



St. John's RC Primary School

Love one another, as I have loved you

Newsletter: Issue: 1 Friday 5th September 2025

Headteacher's message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the new school year!

I am absolutely delighted to begin my role as the new Headteacher of St. John's. It is a real privilege to be joining such a welcoming, vibrant, and caring school community, and I am very much looking forward to getting to know you and your children in the weeks and months ahead.

I hope you all had a wonderful summer and are feeling rested and ready to return to school life. It has been lovely to see the children back in school and to feel the buzz of excitement and enthusiasm - bringing the school to life. I extend a warm welcome to our new Nursery and Reception children and families. It's been wonderful catching up with the children this week and hearing all about their holiday adventures. They've transitioned very successfully into their new year groups and there is already a strong 'buzz' of learning in school.

From my first few days, it has been clear that this is a school full of potential with dedicated staff, enthusiastic learners, and a strong sense of pride. My aim as Headteacher is simple: to continue building on the great work already in place, and to ensure that every child feels happy, valued, and challenged to achieve their very best.

This week the children have been enjoying art projects in all classes- studying a different artist and producing beautiful displays in all the corridors.

We have celebrated our first school mass together and enjoyed sharing discussion time in first whole school assembly.

A couple of reminders....

Celebration Assemblies will resume on Friday next week at 9:10am. This assembly celebrates the hard work of the children. One child from each class is chosen as 'learner of the week' and whole classes will also receive an attendance award and Headteacher's award relating to our school values. If your child has been chosen you will be notified on a Wednesday and invited to attend the assembly.

You'll hear from me regularly in newsletters like this, and I'm always keen to listen. If you have any questions, suggestions, or just want to say hello, please don't hesitate to get in touch via the school office or catch me on the playground before or after school.

Thank you for the warm welcome I've already received. I am truly excited to start this new chapter with you all and to work in partnership to give your children the best possible start in life.

I wish you all a wonderful academic year and hope you have a wonderful weekend.

Warm wishes,
Mrs McGeehan

Lord

Give our children a thirst for knowledge, wisdom and understanding.

May their hearts be ready to learn this year, at home, at school and at church.

Open their ears, may they crave knowledge and seek it out.

In Jesus' name

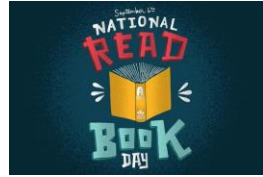
Amen

Thank you

Over the summer holidays Mr. Stevenson, Miss Houghton, Mrs Jackson and our cleaning team worked extremely hard to get school ready for our new academic year. All staff have also been hard at work preparing classrooms and resources for their new classes. A huge thank-you to them all for their efforts and in ensuring that it all got done in time. The school looks wonderful, thank you again!

Reading

Reading and coming to school every day... The two habits of reading every day and coming to school every day are going to make the biggest difference to Your child's education and life chances.



Reading is a necessity for learning and a lifelong skill. We know that children who struggle to learn to read have a much harder, steeper path with all other areas of learning. It affects their social skills, well-being, attainment and progress. This in turn means that a child who does not succeed with reading has poorer life chances and fewer opportunities as an adult.

Listening to your child read and sharing a book daily is so important. That precious 20 to 30 minutes every day is time very well spent.

The best research for years tells us that the children who do best in school practise reading the most.

Please make sure that your child brings their reading books to school with them every day.

Please also make sure that you sign your child's home reading record to show that they have practised their reading at home. Thank you for your help with this.

Oracy



Oracy is to speaking what numeracy is to mathematics or literacy to reading and writing. In short, it's nothing more than being able to express yourself well.

It's about having the vocabulary to say what you want to say and the ability to structure your thoughts so that they make sense to others.

It is the ability to express yourself effectively - to speak eloquently, articulate ideas and thoughts, influence through talking, listen to others and have the confidence to express your views. These are all fundamental skills that support success in both learning and life beyond school.

At St. John's, oracy is a vital tool for learning; by teaching our children to become more effective speakers and listeners we empower them to better understand themselves, each other and the world around them. We believe spoken language to be essential in the development and achievement of our children across every subject in the curriculum. Oracy is also linked to improvements in reading, writing, and overall attainment in all subjects.

Have you done your homework?

...can be a thorny question. However, learning at home really matters, especially when it comes to speaking and listening. Each week in the newsletter we will pose a question to discuss at home to enable development of speaking and listening skills, as well as some fun conversation along the way too. We look forward to hearing your ideas each week.

Let's Talk

Discuss: If you could change one thing about Banbury, what would it be? Why?

Sentence stems:

I would add...

Can you explain why?

I have a different idea...





Volunteers- we need you!

We are recruiting for members for our PTA and Governing body. Please see Parent Hub for details.



Staffing News

A warm congratulations to Miss Page and Miss Callan who became engaged over the summer holidays! We wish them both every happiness as they, and their partners, plan their futures together.

School Website

The school website has been updated over the summer holidays. Please take time to look at what is new- including policies, well-being and zones of regulation information, pupil voice and EAL and Catholic Life pages.

