we are all so impressed with the effort and resilience they are showing. Please keep reading with your child every day - it really does unlock access to the whole curriculum!

OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) during lunchtime continues to develop and I am incredibly appreciative of the parents support and suggestions for future developments. The children are provided with rich daily opportunities to play outside but in addition to this offer the school lunchtime does include the children having access to the school chapel, school library and lunchtime club - which are all currently held inside the building. In addition we welcome children having the option to wear waterproof overalls or their own clothes during the lunch break - particularly if you believe this would support them in their play.

Upcoming Events

Opening of Our School Prayer Garden: On Friday 14th February families who have donated towards the creation of our school prayer garden are invited to attend an official opening of this beautiful space within our school site. The Chapel Champions along with the School Choir will lead the service and we are delighted to welcome Fr Richard and Mrs Tracey Sessions to join the school family during the afternoon. We look forward to every child being able to access this space from Term 4 onwards.

Safer Internet Day: Tuesday 25th February will be celebrated during the school day with the theme “Too good to be true”? How can we learn to protect ourselves and others from scams online.

Year 4 SKERN Residential: Children in Year 4 will depart on the morning of Friday 28th February and return to school on the afternoon of Sunday 2nd March after a fun packed weekend.

Parents’ Evening: Taking place on Tuesday March 11th and Thursday March 20th from 3.30pm - 6.00pm. This is a great opportunity to discuss your child’s progress with their teacher. Further information will be provided with booking online at the beginning of Term 4.

World Book Day: Thursday 6th March, this will be a fun packed day focussed on the love of reading and children are invited to come to school dressed as their favourite book character. Please encourage your child to start thinking about their favourite characters from the books they love. More details to follow.

Feast Day Mass: Friday 7th March at 9.15am celebrated in the St John the Baptist Parish Church - all welcome!

Reminders

Please ensure your child arrives at school on time every day - school gates open at 8.30am and close at 8.45am

School uniform must be worn daily; if you need assistance, please contact the office.

A huge thank you to all parents and carers for your continued support. Your involvement in our school community is invaluable, and we appreciate everything you do to support your child’s learning. Particular thank you to the Parent Representatives who dedicate their own time to work in partnership with the school and strengthen our wonderful community.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don’t hesitate to get in touch.

Warm regards,

Mrs K O'Rourke



Dates For Term 3 and 4 2025

Tuesday 11th February—KS2 Dance Festival at the Bath Forum

Thursday 13th February—EYFS Trip to Trowbridge Museum

Friday 14th February—Opening of the Prayer Garden—Invited Guests Only

Friday 14th February—Last Day of Term 3

Monday 24th February—First Day of Term 4

Friday 28th February—Sunday 2nd March—Year 4 Residential Trip to Skern

Wednesday 5th March—Ash Wednesday Service in School

Thursday 6th March—World Book Day—More details to follow

Friday 7th March—Feast Day Mass at 9.15am celebrated in the St John the Baptist Parish Church - all welcome!

New House Saints

We are updating our house Saints to better reflect modern life and inspire our children in meaningful ways. While our traditional saints have guided us well, we want to choose Saints whose lives and missions connect more directly with today's world—especially in areas like technology, social justice and caring for the environment.

For example, alongside beloved Saints like **St. Francis of Assisi**, who teaches us about respect for nature, we will have **Blessed Carlo Acutis**, a role model for using technology for good. These changes will help our children see how faith can be lived out in today's world. The colours of the House groups your child is currently in will remain the same.

Saint Rose (Red) = Blessed Carlo Acutis (To be canonized a Saint on 27th April 2025)

Saint Dominic (Yellow) = Saint Don Bosco

Saint Anthony (Green) = Saint Francis of Assisi

Saint Teresa (Blue) = St Mother Teresa

In our assembly today, the house captains encouraged the children to research their new house Saint at home and share with them anything they found out.

Thank you for your support as we continue to grow in faith together!

Leaders in Faith Award.

Congratulations to the following children who has earned these awards:

Bronze Award: Kimpreet D

Silver Award: Amy-Teresa J

Joshua S



The certificates were presented in Praise Assembly on Friday.

OPAL at St. John's



Follow us on Facebook OPAL at St John's.

Have a look at some of the amazing activities pupils participated in during the last 2 weeks. They were a lot of fun!



Get ready to play... OPAL BINGO

Acorns 	Baking pans 	Cake moulds 	Measuring spoons 	Strainers 
Baskets 	Suitcases 	Old Wellies 	Containers 	Chalk 
Toy Cars 	Balls – all kinds! 	Funnels 	Egg cartons 	Old electronics 
Pool noodles 	Assorted pipes 	Leaves 	Gravel and pebbles 	Sinks and tubs 
Jugs 	Pots 	Colanders 	Small toys/ figures 	Watering cans 

How it will work:

Everyday a member of the play team will be out on the playground at 8:30 with the donations bags.

We will tick off your class and item as you bring in donations.

