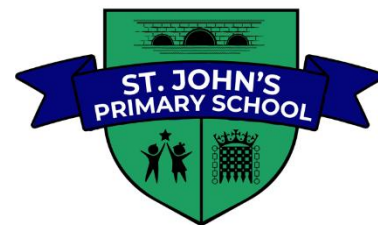


St John's Primary School Newsletter

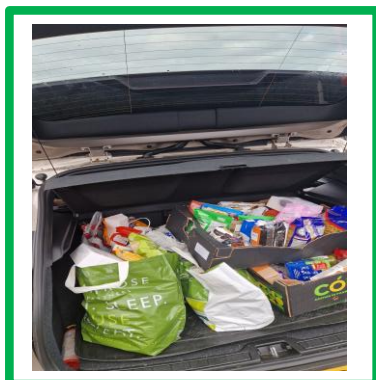
7th November 2025



HARVEST

Thank you for your outstanding support of our Harvest assembly. We were awash with food and other essentials for the Wallingford Foodbank - it entirely filled the collector's car and was met with real gratitude. We know that your generosity will positively affect a great many families – thank you.

It was delightful to see so many parents, carers and wider family at our Harvest Assembly. Our Key Stage 1 children performed brilliantly with storytelling (Reception), poetry recital (Year 2) and statements of gratitude (Year 1), all topped off with some whole school singing. It clearly demonstrated the vibrant and wonderful community of St. John's.



REMEMBRANCE IN WALLINGFORD

We will be attending the Wallingford Remembrance Service again this year, with our Head Pupils laying a wreath on our behalf. The wreath has been made by children across Key Stage 2. The children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 have worked together to grow their understanding of Remembrance Day and the poppies used to commemorate different aspects of remembering. Some of the children's work has been displayed at the Town Hall as part of their commemoration of this important event. I know that many of our children take part within Brownies, Cubs, Scouts and Guides.

Thank you for your generous support of the Royal British Legion through the sale of poppies, wristbands and snap bands within school. When we receive notification of our donation, I will pass this on.

(Please can we ask that snap bands stay at home from next week – thank you).

CHILDREN IN NEED



On Friday 14th November, we would ask that the children come into school

in colour – this can be just their socks or top, but can be from the tips of their toes to the crown of their head – it is up to them! If they want to wear sports shirts, these are fine as long as they are local youth clubs which the children belong to.

School Council will be leading the decision next week about what our **Challenge Yourself to 25** will involve and we will let you know soon after. We will be asking each child to make a donation of 50p+ - there is a link on ParentPay for you to donate – thank you.

From parental conversations and feedback, it has been clear that Forest School and having a voice in the school is important to many parents and carers. Therefore, I included the following two Google Forms in the last newsletter. We have 11 responses on one and 12 on the other (thank you for these). Please do take the time to record your availability and thoughts so we might action both.

FOREST SCHOOL

Regular Forest School stopped at the school before I arrived and we are exploring lots of ways to get it back up and running, in a way that is sustainable for the school. At present, we would like to run regular Woodland / Field sessions with the children and are asking for your help to run these. Please follow the link to register if you are able to help out with these sessions; whether it be weekly, monthly or once a year. It is really important that the children get out in the open and explore their learning in a variety of settings, so we are hoping that together we can facilitate this for the children.

<https://forms.gle/jzbmcJzWnfB2yoGL7> Once we have an idea of numbers, we will contact again within year groups for names and specific dates – thank you.



LET'S TALK ABOUT SJPS

In our parent newsletter last year, many parents commented that they would like more Breakfast and JACs Club places, more music and more sport in the school. All of these are happening, with more to still do. We now offer tennis, cricket and football clubs and the field is more in use for sports. Music is taught by a peripatetic music teacher in Years 3 & 4 and we have flute and guitar lessons happening in school. Unfortunately, the piano teacher has let down both us and the Oxfordshire Music Service, but we are working hard to find someone who will provide piano lessons for the children.

I am aware that there is more to do and that parents would like to contribute their ideas. Last year, I offered some evening parent forums, but these were poorly attended (thank you if you came!), so this year, I would like to garner your opinions on how we get to hear your opinions! Please click on the link to tell us how you would like your views to be heard – thank you.

<https://forms.gle/hTitas3d7mD7SegV6>

ARBOR PARENT PORTAL – A REMINDER

We are excited to announce that St John's is now using the Parent Portal and Parent App for communications with parents. Over time we will be developing the app to allow you to book trips, clubs and meals, as we will be slowly phasing out our use of ParentPay.

To finish creating your account you just need to set a password. Your username is the email address that we have on record for you.

Go to <https://login.arbor.sc> and click Forgot your password? to finish setting up your account.

