St. John’s RC Primary School

Love one another, as I have loved you

Newsletter: Issue: 10 Friday 21st November 2025

Headteacher's message

Dear Parents and Carers,

It’s been another busy and exciting week here at St. Johns’s!

We were delighted to welcome families to our New Parent Open Morning earlier this week. It was wonderful to see so many new faces exploring our school, meeting staff, and finding out more about the learning journey we offer.

A big thank you to our pupil ambassadors who did such a fantastic job showing visitors around and sharing what makes our school so special.
Our pupils have also been out and about taking part in a range of enriching activities. Year 4 enjoyed their Activators Session, working together brilliantly to develop teamwork and leadership skills through fun physical challenges. Year 1 took part in a lively Multi Skills Event, where they showed great enthusiasm, energy, and sportsmanship.
A group of our children had the wonderful opportunity to visit the theatre this week to see Mary Poppins. They were captivated by the performance- thank-you to Miss Houghton for organising this.
This week myself and Miss Page had the great pleasure of visiting classrooms across the school to see the wonderful writing taking place. It was truly inspiring to watch pupils so engaged in their work planning ideas, choosing powerful vocabulary, and taking real pride in their final pieces.

I want to thank our staff for all their hard work and you for the encouragement you give at home; it makes such a difference to the children’s confidence and enjoyment of writing.
We finished the week on a high with a fantastic Instrument Stories Assembly, where pupils were introduced to a range of musical instruments through storytelling and performance. It was lovely to see everyone so engaged and inspired by the magic of music.
Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Wishing you all a restful weekend.

Warm regards,
Mrs McGeehan

Prayer

This week, in our mission assembly, we listened to the Gospel Of Luke, where Jesus taught about never losing hope.

A Prayer of Hope and Trust

Dear Jesus, Thank you for showing love even when things were very hard. Help us to remember, just like the thief on the cross, that we can always turn to you and you will never turn us away.
When we make mistakes, give us the courage to say sorry and to try again with hopeful hearts.
Teach us to be kind to others, to forgive, and to believe that your love is always with us.
Help our school to be a place where hope grows, where everyone feels safe, and where we remind each other that you are always near.
Amen.

Attendance

Our whole school attendance for the week is: 96.65%. This meets our goal for the week! 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 99% , this week is Year 3. 🎉 ⭐

Year Group	Present R/C: Marks (%)
Reception	96.11%
Year 1	97.5%
Year 2	97.04%
Year 3	98.4%
Year 4	97%
Year 5	94.85%

Oracy Question of the week

World Television Day (21st) If you could create your own TV show, what would it be about?

💜 REVERSE ADVENT APPEAL 💜

This year, as part of our Advent preparations, we are taking part in a Reverse Advent appeal to support the wonderful work of Father Hudson's Caritas. Instead of receiving something each day, we are inviting our school community to give something back, living out our commitment to Catholic Social Teaching, particularly the principles of Solidarity and the Preferential Option for the Poor.

Through our donations, we show that everyone has dignity and worth, and that we stand together with those in need.
Each class has been assigned a focus item to donate so that hampers can be created for individuals and families who are less fortunate, including those who are homeless, disabled, refugees and migrants, older people, or children and families in need. These hampers will help bring comfort, joy, and a sense of togetherness during what can be a challenging time of year for many.

We warmly welcome any donations, however small, and we fully appreciate that this comes at a busy and sometimes difficult financial time for families.
All donations should be sent into school by Monday 8th December at the latest, so that Father Hudson's can collect and distribute the hampers in time for Christmas.

Class donation items:

- Reception & Nursery: Biscuits and chocolates
- Year 1 & Year 2: Crackers, breadsticks, crisps
- Year 3 & Year 4: Jams, chutneys, marmalades, spreads, jarred olives
- Year 5 & Year 6: Tinned items such as soup, baked beans, dried noodles, rice and pasta

Thank you in advance for your generosity, kindness, and support.

Reminders

🌟 **Uniform Reminder** 🌟

A little reminder about our school uniform — thank you for helping our children look so smart every day!

Please make sure that:

Hair is kept in natural colours (no bright or dyed hair, please).

Hair ties and accessories are in our school colours.

