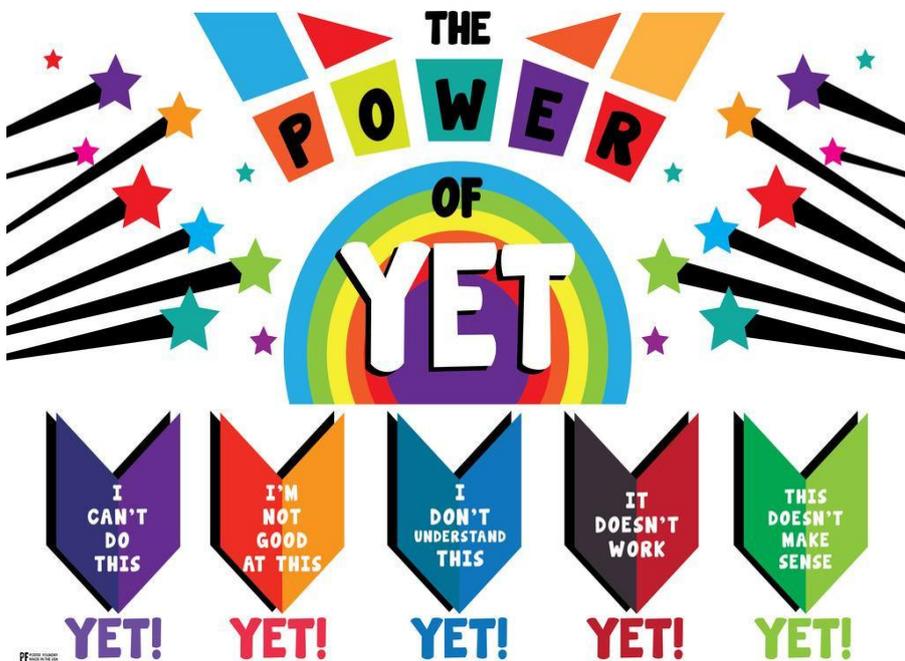


Dear Parents and Carers

Christmas now seems a distant memory and I cannot believe that we are fast approaching the half term break.

This term our value in weekly assemblies is 'self-belief'. We have looked at lots of ways in which children and adults have to show perseverance, determination and resilience. I have been delighted to see these characteristics evident in classrooms this term, with the children fully engaged in their work and rising to challenges in their learning.

We have also been looking at having a Growth Mindset and the power of the word Yet!



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.' Philippians 3:13-14

Negative Mindset	Growth Mindset
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is too hard, I give up	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I will persevere & keep trying
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I made a mistake	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mistakes help me grow
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I don't know how	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I can learn how & improve
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This isn't working	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I'll try a different way
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I'm not good enough	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I will put in my best effort

www.irleducation.org.uk

We are looking forward to welcoming you into school next Tuesday and Thursday for the termly parent, teacher meetings. In addition, for those parents who have children with Special Educational Needs, you should have been offered dates for a Pupil Profile review meeting through the booking system.

If you have not yet booked an appointment and are having trouble doing so online, please do speak to a member of the office team.

Punctuality Reminder

We have had an increasing number of children who are arriving late to school. The school gates are opened at 8.35am and children should be in class by 8.45am for register, at which time we lock the gates. We thank you for supporting a smooth start to the school day.

Best wishes

Mark Smith and the staff team

Forthcoming Events

Children's Mental Health Week 2026

Monday 9th February: Come Dressed as Yourself Day

'COME AS YOURSELF' DAY We are encouraging everyone wear an outfit which makes them feel most comfortable, confident, and like they truly belong — whether that's cosy clothes, cultural dress, favourite colours, or something totally unique. Celebrate what makes you, you!

No donation being asked for.



Safer Internet Day: Tuesday 10th February

On Tuesday 10th February, the pupils at St John's will take part in a range of activities in their classrooms to help remind them about using the internet and technology safely.

Safer Internet Day 2026 Tuesday 10 February

Coordinated by the UK Safer Internet Centre

saferinternetday.org.uk

Want some top tips for yourself?

Here are some links with useful advice on how you can talk to your child about being safe online and where you should report anything you are unsure of online

[Top Tips for parents and carers - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

[Childnet — Online safety for young people](#)

[Homepage - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

This year's theme is all about AI.

