



St. John's RC Primary School

Love one another, as I have loved you

Newsletter: Issue: 3 Friday 19th September 2025

Headteacher's message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Already, time is flying!! And the children's attitudes and behaviour is so positive across the school, you would think that we'd been back for half a term already! Our full programme of clubs commenced this week and we have had the first of our 'pupil voice' meetings with the School Council, Eco-Warriors and our Chaplaincy Team. The children were so enthused and there are lots of exciting things on the horizon. The School Council launched our Ready, Respectful, Safe competition and we are looking forward to seeing all the entries. Please see Parent Hub for more information. It has been a great week for sports, as the Year 6 sports leaders have launched the new play zones at lunchtime and we had a great day of cross-country practice on Tuesday. Early Years have had a visit from the nurse to learn all about keeping their teeth healthy and all classes have completed displays of wonderful artwork around the school.

The new morning gate routine has been really successful, and I want to thank parents and carers – thank you for supporting us to support your children.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend

Mrs McGeehan

There is one symbol so familiar to people across the world, that it needs little explanation.

That is the cross/crucifix. We recognise it as a symbol of God's victory over death. Jesus died on the cross, but because of his Resurrection, the cross has become for us, not a symbol of defeat, but a symbol of victory.

Last Sunday was the Feast of The Exaltation of the Holy Cross. The word 'exhaltation' means to raise high, to lift up, to sing praise to. So, whenever we see a cross/crucifix displayed anywhere, it is a reminder to exalt, to praise God for loving us so much that he gave us his only Son, Jesus.

This week the Chaplaincy team have written a prayer based on sacrifice, as Jesus sacrificed Himself for us.

Jesus,

You are the light of the world, and you sacrificed yourself on the cross.

Your cross reminds us to never give up hope.

May your cross remind us of how you, heart-warmingly, keep us safe and hug our world.

Amen

Reminders

Please ensure children have water only in their water bottles and any earrings worn are stud earrings.

Thank-you for your continued support.

SEN Coffee Afternoon

On Tuesday 30th September, Mrs Butcher, our SENDCo, will be hosting our SEN coffee afternoon, where Mrs McGeehan and Mrs Wickens will also be present. A meeting like this is a chance to be a support network and talk to each other about shared issues. If you have any concerns about your children and think it would be helpful to meet other parents in this way, please feel free to attend. These sessions will be very informal and an opportunity to connect and communicate. We will be hosting more of these throughout the year, each with a different theme. It is open to all parents and not just those who have children on the SEND register. We look forward to meeting you and sharing a warm drink and a biscuit or two.

Parent Open Afternoon

On Wednesday 22nd October, the school gates will open at the slightly earlier time of 3:05pm. Parents/Carers are invited to come into their child's class to view some of the work they have been doing this term.

We look forward to welcoming you.

MacMillan Coffee morning



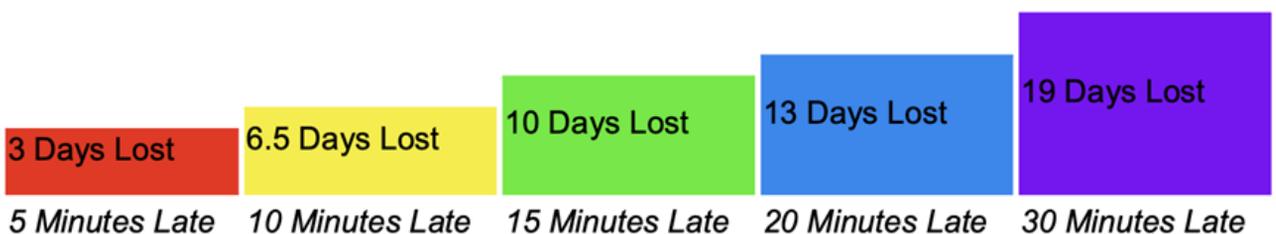
On Friday 26th September, from 10am-11:30pm, our school council will be hosting a coffee morning to raise funds for MacMillan. Parents and carers are warmly invited to join us for a drink, some yummy treats and to raise money for a fantastic cause.

Attendance



Our whole school attendance for the week is: 96%. This meets our goal for the week! Let's see if we can keep this up. Thank-you for all of your support in ensuring children are at school and on time each day.

★ ★ The class with the highest attendance, at 98% ,
this week is Year 5 ★ ★



(Over one academic year)

Can you Help?



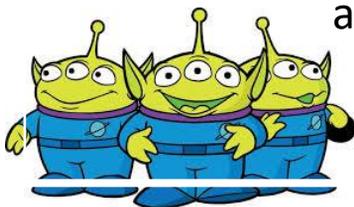
We are in the process of updating our playground 'zone' areas, so that children can have access to different activities at playtimes. If you have any of the following that you are able to donate, we would be extremely grateful. Garden games, Colouring books, Dressing up, Saucepans, wooden spoons, Hula hoops, skipping ropes, Books and children's magazines

School Website

Oracy Question of the week

The school website has been updated over the summer holidays. Please take time to look at your child's class, the page has lots of information. These are updated regularly.

Would you rather meet a superhero or an alien?



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.

Please see our new website page for more information on the Jesuit values and how we are encompassing these as a school.

