

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a wonderfully busy and uplifting end to Term 3 and start to Term 4 we have enjoyed at school. Last term, we were delighted to take part in **Children's Mental Health Week**, during which our dedicated *Well-Being Champions* supported pupils across the school with activities promoting emotional awareness and resilience. We also marked **Safer Internet Day**, focusing this year on staying safe when using AI. Our *Digital Leaders* did a fantastic job leading engaging activities to help children navigate technology responsibly.



<Our Digital Leaders leading a class session on AI in Year 4.

>Year 1 work 'This is my place' for Children's Mental Health Week.



We ended Term 3 on a joyful note with the **Early Years Teddy Bear's Picnic**, which proved to be a huge success and was thoroughly enjoyed by children and adults alike.

Since returning for Term 4, the pace of excitement has continued. We celebrated a vibrant **World Book Day**, with children and staff dressing as their favourite book characters and immersing themselves in a half-school day of reading. Our Reception pupils also had the memorable opportunity to visit the **Story Museum in Oxford**, where they explored the magic of storytelling for themselves. Unfortunately, due to school closures we missed our buddy reading afternoon, but this will be rearranged as it is such a valued and much-loved activity by all.



Sporting achievement was also a highlight as a team of pupils represented St John's at the **Cross-Country Semi-Finals at Cokethorpe**. Despite challenging weather, the children demonstrated our school values superbly and supported one another throughout the event.



Additionally, our fantastic PTA organised the **Spring Term Disco**, which was enjoyed by children across the school.

We are proud of the enthusiasm, kindness, and resilience our pupils have shown throughout these events, and we look forward to the exciting weeks ahead.

Thank you for your patience and understanding with what has been a challenging end to the week as a result of our water access and school closures.

Kind regards,

Amy Peace

Assistant Head

Forthcoming Events

Eat them to Defeat them is back!

We have agreed to take part again in Eat Them to Defeat Them programme for schools.

Eat Them To Defeat Them is the award-winning campaign that gets kids eating more veg...the fun way!

Their survey of 3000 parents and children shows that repeated participation in the programme leads to an average of a 60% increase in vegetable consumption sustained over the long term.



A reward chart and sticker pack has been sent home and the lunch staff will be handing out stickers at lunchtime for any children trying a vegetable.

PARENT SURVEY 2025-2026

Your views are incredibly valuable to us. It is important that we hear from parents what works well at St John's and what could be improved. This type of feedback helps us to formulate school improvement priorities and next steps.

As part of the process of engaging and listening to parents, we invite you to complete the Parent Survey for 2026. The survey can be completed online using the following link:

[Parent Survey 2025 - 2026 – Fill in form](#)

Alternatively, you can scan the following QR code to access it:



Please could we ask that all surveys are completed by Monday 16th March at 12.00noon. Many thanks for your help in completing the survey and for your continued support of our school.

Monday 16th March - Class Photographs

Tempest Photography will be in school all day next Monday for our Class Photographs.

Please could we ask that all children are in correct uniform and bring their best smiles.



Tuesday 24th March – Easter Sponsored Run

The PTA is organising the Easter Fun run to raise money to fund two days of Skipping workshops (Skip4Life) for St John's Children during May 2026 as part of our Healthy Living Week.

On Tuesday 24th March, support your child in the challenge to complete as many laps around the school as possible!

General Reminders



ClassDojo

Class Dojo is also used to share with you what your children have been doing in school as well as a means to share notices and reminders.



TAPESTRY

Please remember though that we do not use the messaging facility on Dojo.

All messages for teachers should be directed to the school office in person, by phone (01993 843124) or email (office.2613@st-john.oxon.sch.uk)

Please contact the School Office or the Oak and Beech class teachers if you do not have access to Tapestry as this is the main form of communication of all events, timetable changes, reminders and child observations.

Find us on Facebook at: [stjohnsschoolcarterton](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsschoolcarterton)

Pupil Premium and Forces Premium

The school receives extra funding for children who are entitled to free school meals or whose parents are serving in the armed forces. This is a major source of funding for our school, allowing us to provide additional support for the children.

Now that our younger children all receive a free school lunch, it may seem less important to apply for free school meals. This is not the case and failure to register will result in the school losing funding for each eligible pupil. If you are eligible, you may also get access to subsidised trips and music lessons.

There are several criteria for entitlement, including if the parent receives income support, or income-related allowances. If you think you are, or may be, entitled to this, please contact the School Office for details on how to apply. If you are eligible and you have children in Years 3 to 6, they will also receive a free school meal.

In addition, if you are a parent and are employed in the Armed Forces, please let us know.

Park Safety

We have been made aware of an incident at the park adjacent to the school, where some children were reportedly being watched and followed. This has been reported to the Police by the parent.

If you have any concerns of your own, please call 101.

Library News

Oxfordshire Book Awards 2026

During the past few weeks' all the children have had picture and junior novels read to them by their teachers provided by the organisers of the Oxfordshire Book Awards.