Our digital leaders will visit classes to engage the children in the uses of AI and also the importance of using it safely and what to do if they are ever worried or unsure about content they see or hear online through an interactive quiz.

Artificial Intelligence Explained to Kids

BY NICOLAS BOUCHER

What is Artificial Intelligence?

AI makes computers smart like characters in Toy Story, WALL-E, or R2-D2. It enables toys to learn and play with you, mimicking human-like intelligence.

How AI works?

- Learning:** AI learns from lots of data, like how we learn from books and experiences
- Thinking:** It uses this information to solve problems and answer questions
- Improving:** The more it learns & practices, the better it gets at tasks, just like practicing a sport or an instrument

Examples

AI powers video games, adding challenge & fun like Toy Story characters

We have them in interactive storybooks, smart toys and video games!

AI Fun Facts

Self-Driving Cars: AI helps cars drive themselves, which could make roads safer in the future

AI Can Play Games: Some AI programs can beat world champions in games like chess & Go

History

AI's journey started in the 1950s

Evolving from basic games to being now everywhere (in cars, phones, and medicine)

Benefits of AI

AI Helps with everyday tasks. It makes life easier, and improves our technology!

Examples of what AI can do:

- Help you with your homework
- Help you draw and create stories!
- Help you remind you to do things

How to start?

Go to chatgpt.com

And think about a task that you think you need help with, from homework to daily tasks that you think can be automated

SAFER INTERNET DAY!

PARENTS' GUIDE TO USING AI SAFELY

TALK TO YOUR CHILD

Discuss how to use AI responsibly.

USE KID-FRIENDLY APPS

Choose age-appropriate and safe apps.

SET LIMITS

Monitor screen time and usage.

CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

Keep personal info private.

KEEP YOUR CHILD SAFE ONLINE!

- Know what they're doing.
- Talk about what's real or not.
- Show good online habits.

LEARN - SUPERVISE - PROTECT

Parents Evenings

Parents Evenings will be held on Tuesday 10th February from 3.30pm to 5.30pm and Thursday 12th February 3.30pm to 7.30pm.

Reception Classes Teddy Bears Picnic: Friday 13th February 2026

We are inviting parents/carers of Oak and Beech classes in on Friday 13th February at 2:15pm for a teddy bear picnic (squash and biscuits) and a chance for the children to be with you in their classroom environment and perform their "Big Bear Funk" song with you, which they have been working really hard on this term in Music lessons.

We are asking that the tiny teds are returned on this day as well, along with the teddy bear diaries that children have been working on for their homework this term.

World Book Day: Thursday 5th March 2026

As a school, we are looking forward to promoting a love of reading on Thursday 5th March to celebrate World Book Day.

On this day we would like to invite the children to dress up as a character from a book they love and, where possible, bring the book to school with them.



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.

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)

Bikes & Scooters

Please remind all children that these should not be ridden on the school grounds, please dismount before entering the school gates and walk to the bike rack. At the end of the day, please walk until outside the school gates.



Wakey Wakey and Beach Club

Just a reminder, if you no longer wish for your child/ren to continue attending Wakey Wakey or Beach Club in Term 5 (13th April) please can you contact the school office and us know by the 13th February to avoid any charges. Thank you.

Community Fundraising

A huge thank you to Amanda, her team, and the customers at the Centrum Co-op (Shilton Park) for their incredible fundraising efforts in support of St John's School in 2025. Thanks to their generosity, we have received £464.19 to enhance our sensory equipment provision.

With these funds, we have been able to purchase core balance cushions and wobble stools to support children who find it difficult to sit still, as well as ear defenders for pupils who become unsettled or distracted by noise. We have also added two electric walking pads, giving children a safe and effective way to walk off frustrations and regulate their emotions—especially valuable on rainy days when outdoor movement isn't possible.

A trampoline has been provided for Year 3 to help pupils reset between tasks when they are finding it hard to focus. In addition, we have been able to purchase more Dyslexia reading panes to support learners who benefit from them.

We are incredibly grateful for this support. These resources make a meaningful difference to our children every single day.



your
COOP
The Midcounties Co-operative

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.

Library News

Reminder to return overdue books

It would be appreciated if you could assist your child/children to return the books they have borrowed on time. Currently we have 93 overdue books. Sadly a number of books have been returned damaged. Please remind your child/children to keep their library books and water bottles separate.

