

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



NEWSLETTER DATED FRIDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER 2026

Message from the Head Teacher

Five Weeks In – What a Fantastic Start!

It is hard to believe that we are already five weeks into the new academic year. The school has been full of energy, enthusiasm and excitement, and it has been wonderful to see our children settling into their new classes, building relationships and embracing all that school has to offer.

We have also been fortunate to welcome a number of visitors into school over the past few weeks. These visits give us a valuable opportunity to reflect on our work, celebrate the progress we are making and consider what we can do next to make our school even better.

One of our visitors was our Wiltshire Local Authority School Improvement Adviser. Following her visit, she shared some incredibly positive feedback about our school and, in particular, the culture, relationships and commitment to learning that she observed.

She described our school as:

“A school with a strong ethos and culture which puts the children at the heart of all that is done.”

This is something we are particularly proud of. Our children are at the centre of every decision we make, and it is lovely when visitors recognise the care, commitment and sense of community that we see every day.

Our adviser also recognised the impact of the professional development and support that our staff receive. She noted that this has **“raised the quality of teaching and learning and expectations across the school”**, something which can be seen not only in our outcomes, but also in the enthusiasm of both staff and pupils for learning.

We were also pleased that she recognised the breadth of opportunities we provide for our children beyond the classroom. We want our pupils to develop their knowledge and skills, but also their confidence, curiosity, independence and sense of belonging. Every child challenged to be a change maker and leader for the good of society.

A curriculum with purpose

Another important area highlighted was our curriculum. Our leaders have worked hard to make thoughtful decisions about what we teach and how we teach it, ensuring that our curriculum supports teachers to develop their subject knowledge while giving children opportunities to build their knowledge, skills and understanding over time. Recently we have had a particular curriculum focus on the arts - including a rich and challenging Music, Design and Technology and Art curriculum.

This is particularly important to us. We want children to remember what they learn, make connections between different areas of their learning and develop a genuine enthusiasm for finding things out.

Of course, no school stands still. Our adviser also recognised that we are clear about the areas we need to develop further and that appropriate support is in place where there are areas for development. We have ambitious plans for the next stage of our journey, and these are clearly set out in our School Development Plan.

Relationships really do matter

Perhaps one of the comments that means the most to us is that **“relationships are strong across the whole school community”** and that **“all feel valued and supported.”**

Schools are about people. They are about children feeling safe, known and cared for; staff feeling valued and able to do their very best; and families feeling that they are part of the school community.

We know that this doesn't happen by accident. It is built through the small things we do every day – welcoming each other in the morning, listening to children, celebrating their achievements, supporting one another when things are difficult and working together as a community.

Looking ahead

Five weeks in, there is already so much to celebrate, but there is also plenty to look forward to. The children have a busy and exciting term ahead, with learning, residential visits, clubs, sporting opportunities, creative activities and many more experiences planned.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We are incredibly proud of our children and grateful to have such a supportive school community around them.

We look forward to everything the rest of this autumn term will bring!

With every blessing

Mrs O'Rourke

Upcoming Dates

Date	Day	Year Groups	Item
6/10/26	Tue	All	Parents Evening
6/10/26	Tue		Faithfulness Class Mass
7/10/26	Wed	6	Bikeability Group 1 Starts
8/10/26	Thu	6	Bikeability Group 2 Starts
9/10/26	Fri	6	Trowbridge Youth Council
15/10/26	Thu	All	Parents Evening
20/10/26	Tue	EYFS	Welcome Service & Parents Pilgrimage for EYFS (Hall)
21/10/26	Wed	All	Last day of school (Term 1)

Half Term

2/11/26	Mon	All	First day of School (Term 2)
11/11/26	Tue	6	Skern Residential
10/11/26	Tue		Kindness Class Mass
27/11/26	Fri	All	Teacher Training Day (No School)
2/12/26	Wed	3/4	Stonehenge trip
8/12/26	Wed		Patience Class Mass
10/12/26	Thu	EYFS	Nativity at Church
17/12/26	Thu	All	Whole School Carol Concert

Communication with school

Please note the following email addresses for contacting the school.

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

General school enquiries, messages to be passed to teachers, bookings questions

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

Reporting sensitive information

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

Safeguarding questions and concerns, in and out of school

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

Questions costs/making school affordable for all

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

Reporting an absence

Harvest Service

Our Harvest Service was a wonderful celebration of our school community coming together. The children, including our EYFS friends, gathered as a whole school to sing beautifully and reflect on the importance of creation and giving thanks for the world around us.



Following the service, everyone headed out to the playground for our much-loved annual Harvest Domino Challenge! We were delighted to collect an incredible 271 boxes of cereal - a fantastic achievement!



A huge thank you to everyone who contributed. All of the cereal will be donated to Trowbridge Storehouse Foodbank, helping to support local families in our community.



Katrina Hart Visit

visit! As you'll see, they all worked really hard (including the teachers) and learned some really important and inspiring lessons from their athlete. If you've not sponsored your child yet, now is a great time to reward them for their hard work. You can sponsor them here: <https://sportal.greatathletes.org/events/landing>



Remember, you're raising money for new sports equipment for our school to improve levels of physical activity!

You still have a week to bring in your sponsorship money. Please bring any forms with cash (in an envelope) to the school office.



First Holy Communion Mass

We would like to say a heartfelt thank you to all the children, families and staff who made our First Holy Communion Mass such a beautiful and special occasion.