We were very fortunate to be invited to take part again this year. Each child has had the opportunity to vote for their favourite book. The votes have now been submitted to the organisers and we will hear the results after the Easter holiday.

We are very fortunate to be able to keep the books at no charge for the school library. The books are now available to borrow, perhaps your children has chosen one to enjoy with a parent/carer already!

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 Mark Smith (Headteacher)

Our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads are Amy Peace (Assistant Headteacher), Kayleigh Smith (Assistant Headteacher), Maddie Appleby (Early Years Lead) and Alaina Tabern (Child and Family Support Worker)



The NSPCC have updated some of their guidance on supporting children with mental health issues. Please follow the links to some very useful pages on their website.

Child Mental Health: click [here](#)

The Safeguarding Network: click [here](#)

Attendance and Punctuality

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

6 days or less
absence per year
97% or above
VERY GOOD
THIS IS YOUR
TARGET

Between
7 and 19 days
absence per year
90% - 96%
BELOW
EXPECTATIONS

More
than 19 days
absence per year
Under 90%
POOR
ATTENDANCE

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.

In line with our school policies, please remember to communicate your child's absence everyday by 9am at the latest. If your child is absent and has a school lunch booked, please remember to cancel their lunch via SchoolGrid. This saves on wasted food and an unnecessary charge.

Reporting your child as absent: As a school we have a duty of care to safeguard all our children. Ensuring children attend school regularly is part of the safeguarding duty for both school and parents and absences **MUST** be recorded in registers with reasons for the child not attending each day.

Please can we politely remind parents that you must contact the school and notify us of your child's absence before the school day starts. Lateness is recorded from 8.45am when registers are taken.

Any child absent without a valid reason provided by parents or carers by 9.15am has to be marked as an unauthorised absence. The Local Authority monitor the school registers and if you are not reporting your child's absence this could result in families being referred to the Attendance Team as your child is then classed as 'Missing Education'.

This is why it is so important we are notified on each and every morning of absence please.

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 MATTERS
every school day counts.

Attendance this term:

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

Class	w/b: 02/02	w/b: 09/02	w/b: 23/02	w/b: 02/03
Oak	95.0%	97.3%	97.0%	97.9%
Beech	97.0%	95.3%	97.3%	91.3%
Elm	97.9%	96.1%	97.9%	98.7%
Horse Chestnut	91.7%	96.0%	94.0%	97.5%
Ash	93.7%	93.0%	92.8%	94.4%
Hazel	95.0%	96.2%	97.6%	98.3%
Cedar	95.0%	97.3%	98.7%	97.9%
Rowan	93.3%	98.0%	96.3%	99.2%
Holly	90.4%	91.5%	96.7%	95.8%
Silver Birch	99.0%	98.6%	98.3%	95.7%
Sycamore	96.4%	97.9%	96.2%	100%
Maple	89.3%	90.0%	95.4%	96.4%
Walnut	95.2%	90.6%	98.1%	95.2%
Willow	95.8%	97.1%	98.7%	98.0%
% Attendance Whole School	94.6%	95.4%	96.8%	96.9%

PTA News

We hope by now all the Golden Tickets have been found! Please hand your winning tickets into the team in the office to claim your prize. Well done to all the lucky winners! Thank you to everyone who took part.



Looking ahead, the chocolate tombola will be back as our end of term treat.

Please save the dates for two future PTA events:

- Table Top Sale (think car boot sale... minus the car!) on 9th May
- St John's Fest (Summer Festival) on 5th July

We're also putting out a call for larger-sized jumpers and cardigans. If you have any good-condition items your children have outgrown, we'd be very grateful for donations to help keep our spare uniform rails well stocked. Next sale is on the last day of term.

Finally, a huge good luck to all the children taking part in the sponsored run. We're cheering you on every step of the way! The money raised will go towards an exciting skipping workshop, which we know the children will absolutely love.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support, we couldn't do it without you!

Contact us at anytime at PTA@st-john.oxon.sch.uk

DIARY DATES

Term Dates for 2025-2026

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 3rd October, Monday 5th January, Monday 20th July

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

Term Dates for 2026-2027

Term 1

Wednesday 2nd September to Wednesday 21st October 2026

Term 2

Monday 2nd November to Friday 18th December 2026

Term 3

Tuesday 5th January to Friday 12th February 2027

Term 4

Monday 22nd February to Thursday 25th March 2027

Term 5

Monday 12th April to Friday 28th May 2027

Term 6

Monday 7th June to Tuesday 20th July 2027

INSET Days: Tuesday 1st September, Thursday 22nd & Friday 23rd October, Monday 4th January, Wednesday 21st July