Clubs

From Monday 15th September, we will be launching the following after school clubs. These will run from 3:30pm to 4:30pm and will be £6 per session. Spaces are limited, so please book on Arbor, these will be available on the Arbor app from Tuesday 9th September.



Catholic Life



This term's values are



Autumn 1: Eloquent and Truthful

Catholic schools help their pupils grow by developing an eloquent language which they can use to understand and articulate their emotions, beliefs, and questions, encouraged by the example of their teachers to be truthful in the way they represent themselves and speak about the world.

Celebrations and certificates

Our first celebration assembly will be held next week, at the end of the first full week back in school. Each class teacher will award a certificate for 'learner of week' and there will also be a whole class attendance and Headteacher's award.

Class News

Reception class had an incredible start to their year. They did some incredible listening and learning. They drew some excellent self portraits and enjoyed playing inside outside getting used to their new classroom and making new friends.



Welcome to the new **Year 5** pupils! Bright eyed and full of enthusiasm, it has been a lovely start. Getting to know all the children and their interests and personalities is one of the best parts of the year and it has not disappointed. I can already see that they have some amazing qualities amongst them: Welcome to the new Year 5 pupils! Bright eyed and full of enthusiasm, it has been a lovely start. Getting to know all the children and their interests and personalities is one of the best parts of the year and it has not disappointed. I can already see that they have some amazing qualities amongst them: well behaved, polite, artistic, neat, reflective and they really enjoy sharing their opinions, backing them up with reasoning - some great discussions already. I look forward to getting to know them, and you the parents, even more as we move through the year. Well behaved, polite, artistic, neat, reflective and they really enjoy sharing their opinions, backing them up with reasoning - some great discussions already. I look forward to getting to know them, and you the parents, even more as we move through the year.



Class News

Take a look at what we have been up to in our classes...



Year 2 have settled in BRILLIANTLY this week! 🌟 They have got used to new routines super quickly and have loved exploring their new classroom! We have spent some time getting to know each other more and creating beautiful artwork for our school corridors!



It was a real pleasure to welcome our new Year 6 children back to school on Wednesday. They have already shown themselves to be excellent role models and responsible leaders within the school community. This week, they learned about the artist Alma Thomas and used her distinctive dabbing technique to create stunning abstract backgrounds for their self-portraits. We are so proud of their start to the year and look forward to a wonderful year ahead!



It's been a joy welcoming the new Year 4 children back into school this week! They were all smiles coming in and spending time with their friends. We spent the week getting to know one another, completing some wonderful pieces of artwork as well as settling back into routines. It's been a lovely time getting to know your wonderful children!



Class News

We blew Miss Sykes' socks off today in **Year 1** with our fantastic writing skills! We wrote letters and explained our zones clearly. Together, we came up with some brilliant class strategies to help us regulate ourselves in each of the zones.



Well, what a first week back we have had in Year 3!

We looked at the artist Yayoi Kusama and created some fantastic self-portraits in the style of her work (we were absolutely dotty by the end). We also learnt about the zone of regulation and what we can do to help us; we created a fantastic toolbox of strategies.

I am so proud of how the children have settled it has been a truly amazing week!

A brilliant beginning to our new school year!



School Photos

Tuesday 9th September

The photographer will be on site from 8:30am to take photos of the children with siblings who do not attend St. John's, this is optional.

If you wish to have a photo please come to the school hall from 8:30am. Your child will have an individual photo taken during the school day.

All siblings within St. John's will have photos taken in the school day also.

Please ensure that your child is wearing full smart uniform, including jumper/cardigan and all boys should be wearing a school tie.

If your child usually has P.E or swimming on a Tuesday please bring their kit separately for them to change in to.



Key Dates	
September	
Tuesday 9 th	School Photograph Day PTFA Meeting at 14:30
Monday 15 th	Flu Vaccinations
Wednesday 24 th	BGN Opening Evening 18:00-20:00
Thursday 25 th	BGN Opening Morning 09:30-10:30
Tuesday 30 th	Sen Parent Coffee and Chat 14:30
October	
Monday 6 th	Mrs Alvilez-Year 5 Class Assembly
Tuesday 14 th	Opera Workshop in school Parent's Evening 15:30-17:30
Wednesday 15 th	Parent's Evening 15:30-17:30
Thursday 16 th	PFMAC Concert-Oxford City Hall
Friday 17 th	Year 2 Royal Banquet
Wednesday 22 nd	Parent Open Afternoon
Thursday 23 rd	End Of Term
Friday 24th	Inset Day-School Closed
November	
Monday 3rd	New Term Year 5 <u>Bikeability</u> until Thursday 6 th Year 6 <u>Kilvrough</u> Manor Residential Meeting 15:30
Monday 10th	Year 3 Class Assembly-All welcome 09.15
December	
Monday 8 th	Year 6 <u>Kilvrough</u> Trip until Friday 12 th
Tuesday 9 th	KS1 Christmas Production 17:00
Wednesday 10 th	EYFS Christmas Production 09:30
Monday 15 th	KS2 Carol Concert St John's Church

Please keep an eye on the school calendar,
as dates may change life in school is
always full of surprises!