

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



NEWSLETTER DATED FRIDAY 8th NOVEMBER 2024

Dear Families,

I very much hope you all managed to enjoy some quality family time together during the October break. The children have returned to school life looking very smart in their winter uniform and have settled well into the school routines. We are looking forward to a busy term full of new opportunities and challenges inside and outside the classroom. This term is always full of excitement and anticipation with the knowledge of the days towards Advent and Christmas not far away!

At the end of Term 1 we celebrated our whole school Harvest Service - celebrating God's gift to us of our beautiful world. It was the first time that children in EYFS were able to join a school service and they were fantastic – listening and joining in with the singing. It was a beautiful celebration led by the Year 5 & 6 children who showed reverence and were great role models to their peers. At the end of the day we gathered together on the outside playground to complete our 'Harvest Cereal Dominoes Challenge' which was such fun! The Year 6 children counted over 165 boxes of cereals which have now been delivered to the Trowbridge Foodbank. Thank you again to all the families who generously contributed cereals to this wonderful cause.

The week ahead provides an exciting opportunity for many of our Year 6 children who will be going on the residential trip from Monday to Friday to Skern, North Devon. We wish the children and staff a safe and exciting week away from their family homes but adventure and new opportunities with their school family. We look forward to hearing all about their successes.

This week I was delighted to meet with the Parent Representatives from each year group. Each group of parents brought valid ideas and suggestions including how we can further develop the school community. Further information will be shared across the term.

On Monday 11th November we will be marking Armistice Day with a short service at 11.00am in the school hall. We are delighted that one of our talented musical parents will be leading us in playing the last post. I am sure this will be a powerful reminder of the importance of recognising the sacrifice of those that have gone before us over the generations.

The coming week is nationally celebrated as 'Anti Bullying Week' in schools across the country, please see attachments included with the newsletter. On Tuesday we will be marking this important theme by inviting children and adults to wear 'odd socks' reminding us that we are all unique and we need to respect and celebrate the dignity of the human person. This is an important message we are always reflecting on through our Catholic Social Teaching themes.

Finally details of Mr Smith's funeral have now been shared by the Smith family. The funeral will be held on Saturday 23rd November at 2.15pm at West Wiltshire Crematorium. Families are invited to follow the live stream. Family flowers only but donations are welcome to Dorothy House and Albion In The Community. Of course we keep the Smith family in our prayers during this time. In the future months ahead we will gather together as a school family to celebrate the life, talents and gifts of Mr Smith.

Wishing you all a peaceful, safe and enjoyable weekend together.

Best wishes,

Mrs O'Rourke

Chaplaincy Commissioning Service on Friday 8th November 2024

Congratulations to the Choir and Chapel Champions for representing St. John's School so well at the Chaplaincy Commissioning Service at Clifton Cathedral.

You were a credit to our school.

There are rumours that the choir will be booked for another event next year!

Mike Simmons

Chair of Governors

Diary Dates For Term 2

Tuesday 12th November—Maths Workshop for parents of pupils in EYFS at 8.50am.

Friday 22nd November—St. John's Book Fair

Saturday 23rd November—Open Day 9.am—12pm. Please phone school to book a time slot.—everyone welcome! Please share with family and friends.

Thursday 28th November—Advent Penitential Service in School Hall

Wednesday 4th December—Open Day 9.30am—2.30pm. Please phone school to book a time slot—every welcome! Please share with family and friends.

Tuesday 17th December—EYFS Nativity in Church

Thursday 19th December—Whole School Carol Service in Church



AUTUMN TERM OPEN DAYS

FOR ADMISSION SEPTEMBER 2025

Friday 20th September

Meet The Headteacher, Stay & Play

2.00pm-3.00pm

Thursday 10th October 9.30am-2.30pm

Saturday 23rd November 9.00am-12.00pm

Wednesday 4th December 9.30am-2.30pm

Please contact the school office on **01225 752006** or email **admin@st-johns-trowbridge.wilts.sch.uk** to book a visit.

www.st-johns-trowbridge.wilts.sch.uk

St John's Catholic Primary School, Wingfield Road, Trowbridge, BA14 9EA

At St John's we grow and learn in the footsteps of Jesus.

Please read the poem that one of our talented Year 5 leaders wrote and wanted to share.

Anti Bullying

It's day and it's light and the star is shimmering in the sky.

We are here to stop bullying in this school - People that try to stop bullying let them rule!

A new day to let my adventure begin!

No stop stop bullying him!

Thank you for making them stop.

In this school no bullying is allowed.

Because it can hurt them physically - unfortunately it can also hurt them emotionally!

Online Safety

This week we are highlighting what you need to know as parents/carers about Horror Films and Age Rating.

Please see the leaflet attached to this newsletter.

Year 6 Leavers Hoodies

A reminder that the deadline to order the Year 6 Leavers Hoodies is 12pm this Sunday 10th November 2024. Please use the link below to make your colour and size choices:

<https://www.leavershoodies.com/st-johns-catholic-primary-school-2025-yr6-leavers>

Christmas Lunch on Wednesday 11th December 2024

Aspens will be providing a Christmas Lunch on Wednesday 11th December.

If you have already ordered a meal for your child on this date, please check the website as the order may have been placed with the old menu and therefore it has now been deleted. If so, please re-order by **4pm on Friday 6th December 2024**.