Please respond to letters sent home regarding overdue books. There are 3 options available:

1. Find the book(s) and return
2. Purchase a replacement book(s)
3. Agree to make payment for the school to purchase a replacement book(s) via the School Gateway.

As you can appreciate books are costly and the school has a limited budget to purchase books.

Brand New Books

A variety of new books have arrived in the library for the children to borrow ranging from graphic novels, football books, picture books, resource books, dyslexia friendly books and general fiction books. Many of the books have been requested by the children.

Thank you
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](#)

SUSIE SLOTH AND HER SECRET SUPERPOWER -

A FUN, INTERACTIVE
WELLBEING AND
FUNCTIONAL BREATHING
WORKSHOP FOR KIDS



Teaching children how
their breath can support
Their health and
wellbeing

Benefits

Learn self regulation
skills for times of stress,
anxiety or big emotions

Breathwork practices to
build resilience, boost
focus and concentration,
and support calmness
and restful sleep

For details of upcoming
sessions visit
physiologyflow.co.uk

rachel@physiologyflow.co.uk
07591 273139



Certified Instructor

Attendance and Punctuality

ATTENDANCE MATTERS



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 this term:

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

Class	w/b: 05/01	w/b: 12/01	w/b: 19/01	w/b: 26/01
Oak	93.3%	96.3%	90.0%	91.0%
Beech	95.0%	98.7%	86.0%	94.3%
Elm	98.6%	95.6%	98.9%	97.9%
Horse Chestnut	96.7%	96.0%	95.3%	95.7%
Ash	92.9%	94.7%	95.0%	94.3%
Hazel	99.2%	100%	98.3%	96.0%
Cedar	95.7%	99.0%	95.0%	98.7%
Rowan	95.4%	96.3%	89.0%	93.3%
Holly	99.1%	93.0%	94.8%	94.8%
Silver Birch	95.7%	98.6%	97.2%	96.9%
Sycamore	97.3%	97.9%	98.6%	93.9%
Maple	95.4%	94.1%	95.6%	95.6%
Walnut	97.5%	97.4%	92.6%	94.8%
Willow	98.4%	96.1%	97.1%	96.8%
% Attendance Whole School	96.5%	96.7%	94.5%	95.3%

PTA News

The PTA has an exciting calendar of events coming up over the next few weeks and we would love as many families as possible to get involved.

These events help raise vital funds for the school while creating fun memories for the children.

****Date change** Thursday 12th February – After School Treat**

A special treat for the children (and adults) to enjoy at 3.15.

Wednesday 25th February – Spring Disco

Years One and Two - 16.30-17.30, Years Three and Four - 18.00-19.00, Years Five and Six - 19.30-20.30

The ticket price of £4.00 includes the disco, a drink and sweets to take home. Please book your ticket via the following link -<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/stjohntheevangelistpta/2053340>

Thursday 5th March – Golden Ticket Chocolate Bars

Look out for golden tickets hidden inside chocolate bars for a chance to win a prize! More information to follow.

Monday 16th March – Easter Egg Wall Challenge & Raffle

Let's see which class can donate the most Easter eggs so we can build a wall of eggs! Then there is a chance to win eggs at a raffle on the last day of term.

Tuesday 24th March – Sponsored Easter fun run

Thursday 26th March – After School Treat

Save the Date – 5th July 2026 'St John's Fest'

Our summer festival will be taking place on **5th July 2026**, including a football tournament!

More information coming soon.

A huge thank you to all parents, carers and volunteers for going above and beyond to support. Whether you arrange or help at events, donate prizes or attend activities your support makes a real difference to the whole school!

