

St John's Primary School

Newsletter – 20th April 2026



Welcome back to school. Despite the weather trying exceptionally hard to tell us otherwise, we are now in the summer terms and are looking forward to all they have to offer: sports day and tournaments, residentials and visits, as well as the start of transition. We have received our new intake details for September 2026 and it was wonderful to see so many siblings on the list. There have been a couple of staffing changes to PPA cover this term. Mrs. Hornsey, an experienced teacher, will be teaching Year 5 on Wednesday afternoons and I will now be teaching Year 4 on Thursday afternoons. The children appear happy with the changes; there will be no alterations to their routines.

This week we have enjoyed a visit for Rabbi Svi, who led a whole school assembly and then a Year 5 / 6 workshop. We hope to invite other faith and cultural leaders into school to build the children's knowledge and understanding of others.

Members of Years 4 & 5 have taken part in a netball competition at Wallingford School and played brilliantly in terms of skill and sportsmanship - thank you to Mr. Brown and Ms. Curley for accompanying the children.

We will shortly be advertising for a teacher in KS1 as we are delighted to announce that Mrs. Long will be welcoming a second child in the new academic year.

COIN CONTESTS

The week beginning 27th April will see our first ever **COIN CONTESTS!**

Each class will have a jar for the children in that class to place **copper coins** (£1 and £2 coins also count as coppers!). They will place this money in their class jar at the start of each morning.



At 3pm each day, the children will come on to the playground and be able to sabotage other classes' jars by adding silver coins. **Silver coins** count against coppers, so if you have £1 in coppers and someone adds a 20 pence piece, the jar is back down to 80p.

At the end of the week, we will count up how much money is in each jar and we have a 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize.

We are hoping the end of the day is fun for the children and we know that there will be plenty of tactical and cunning plans! The jars will still be on the playground at 15:10 when the gates open, so you can join in the fun.

Please start digging behind the sofa cushions and in the deepest recesses of the glove compartment to find those all important pennies! All the money raised will be used within school.

RELATIONSHIP & SEX EDUCATION AT ST JOHN'S

Please join us today at 14:30 or on Thursday at 18:00 to learn more about and give your opinion of how and what we teach in RSE at St John's. Both meetings will be in the hall.

ST GEORGE'S DAY

It is St. George's Day on Thursday 23rd March. Children who belong to Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Brownies, Guides or any cadet groups are very welcome to come to school on that day in their uniforms. It will be lovely to celebrate the organisations our children belong to.

MUSICLY

Please find attached to this email, a letter from Musicly. We have tried to receive piano and further instrument teaching through OCC but this has not proved successful, so Musicly will be offering further music lessons for our children. Guitar is still taught through OCC and Years 3 & 4 ukelele will also continue as it is. If you choose these options, they will be referred back to the current tutor. Please express your interest in further music lessons should you wish to do so. They also offer parental lessons after school!

UNIFORM POLICY

We have updated our Uniform Policy and have sent it out with this newsletter. It will be uploaded onto the website over the weekend. Please take time to read it. Our uniform builds a sense of belonging and family; creates a level playing field, and keeps the children safe.

We will be asking all children with longer than shoulder-length hair to wear it tied back for PE and practical work from Monday, and we will have spare ties in school for this, but please ensure your children (boys and girls) are aware of this change.

LONDON MARATHON

And finally, I will be running (this may not be strictly accurate) the London Marathon next weekend. I managed to get a ballot place last year but injured my hip quite badly whilst training. I had to defer my place to this year, and whilst I have prepared far less than last year, I am giving it a go!

I am running for Cancer Research and you can donate to them via my giving page here:

<https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/claaires-giving-page-14092712>

Alternatively, I would be equally grateful and pleased if you chose to support our new toilet refurbishment campaign by donating here: <https://gofund.me/281a99fbf>

STARS OF THE WEEK

Foundation – Rose

Year 3 – Anna

Year 6 - Alfie

Year 1 – Theodore

Year 4 - Florence

Year 2- Euan

Year 5 - Violet



Dates for your diary:

2025/26

Thursday 23rd April – Foundation Stage Class Assembly @9am – parents welcome

Tuesday 28th April – Cyber Security Workshops for Years 4, 5 and 6

Wednesday 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 – Thursday 11th 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