No orders after this time will be recognised by the kitchen after this date.

If you haven't registered on the Aspens website to order any meals before, but your child would like to have the Christmas meal, please contact the office for the registration codes you will need to book the lunch.

Event For Parents: Play Every Day!

Next week, on Wednesday 13 November, we're holding a [short webinar for parents](#) to talk about the power of play and help them make play part of every day for their child.

At the event, OPAL Director Michael Follett will explore some of the key benefits of play, look at how playwork theory can support parents, and share his top tips for play at home.

Play for every child

This event is part of OPAL's commitment to making play part of every child's life and is fundraising to support [Project Play](#), a wonderful organisation that provides safe spaces to play for displaced children in Northern France.

This webinar is free to attend, but we encourage participants to [make a suggested donation of £10 to Project Play's fundraiser](#), which is being match funded by OPAL CIC.

Please can you share with your parents in whatever way you can? To help, I have included some text to use on social media:

X

If any of our parents are interested in learning more about the power of play and want to get top tips for play at home, @OPAL_CIC is running a short webinar next week. Book your free place ☐
<https://bit.ly/4fgpQKK>

#PlayForEveryChild

Facebook/LinkedIn

If any of our parents are interested in learning more about the power of play and want to get top tips for play at home, Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) CIC is running a short webinar next week that you might be interested in. OPAL Director Michael Follett will be exploring some of the key benefits of play and sharing his top tips for play at home.

Find out more and book your free place here: <https://bit.ly/4fgpQKK>

#PlayForEveryChild #OPALSchools #PlanForPlay #Parents #PrimarySchools

If you're a parent yourself, we would love for you to join us too!

RE Teaching – Term 2

We continue to move into the Liturgical year, moving into two seasons we know well: Advent and Christmas. I hope this time of preparing for and celebrating the birth of Jesus into the world is a time for you to share some activities and rituals which the seasons bring.

The religious education unit for all children in this half term includes 3 areas of study.

The first is Advent, when we remember and learn about the rituals, from light purple to the O Antiphons, that are part of the traditions of the Church. The season of Advent is when we move to a new Gospel and so your children will be introduced to, or reminded of, the Gospel of Luke. This brings us into alignment with the Church, who call Luke's year, Year C.

The second content area is the Infancy narrative of Luke – so don't be surprised if you don't hear about wise men! The focus for each phase shifts a little according to the new Religious Education Directory, but includes the Magnificat, the presence of angels, and the role of women, who like Mary, make a difference, now.

The third content area is Christmas. Pupils will again return to the traditions of this season as they discuss, describe, explain and evaluate whether Christmas now really is the commemoration of the birth of Jesus, or not!

I trust this half term bring you the blessings of Advent and Christmas, patience in the chaos, joy in the waiting and love in the celebrating.

National Numeracy Confidence Week

This week we mark 'National Numeracy Confidence Week' and have attached an excellent resource that you are invited to use at home with your child. We all use maths every day, often without realising it. Helping your child feel confident about maths now gives them a head start. This week we mark 'National Numeracy Confidence Week' and have attached an excellent resource that you are invited to use at home with your child. We all use maths every day, often without realising it. Helping your child feel confident about maths now gives them a head start. Use the advice and resources attached to help you support your children at home.

'The effect of parental involvement at home was stronger than that of either socio-economic status or parents' level of education.'

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.

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

<https://www.paperturn-view.com/wednesday-word/gift?pid=MTA101634&v=153.3>

St. John's Book Fair 2024



This term will be a chance to celebrate the school's "Love of Reading" by buying new books at below the normal retail price found in the shops. The school is running a Book Fair on

Friday 22nd November 2.30pm-3.30pm in the Hall.

There is also a competition to win a voucher of £5 to go towards buying a book at the Fair. Children need to design a poster that encourages children to read for pleasure. Please encourage your child to do this at home. All entries to be handed in by **Wednesday 20th November** (please hand to your teacher).

Parents are invited to pick their children up at 2.30pm from the doors on the inner playground and take them to the Hall to view and buy books on the day of the Book Fair. Please note, parents that are able to do this must be prompt when picking up their child at 2.30pm. Once they have visited the Fair, parents can take their child home.

Parents who cannot attend at 2.30pm will be able to pick their children up at the normal time and visit the Fair but please be aware it closes at 3.30pm.

Children will bring home a "wish list" during the week of the Fair. They will get a chance to look at the books on offer throughout the week. This will allow parents to make decisions about what is affordable. The Fair will accept payments in cash and card on the day.

Birthdays This Week

We would like to wish all children who have had birthdays last week, this week, or will celebrate over the weekend a very HAPPY BIRTHDAY.

Pupils will receive their pencils in Celebration Assembly today.

Pupils

Daniel G	Lily T	Ruby M
Douglas R	Oskar K	William S
Thomas H	Sophia B	Hannah N
Natalia P	Zara K	Aubree T
Austin U	Francesco O	Starla W
Alicja S	Caleb C	Esme C
Louis C	Aleia F	Jerome A
Sara G	Hazel S	Mari G
Luca O'N-C	Nenyasha J	Nikki O



Lessons, Activities and Events Taken Place During These Last Two Weeks

