

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 started new learning themes and topics this week. 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 12th January.

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

This term we welcome a Mrs Emma Tribe to our staff team. Mrs Tribe is our new teacher within our Enhanced Pathways SEND provisions, the Cove and the Harbour.

We are currently recruiting for additional teaching assistants to provide both general and one to one support for pupils with Special Educational Needs. If you are interested in these roles please do take a look at a vacancies page on the school website: [St John the Evangelist CE Primary School - Job Vacancies](#)

This term our whole school Collective Worship (assemblies) will be 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.

Through our assemblies and PSHE in class, we are looking at how to develop further the children's independence as well as academic and emotional resilience.

Find us on



Facebook at: @stjohnsschoolcarterton

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)**

Best Wishes

Mark Smith

Headteacher



Forthcoming Events



Monday 12th and Tuesday 13th January

We are lucky to have been offered free taster sessions for years 3-6 by Ross Dyer, the lead instructor at Tora Kai Karate Carterton, a martial arts organisation dedicated to helping children build confidence, discipline, and fitness through fun structured karate sessions.

These sessions give pupils the opportunity to experience karate in a safe and engaging environment while developing key life skills such as focus, respect and self-discipline, all of which support your child's PE and wellbeing objectives.

On Thursday 15th January, Dolce are providing a special 'Dolce Diner' menu for Census Day, please see the menu at the end of the newsletter.

If your child would like to order from the special menu, please visit School Grid and order in the usual way.



General Reminders



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.

Admission for Reception Class for September 2026

Please note that the deadline for reception place applications for September 2026 is the 15th January.

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

If your child was born on or between 1st September 2021 and 31 August 2022, you need to apply for a primary school place now. Even though your child has a Nursery place currently, this does not qualify your child for automatic entry into the Primary School.



Reception classes

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.

After School Clubs

Please see the letter emailed home today. As it is a short term, the booking system is only open for 48 hours from Friday 9th January at 7pm and will close on Sunday 11th January at 7pm.

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.

Year 5 Maple and Sycamore Classes

From January, children in Year 5 will be allowed to walk home independently if parental consent has been given. Please visit School Gateway to advise if your child can walk home independently at the end of the school day or at 4pm if attending an After School Club.

Wakey Wakey and Beach Club

‘Are you having a clear out to make space for all those new Christmas toys!?’

To help support our Breakfast/After School clubs and Cove Children, any toys in good condition for ages 5 to 10 would be greatly appreciated.

To donate, please bring to Reception during normal school hours, Thank you.

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](#)

Young Carers Provision

Dear Parents and Carers,

As some of you may be aware, we run a provision here at school for those children who are classed as Young Carers.

A Young Carer is a child or young person under 18 who provides, or intends to provide support to another person who:

- Has a long-term health condition
- Has an additional need or disability
- Has a mental health condition
- Has a drug or alcohol dependency
- Requires extra help as they grow older

Importantly, children who provide any extra help to parents in the home for any of the above reasons, or a sibling with any medical or SEN needs could be included in the identification criteria.

A Young Carer does not necessarily need to be living in the same home as the person needing support. We want to ensure that young carers at our school are identified and get the recognition and support they deserve, helping them to thrive. We are aware of some Young Carers in our school already, but we know there are likely to be many more whom we are not yet aware of.

We are lucky that West Oxfordshire has recently had the Be Free YC (<https://befreeyc.org.uk/>) available as a service that we can refer into. Be Free YC is a fantastic service that provides mentoring and activities to identified Young Carers. We will also be offering a regular lunch club in school for any identified Young Carers, as well as regular opportunities to take part in extra activities within the school community. Young Carers within school will be supported by Alaina Tabern (Child and Family Support Worker) and Alex Cockett (Nurture Teaching Assistant)

We are asking that all parents who feel that their child could be considered a Young Carer to please contact Alaina Tabern directly (atabern@st-john.oxon.sch.uk). Alaina can then discuss available avenues of support both in and outside of school.

If you aren't sure if your child meets the criteria for a Young Carer or you want to discuss this further for any reason, please feel free to contact Alaina via her email address above, or phone school at 01993 843124.

Library News

Reminder to return overdue books

It would be appreciated if you could assist your child/children to return the books they borrowed for reading during the Christmas break. Currently we have 193 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.

Oxfordshire Books Awards

We are very fortunate again to be invited to take part in the Oxfordshire Book Awards. All children in Reception to Year 6 classes will be invited to choose their favourite book, whether it is a picture book or a junior novel.