For more information or to get involved, please contact: 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

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

WB: 9th February: Children's Mental Health Week

Tuesday 10th February: Safer Internet Day

Tuesday 10th February 3.30pm to 5.30pm: Parents Evening

Thursday 12th February 3.30pm to 7.30pm: Parents Evening

Thursday 12th February: Year 3 Swimming starts

Thursday 12th February: PTA After School Treat

Friday 13th February: Reception Teddy Bear's Picnic

Monday 16th to Friday 20th February: Half Term break

Monday 23rd February: Sycamore class Brass Lessons start

Wednesday 25th February: PTA discos for children

Thursday 5th March: PTA Golden Ticket Event

Thursday 5th March: World Book Day

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

Thursday 5th March: Reception Trip to The Story Museum

WB 9th March: British Science Week

Monday 9th March: Year 3 Trip to Hill End

Monday 16th March: Class Photographs

Tuesday 24th March: PTA Sponsored Run

Friday 27th March 1.30pm: End of Term

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

Caring for Others † Achieving Excellence

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

WITNEY DRAMATIC SOCIETY PRESENTS

Cinderella

a Pantomime by Lighthouse Scripts



Adults: £12 /
Children: £8

On: 19th, 20th & 21st February 2026 at 7.30pm
Morning & Matinée performances on:
21st February 2026 at 10.30am & 2.30pm

Witney Methodist Church, 40 High St, Witney OX28 6HG

A donation from programme
sales will go to...
Witney & West
Oxfordshire
Foodbank
Together with Trussard
witney.foodbank.org.uk

Get your tickets from:
Truck Music Store, Woolgate Centre, Witney
Online at:
www.ticketsource.co.uk/witney-dramatic-society
(small booking fee applies)
On the door

Scan for tickets

www.witneydrama.co.uk



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SCIENCE BAZAAR

Saturday 21 February 2026

9:30am - 11:30am Relaxed autism-friendly early opening
11:30am-4pm Open to all

Fun activities, hands-on workshops, experiments, talks, show, competitions and cafe



BOOK
TICKETS

MORGAN
SINDALL
CONSTRUCTION

www.brookes.ac.uk/sciencebazaar
sciencebazaar@brookes.ac.uk

[@OxfordBrookesPublicEngagementResearch](https://www.facebook.com/OxfordBrookesPublicEngagementResearch)

[@oburesearchpublicengagement](https://www.instagram.com/oburesearchpublicengagement)

Oxford Brookes University, Headington Campus, OX3 0BP

NO PARKING ON SITE EXCEPT FOR ACCESS NEEDS

18
FEB

February Half Term Hedgehog Club

Wed, Feb 18 - Thu, Feb 19, 2026

All day

[Witney Community Primary School](#)



Come and join us for activity days in the great outdoors. Meet new friends, learn new skills and have fun. We will spend the whole day outdoors building dens, cooking, exploring and crafting. The day starts at 9.30am and finishes at 3.30pm. Early drop off and late pick ups are available at an extra cost. The sessions are for 5 to 11 year olds children, drop offs only. Booking coming soon.

Save event

thehedgehogclub123@gmail.com

07767 078876

HALF TERM FAMILY FUN IN OXFORD!



Polka and Theatr lolo

Tidy | Taclus

Based on the illustrated children's book by Emily Gravett

Pete the badger likes everything to be neat and tidy: the flowers, the leaves, even the other animals. But, when autumn comes, he gets a little bit carried away with cleaning up the forest and accidentally destroys his own home!

With beautiful puppets, original music and a touch of silliness, this playful story will delight young audiences, as it explores how everyone needs a little bit of wild chaos in their lives.

THE NORTH WALL, OXFORD

17 + 18 February, 11am + 2pm

AGES 3-7

BOOK NOW!

February Half Term

The North Wall
Arts Centre

NW Explorers

Under 8s

Family Dance Party

14 February

10.30am & 1pm

Join us for a 'hip-hopping, toe-tapping' daytime disco for all of the family. Featuring bubbles and balloons, movement activities and dance games, sensory play and face painting! With DJs playing party classics, for you and your little ones.

Tickets Pay What You Feel



NW Inventors

Ages 8-11

Character Creations

16 - 17 February

9am - 12pm

Invent your own characters in this fun, interactive drama workshop: describe and design them, and bring them to life with physicality, facial-expression and voices – then see what happens when when they all mix and meet!

Tickets £40

Full bursaries available

Email participation@thenorthwall.com to apply



Book now: thenorthwall.com

MASSIVE SECOND-HAND BOOK SALE

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**Including children's, fiction
cooking, gardening,
crime, horror...**

Sat 14th Feb 10-3

Sun 15th Feb 10-1

All books £1 on Sunday!!

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Alvescot Rd, OX18 3JL**



Save the Children

Registered Charity Number: 213890