The children sang beautifully and did a wonderful job as readers, showing confidence and reverence throughout the Mass. We are incredibly proud of them.

A special thank you to all the parents and families who attended and supported the children on this very important and memorable day. Your presence made the celebration even more meaningful.

If you are currently in Year 3 or above and would like to make your First Holy Communion, please speak to **Fr Richard** for more information.

Well done to all our First Holy Communion children!



The National Conversation

At school we will be talking to the children about 'The National Conversation'. Please see further information below to support your child.

Help young people have their say in a major UK-wide listening exercise The National Conversation: The Next Generation gives children and young people aged 16 and under the opportunity to have their say on the country they want to see, and how we can live well together. It is part of

The National Conversation, a major UK-wide listening exercise inviting people across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to share their experiences of community life, belonging, connection and what helps communities thrive. The insights gathered will help inform the work of the Independent Commission on Community and Cohesion. Schools and youth organisations can take part using a free, ready-to-use toolkit designed for teachers and youth leaders.

The activities help children and young people explore the communities they are part of, what helps people feel they belong, what can leave people feeling excluded or divided, and their ideas for making communities stronger. The toolkit is simple and flexible. It can be used in classrooms, tutor time, assembly follow-ups, school councils, youth clubs, enrichment sessions or wider youth voice activities. Join the conversation: download the toolkit and resources at thenationalconversation.org.uk/youngpeople.

Healthy Eating Reminder

As a Healthy School, we encourage healthy eating throughout the school day and aim to promote positive attitudes towards food and wellbeing.

We would like to remind families that the school is unable to facilitate the handing out of sweets or treats for birthdays or other celebrations during the school day.

If parents would like to organise sweets or treats as part of a birthday or other celebration, this will need to be arranged and led by the family, rather than being facilitated by school staff.

Thank you for your understanding and for supporting our commitment to promoting healthy choices.

Year 5 Art Trip to Roche Park

The rains stopped, the storm clouds were swept away and the sun shone for the Year 5's trip to Roche Court Sculpture Park. The scale and beauty of the sculptures on show were complemented by the parks and the surrounding countryside's own majesty. It was truly worth the long coach ride to and from Trowbridge. The children were given time to draw, learn new words related to the visual and conceptual aspects of the works of art. They also shared their impressions of the works with the facilitators. We were also introduced to the owner, Lady Besborough who set up the park. She wanted to learn all our names but only found out about 6 as the clock was ticking and we had to get back to school.



OPAL Update

The children have returned to school and settled straight back into OPAL play, embracing every opportunity to explore, create and have fun together. It has been particularly lovely to see our youngest members of the school community in EYFS playing alongside older children – a true reflection of our Catholic Social Teaching theme of Family and Community.



This term, we have enjoyed watching some fantastic theatre performances, complete with enthusiastic audiences, regular den building and impressive, high-walled sand constructions! The children continue to amaze us with their ingenuity!



We have also introduced our new yellow welly/shoe system, which helps children know whether wellies or shoes are needed to access the field. During the drier weather, many children have enjoyed making the most of this wonderful space.

It has been a fantastic start to Term 1, and we look forward to seeing where the children's imagination and creativity take their play next!

Parent Consultation

There have been some changes to the statutory guidance which will be implemented from September 2026. At St Johns, we have been using The **Life to the Full**. As a part of the meeting, we will share overviews of what your child will learn in each year group. **Life to the Full** is intended to be partnership between home, school and church.

Life to the Full is much more than a series of lessons. It is an entire platform of creative resources that will engage, inform and inspire our children and, indeed, you as parents. This includes interactive video content, story-based activities, employing a wide range of teaching tools, original worship music and an accompanying programme of classroom prayers.

In addition, there is an online parent platform so that you, as parent and carers, can engage with the teaching and deepen the experience for your child. To access the online parent platform please visit: www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-portal

School Username: st-john-ba14

School Password: flying-plane

We would like to invite you to parent meeting on **Monday 12 October at 8.40am** in the school hall. If you would like to attend, please email admin@st-johns-trowbridge.wilts.sch.uk

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Wednesday Word

Messenger

“Let the message of Christ live in you.”

St Paul



A Safe Space to Grow

Our Nurture Room is a warm and welcoming space where children can feel safe, supported and listened to. We provide extra support with emotions, friendships, confidence and challenges they may experience both at school and at home.

Through nurturing activities, games and conversations, children develop emotional awareness, resilience and positive relationships, while learning strategies they can use in everyday life.

We are proud to see children grow in confidence, become more settled and feel better equipped to manage life's ups and downs.

A little support can make a big difference — helping every child feel valued, confident and ready to flourish.

Attendance Matters

We are encouraging every child to be an Attendance Hero!

Congratulations

95.5% Attendance this week

98.8% Attendance by Wisdom Class



Birthdays

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

Pupils

Mia S	Alfred W	Freya B
Pola	Max P	Zofia M
Noah W	Oliver P	
Alex S	Harry W	



The following pupils have achieved these Doodle Streaks in Doodle Maths:

1500 Days	Aaron K
1000 Days	
250 Days	Maia P
	Amelia A
100 Days	
50 Days	Elena D

Here are the Top Doodling Class at St John's Catholic Primary School for:
Week **Ending 2nd October 2026**: Faithfulness (83%)