The books shortlisted for the OBA this year are:

For EYFS and KS1 – Best Picture Book

Letters to a Monster
Jenny Peckles Lays Eggs with Speckles
The Bicycle
The Wild
Cloud Boy

For KS2 Years 3/4/5/6 – Best Junior Novel

Dragonborn

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: 24/11	w/b: 01/12	w/b: 08/12	w/b: 15/12
Oak	97.0%	91.7%	91.3%	84.7%
Beech	93.3%	94.0%	94.0%	86.7%
Elm	95.5%	93.6%	97.9%	91.1%
Horse Chestnut	98.3%	96.3%	96.3%	96.7%
Ash	87.7%	86.0%	86.7%	92.0%
Hazel	91.7%	96.7%	95.3%	95.3%
Cedar	97.7%	96.0%	98.7%	92.3%
Rowan	96.7%	97.7%	98.0%	94.5%
Holly	96.0%	94.6%	95.2%	93.0%
Silver Birch	95.7%	95.2%	96.9%	97.9%
Sycamore	94.3%	95.0%	93.9%	97.1%
Maple	93.6%	95.7%	94.6%	92.2%
Walnut	96.0%	92.7%	96.0%	96.3%
Willow	99.7%	96.8%	98.1%	93.9%
% Attendance Whole School	95.2%	94.2%	95.2%	93.1%

PTA News

Unwanted Christmas Presents? We'll Give Them a New Home!

Did Santa bring something lovely but not quite right this year?

Before it gets tucked away in a cupboard, why not regift and recycle it through our school PTA.

We are gratefully accepting new or unused unwanted Christmas presents to use as tombola and raffle prizes at future school events. Your donation will help us raise vital funds to support activities and resources for all our children.



Toys, games, gifts, biscuits, chocolates, unopened sets, all very welcome!

It is a great way to reduce waste and spread a little extra joy.

Please bring donations to the school reception area by the end of January 2026.

Thank you so much for your continued support. every donation really does make a difference!

Happy New Year! We hope you all had a lovely break and are feeling refreshed for the term ahead. The PTA has lots of exciting plans coming up and plenty of ways for families to get involved. Thank you, as always, for your continued support, it really does make a difference to our school community.

Save the Dates

Mix It Up Day - Watch this space for more information!

Family Fun Evening – 30/01/2026

A fun event for the whole family – more details coming soon, so save the date!

Lend an Hour – New Helpers List

Would you like to help occasionally but can't commit regularly? Our new "Lend an Hour" helpers list is perfect for you! We'll get in touch whenever a small helping hand is needed. It's a flexible, friendly way to support the school, just an hour at a time.

Join Our School Lottery

Support the school by joining the Your School Lottery! Tickets cost just £1 a week and give you the chance to win cash prizes, including a £25,000 jackpot, all while raising valuable funds for our school. [How it works](#)

PTA Survey

We Want to Hear From You! Your thoughts and ideas help shape what we do. Please take 2 minutes to complete our PTA survey: <https://forms.office.com/r/mJsihngWmE>

If you have any questions or suggestions, we'd love to hear from you. Email us anytime at pta@st-john.oxon.sch.uk

Thank you for your continued support of the PTA and our school!

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 Friday 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: Monday 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.

Monday 12th January: After School Clubs start

Monday 12th January: Tora Kai Karate Taster Sessions for Years 3&4

Tuesday 13th January: Tora Kai Karate Taster Sessions for Years 5&6

Thursday 15th January: Year 5 Young Voices

Thursday 15th January: Dolce Diner lunch menu for Census Day

Thursday 22nd January: Height and Weight checks for Reception and Year 6

Friday 23rd January: PTA fundraising – Mix it up day

Friday 30th January: PTA Family Fun Evening

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

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

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

Thursday 5th March: Reception Trip to The Story Museum

WB 9th March: British Science Week

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

RAF Brize Norton Theatre Club proudly presents
by kind permission of
Group Captain Louise Henton OBE ADC BA (HONS) MA RAF

Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves

A family pantomime by Alan P. Frayn

at The Gaz Stevens Theatre
in the Community Support Hall



Saturday 31st January 2pm
Sunday 1st February 2pm
Thursday 5th February 7pm
Friday 6th February 7pm
Saturday 7th February 2pm & 7pm
Sunday 8th February 2pm

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Diner

**15th
January
2026**

**CENSUS
DAY**

** Mains **

Big City Burger
Route 66 Nuggets (VG)
Hand Stretched Hawaiian Pizza
Brooklyn Baked Potato Bar (V)

** Sides **

American French Fries
Boston Baked Beans
Sweetcorn
Stars & Stripes Salad Bar

** Desserts **

Ice Cream & Waffle Bites (V)
Snickedoodle Cookie (VG)
Fresh Fruit



dolce



Does your child still need a Flu Vaccination?

We are still vaccinating!



Follow the QR code / link
to consent for your child and make a
community clinic appointment

*If you've already filled in the consent form,
please book your appointment using the
reference number that was emailed to you from
school.immunisations@nhs.net when you consented*

**For more information visit
www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/imms**



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