

Dear Parents and Carers,

How quickly the first term seems to be going! It was lovely to see so many parents join our harvest celebrations this week.

Over the last two weeks the children have been experiencing the Value of Democracy and have voted for leaders in our Pupil Voice Elections. Across the school we now have representatives for each of these following teams:

- The School Council Communication Team
- Digital Leaders
- Values Champions
- Well-being Champions
- Play Leaders
- Sports Leaders
- Language Leaders

In addition to our school representatives, we introduced last year Head Boy and Head Girl. I am pleased to announce that after some fantastic letters of applications our successful representatives are:

**Head Boy:** Finley A

**Deputy Head Boy:** Monty G

**Head Girl:** Aila V

**Deputy Head Girl:** Emilie R

This week our Language Leaders have helped us to celebrate the European Day of Languages. New to their role in the school, these children have visited every class in the school and led a languages session. They did a great job!

The children have come back to school looking very smart. Please may I remind you that children should be in the correct uniform which includes a St John's sweatshirt or cardigan with logo (available from [www.pmgsschoolwear.co.uk](http://www.pmgsschoolwear.co.uk)). **Black school shoes should also be worn, not trainers.**

**Please make sure all uniform is named – we already have many sweatshirts/cardigans and PE kit that we are unable to match to their owner.**



Find us on Facebook at: @stjohnsschoolcarterton

Class Dojo is also used now from, Nursery to Year 6, 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](mailto:office.2613@st-john.oxon.sch.uk))**

Best wishes

Mark Smith and the St John's Team

VALUE OF THE TERM

## UNITY

We are individuals with a sense of belonging, united through cooperation.



*'May the God who gives endurance and encouragement, give you a spirit of unity.'*

Romans 15:5



## European Day of Languages 2026

On Monday 28th September, our school celebrated the European Day of Languages, a special occasion that promotes language learning and celebrates the rich cultural diversity across Europe.

This year's theme was 'Languages Unite!' and the day began with a whole-school assembly led by our dedicated Language Leaders alongside Miss Smith. During the assembly, they introduced the purpose of European Day of Languages and encouraged everyone to embrace the opportunity to learn about different languages and cultures.

Following the assembly, the Language Leaders visited classes throughout the school, leading a variety of engaging and interactive activities. Children enjoyed learning Power Talk, practising different ways to say "hello" in a range of European languages, and taking part in fun songs and quizzes. These activities provided pupils with an exciting opportunity to explore new languages and develop an appreciation for the many ways people communicate across Europe.



The enthusiasm and participation shown by all the children made the day a great success. A huge well done to our Language Leaders for confidently leading the activities and inspiring others to become curious and confident language learners. We are very proud of the important role they played in making this day possible.

## Upcoming Events

### Open Mornings

Please find below details of our upcoming Open Mornings and please feel free to share this amongst any friends or family looking for a Reception place for next September.

We warmly invite prospective families to come and discover our wonderful Nursery and Reception in action as you consider school applications for September 2027.

Wednesday 14th October 9.45-10.30am or 10.45-11.30am

Wednesday 4th November 9.45-10.30am or 10.45-11.30am

To book a place please contact the School Office on 01993 843124 or [office.2613@st-john.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.2613@st-john.oxon.sch.uk)

We look forward to welcoming you.



### Making an application to Secondary school

Parents of children born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016 (inclusive) need to apply for a secondary school place for September 2027.

Applications can be submitted from 11 September 2026. The deadline to submit an application is **31<sup>st</sup> October 2026**.

National Offer Day for Year 7 is 1<sup>st</sup> March 2027.

## Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October – Sobell House Pot of Gold Day

Our Pot of Gold Day is coming up on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October. We are supporting Sobell House Hospice through a special non-school uniform fundraiser.

By taking part, our school will raise vital funds that enable Sobell House Hospice to provide compassionate care and support to local patients and their families when they need it most. More details to follow from the Communication Team soon.



## Flu Vaccinations

A letter will be coming home shortly with the link to complete the consent form for the Flu Vaccination. These will take place in school on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December.

## General Reminders and Information

### Playground equipment

A gentle reminder to all parents and carers that **children should not use the school's outdoor play equipment before or after school.**

This includes the **Trim Trail, Jungle Gym, Reception Garden and Nursery Garden equipment.** These areas are used as part of our provision during the school day and are not available for children to play on before or after school.

This is important to help us maintain a **safe environment for all children**, as well as to protect the equipment and outdoor areas for their intended use during the school day.

