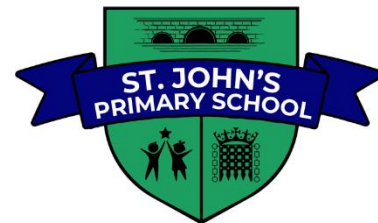


St John's Primary School

Newsletter – 4th September 2026



WELCOME! Whether this is a welcome back or a welcome for the first time, we are delighted to see all of our children and families back in school. The children are all talking excitedly about their summers and seem to have made full use of the dry days and sunshine. The children have come in beautifully and have shown that they are ready to commence their learning and rise to the challenges of the term and year ahead.

We would very much like you to come in and meet your child's new teacher and therefore, have arranged **MEET THE TEACHER evenings next week. These will be held in your child's classroom on:**

Wednesday 9th September at 5:00 – 5:30 & again, from 5:30 – 6pm for Years Foundation, Year 1, Year 3, Year 4 and Year 6.

Thursday 10th September at 5:00 – 5:30 & again, from 5:30 – 6pm for Years 2 and 5.

If you have more than two children with us, please feel free to move between meetings.

The teacher will share with you important information and give you an overview of the curriculum for the next year and term. This information will then be placed on the website.

Previously, parents have mentioned that they would like an opportunity to meet the teacher early in the term, so we have built this in going forward.

PLAYGROUND AND OUTSIDE AREAS

The middle area of the Foundation Stage area will be resurfaced the week beginning 28th September, which will provide a great play surface for the children. We were hoping that it would be ready for the start of term, but unfortunately that has not been the case.

You will notice that the playground shed has gone (a huge thank you to Mr. Crellin and his son for helping staff take down the old shed) and a dry and long-lasting container is now in its place.

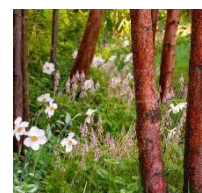
You will also have noticed that the black gates have been removed separating the two playgrounds. Being short of play space, we are looking to increase the areas that the children can play, run and explore. We will begin to develop more play areas, so that the children can play around the school. At the moment, FS and Year 1 are using the front playground until they decide they are ready to explore further.

If we had been able to use the pond area during the hot summer, this would have transformed the children's experiences. It is a lovely space and we should be using it as a learning area, but it is overgrown and needs clearing. School budget definitely does not extend to hiring people to do this. PLEASE COME AND HELP US CLEAR THE AREA ON SATURDAY 17TH OCTOBER.

We will supply teas, coffees, cakes and cold drinks. Please bring tools and bags to clear things into.

Even if you can only give us 20 minutes, you will make a difference. If anyone is happy to do a tip run with garden waste, that would also be really helpful.

Together, let's make this area a wonderful and well-used resource for our children.



MOBILE PHONES & SMART WATCHES

Our school is mobile-free. Some parents of children in Years 5 & 6 would like their child to have a phone because they walk to and from school. These children must hand in their phone on the gate from Monday and then, they will collect them at the gate at the end of the day. Whilst we will store the phones throughout the day in a cupboard, we do not take any responsibility for them. We must have permission from parents for this to happen. Their phone must be turned off before it is handed in.

Children should not be wearing smart watches to school. If your child does wear a smart watch, it must not be used to play music, check health stats, etc. in school.

We have two mobile phones in school that are used for school purposes only – this is to allow Breakfast Club and JACs to easily contact parents outside of school usual hours (on 07895 846788) and to take on trips, take photos of work, etc.. These are easily identifiable by the St. John's sticker on the back.

STAY AND LEARN & CLASS ASSEMBLIES

We will continue to invite you in for Stay and Learn sessions. There is one each short term; we have altered the day and times so that hopefully, they will accommodate most parents & carers across the year. For our new parents, Stay and Learn gives you the opportunity to visit your child's class and join in with their learning. If you cannot attend, please do send a grandparent or uncle / aunt into school instead. The classrooms get quite full, so we would ask that it is 1 adult per child please and whilst we can accommodate a pushchair or two in each class, younger children must stay within their pushchair or be held for the duration of the visit.

As usual, we are offering two 30-minute sessions on each day. If you have 1 child with us, you are welcome to stay for the whole hour if you wish. If you have more than 1 child, you can split the hour into smaller sessions, so that you can visit all your children's classes.

