



St John's Primary School Newsletter

16th December 2024

And so, we are coming to the end of a very successful Autumn Term. We have had a great final few weeks:

- Santa has flown over the school in his helicopter, whilst all the children waved from the junior playground. Foundation children had their buddies on standby for their first venture onto the large playground.
- The whole school walked to St Mary's Church and were neither rained on nor blown away. We took part in a simple service, led by Reverend Sarah Nesbitt. Our children sung (and signed) beautifully. Thank you to all those parents who joined us and walked with us. Thank you too to Mrs. Beckett and Mrs. Ball for their work with choir and singing assemblies.
- All of Key Stage 2 have visited the Watermill Theatre and enjoyed a production of Pinocchio, complete with singing, dancing and growing noses. The children in both visits were fantastic audience participants and a real credit to the school. Thank you to the PTFA for making the theatre trip more affordable to all of our families.
- More thanks go to the PTFA for coordinating and creating the beautiful hampers for the annual raffle. They looked amazing and were full to the brim of great products. Thank you all for your donations and to the PTFA for creating their wicker-based marvels!
- Key Stage 1 have amazed us with their singing, dancing and acting skills in three performances; to the rest of the school, and their families. Even my parents came! The productions were a magical and humorous retelling of the nativity story. I still haven't got the songs out of my head and will never look at the camels in a nativity scene in the same way again – those camels were so funky!!

More thanks and congratulations go to Mrs. Ball, Mrs. Rudd, Miss Harris, Mrs. Harris, Mrs. Dann, Miss Lidbetter, Ms Newland-Smith, Ms Nugent, Mrs. Plumb, and Miss Cave for their hard work in bringing **Lights, Camel, Action** to the stage.

This week:

- Year 6 have set off to Yenworthy for their residential. We are sure they will have a fantastic time and are already looking forward to hearing about all their adventures on their return.
- Our school Christmas lunch will be on Wednesday 18th December. The children can wear their Christmas jumpers, hats, ribbons and bells with their uniform. They will make crowns in school to wear. Please do not buy anything new to wear!
- KS1 will be having their Christmas party on Thursday afternoon and will let parents and carers of those children know the arrangements separately.
- KS1 will also be watching Cinderella in our school hall on Friday morning as a final end-of-term treat!

We have spoken in assembly today about how Christmas is celebrated across the world by both Christians and non-Christians and that the heart of those celebrations is about being with friends and family – people that we love. We have spoken about being kind to ourselves and each other and enjoying our individual family traditions, as well as those shared by many and also, perhaps, creating new ones.

**However you celebrate, all the staff at St John's wish you a peaceful and merry Christmas and a wonderful new year. We thank you for your support across 2024.
Here's to 2025!**

Some new things:

- We will be introducing **Class Assemblies** in the Spring and Summer Terms. These will be small performance showcases that allow the children to share their learning with the school and their grown-ups and to have experience of presenting to an audience. Each class will produce one assembly each academic year and these will take place on **Thursdays at 9am**. They will never take more than 30mins and parents (or their representative grandparent / childminder) of that class will be invited. We will not be able to accommodate any more than 2 adults per child, as the other children in the school will also be watching. The dates are on the calendar and we would love you to join us.
- In February, our **Parents' Meetings** will all be held in school and there will not be an option to hold these online. To further facilitate the evening for working parents, we have extended our offer by 30 minutes. We would also ask that the children are not taken into their parent meeting. To accommodate those parents who will not be able to leave the children with someone else, we will have a creche for school children on both evenings (Pre-school children can go with you).

These changes are for a variety of reasons:

- it is more cost effective for the school
- it is less stressful for teachers
- it will allow parents to view their child's books
- children will leave you a note that you can respond to, making it a proud occasion
- there will be a tasting session in the hall for school lunches
- there will be a gallery of work in the hall for you to enjoy
- conversations can often be easier

The dates for the meetings are on the calendar. Thank you for your support in making our Parents' evenings a school community event.

- We will be changing the way in which we **teach reading** in Years 1 -6. Please watch out for a letter in the first week back explaining how it will work and how you can support your child in their reading journey.
- We would very much like to introduce a **Parents' Forum** to the school. Parent forums are a way for schools to encourage parents to get more involved in school life. They're informal meetings where parents come together to raise issues, be consulted on school policy and give their views. We would like these to become a regular fixture in each term. There is a date on the calendar and we will send out reminders and more info in the new year.



Dates for your diary:

- **20th December at 1pm End of Term**
- **6th January 2025 INSET Day - School closed for children**
- **7th January 2025 Start of Spring Term**
- **9th January Year 6 Class Assembly 09:00 -09:30am**
- **30th January 5.30-6.30pm Parent Forum**
- **14th February Stay and Learn 09:00 – 09:30 & 09.30 – 10.00am**
- **4th February NSPCC Workshops in School for Years 2, 5 & 6**
- **11th February Parents' Evening 3.30- 6.00pm**
- **13th February Parents' Evening 3.30 – 7.00pm**
- **17th – 21st February Half Term Holiday**
- **27th February Year 2 Class Assembly 09:00 -09:30am**
- **6th March World Book Day**
- **7th March St John's Reading Awards**
- **20th March Stay & Learn 2.00 – 2.30 & 2.30 – 3.00pm**
- **20th March 5.30 – 6.30pm Parent Forum**
- **21st March Comic Relief Red Nose Day**
- **27th March SATs Meeting for Year 6 parents**
- **1st April Life Bus visiting school**
- **1st April Year 3 /4 Performance afternoon**
- **2nd April 2025 pm Easter Service at St Mary's**
- **3rd April Year 3/ 4 Performance Evening**
- **4th April at 1pm End of Term**
- **22nd April Start of Summer Term**
- **1st May Year 5 Class Assembly 09:00 -09:30am**
- **12 – 15th May – SATs Week**
- **22nd May Foundation Class Assembly 09:00 -09:30am**
- **26th – 30th May Half Term Holiday**
- **2nd June 2025 INSET - School closed for children**
- **16th – 17th June Year 5 to Youlbury**
- **19th June Year 4 Class Assembly 09:00 -09:30am**

Dates for your diary (continued):

- 27th June Stay and Learn 09:00 – 09:30 & 09:30 – 10:00
- 3rd July Year 3 Class Assembly 09:00 -09:30am
- 10th July Year 1 Class Assembly 09:00 -09:30am
- 12th July Sports Day
- 15th July Reports home
- 15th July Year 6 Production afternoon performance
- 17th July Year 6 Production evening performance
- 22nd July Leavers' Assembly
- **22nd July at 1pm School Year Ends**
- Tuesday 2nd September INSET – school closed to children
- Wednesday 3rd September INSET – school closed to children
- Thursday 4th September – Autumn Term Starts

Stars of the week

Foundation - Olivia, Nick & everyone

Year 4 - Ría, Jack, Jake & Joan

Year 1 - Raphael, Matthew, Hayden & Fred

Year 5 - Corey, Charlie, Vivi & Sophie

Year 2 - Sofia, Victoria, Edith & everyone

Year 6 - Rafe, Isaac & Bertie

Year 3 - Max, Florence, Phoebe & Leo



Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year!



Perseverance, Ambition, Curiosity, Kindness