## 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 Kayleigh Smith (Deputy Headteacher)**

**Our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads are Mark Smith (Headteacher), Amy Peace (Assistant Headteacher) and Alaina Tabern (Child and Family Support Worker)**

Over the course of the last school year, the Pastoral Team put together a series of videos detailing many of the topics covered in the Family Links Nurturing Programme. Those videos can be found via the following links:

Overview of topics - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DkxFgxbWt6w&t=2s>

Praise is Magic - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kvgVCJVPhYg>

Creating Boundaries - <https://youtu.be/HGs1VVqZXGo>

Time to Calm Down - <https://youtu.be/8vPEf0XUydw>

Using Rewards - <https://youtu.be/-iphIEq4HXU>

Listening: <https://youtu.be/kWy7DYqvlNlM>

Choices: <https://youtu.be/wADKfAbIBn0>

Understanding Feelings: [https://youtu.be/Fk88KH\\_cM3c](https://youtu.be/Fk88KH_cM3c)

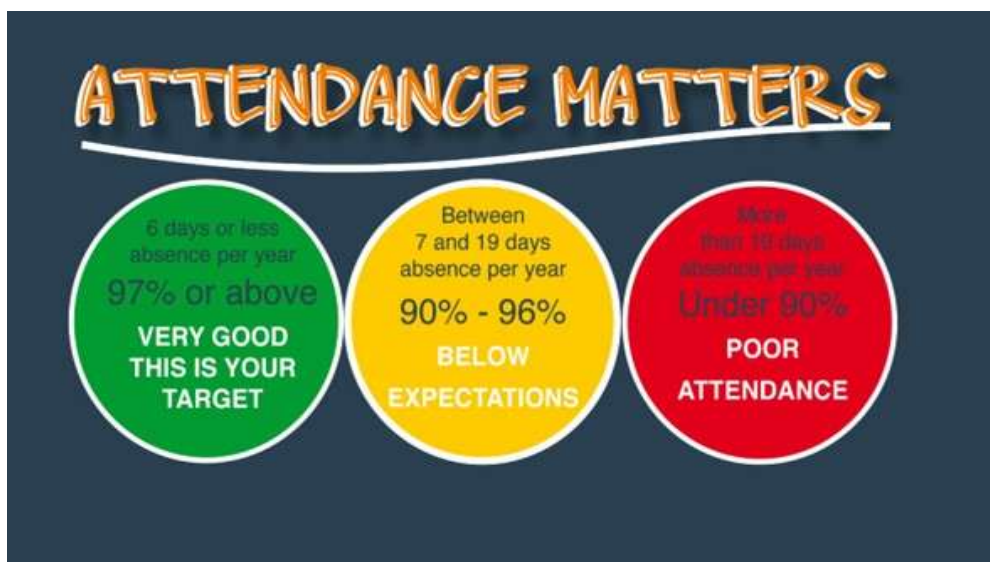
Understanding the Feelings and Behaviour of Children - [https://youtu.be/Z0llyak\\_QVY](https://youtu.be/Z0llyak_QVY)

Taking Time for Ourselves - <https://youtu.be/0zpa8Ncrm6o>

The Power of Play - <https://youtu.be/-VezCWn7wvo>

Diversion and Distraction - [https://youtu.be/FrMQ8\\_aNGDs](https://youtu.be/FrMQ8_aNGDs)

## 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.

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.

We do not authorise family holidays in term time, long weekends, or special visits/trips/half days for example.

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:<br>31/08 | w/b:<br>07/09 | w/b:<br>14/09 | w/b:<br>21/09 |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Oak                                  | 98.2%         | 98.2%         | 91.8%         | 96.4%         |
| Beech                                | 95.5%         | 93.5%         | 91.3%         | 94.3%         |
| Elm                                  | 98.9%         | 96.0%         | 95.7%         | 98.7%         |
| Horse Chestnut                       | 96.1%         | 94.3%         | 93.0%         | 94.7%         |
| Ash                                  | 96.7%         | 98.0%         | 95.8%         | 92.3%         |
| Hazel                                | 97.2%         | 97.0%         | 94.3%         | 95.7%         |
| Cedar                                | 95.8%         | 98.6%         | 98.6%         | 97.1%         |
| Rowan                                | 94.6%         | 89.7%         | 92.3%         | 97.7%         |
| Holly                                | 98.9%         | 95.0%         | 89.3%         | 96.0%         |
| Silver Birch                         | 97.8%         | 100%          | 98.7%         | 96.3%         |
| Sycamore                             | 96.4%         | 98.2%         | 98.6%         | 96.1%         |
| Maple                                | 95.0%         | 94.7%         | 92.0%         | 96.0%         |
| Walnut                               | 92.6%         | 95.6%         | 96.3%         | 93.0%         |
| Willow                               | 95.8%         | 96.8%         | 99.3%         | 91.1%         |
| <b>% Attendance<br/>Whole School</b> | <b>96.4%</b>  | <b>96.1%</b>  | <b>94.8%</b>  | <b>95.4%</b>  |

## PTA NEWS

We've got lots of exciting things happening with the PTA, and we'd love for everyone to get involved! Whether you're a familiar face at PTA events or you're completely new, you are always welcome. Every bit of support makes a real difference to our school and, most importantly, to the children.