Earrings are small **studs only** – no hoops or dangly ones for safety reasons.

We really appreciate your support in keeping everyone looking neat, tidy and ready for learning!

Next week is *Double Certificates Week*! That means twice the recognition, twice the celebration, and twice the fun. We can't wait to highlight all the amazing effort and achievements — keep shining!"

🤩 Certificates and Celebrations ⭐

This week's awards go to

EYFS Nursery Reception	 Double certificates next week Double certificates next week
Year 1	Double certificates next week
Year 2	Double certificates next week
Year 3	Double certificates next week
Year 4	Double certificates next week
Year 5	Double certificates next week
Year 6	Double certificates next week
Headteachers Award	Double certificates next week
Attendance Award	Double certificates next week
Wrap Around Care	Double certificates next week

Catholic Life

This term's values are:

Autumn 2: learned and wise.
Learned: learning how God wants us to live our lives
Whether we are young or old, we should never stop learning about what God wants of us.
We learn many new things each day. By reading the Bible, listening to our teachers and listening to our hearts, we learn more of what God wants.
Wise: knowing how God wants us to live our lives and putting it into practice.
God is always with us and hoping that we will live our lives in the right way, following the teachings of Jesus.

⭐ Chaplaincy Team ⭐
This week, the Chaplaincy team carried out their monitoring of the prayer areas this week. They were pleased to see that the spaces continue to be used thoughtfully and respectfully. The calm and organised atmosphere allows pupils to pray and reflect comfortably, and any small suggestions for improvement have been shared with staff. We remain committed to ensuring these areas are welcoming and well maintained for all who use them- as well as being reflective of the changes in liturgical seasons.

⭐ Advent Stay and Pray ⭐
As we prepare to enter the season of Advent, we are delighted to invite our parents and carers to join us for a special time of reflection and prayer in school. During Advent, we will be holding a "Stay and Pray" group each Tuesday afternoon, where parents are warmly welcome to come into their child's class to share in a short time of Advent prayer and stillness together.
This is a wonderful opportunity to pause in the busyness of the season, spend a few quiet moments with your child, and prepare our hearts for the joy and hope
of Christmas.

Parents and Carers are invited into their child's class on Tuesday 2nd, 9th and 16th December at 2:50pm for these sessions.

St. John's in Pictures

Year 5 collaboration
This week, Year 5 learned why topic sentences are so important for starting a paragraph. They worked in teams to rebuild mixed-up paragraphs using strips of paper. One sentence in each set was printed in colour to show the topic sentence, and the children had to find the group their sentence belonged to.
The class had great fun communicating, sorting ideas, and discovering how a good topic sentence helps everything make sense!

This we have worked on expanding our chronological understanding by exploring the enormous timeline we have in school. We used it to locate the 1950s, which is the decade we are currently learning about. ⏳

It's another busy week at St John's!

Year 6 had a fantastic time at The Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum in Woodstock! By exploring a range of historical artefacts and sources, we gained a deeper understanding of what it would've been like in Britain during World War Two.

Important dates

Key Dates	
November	
Tuesday 25th	NCHMP Reception and Year 6
December	
Monday 8th	Year 6 Kilvrough Trip until Friday 12th
Tuesday 9th	KS1 Christmas Production 17:00
Wednesday 10th	EYFS Christmas Production 09:30
Thursday 11th	Christmas Jumper Day
Monday 15th	KS2 Carol Concert St John's Church
Wednesday 17th	Christmas Craft Afternoon
Thursday 18th	Whole School Advent Mass Christmas Dinner day
Friday 19	End of Term 13:00 finish

⚠️ WRAP AROUND CARE - 15.12.25 ⚠️

We would like to inform you that on Monday 15th December, our wrap around provision will finish at the earlier time of 4:30pm.

Please ensure you only book the first hour. There will be no bookings being taken between 4:30pm and 5:00pm on this day - children will need collecting at 4:30pm.

This one-off adjustment is due to our Key Stage 2 Carol Concert at St John's Church, which our staff will be attending. Finishing at 4:30pm ensures that staff have sufficient time to travel to the church and support the concert.

We are sharing this information in advance so that families can make any necessary alternative arrangements. Please note that children can be booked in until 4:30pm only on this date.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.