Please use this opportunity to check that the details that we hold for you and your child/ren are correct.

The Parent App can be downloaded from either the Playstore on android phones or the Apple Store on iPhones.

If you have trouble setting up your password or have general questions about the Parent Portal, please contact the school office at office.2567@st-johns.oxon.sch.uk.

PARENTAL PERMISSION

When you log into Parent Portal, please check the photo permissions for your child. We will be increasing our social media presence through Facebook and Instagram, so social media permissions have been added for you to consent or decline. Any photos used will not be attached to names and any work posted will have, at most, first names attached.

Please also consent or decline photos of your child to be sent via Class Dojo. Thank you.

COMMUNICATION

You will receive regular updates from your child's class teacher via Class Dojo. This may be general information about learning in the school or reminders for specifics, like wellies or bringing in cereal boxes. All whole school communication will come via Arbor straight to your email. There will not be general whole school reminders from the school office on Class Dojo. We hope this will reduce the stream of school traffic to your devices and mean that you will receive information that it is pertinent to you and your child.

Newsletters will contain reminders and these will now be weekly.

In an emergency, such as school closure, we will notify you via email and Class Dojo.

PUMPKIN PATCH COMPETITION



Thank you and congratulations to all of our families who entered our very first Pumpkin Competition – they were magnificently spooky and raised over £25 towards banded books for KS2.

Special congratulations to Isla L., Brody, Ester, Joan, Vincent and Mirabelle, whose pumpkins were judged by Vivi and Harry (our Head Pupils) as the most spooktacular.



LOST PROPERTY

We have LOADS of lost property in school, including coats and non-uniform items. At the end of next week, we will be donating any left to the uniform shop and local charity shops, so please do check the box in the hall across next week. We go through the swathes of lost items regularly to check for names and re-unite these, so do please name all of your child's belongings – thank you.



STARS OF THE WEEK



Congratulations to the first Stars of the Week of this academic year:

Year 1: Rory

Year 4: Jack

Year 2: Matilda

Year 5: Andrew

Year 3: Tom C-B

Year 6: Saffie

Dates for your diary:

2025/26

Thursday 13th November – Year 5 Class Assembly 09:00

Friday 14th November – Children in Need

- Huw Wiggin's Saxophone Quartet Assembly for children

Wednesday 19th November – Stay and Learn 2-3pm

Friday 21st November – Book Fair

Thursday 4th December – FS Dress Rehearsal

Friday 5th December – KS1 Dress Rehearsal

Friday 5th December – Foundation Stage Christmas Production 2:15pm

Saturday 6th December – Singing at Earth Trust Christmas Fayre

Monday 8th December – KS1 Nativity Performance 2:15pm

Tuesday 9th December – KS1 Nativity Performance 6:00 – 7:00pm

Thursday 11th December – KS2 to Watermill Theatre

Tuesday 16th December – Christmas Church Service pm

Friday 19th December – Term ends at 1:00pm

Monday 5th January – Term starts

Friday 23rd January – Stay and Learn 09:00 – 10:00

26th – 30th January – Year 6 to Yenworthy

Thursday 29th January – Year 3 Class Assembly

9th February – Parents' Evening 3:30 – 5:30pm

Tuesday 10th February – Parents' Evening 3:30 – 7:00pm

Monday 16th to Friday 20th February - Half term break

Thursday 5th March – World Book Day

Thursday 12th March – Year 6 Class Assembly

Monday 23rd March – Year 3 & 4 Dress Rehearsal

Tuesday 24th March – Year 3 / 4 performance 2:15pm

Wednesday 25th March – Easter Bonnet Parade 2:15pm

Thursday 26th March – Year 3 & 4 performance 6pm

Friday 27th March – Term ends at 1:00pm

Monday 13th April – Term starts

Thursday 23rd April – Foundation Stage Class Assembly

Thursday 29th April – Stay and Learn 9:00- 10:00am

Monday 11th – Thursday 15th May – Year 6 SATS Week

Thursday 21st May – Year 1 Class Assembly

Monday 25th – Friday 29th May- Half term break

Monday 8th June – class photos

Wednesday 10th – Friday 12th June – Year 4 to Hill End

Tuesday 16th – Thursday 18th June – Year 5 to Youlbury

Thursday 4th June – Year 2 Class Assembly

Tuesday 23rd June – Sports Day

Friday 26th June – Year 3 Sleepover

Monday 13th July – Year 5 & 6 Dress Rehearsal

Tuesday 14th and Thursday 16th – Year 5 & 6 Production at 6.30pm

Friday 17th July – Leavers' Assembly

TERM ENDS at 1:00pm on Friday 17th July