You don't have to cross off the whole sheet – at the end of 2 x weeks, the class with the most items crossed off will win.

Monday 24th February will be the last collection day!

You have over half term too.

NO ONE needs to buy anything – it's all recyclable materials/ things you can find for free. Remember though – if you donate something it's to go into the loose parts collection for EVERYONE to play with – you won't get it back.

A member of the play team will also be in the EYFS playground in the mornings so Class 1 & 2 can play too!

KS1 Liturgies

KS1 have all celebrated their Class Liturgies in the last two weeks.

Fr Richard led the liturgies supported by Mr Almeda on the piano.

The children were very keen to display their knowledge of the Jubilee Year of Hope and showed poems and art work they had created at the launch the week before.

Pupils in the classes led the Readings, Gospel and Bidding Prayers speaking clearly for their audience and sang beautifully.

The Liturgies were supported by lots of parents and family to make the occasion a wonderful success. Well done.



Visit To St. John's By The Police

EYFS, UKS2 and KS1 were visited by the police this week. They learnt about how they help us and how to stay safe.



Ordering of Hot Meals on the Aspens Select Website for Term 4

A reminder that if you order a meal for your child on the Aspens Select website and would like them to have a hot lunch for the first day of Term 4 (Monday 24th February) you must place your order by **4pm on Friday 14th February**. Any orders placed after this date will not be included in the kitchen's numbers and you will be asked to provide a packed lunch for your child.

Thank you

KS1 Roller Skating Workshop

Class 4 Year 2's loved their roller skating workshop. They all got dressed in the protective clothing to keep them safe and listened carefully to the instructors. I was so amazed by their bravery and resilience, getting back up after a fall or stumble and trying again. I was especially proud when I witnessed classmates helping each other. Encouraging words as well as physically helping their friends to stand up and take first steps around the hall. Great experience for all!

Class 5 also had an exciting opportunity recently to try their hand at roller skating. The children impressed us with their determination and enthusiasm. Despite lots of falling over they continued to practice the technique, and were soon skating from cone to cone, clearly having a lot of fun in the process. Well done Class 5, you were amazing!



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 is **HOPE**.

<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 **FOLLOW**.

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

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

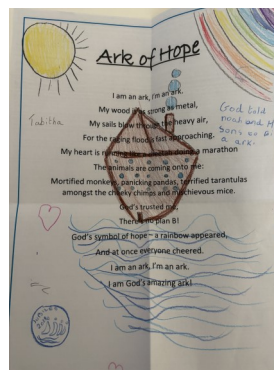
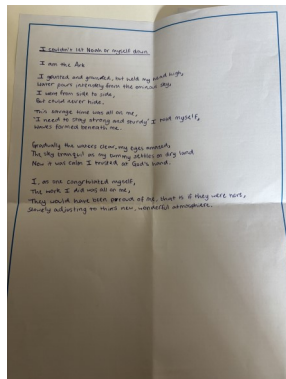
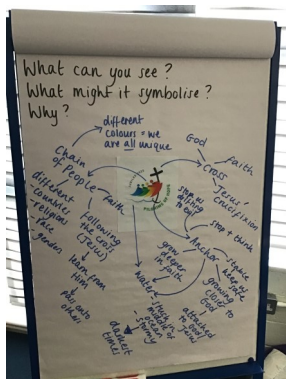
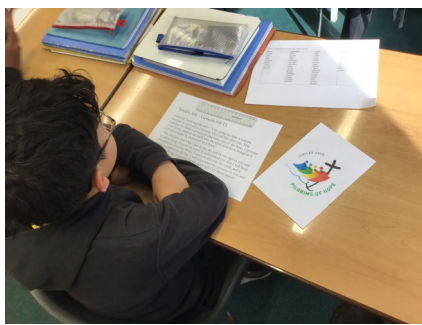
Jubilee Launch Day – A Celebration of Hope

Last Friday, our school community came together to celebrate the launch of the Jubilee Year, focusing on the theme of hope. Each class explored the story of Noah's Ark, reflecting on what they are hopeful for in their own lives. The children responded to the scripture with beautiful artwork and thoughtful poetry, showcasing their creativity and faith.

Beyond the classroom, some of our Year 5 & 6 Chapel Champions led a special reflection in the school hall. Classes visited throughout the day, taking time to reflect and contribute to a collaborative whole-school art piece—a meaningful expression of our shared hopes.

It was a truly inspiring start to what promises to be an exciting and enriching year.

A heartfelt thank you to all the parents and family members who visited classrooms to engage with the children about their learning. Your support and involvement make these moments even more special.



Birthdays This Week

During Celebration Assembly we celebrated all children who have had birthdays and presented them with a St. John's birthday pencil.

Pupils

Adam W	Jacob L	Alexander D
Mylo G	Rose B	Joshua S
Litiana V	Kimpreet D	Trixiana W
Lilhe N	Lucas N A	Johan S
Toby F	Alicja P	Briendon A

