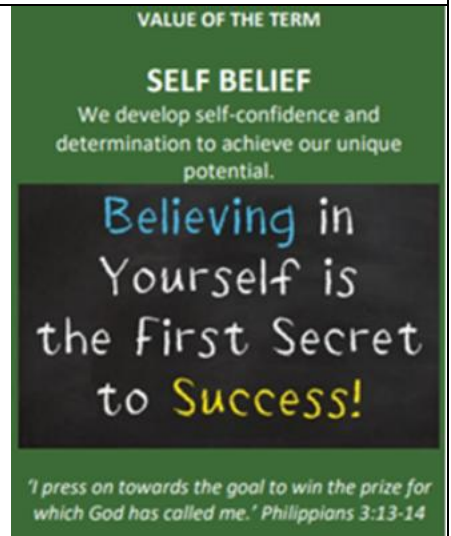


## Dear Parents and Carers

It has been a very busy term so far, and it is hard to believe that we are already halfway through. The weeks have flown by, and the school days have been full of purposeful lessons, extra-curricular activities, and many positive moments that reflect the strong sense of energy and commitment to learning across St John's.



As I have been visiting classes throughout the school, it has been wonderful to see so many children demonstrating this term's value of **self-belief**. In collective worship, Mr Smith has been teaching the children all about the journey through 'The Learning Pit'.



In lessons, pupils are putting this into action, approaching their learning with confidence, perseverance, and pride, recognising that new learning requires effort. Their resilience and willingness to challenge themselves is truly rewarding to see.



One of my favourite things to do each week is to flick through each class's reading scrapbook. With 2026 being the National Year of Reading, it has been fantastic to see the enthusiasm, effort, and creativity children are putting into these.

There is a clear focus on reading for pleasure, with pupils thoughtfully engaging with texts and sharing the books they love. The care and enjoyment they show highlights a growing love of reading across the school.



Best Wishes,

Kayleigh Smith  
Assistant Headteacher

## Forthcoming Events

### Parents Evenings

Parents Evenings will be held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February from 3.30pm to 5.30pm and Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February 3.30pm to 7.30pm. A letter will be sent out next week with details on how to book your appointment.

## 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](mailto: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.

### 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](mailto: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.



## 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 MATTERS**  
every school day counts.

#### Attendance this term:

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

Class	w/b: 08/12	w/b: 15/12	w/b: 05/01	w/b: 12/01
Oak	91.3%	84.7%	93.3%	96.3%
Beech	94.0%	86.7%	95.0%	98.7%
Elm	97.9%	91.1%	98.6%	95.6%
Horse Chestnut	96.3%	96.7%	96.7%	96.0%
Ash	86.7%	92.0%	92.9%	94.7%
Hazel	95.3%	95.3%	99.2%	100%
Cedar	98.7%	92.3%	95.7%	99.0%
Rowan	98.0%	94.5%	95.4%	96.3%
Holly	95.2%	93.0%	99.1%	93.0%
Silver Birch	96.9%	97.9%	95.7%	98.6%
Sycamore	93.9%	97.1%	97.3%	97.9%
Maple	94.6%	92.2%	95.4%	94.1%
Walnut	96.0%	96.3%	97.5%	97.4%
Willow	98.1%	93.9%	98.4%	96.1%
<b>% Attendance Whole School</b>	<b>95.2%</b>	<b>93.1%</b>	<b>96.5%</b>	<b>96.7%</b>

## 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!

## DIARY DATES

### Term Dates for 2025-2026

#### Term 3

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January to Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026

#### Term 4

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February to Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026

#### Term 5

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026

#### Term 6

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June to Friday 17<sup>th</sup> 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 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 1st September, Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> & Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October, Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January, Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July

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

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

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January: Year 3 Multi Sports Festival

WB: 9<sup>th</sup> February: Children's Mental Health Week

10<sup>th</sup> February: Safer Internet Day

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

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

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February: Year 3 Swimming starts

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February: Reception Teddy Bear's Picnic

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> to Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February: Half Term break**

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February: Sycamore class Brass Lessons start

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February: PTA discos for children

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March: PTA Golden Ticket Event

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March: World Book Day

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March: Reception Trip to The Story Museum

WB 9<sup>th</sup> March: British Science Week

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March: Year 3 Trip to Hill End

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March: Class Photographs

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March: PTA Sponsored Run

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 1.30pm: End of Term

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March to Friday 10<sup>th</sup> 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

£10 Adults  
£7 Concessions  
Order at  
[www.brizetheatre.com](http://www.brizetheatre.com)

Matinee tickets  
for Saturday 21 March  
now on sale  
**ONLY £10**

Institute of Music  
Burford School



## IAN FLEMING'S CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG

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SCHOOL  
17-21 MARCH 2026**

MUSIC AND LYRICS  
BY **RICHARD M. SHERMAN**  
AND **ROBERT B. SHERMAN**  
Music by Special Arrangement  
with Sony/ATV Publishing



Burford  
Festival

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WITNEY DRAMATIC SOCIETY PRESENTS

# Cinderella

a Pantomime by Limelight 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 6HC**

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](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/witney-dramatic-society)  
(small booking fee applies)  
On the door

Scan for tickets



[www.witneydrama.co.uk](http://www.witneydrama.co.uk)

f X i y

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FREE FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY!  
MOST SUITABLE FOR 5-16 YRS

## 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](http://www.brookes.ac.uk/sciencebazaar)  
[sciencebazaar@brookes.ac.uk](mailto:sciencebazaar@brookes.ac.uk)

@OxfordBrookesPublicEngagementResearch  
@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





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Harcourt*



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 [poisedperformingarts@gmail.com](mailto:poisedperformingarts@gmail.com)