

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to a new term. Christmas seems like a distant memory now and it has certainly been a busy and exciting start to the new term.

Classes have been enjoying 'WOW' days over the last two weeks to introduce their new curriculum topics. It has been lovely seeing the engagement of the children across the school. **Curriculum overviews and information for parents regarding class routines for the Spring term will be uploaded to the website on Monday 13th January.**

<https://www.st-john.oxon.sch.uk/curriculum/curriculum-overviews-for-parents>

This term we welcome a number of new staff to St John's:

Mrs Mallon joins us as the new Year 2 Ash class teacher.

Mrs Hill joins us as a Higher Level Teaching Assistant, covering teachers planning, preparation and assessment (PPA) time each week.

Miss Clanfield joins our pastoral team supporting in the Harbour building.

We welcome all to our St John's family.

This term our whole school Collective Worship (assemblies) has focused on how we show Self-Belief and what this means in our work and in our wider life. On Tuesday, we thought about how at the time of Epiphany Christians believe that the wise men visited the baby Jesus, after a long and hard journey, with special gifts.

We thought about how our learning journey in school can often be difficult with obstacles that get in the way. We also reflected on what were our own special gifts (qualities) such as being a kind friend.

Newsletters are published to the school website. The easiest way to receive newsletters is to subscribe to the newsletter through the school website, <http://www.st-john.oxon.sch.uk/news/newsletters> - this way you will be notified when a new letter is uploaded. In addition, our school website has all the recent newsletters and class letters on it, as well as lots of other information such as dinner menus. Add us to your favourites: www.st-john.oxon.sch.uk

We also use a text message service to send reminders to parents and Facebook to communicate school events and notices.

Find us on Facebook  at: @stjohnsschoolcarterton

My colleagues and I wish you a restful half term break and look forward to seeing all the children on 20th February.

Best Wishes

Mark Smith

Headteacher

VALUE OF THE TERM

SELF BELIEF

We develop self-confidence and determination to achieve our unique potential.

Believing in
Yourself is
the First Secret
to Success!

'I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me.' Philipians 3:13-14



General Reminders

Dolce Meal Price Increase

From 31st March 2025 Dolce are increasing the price of a two course meal to £2.88 for children in Key Stage 2. Please note, children eligible for Benefit-Related Free School Meals and Universal Free School Meals (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) will continue to receive their meals free of charge.



Admission for Reception Class for September 2025

From 4th November 2024 you can apply online for a reception place at

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/apply-school-place/reception-applications>

The deadline for receipt of reception applications is 15th January 2025

Uniform Reminder

We are very proud of the smart appearance of the children at our school and the high expectations we have. Recently we have seen an increase in the number of children wearing trainers to school. Please can I remind you that trainers are not part of our uniform policy for daily wear. Children should be wearing black school style shoes.

Attendance and Punctuality

Thank you to parents for getting your children into school on time so that they do not miss any learning or feel unsettled because they have arrived after routines have been established for the day.

Each week we promote and celebrate good attendance across the school. Research shows that poor attendance limits pupils' life chances, impacts on children's academic success but more worryingly adversely affects children socially and emotionally.

We do not authorise family holidays in term time, long weekends, or special visits/trips/half days for example. At the end of the school year we have blocked INSET days to support families in booking holidays before other schools across the country break up. As you may have seen on the news at the start of term, the government have tightened regulations on persistent absence and the use of penalty notices for term time holidays.



Attendance this term:

Whole school target: Each child to have attendance above 96%

Class	w/b: 25/11	w/b: 02/12	w/b: 09/12	w/b: 16/12
Oak	93.1%	94.1%	95.1%	94.1%
Beech	93.1%	92.4%	94.6%	95.9%
Elm	92.7%	97.3%	95%	90.3%
H Chestnut	97.3%	97.3%	97.7%	67.7%
Ash	95.7%	95.7%	93.7%	93.7%
Hazel	96%	96.7%	97%	91.7%
Cedar	89.3%	93.8%	94.1%	94.5%
Rowan	97.5%	94.6%	97.1%	92.1%
Holly	97.4%	98.1%	98.1%	96.8%
Silver Birch	94.5%	95.2%	92.4%	92.8%
Sycamore	97.7%	95.3%	98.7%	93.7%
Maple	96.3%	96.7%	94.7%	96%
Walnut	100%	99%	96.6%	96.6%
Willow	98.2%	97.5%	98.9%	97.9%
% Attendance Whole School	95.6%	96%	96%	92.4%

Library News

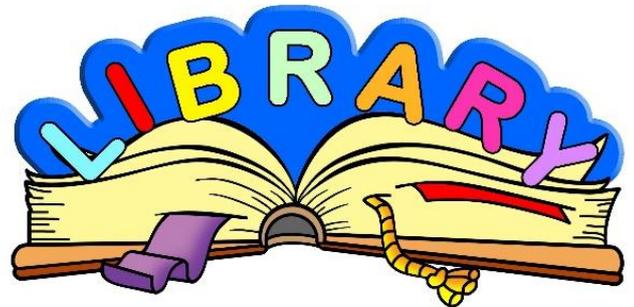
Library News

Overdue books

Please help your children to return books borrowed over the Christmas period. Overdue reminder letters will be sent out this week. If your child receives a letter please respond to it accordingly.