May Day Bank Holiday (school closed): Monday 3rd May 2027

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

WB 9th March: British Science Week

Monday 9th March: Year 3 Trip to Hill End

Monday 16th March: Class Photographs

Tuesday 17th March: Year 6 SATS Information Evening

Tuesday 24th March: PTA Sponsored Run

Friday 27th March 1.30pm: End of Term

Monday 30th March to Friday 10th April: Easter Holidays

WB Monday 11th May: Year 6 SATS Week

Thursday 21st May: Year 6 Swimming starts

Thursday 18th June: Year 4 Overnight Residential

Wednesday 3rd June: Reception Pirate Workshop Day

UPCOMING PTA EVENTS

FEB

13

AFTER SCHOOL
TREAT

FEB

25

SPRING DISCO

MAR

05

GOLDEN TICKET
CHOCOLATE BARS

MAR

24

SPONSORED
EASTER RUN

MAR

26

AFTER SCHOOL
TREAT

MAR

27

EASTER EGG WALL
CHALLENGE & RAFFLE



For more information contact
PTA@st-john.oxon.sch.uk



Free Easter Family Day!



At Carterton Community Centre

2nd April (Easter School Holidays)

Time slots: 10-12 & 12:30-2:30

A free children's lunch bag for every child
(Contact us by the 23rd March with any dietary requirements/allergies)

Activities include:

- Craft activities
- Ride On Time (company with ride-in toys)
- Face painting
- Hook a duck
- Easter egg hunt, & so much more.

You must book a free ticket by calling into
Community Centre, Town Hall or Library.

A ticket is required to attend the event.



Easter Holiday Tennis Camps

Ages 4 - 16 years old

www.osaacademy.co.uk

- Week 1:**
- Monday 30th March - Friday 3rd April
 - Witney Lawn Tennis Club
 - Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor Tennis Club
- Week 2:**
- Monday 6th April - Friday 10th April
 - Witney Lawn Tennis Club

Week Long Course Bookings:

Mornings: 9am - 1pm Ages 4 - 16 yrs £192
 Afternoons: 1:30pm - 3:30pm Ages 8 - 16 yrs £96
 Full Days: 9am - 3:30pm Ages 8 - 16 yrs £245
 Short Courses: 9am - 11am Ages 4 - 7 yrs £96

Individual Day Bookings:

Morning: Ages 4 - 16 yrs £48
 Afternoon: Ages 8 - 16 yrs £24
 Full Day: Ages 8 - 16 yrs £65
 Short Courses: Ages 4 - 7 yrs £24

Fun and Educational
No experience needed
Small Group Sizes - Limited Spaces Available
Flexible Bookings - Full Week or Individual Days
Childcare Vouchers Accepted
Morning, Afternoon and Full Day Sessions Available
All Equipment Provided
Led by friendly, certified coaches

info@exceltennis.co.uk www.exceltennisacademy.co.uk

EASTER FOOTBALL CAMPS

Our Easter Football Camps are open to all players aged 4-13 Years & will be engaging sessions with lots of fun, challenges, games and prizes throughout the day.

Happy Easter

WEEK 1
 31ST MARCH - 2ND APRIL
 EYNHAM SPORTS PAVILLION
 OX29 4HG

WEEK 2
 7TH - 9TH APRIL
 GATEWAY PRIMARY SCHOOL
 OX18 3SF

£25 per day/£60 for all 3 (siblings discount available) 10am - 3pm BOOK NOW info@osaacademy.co.uk

Join us for our next Open Morning Saturday 14 March

A co-ed, independent day school
 Extensive transport network
 Book at: cokethorpe.org

The North Wall Arts Centre

Coalesce Dance Theatre presents

Mika and the Polar Bear

Saturday 14 March
 11am & 2pm

An imaginative and unforgettable journey into the wonders of our natural world.

For ages 4-11

Tickets: £12 (children £8, under 2s free)
 Bookings: 01865 319450 / thenorthwall.com

Next Thing
EDUCATION

EASTER 2026

The WOW Camp

STEM. Creativity. Physical Play
All in one camp

www.nextthing.education

HMRC TAX-FREE CHILDCARE ACCEPTED

HAF PLACES AVAILABLE

Activities shown in image: LASER TAG, VIRTUAL REALITY, ANIMAL WORKSHOPS, ROBOTS, SCIENCE, STREET DANCE, MINECRAFT.

EASTER CAMPS 2026

Tech-powered camps, packed with **WOW** experiences!

Example camp activities

Camps run 9 am - 4 pm



★ NEW FOR EASTER - WOW EXPERIENCES ★



Activities vary by location. Please visit our website to see what's running at your venue.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

Blending hands-on tech exploration with unforgettable WOW experiences, we inspire children to invent, create, and discover. Led by DBS-checked, friendly and supportive instructors, kids build confidence while diving into exciting activities, challenges, and real skill-building adventures.

AGES 5-11, £45 PER DAY OR £162 FOR 4 DAYS

LIMITED SPACES - BOOK NOW!

WWW.NEXTTHING.EDUCATION T: 01442 873150