

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



NEWSLETTER DATED FRIDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER 2026

Headteachers Message

Dear Families,

It has been a wonderful start to the new school year, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank our children, families and staff for the positive and enthusiastic way in which everyone has returned to school.

It has been particularly pleasing to see how quickly the children have settled back into their routines. Learning has started exceptionally well, with children demonstrating enthusiasm, curiosity and a real commitment to doing their best. It is a joy to see our school values reflected in the way the children approach their learning and care for one another.

The school has made significant investment in further developing the curriculum offer and all children this academic year will be provided a broader and progressive offer for the arts – including the teaching of Music, DT and Art. This will ensure all children thrive and explore new learning including performing to audiences, preparing and cooking food, playing a range of instruments and designing within DT. We are excited about the learning ahead for the children.

In addition, there are many cultural capital experiences that are on offer this Autumn term, please read on for further information.

Year 1 Forest School

Our Year 1 children have been enjoying their Forest School sessions, providing them with wonderful opportunities to explore, discover and learn outdoors within the wildlife area. These experiences support children's independence, resilience and curiosity, while allowing them to develop a deeper appreciation of the world around them and the importance of stewardship.

Year 2 Swimming

Our Year 2 children have started their swimming lessons, and it has been lovely to hear about their enthusiasm and confidence as they begin this important part of their physical education. We encourage all of the children to persevere, challenge themselves and celebrate their progress

Year 3 Stardust Project

We are delighted to celebrate the beginning of our **Year 3 Stardust Project**. The children have already made a fantastic start and have been working with three wonderful leaders from the Stardust Project who are supporting and inspiring them throughout the Wednesday workshops.

The children have been highly commended for their engagement, enthusiasm and participation, which is a wonderful reflection of the effort they are putting into this exciting opportunity.

We look forward to sharing more of their learning and experiences with you as the project progresses. Families will receive further information about how you can attend the concerts, so that you can share in and celebrate the children's achievements.

Year 3 and Year 4 Violin Programme

We are also very excited that our Year 3 and Year 4 children will soon begin their violin programme. Learning to play an instrument is a wonderful opportunity for children to develop new skills, confidence, concentration and creativity.

We are looking forward to hearing the children develop their musical talents over the coming months!

Leadership Opportunities

Our Year 5 and Year 6 children are beginning to prepare their applications for a range of leadership opportunities within school. Leadership is an important part of growing as a responsible member of our school community, and we are encouraging the children to consider how they can use their gifts and talents to serve others. We are ambitious for the children to be change makers for the good of society.

As a Catholic school, we are particularly proud of opportunities that enable our older children to become role models for younger pupils and to put our faith and values into action through service to others. All Year 6 will be buddies for Year 1 and our Year 5 children will be buddies for the new EYFS friends.

Learning and Faith

We continue to encourage our children to 'to grow and learn in the footsteps of Jesus', recognising that every child is uniquely created by God and has wonderful gifts and talents to share with others.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership. We are looking forward to a very exciting year ahead, filled with learning, faith, creativity, friendship and new opportunities.

With every good wish,

Mrs O'Rourke

Headteacher

Upcoming Dates

Date	Day	Year Groups	Item
28/9/26	Mon	All	Individual & Sibling School Photos
29/9/26	Tue	3 & 4	First Holy Communion Mass – 9.05 (Hall)
30/9/26	Wed	5	Sculpture Park (Art Trip)
2/10/26	Fri	All (Not EYFS)	Great Athletes Visit – Katrina Hart Olympian & Fundraiser
6/10/26	Tue	All	Parents Evening
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
20/20/26	Tue	EYFS	Welcome Service & Parents Pilgrimage for EYFS (Hall)
21/10/26	Wed	All	Last day of school (Term 1)
2/11/26	Mon	All	First day of School (Term 2)

Please see the website for more upcoming dates

Parents Evening

Details will be sent out via Parent1mail.
these will be available to book from 6pm on Monday 21st September

New Absence Reporting Email Address

There is a new email address for reporting your child absent from school. This email address is:
absence@st-johns-trowbridge.wilts.sch.uk

When leaving a message, please include the following information:

Child's Name

Class

Reason for Absence

If you are unable to email, you can still leave a message on the school answerphone.

A reminder that you need to report your child's absence every day.

Please leave your message **before 8.30am**. Thank you

Meet the Headteacher and Meet the Teacher

Thank you to the families who joined us on Tuesday afternoon for the Meet the Headteacher and Meet the Teacher workshops. We had almost 100 families join us and hear about the vision and school development plan for the year ahead. In the classrooms parents got an opportunity to hear about our ambitious curriculum and the cultural capital planned for the new year. We look forward to working together with you as parents being the first teachers for their child.