Brand New Book Order

A book order will be placed this month for brand new books for the library. The children are encouraged to let me know which books they would like in the library and these books will form part of the order. Thank you in advance.



Margaret Hewitt
Librarian

Pastoral Team News

Safeguarding Children

If you have any concerns about a child relating to Safeguarding, please get in touch with one of our Safeguarding Leads immediately by contacting the school directly on 01993 843124.

If you are unable to speak to a member of our Designated Safeguarding Team at school and have a safeguarding concern, please contact the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) directly who will be able to advise you. If you have a concern about a child, please call MASH on 0345 050 7666.

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead is Joanna Stainer (Deputy Headteacher)

Money course



Tuesdays 9:30-11:30
Taster session 21st
January
At Witney Methodist
Church
Free refreshments



FOR MORE INFO OR TO BOOK A PLACE
PLEASE EMAIL
KATIEGAMBLE@CAPLIFESKILLS.ORG
OR
NICHOLAS.CAPMONEYCOACHING@GMAIL.COM

TUESDAYS 9.30 am - 11.30 am
free
refreshments

Taster session: 25th Feb

LIFE SKILLS

AT WITNEY METHODIST
CHURCH

from 25th Feb 2025

BUDGETING
MONEY SAVING TIPS
COOKING ON A
BUDGET
HEALTHY
RELATIONSHIPS
CONFIDENCE
COMMUNICATION



TO REGISTER, EMAIL:

katiegamble@caplifekills.org

christians
against
poverty

CAP
life skills

Everybody
Welcome

PTA News

PTA Diary Dates

The PTA have planned many events for the year for children and families. We hope you will be able to support these:

March

Spring Discos – Weds 5th March Y1-6 (3 discos Y1&2 4.30-5.30pm, Y3&4 6-7pm, Y5&6 7.30-8.30pm)

Someone Special Sale (Mother's Day) - Thurs 27th March during the school day

June

Someone Special Sale (Father's Day) - Thurs 12th June during the school day

Summer Discos – Weds 18th June R-Y6 (3 discos R&Y1 4.30-5.30pm, Y2,3&4 6-7pm, Y5&6 7.30-8.30pm)

July

Summer Fun Day - Sun 6th July

Open Evening - Thurs 10th July

Leaver's party Thurs 17th July

DIARY DATES

Term Dates for 2024 – 2025

Term 1

Wednesday 4th September to Friday 25th October 2024

Term 2

Monday 4th November to Friday 20th December 2024

Term 3

Tuesday 7th January to Friday 14th February 2025

Term 4

Monday 24th February to Friday 4th April 2025

Term 5

Tuesday 22nd April to Friday 23rd May 2025

Term 6

Monday 2nd June to Friday 18th July 2025

INSET Days: Monday 2nd and Tuesday 3rd September, Monday 6th January, Monday 21st and Tuesday 22nd July

May Day Bank Holiday (school closed): Monday 5th May 2025

Term Dates for 2025-2026

Term 1

Wednesday 3rd September to Thursday 23rd October 2025

Term 2

Monday 3rd November to Friday 19th December 2025

Term 3

Tuesday 6th January to Friday 13th February 2026

Term 4

Monday 23rd February to Friday 27th March 2026

Term 5

Monday 13th April to Friday 22nd May 2026

Term 6

Monday 1st June to Friday 17th July 2026

INSET Days: Monday 1st and Tuesday 2nd September, Friday 24th October, Monday 5th January, Monday 20th July

May Day Bank Holiday (school closed): Monday 4th May 2026

We may add to the following dates as school and community events are confirmed.

2025

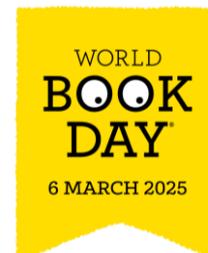
Monday 20th January: Year 5 Young Voices at The O2

Thursday 23rd January: Reception and Year 6 Height and Weight Checks

Monday 3rd February: Year 5 Maple Carterton Fieldwork Trip

Wednesday 5th February: Year 5 Sycamore Carterton Fieldwork Trip

Thursday 6th March: World Book Day



Monday 17th March: Class Photos



Thursday 3rd April: Reception Vision Screening