



School Newsletter

NEWSLETTER DATED FRIDAY 16th OCTOBER 2026

Message from the Head Teacher

St John's Catholic Primary School, Trowbridge - Celebrating 100 Years of Faith, Learning and Community

January – December 2027

Dear Families,

The St John's Catholic School community is preparing for a very special milestone in 2027 as we celebrate **100 years of faith, learning, friendship and community in Trowbridge**. Throughout the year, we will come together to honour our rich heritage, give thanks for the many blessings we have received and look forward with hope and excitement to the next 100 years of Catholic education.

A centenary is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the generations of children, families, staff and governors who have contributed to the life of St John's. It is also a chance to recognise the lasting impact of those who first worked to establish Catholic education in our town and to celebrate the values that continue to shape our school today.

A proud history rooted in faith

The story of Catholic education in Trowbridge is closely connected to the dedication and vision of the **Sisters of St John of God**, whose commitment to education helped create opportunities for children and families within the local community. Through their faith, service and determination, the Sisters played an important role in laying the foundations for Catholic education in the town.

Their legacy is reflected in the mission of St John's today: to provide an education rooted in Gospel values, where every child is valued, encouraged to flourish and supported to develop their God-given gifts and talents. "We grow and learn in the footsteps of Jesus"

Over the past century, generations of pupils have passed through the doors of St John's, building friendships, discovering their abilities and developing the knowledge, confidence and values that have helped shape their lives. The school has grown and changed alongside the community it serves, but its Catholic foundation remains at the heart of all that it does.

As we approach this significant anniversary, we remember with gratitude all those who have helped make St John's the school it is today. We give thanks for the Sisters of St John of God, for past and present staff, for our families, parish community, governors, volunteers and, above all, for the children who bring our school to life each day.

A year of celebration and thanksgiving

Our centenary celebrations will run from January to December 2027, with a programme of special events designed to bring our whole school community together.

Wednesday 6 January 2027 – Epiphany Mass and the launch of our centenary year

We will begin our celebrations with a whole-school Mass for the Feast of the Epiphany. This special occasion will mark the official launch of our centenary year, bringing our community together in prayer and thanksgiving. Every child will be presented with a special centenary badge, giving them a lasting memento of this important milestone and a reminder that they are part of the continuing story of St John's.

Tuesday 13 July 2027 – Centenary Mass and Family Fun Afternoon, at 1.30pm

We are delighted to be planning a special Centenary Mass with Bishop Bosco, providing an opportunity for the school community to gather in faith and celebrate the journey of St John's over the past 100 years. This will be followed by a Family Fun Afternoon on the school grounds, giving children, parents, carers, staff and friends of the school time to enjoy one another's company and celebrate this wonderful occasion together.

Sunday 19 September 2027 – Sunday Children's Mass and Big Top Circus

Our celebrations will continue with a special Sunday Children's Mass at 10.30am, bringing together our school and parish communities in prayer. From 2pm, the school grounds will come alive with the excitement of a Big Top Circus! This promises to be a memorable day for families and friends of St John's, combining our shared faith with fun, laughter and a wonderful sense of community.

Friday 10 December 2027 – Closing Centenary Celebrations

We will draw our centenary year to a close with a special celebration on Friday 10 December. This will be an opportunity to reflect on all that we have shared throughout the year, to celebrate the memories we have made and to give thanks for the people and experiences that have shaped our school across the generations.

Remembering our past and inspiring our future

Alongside our main events, we are planning a number of activities to help bring the history of St John's to life and involve our children in creating its future story.

Alumni Assemblies will provide opportunities to reconnect with former pupils and hear their memories of school life. By sharing their experiences, past pupils will help our current children understand how St John's has changed over the years and how the values learned here can continue to influence lives long after leaving school.

A **Time Capsule Activity** will invite us to consider what life is like at St John's today and what we would like future generations to know about our school. Through this project, our children will contribute their own messages, memories and hopes, leaving a special legacy for those who will celebrate the school's 200th anniversary in 2127.

We are also planning a **centenary exhibition celebrating the past 100 years**. Through photographs, memorabilia, stories and recollections, we hope to showcase the people, events and milestones that have made St John's such an important part of the Trowbridge community. The exhibition will not only celebrate our history but also encourage us to look forward to the next 100 years with confidence, ambition and faith.

We warmly welcome contributions from former pupils, families, parishioners and friends of the school who may have photographs, documents, artefacts or memories to share. These personal treasures can help us build a richer picture of our past and ensure that the stories of those who came before us are not forgotten.

Everyone has a part to play

As we prepare for this once-in-a-century celebration, we want every family to feel part of the journey. **We very much encourage all families to engage with the celebrations and take every opportunity to be**

involved. Whether by attending an event, sharing a memory, contributing to our exhibition or simply celebrating alongside the children, every contribution will help make this a truly special year.

As we look back with pride and gratitude, we also look forward with hope. The next chapter of St John's story will be written by our current children and by the generations who will follow them. We remain committed to nurturing faith, inspiring learning, building strong relationships and ensuring that every child has the opportunity to flourish.