Chaplaincy Team

This week the chaplaincy team met and wrote the prayer for our newsletter based on last week's Gospel reading. We also wrote invitations to our local care homes ahead of our MacMillan coffee morning and discussed an upcoming project for the 'Mary Garden' at the front of the school. Further details of this will follow in the next few weeks.



Celebrating European Languages Day

On Friday, 26th September in our morning assembly, we will be celebrating European Languages Day in a special way by praying a decade of the Rosary together. Children will have the chance to take part by saying the Hail Mary in their home language. ✨

We warmly welcome **all languages** spoken in our school community. What you need to do...

🙏 If your child would like to take part, please send them in with the Hail Mary written in your home language by Thursday 24th. Children only need to say the **first phrase** in their language- *Hail Mary full of grace, the Lord is with thee, blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus.*

We will all respond with the second phrase together in English.

🙏 It would be wonderful if you could practise and coach your child at home so that they feel confident saying their part clearly. 💬

🙏 Please join us in this wonderful opportunity to pray together. We are really looking forward to this special celebration of prayer, language, and the rich diversity of our school family. ❤️

Thank you to Banbury Circle of the Catenian Association

On behalf of St. John's School, We would like to extend our sincerest gratitude for your incredibly generous donation of £125. Your support will make a meaningful difference to the families in our school community, particularly those who are most in need. Thanks to your kindness, we will be able to provide essential assistance and ensure that no family has to face hardship alone. It is gestures like yours that truly help to strengthen the bonds of our community, and we are deeply appreciative of your continued support. Once again, thank you for your thoughtfulness and generosity. We are truly fortunate to count you as partners in our mission to support and uplift all families at St. John's.





Certificates and Celebrations



This week's awards go to

EYFS Nursery Reception	Coming soon! Coming soon!
Year 1	Daraboth
Year 2	Litta
Year 3	Evelyn
Year 4	Hamilton
Year 5	Emilia
Year 6	Freddie
Headteachers Award	Year 5
Attendance Award	Year 5
Wrap Around Care Star of the week	Gilroy

St. John's in Pictures



This week we have been busy practising our counting in lots of different ways. Our favourite has been singing forwards and backwards to 10 , we're getting quicker and more confident each time! 😊

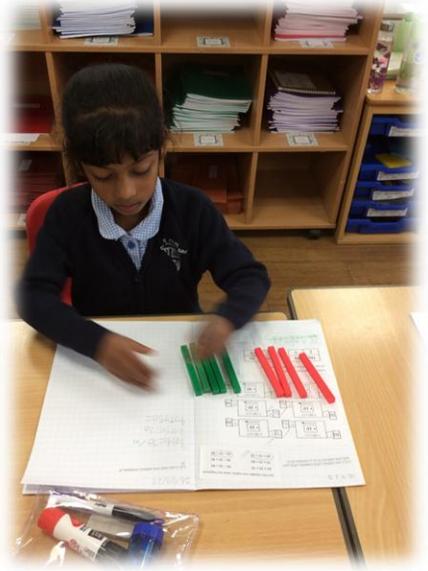


😊 Year 5 Legendary Lining up 😊

No words needed really just look at this Legendary lining up. Excellent example year 5.

St. John's in Pictures

👑 10 Year 2 have working their socks off with multiples of 10! We have been noticing patterns with place value charts and using base 10 to add and subtract multiples of 10 together 10 🎉



Year 4 took inspiration from Marten Jansen when creating their own abstract self-portraits 🎨 🖼️ Mini artists in the making!

This week in PE we have had some fun with cross country! - We tried our very best and completed 3 whole laps around the field in record time!!



Year 6 using torches to experiment how light travels in science



Introducing



St. John's ECO Warriors

St. John's School Council



St. John's School Chaplaincy Team

Key Dates

September

Wednesday 24 th	BGN Opening Evening 18:00-20:00
Thursday 25 th	BGN Opening Morning 09:30-10:30 Cross Country Event KS2
Friday 26 th	MacMillan Coffee Morning 10am-11.30
Tuesday 30 th	Sen Parent Coffee and Chat 14:30 PTFA AGM 14:30

October

Wednesday 1 st	Harvest Donation Day-Details to follow
Monday 6 th	Mrs Alvilez-Year 5 Class Assembly Unique week-details to follow Year 4 Class Mass at St. John's Church
Monday 13 th	Opera Workshop in school
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 Whole School Harvest Mass at School 10:30 Rugby Event Banbury Rugby Club
Friday 17 th	Year 2 Royal Banquet
Monday 20 th	Kilvrough Manor Meeting 15:30
Tuesday 21 st	Nursery and Reception New Parents Open Morning 10:00
Wednesday 22 nd	Parent Open Afternoon 3.05
Thursday 23 rd	End Of Term
Friday 24th	Inset Day-School Closed

November

Monday 3 rd	New Term Year 3 Mass at Church Year 5 Bikeability until Thursday 6 th Year 6 Confirmation Meeting 15:30
Thursday 6 th	KS2 Football Event at BGN
Monday 10 th	Year 3 Class Assembly-All welcome 09.15
Thursday 13 th	Whole School Mass at St. Johns
Tuesday 18 th	Nursery and Reception New Parents Opening Morning 10:00
Thursday 20 th	Year 1 Multi-Skills at BGN
Tuesday 25 th	NCMP Reception and Year 6

December

Monday 8 th	Year 6 Kilvrough 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
Friday 19th	End of Term-school closes at 13.00