Class assemblies have moved to a Friday at 9am. Parents and carers of the children who are performing are very welcome to attend.

Please enter the school via Trenchard Close for these occasions.

We look forward to welcoming you into school.

VOLUNTEERS

WE NEED YOU!

There have been changes made to the legal requirements for adults working with children in a voluntary capacity. This means that if an adult is likely to volunteer within school on a number of occasions, we will need to process a DBS certificate for them. If you are in a position to help out in school, with OWLs, reading or handyman/woman skills, we would LOVE to hear from you. Please message the school and we will apply for a DBS certificate for you (we just need id and a household bill to do so).

Thank you for your support through the difficulties we have had with SSE
and our electrical supply.

Enjoy Bunkfest this weekend (but please get your children to bed on time on Sunday!).

Dates for your diary:

2026/27

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday 1st - INSET

Wednesday 9th @5pm & 5.30pm – Meet the Teacher for Yrs F, 1, 3, 4 & 6.

Thursday 10th @5pm & 5.30pm – Meet the Teacher for Yrs 2 and 5.

Monday 28th @6:45pm PTFA AGM

Wednesday 30th – school photographs

OCTOBER

Thursday 1st – Census Day

Monday 5th – Years 3, 4 & 6 – Henley Literacy Festival Online

Tuesday 6th – Years 5 & 6 to Henley Literacy Festival

Thursday 8th – Years 1 & 2 to Henley Literacy Festival Online

Friday 9th @ 9am & 9.30am– Stay and Learn

Thursday & Friday 22nd & 23rd October - INSET

Half term: 26th – 30th

NOVEMBER

Monday 2nd - Term starts

Friday 6th – Children in Need Mufti Day

Monday 9th Harvest Assembly @ 9am – parents/ carers of F, Yrs 1 & 2.

Friday 13th @ 9am – Year 6 class assembly

Tuesday 17th – Parents' Evening

Wednesday 18th – Parents' Evening

Thursday 26th @2pm & 2.30pm – Stay and Learn

DECEMBER

Friday 4th @c.2pm Foundation Stage Christmas performance

Tuesday 8th @c.2pm KS1 Christmas Performance

Wednesday 9th @c.6pm KS1 Christmas Performance

Thursday 10th Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day

Tuesday 15th am KS2 to Cornerstone Christmas Panto

Tuesday 15th pm KS1 to Cornerstone Christmas Panto

Wednesday 16th – Christmas Jumper day for Christmas lunch

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

JANUARY

Monday 4th – INSET

Tuesday 5th - Term starts

Friday 22nd @9am – Year 4 Class Assembly

Tuesday 26th @9am & 9.30am – Stay and Learn

FEBRUARY

Friday 5th @9am – Year 2 Class Assembly

Half term: 15th – 19th February

Monday 22nd - Term starts

Monday 22nd – Friday 26th - Year 6 to Woodlands

MARCH

Monday 1st – Parents' Evening

Tuesday 2nd – Parents' Evening

Thursday 4th – World Book Day

Friday 12th @ 9am Year 5 class assembly

Monday 15th @2pm & 2.30pm – Stay and Learn

Tuesday 23rd @c.2pm Years 3 & 4 Production

Wednesday 24th @c.6pm Years 3 & 4 production

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

APRIL

Monday 12th - Term starts

Friday 23rd @9am – Year 1 Class Assembly

MAY

Monday 3rd – BANK HOLIDAY – school closed

Friday 7th @9am Year 3 Class Assembly

Monday 10th- Thursday 13th Year 6 SATS

Friday 21st @9am & 9.30am – Stay and Learn

Tuesday 25th – Sports Day

Friday 28th May – INSET

Half term: 31st May – 4th June

JUNE

Monday 7th - Term starts

Monday 7th – Class photos

Wednesday 9th - Thursday 10th Year 4 to Hill End

Friday 18th @9am – Foundation Stage Class assembly

JULY

Wednesday 7th @ 2pm & 2.30pm– Stay and Learn

Tuesday 13th @c.6pm – Year 5 & 6 production

Wednesday 14th @c.6pm – Year 5 & 6 production

Wednesday 21st – Year 6 Leaver's assembly

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