We look forward to celebrating this remarkable milestone together throughout 2027 and to making memories that will be treasured for many years to come.

Happy 100th birthday, St John's! Here's to celebrating our past, giving thanks for our present and looking forward with faith and hope to the next 100 years.

Mrs O'Rourke

Upcoming Dates

Date	Day	Year Groups	Item
20/20/26	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)
3/11/26	Tue		Patience Class Mass
10/11/26	Tue	6	Skern Residential
11/11/26	Wed	All	Remembrance Day, Silent Reflection
20/11/26	Fri	All	Book Fair (School Hall)
23/11/26	Mon	3	Stardust Performance (Wiltshire Music Centre)
24/11/26	Tue	All	Flu Immunisations (AM)
25/11/26	Wed	3	Stardust Performance (Wiltshire Music Centre)
26/11/26	Thu	EYFS	Kinetic letters Parent Workshop
27/11/26	Fri	All	Teacher Training Day (No School)
1/12/26	Tue		Kindness Class Mass
2/12/26	Wed	3/4	Stonehenge trip
3/12/26	Thu	6	Bikeability Group 3 #1
4/12/26	Fri	6	Bikeability Group 3 #2
8/12/26	Tue	KS1	Kinetic Letters Parent Workshop
10/12/26	Thu	EYFS	Nativity at Church
17/12/26	Thu	All	Whole School Carol Concert
18/12/26	Fri	All	End of Term 2

Christmas Holidays

4/1/27	Mon	All	Teacher Training Day (No School)
5/1/27	Tue	All	First day of Term 3

Please check out the new Calendar on the school website:

<https://stjohnstrowbridge.web02.juniperwebsites.co.uk/calendar>

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

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

Questions costs/making school affordable for all

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

Reporting an absence



Trowbridge Youth Town Council

We are delighted to celebrate Joanna and Lucas who have been selected to represent our school on the Trowbridge Youth Parliament. They attended their first meeting on Friday 9th October, where they put democracy into action by voting for the group's Chair and Vice Chair. Both children made fantastic contributions, sharing thoughtful ideas about how we can improve our local area and highlighting the importance of ensuring children's voices are heard. We are incredibly proud of them and look forward to seeing the positive impact they will make in our local community.



Book Fair

The book fair will be held on Friday 20th November. This is a wonderful opportunity for children and families to explore new book genres and titles. It will run from 2.30 - 3.30pm.

Wiltshire Family Hub Newsletter

Please click [here](#) to view and download the current Wiltshire Family Hub Newsletter which has a focus on SEND support.

There is also a live survey from Wiltshire Council which is asking the views from families with a child/ children aged 0- 5 years (including those expecting a baby).

[Wiltshire Pregnancy to Age 5 Parent & Carer Survey](#)



500 Words Writing Competition

500 Words, the UK's largest story writing competition for 5-11 year-olds, is now open for entries!

Make sure you submit stories before the deadline, at 9pm, Friday 6 November. We would encourage all children from St John's to have a go - your imaginations are incredible!

The competition celebrates children's creativity and imagination, encouraging children from across the UK to **create an original story in 500 words or fewer.**



There are two age categories: **5-7- and 8-11-year-olds**.

Spelling, punctuation and grammar are not marked - as has always been the case for 500 Words, it's all about our writers' brilliant creativity!

The celebrity panel of judges include **Malorie Blackman, Charlie Higson, Francesca Simon, Sir Lenny Henry, Frank Cottrell-Boyce and Rose Ayling-Ellis**.

It will all begin with six young authors, bronze, silver and gold in each age category, receiving a royal invitation to have tea with Her Majesty The Queen. This will be followed by a special **500 Words programme with The One Show** in early March, supported by **Radio 2**, where the winning stories will be revealed and read out by celebrities in a truly magical celebration of the imagination and talent of young writers across the UK.

There are brilliant prizes to be won, including a framed illustrated cover of their story, created exclusively by **Yuval Zommer, Nicola Kent, Matty Long, Diane Ewen, Becky Cameron, and Chanté Timothy**.

OPAL

The children have continued to make the most of the milder weather and sunshine during their OPAL lunchtimes. A particular highlight over the past week has been watching the older children play with and include the younger members of our school family, creating wonderful moments that reflect the strong sense of family and community at St John's.

The children have also been making the most of the natural resources around them, using their imagination and creativity to turn the simplest things into wonderful opportunities for fun and exploration.



Kinetic Letters

The whole school have now adopted the Kinetic Letters Handwriting Scheme. The children have made impressive progress and research shows, the perfection of handwriting supports reducing cognitive load, allowing children to embrace new learning.

Knowing parents are partners in learning and have a crucial role to play in supporting home learning we are delivering parent workshops in order that you can learn more about Kinetic letters. We hope you are able to join us.

EYFS - Tuesday 26th November, 8.40am-9.30am

KS1 – Tuesday 8th December, 8.40am-9.30am

KS2 – Friday 8th January, 8.40am-9.40am

St John's Clubs Term 2

Please see the attached information.