Lower Key Stage 2 First Holy Communion Mass

Year 4 Families,

We would like to invite you to join us for a special Mass in the school hall on Tuesday 29th September at 9.05am. This Mass will be an opportunity for us to celebrate those children who made their First Holy Communion during the last academic year and for the children to come together and share in this special celebration.

If your child made their First Holy Communion last academic year, they are welcome to wear their First Holy Communion outfit to school for the Mass. Please send their school uniform in a named bag so they can change into it afterwards.

We look forward to celebrating together as a St John's community.

Whole School Mass

Last week, we came together as a school community to celebrate Mass and mark the beginning of the new academic year. During the celebration, we reflected on the Holy Spirit, and how it can guide and inspire us in our daily lives today.

The children were reverent throughout the Mass and participated meaningfully through song and prayer.

Leaders in Faith Award

Congratulations to the following pupil who has earned this award:

Bronze Award: Liberty Savage



Wednesday Word

‘Generous’

“Lord Jesus, teach me to be generous – to give and not to count the cost.”

St Ignatius (Prayer for Generosity)

Great Athlete Visit

We are thrilled to be able to share some more information about our upcoming Great Athletes event. We are excited to announce that the athlete who will be visiting us will be Katrina Hart

On the event day, all pupils will take part in a sponsored fitness circuit run by their athlete, a terrific way to get all children excited about sport and realise that getting moving is really fun! Their athlete will then share their incredible sporting journey, a story of resilience and determination in a fun and interactive assembly. There will also be an opportunity to ask any burning questions in a Q&A session with their inspiring role-model at the end!

Watch [this video](#) to get a sneak peek at the excitement and see what the children can look forward to on the day!

Fundraising for the event has begun, the children will be bringing home a sponsorship form. The money raised for the event will help us to purchase new sports equipment and improve levels of physical activity in our school!

Healthy Schools

As a healthy school, we encourage healthy eating throughout the school.

If you provide your child a snack for break, please provide fruit. (No cakes, flapjacks etc)

It's wonderful to celebrate birthdays, again we request this not to be sweets

(At the pick-up door or in school).

Inclusion and SEND Drop In Meetings for Parents

If parents have already spoken with their child's class teacher and would now find it useful to make an appointment with Mrs O'Mahony our inclusion lead please do contact the school office who will be able to offer a time and date for you to meet.

Flu Immunisation

Please complete the QR on the flyer and Parentmail all parents have received this week.

The Flu Immunisation will happen in school 24th November 2026.

Attendance Matters

We are encouraging every child to be an Attendance Hero!

Congratulations

Friday 18th September

97% Attendance

100% of children here on time



Attendance Information

During the academic year 2025-2026 our whole school attendance was **95.3%**, with our target being 96%. From our cohort of 315 children - 51 children were in school every single day! With 213 children having over 95% attendance.

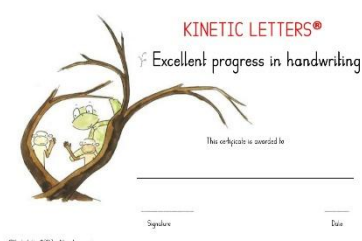
Regrettably, 33 children had reached the threshold with Wiltshire Local Authority with too many unauthorised absences. This has led to penalty notices being awarded to both sets of parents from Wiltshire LA. **The main reason for these unauthorised absences has been term time holidays.**

If you need support with your child's attendance, please contact Mrs O'Mahony via the school office - we are here to support every family. Our Attendance target for 2026 - 2027 is **97%**.

Celebrating Handwriting Progress - EYFS And KS1

We celebrate the progress of pupils in EYFS and KS1. Fluent handwriting is an essential skill that the children work to master.

We have already seen a great start over the past two weeks and we look forward to celebrating progress over the coming months.



Birthdays

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

Pupils

Seb H	Nell G	Barney W
Monty C	Michael S	
Ella D	Cillian J	
Fiorella L	Seb K	
Marta K	Max L	
Agata K	Henry BC	
Aidan N	Robin F	
Max T	Julia M	



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

1000 Days	Felicity W Amelia G
250 Days	Adam L Saffron S
100 Days	Elliot P-F Nathania E
50 Days	Alexander G Elliot S

The Summer Challenge was completed by the following Children:

Adam L , Annabelle C, Callie E, Choppy W, Daniel G, Daniel NA, Elena D, Ha D, Felicity W, Evelyn L, Emilia K, Elliott S, Aaron K, Holly A, Joanna DC, Kacper H, Kimpreet D, Lucas NA, Margot F, Mari G, Maria M, Max L, Mia S, Mikolaj S, Nathania E , Nell G, Niamh D, Oskar G, Oskar H, Oskar K, Sebastian H, Simreet D, Tabitha A

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

Week Ending 18th Sept 2026: **Patience** (78% of pupils in the green zone)