### PTA AGM – Everyone Welcome!

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) is coming up on **Wednesday 14th October at 6.30 in the school hall.**

We'd love to see as many parents and carers as possible, so please come along, find out more about what the PTA does, hear about our plans for the year ahead, share your ideas and get involved, no commitments!

Everyone is welcome – we'd love to see you there!



### School Tea Towels

We're delighted to be bringing you a very special keepsake this year!

We've turned your child's self portrait into a beautiful school tea towel. They make a fantastic gift for family and friends, or a lovely keepsake to treasure at home for years to come.

- £6 each or 2 for £10
- Orders must be placed by 6th November.

*Please note: There are a limited number available in each year group, so don't miss out!*

More details and ordering information will follow shortly, so keep an eye out.

Thank you, as always, for your fantastic support of the PTA, we're looking forward to a fun-filled year ahead!

Email [PTA@st-john.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:PTA@st-john.oxon.sch.uk) If you have any questions.



## DIARY DATES

### Term Dates for 2026-2027

#### Term 1

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September to Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2026

#### Term 2

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November to Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2026

#### Term 3

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January to Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2027

#### Term 4

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February to Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2027

#### Term 5

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2027

#### Term 6

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June to Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2027

INSET Days: Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2026, Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> & Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2026, Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2027, Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2027

May Day Bank Holiday (school closed): Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2027

### Term Dates for 2027-2028

#### Term 1

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September to Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2027

#### Term 2

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November to Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2027

#### Term 3

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January to Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2028

#### Term 4

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February to Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2028

#### Term 5

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2028

#### Term 6

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June to Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2028

INSET Days: Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2027, Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2027, Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> & Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2027, Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2028

May Day Bank Holiday (school closed): Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2028

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

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October AM: Harvest Festival for Morning and All Day Cherries

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October PM: Harvest Festival for PM Cherries

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October: World Mental Health Day

W/C Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October : Year 6 Bikeability

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October: Non-uniform day for Sobell House 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary Pot of Gold Day

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October: INSET Day

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October: INSET Day

### Monday 26<sup>th</sup> to Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October – Half Term holiday

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November: Back to School

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November: After School Clubs start for 4 weeks

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 3.30pm to 5.30pm: Parents Evening

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November: Remembrance Walks

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November 3.30pm to 7.30pm: Parents Evening

W/C 16<sup>th</sup> November: Anti-bullying Week – Break the Silence

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November: Individual and sibling photographs

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November: Odd Sock Day

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> to Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November: Scholastic Book Fair

W/C 23<sup>rd</sup> November: Parliament Week

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December: Reception Visit to Chipping Norton

Pantomime

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December: Flu Immunisations

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December: Travelling Pantomime

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December: Oak Class Christmas Play

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December: Beech Class Christmas Play

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December: Cherry Nursery Christmas Songs

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 9.30am: Year 1 & 2 Christmas Play

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 9.30am: Year 1 & 2 Christmas Play

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas Dinner

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December: End of Term - School Finishes at 1.30pm

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Improve basic football skills through fun games.



### MAKE FRIENDS

Build confidence, teamwork and friendships.



### HAVE FUN

Lots of games, activities and small-sided matches.



### LOVE THE GAME

Inspiring a passion for football in a positive environment.



### ★ OUR AMBITION

Building a strong group of Year 2 girls during 2026/27 with the aim of forming a **Carterton FC U8 Girls team** for the 2027/28 season.



**THURSDAYS**  
**5:00 - 6:00PM**



**CARTERTON FC**  
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**PAY & PLAY**  
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**1ST OCTOBER**

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Karl Jenkins,  
Billy Joel, Eric Clapton



SATURDAY 17th OCTOBER 2026

at

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST CHURCH,  
CARTERTON OX18 3AA

Doors open 7.00pm for 7.30pm start

Tickets: £10 - adult,  
£7 - children under 16 years

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or contact 07786 405341

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For additional information contact Carolyn 07786 405341

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space to  
connect  
and belong.  
♥

# Parent SENse



Witney



## Parent-led support for parents & carers of children and young people with SEND.

Whether your child is happy and thriving, things are tough, you're waiting for support or assessment, or you simply want to meet other parents who get it – you're very welcome.

*You don't need to be struggling to come along. ♥*



Meet other  
parents who  
get it.



Relaxed  
and informal  
– come for a cuppa  
and a chat.



Share  
experiences,  
ask questions  
or simply listen.



In-person  
meet-ups  
in Witney.

Follow Parent SENse Witney for upcoming meeting dates and updates:



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*A stronger, more connected SEND community in West Oxfordshire. ♥*