All clubs are bookable via:

www.parents-booking.co.uk/Stjohns

Please book on this portal, even if you have attended before.

For Music lessons please use this link to download the form:

[St John's Catholic Primary School - Music Lessons](#)



Music and Clubs
at St John's Catholic Primary School

Term 2, 2026 – 2027

Learning together in faith, hope and love

Learn Play Grow

Tennis
Wednesday – KS1 (Year 1 & 2)
3.15 – 4.00pm
Run by Blue Sky Tennis

Cost: Yes
Book via Parents Booking
In the Hall

Fun progressive 5 week tennis course after school – main goals is to introduce new players to the game and continue existing players development.

Content covered:
Developing ball and racket rhythms to get rallying/playing as soon as possible, covering fundamental techniques in fun, game based challenges and skills!

Choir
Wednesday – KS2
3.15 – 4.15pm
Run by Miss O'Mahony

Cost: Free
Book via Parents Booking
In Classroom (KS1)

Join our KS2 choir and enjoy singing together! This is a great opportunity to build confidence, learn new songs, develop your musical skills and be part of a supportive team.

Tennis
Friday – KS2
3.15 – 4.00pm
Run by Blue Sky Tennis

Cost: Yes
Book via Parents Booking
In the Hall

Fun progressive 5 week tennis course after school – main goals is to introduce new players to the game and continue existing players development.

Content covered:
Developing ball and racket rhythms to get rallying/playing as soon as possible, covering fundamental techniques in fun, game based challenges and skills!

Music Lessons
A few places available!

Piano
Run by Mrs Avison
Thursdays & Mondays
Fee Yes

Violin
Run by Mrs Sloan-Hill
Thursdays
Individual and class lessons available

Guitar
Run by Mr Barkwill
Wednesdays
Fee Yes

Ukulele Club
Mondays – 3.15 – 4.15pm
For existing Ukulele club members or those playing guitar.

Cost: Yes
Book via Parents Booking (an invite has been sent)

For Music lessons all are booked directly with the teacher, please collect a request form from the office, or download the form from the website – <https://www.st-johns-trowbridge.wilts.sch.uk/music/lessons>
And return to the office, the Teacher will contact you for payment and explain terms and conditions once a space is available.

Be part of something special

Year 5 & 6 Boys Football



Over the past six weeks, a select group of Year 5 and Year 6 boys have had the fantastic opportunity to represent the school in a football league at John of Gaunt, competing against a number of local schools. Throughout the league, the boys have shown great determination. Although they haven't always come away with a win, they have continued to work hard, and, most importantly, play with a smile on their faces. Children will receive their medals next Wednesday in assembly. 😊

Reading Breakfast 2027

After the spectacular success (over 300 adults) of our reading breakfasts last academic year, from January, we will be repeating this opportunity for parents, grandparents and other family members.

The workshops will run from 8.40am-9.30am. Adults are asked to enter through the school hall doors and wait for their child to join them with a book. Tea, coffee, Juice, water and croissants will be provided for all adults and children.

We look forward to welcoming you into the school and sharing the love and joy of reading together.

Year 6 – Thursday 14th January

Year 5 - Friday 22nd January

Year 4 – Wednesday 3rd February

Year 3 – Tuesday 2nd March

Year 2 – Wednesday 24th March

Year 1 – Thursdays 22nd April

EYFS – Thursday 20th May

Faithfulness Class Mass

Last Tuesday, Faithfulness Class celebrated Mass with their families, reflecting on Mary and the courage she showed in saying 'Yes' to God's plan. All involved were reminded of Mary's trust, faith and willingness to follow God, even when she could not know exactly what lay ahead.

The children participated so beautifully throughout the Mass, showing reverence and enthusiasm. Their singing was particularly special.

Thank you to all the families who joined us in this special Mass.



Wednesday Word

Gratitude

“In all created things recognise the care and wisdom of God, and give him thanks.”

St Teresa of Avila

Attendance Matters

We are encouraging every child to be an Attendance Hero!
Our whole school target for this academic year is 97%

Congratulations

95.9% Attendance this week

This is an increase, well done

98.8% Attendance by Knowledge Class



Birthdays

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

Pupils

Niamh D	Solomiia	Daniel N-A	Poppy L
Jeremiah M	Callie E	Carlita F	
Violetta B	Aoife E	Grace D	

AUTUMN COMPETITION

Earn prizes and WIN a Doodle goodie pack! Between the 19th of October – 20th of November, DoodleLearning is running an exciting event where your child could win 1 of 10 Doodle goodie packs! Designed to encourage a few minutes of daily Doodling, joining the fun is a great way to promote healthy learning habits and top up your child's knowledge. Plus, everyone who reaches the star target will receive a printable certificate and an exclusive in-app badge

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

50 Days	Sam G
	Sara G

Here are the Top Doodling Class at St John's Catholic Primary School for:

Week **Ending 16th October 2026**: Year 4 88% in green zone