CHANGE OF DATE: Monday 6th July Sports Day

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

NEW SCHOOL YEAR 2026-27

Tuesday 1st September - INSET

Wednesday 2nd September - Term starts

Thursday & Friday 22nd & 23rd October - INSET

Half term: 26th – 30th October

Monday 2nd November - Term starts

TERM ENDS at 1:00pm on Friday 18th December

Monday 2nd January – INSET

Tuesday 3rd January - Term starts

Half term: 15th – 19th February

Monday 20th February- Term starts

TERM ENDS at 1:00pm on Thursday 25th March

Monday 12th April - Term starts

Friday 28th May – INSET

Half term: 31st May – 4th June

Monday 7th June - Term starts

TERM ENDS at 1:00pm on Wednesday 21st July

SPRING FAIR

SATURDAY 9TH MAY 2-4 PM

PLAY

TEDDY BEAR PARACHUTE
BOTTLE TOMBOLA
BOUNCY CASTLE
QUOITS & GOLF

EAT

ICE CREAMS
CAKES
TEAS

BUY

BOOKS & TOYS
WHITE ELEPHANT STALL
PRE-LOVED CLOTHES
PLANT SALE



ENTRANCE £2
UNDER 12 FREE

ST AGATHA'S CHURCHYARD,
WEST END OX10 0RX

ALL PROCEEDS IN AID
OF OUR CHURCHES

CONSIDERATE STREET PARKING ONLY
OR NUMBER 33/33A BUS



The poster for the Dorchester Festival 2026 features a collage of images. At the top left, a man (Brian Bilston) is singing into a microphone. Next to him is the festival logo: 'DORCHESTER ON THAMES FESTIVAL 1 MAY-10 MAY 2026'. To the right, two children are dressed as superheroes. Below the logo, a woman (Liza Pulman) is singing, with the text 'LIZA PULMAN SINGS Streisand' above her. In the center, a man (Jay Rayner) is playing a guitar. At the bottom, a group of men in suits are standing together. A QR code is located in the bottom left corner, and a 'BE FREE YOUNG CARERS' logo is in the bottom right corner. The text 'Box office 0333 666 3366 www.dorchesterfestival.com' is at the very bottom.

Dorchester Festival 1-10th May – Fun events for all ages!

Dorchester Festival is a 61 event, 10 day community Festival based in and around Dorchester Abbey raising money for the Abbey and Be Free Young Carers, an Oxfordshire charity that supports children who care for family members. We have loads of big names – Brian Bilston, Jay Rayner, Liza Pulman singing her Streisand show, a full 62 piece symphony orchestra playing Abba – and also great events for families and children. Come to Tentertainment, an afternoon of great entertainment with magic, dancing and theatre followed by a duck race. Dive into science experiments or build lego or paint artworks. Enter your dog for the dog show, join the fun run, dance to the live music at the food & gift fair or simply find the village scarecrows and guess who they are. Lots of tea and cake at all times! dorchesterfestival.com

Perseverance, Ambition, Curiosity, Kindness



OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY BADMINTON TRIALS

Radley College Sports
Centre
Sunday 3rd May
10am - 1pm

All levels welcome
- both community
and county places
offered!

See age group timings & book now:
bookwhen.com/nb-trials

NATIONALBADMINTON.ORG.UK



Upcoming Swap Shop

Monday 27th April
1pm - 2pm

AT WALLINGFORD FAMILY CENTRE

BRING A DONATION OF CLOTHES AND
BRIC-A-BRAC AND SWAP FOR OTHER
ITEMS AVAILABLE.

MAXIMUM OF TWO BAGS A PERSON

Wallingford Family Centre Community WhatsApp Group



A space to help local families feel connected,
supported and up to date with what's happening
at the Family Centre.

Scan the QR code to join any of our groups within
the community that feel relevant to you.



Saturday 18 April
11am & 2pm

Long Nose Puppets presents

Flyaway Katie

An inspiring flight of fancy about the power of imagination
based on the popular children's book by Polly Dunbar



For ages
2-7

Tickets: £12 (children £8, under 2s free)
Bookings: 01865 319450 / thenorthwall.com

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ANGELS
• APA •
PERFORMING ARTS

ENROLLING NOW
FOR THE SUMMER
BOOK A FREE TRIAL

Jazz, Ballet, Musical
Theatre, Acro,
Commercial, Home
education and sen
classes.

For More Info Contact
07920875926
angelsstageschool@yahoo.co.uk
Instagram @angels_apa
Facebook Angels Apa

The advertisement features a black background with a brown curved bottom. It includes three photographs: a young girl sitting on the floor holding a doll, a group of girls in white leotards performing a dance move, and two girls in red leotards performing a dance move. The text is in white and yellow.



TEAM MATRIX
NETBALL CLUB
U9 TRIALS

We are looking for talented Year 3
netballers to join our U9 team for the
2026/27 season!

Trial Dates:
Friday 15th & 22nd May
Friday 5th & 12th June
6.00 - 7.30pm

Register Now!
www.teammatrix.club



The advertisement has a dark purple background with bright green and pink geometric shapes. The text is in white and green. The logo in the bottom right corner consists of a stylized 'M' made of green and pink triangles, with the words 'TEAM MATRIX' below it.

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TEAM MATRIX NETBALL CLUB

U10 TRIALS

We are looking for talented Year 4
netballers to join our U10 team next
season!

Trial Dates:
Wednesday 13th & 20th May
6-7pm

Register now!
www.teammatrix.club



TEAM MATRIX NETBALL CLUB

U11 & U12 TRIALS

We are looking for talented Year 5 & 6
netballers to join our U11 & U12 teams next
season!

Trial Dates:
Thursday 14th & 21st May
6.00 - 7.30pm

Register Now!
www.teammatrix.club

