



Dear Parents and Carers,

This newsletter marks the end of a busy term at St John's. Last week it was lovely to invite parents and carers into school for the various Christmas plays and songs. The singing really raised the mood of everyone I feel.

This week we had our school family Christmas dinner, with lots of singing and enjoyment. A big thank you to all the kitchen and lunchtime staff for making the day so special for the children.

I am extremely lucky to work with such a dedicated and hardworking staff team. I would like to thank them for all they do for your children.

As we end the term, I would just like to thank all of our families for your support over the term. I wish you all a very merry Christmas and look forward to seeing everyone in the New Year.



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](mailto:office.2613@st-john.oxon.sch.uk))**

Best Wishes

*Mark Smith*

Headteacher



## Forthcoming Events



### Teddy Bear WOW Day – Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026

To kickstart our new topic, please bring a teddy bear in and wear teddy bear/brown clothes

On Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January Teddy Bear diaries and Tiny Teddies will come home, this will form part of homework to fill out a diary entry weekly about your adventures with Tiny Teddy.

On Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> 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

### Admission for Reception Class for September 2026

From **4<sup>th</sup> November 2025** you can apply online for a reception place at

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

If your child was born on or between 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

The deadline for receipt of reception applications is **15<sup>th</sup> January 2026**.



### Is your child starting school in September 2026?

The OCC deadline for school admissions is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026. WE have two further open mornings planned before this date:

9<sup>th</sup> January 2025

13<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Please contact the school office to book a place at one of these events.



Contact the School Office to book a visit

Telephone: 01993 843124

Email: office.2613@st-john.oxon.sch.uk

### Giving children the wings to rise, fly and soar

*'They will lift up their wings and soar like eagles' Isaiah 40:31 '...embracing life in all its fullness.' John 10:10*

### 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**

Now we’re in the run up to Christmas (eek!) you may be clearing out old toys to make room for new ones. To help support our Breakfast/After School clubs and Cove Children, any toys in good quality for ages 5 to 10 would be greatly appreciated. To donate, please bring to Reception during normal school hours, Thank you.

**Our Reading Scrapbooks Have Launched!**

We’re thrilled to share that our class reading scrapbooks have launched across the school this half term!

Each week, one child will have the exciting opportunity to take their class scrapbook home and fill it with their reading adventures—ready to inspire their classmates.

Our staff have loved adding their own pages, and the entries which have been returned so far have been absolutely fantastic. We can’t wait to see the joy, creativity, and love of reading grow throughout the year!





Thank you to everyone who took part in our Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day – you raised a fantastic £242.09.

**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  
**Library**

Oxfordshire

## Winter Mini Challenge

Encourage children to read over winter with this free online reading challenge! From 1 December to 20 February.

[www.wintermini.org.uk](http://www.wintermini.org.uk)

[oxfordshire.gov.uk/libraries](http://oxfordshire.gov.uk/libraries)

THE  
READING  
AGENCY

Winter Mini Challenge



OXFORDSHIRE  
COUNTY COUNCIL



# 12 Top Tips for Children & Young People to Enjoy a TECH-FREE CHRISTMAS

The Christmas holidays are tailor made for families to enjoy relaxed quality time in each other's company – but with distractions like pinging phone notifications, the lure of games consoles and online Boxing Day sales, that can be more difficult than it sounds. Staying off our phones, laptops and tablets, however, can really help us to appreciate the things that genuinely matter at this special time of year. Follow our 12 top tips for a tech-free festive season ... Yule be glad you did! Merry Christmas!

## CHRISTMAS CRAFTING

Get out the paper, glue and scissors and have a go at hand-making cards or gift tags. You could also create your own decorations to add a uniquely personal touch to the Christmas tree.

## NATURE QUEST

Try a scavenger hunt in the garden or your local park. Challenge yourself and your family to find natural treasures that are symbolic of this time of year – like holly or pinecones, say.

## CAROL KARAOKE

Sing your hearts out with a Christmas carol karaoke night. Pick out your favourite tunes and enjoy a musical celebration with family and friends.

## WANDER DOWN MEMORY LANE

How about making a scrapbook filled with your favourite memories from Christmases gone by? Unleash your creativity while you enjoy reliving those magical holiday moments.

## TRY REFLECTIVE JOURNALLING

Jot down your thoughts, feelings and reflections on the holiday in a notebook or diary – you could also list some of your main goals for the new year.

## WRAP IT UP

Take time to get inventive with some luxurious gift wrapping. Break out the wrapping paper, ribbons and bows to make parcelling up those presents into a creative adventure.

## WALK IN A WINTER WONDERLAND

Delight in the great outdoors with some gentle walks over the holiday. The family can all wrap up warm as you add to your step count and savour the crisp winter air together.

## BE A SEASONAL CHEF

Get the whole family working together in the kitchen for some Christmas cooking. Choose a recipe and whip up a festive feast that all of you can enjoy.

## ENJOY A CHRISTMAS STORY

Christmas is a perfect time for sparkling stories. Get cosy and lose yourself in a brilliant book, from Dickens to Dr Seuss or a more modern favourite by Chris van Allsburg or Tom Fletcher.

## SNOWY SCULPTURES

If we're fortunate enough to get a white Christmas this year, make the most of the opportunity by having a family snowman-building competition!

## GAMES NIGHT GALA

Dive into some old-school fun with a tech-free games night. Classic board games and card games have stood the test of time for a reason!

## GOODWILL TO ALL

You and your family could spend a day volunteering – perhaps at a food bank or helping a local charity. After all, kindness and thinking of others are part of what Christmas is all about.

## Meet Our Expert

Minds Ahead design and deliver the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. They also provide training and support to education organisations and local authorities – empowering school leaders and staff with the knowledge and tools to shape their settings into inclusive communities where the mental health of pupils and personnel is prioritised.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College



## 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
Oak	97.0%	91.7%	91.3%
Beech	93.3%	94.0%	94.0%
Elm	95.5%	93.6%	97.9%
Horse Chestnut	98.3%	96.3%	96.3%
Ash	87.7%	86.0%	86.7%
Hazel	91.7%	96.7%	95.3%
Cedar	97.7%	96.0%	98.7%
Rowan	96.7%	97.7%	98.0%
Holly	96.0%	94.6%	95.2%
Silver Birch	95.7%	95.2%	96.9%
Sycamore	94.3%	95.0%	93.9%
Maple	93.6%	95.7%	94.6%
Walnut	96.0%	92.7%	96.0%
Willow	99.7%	96.8%	98.1%
<b>% Attendance Whole School</b>	<b>95.2%</b>	<b>94.2%</b>	<b>95.2%</b>

## PTA News

### PTA UPDATE – THANK YOU & FESTIVE NEWS!

We're bursting with excitement to share what's been happening in our wonderful school community!

#### Wreath-Making Workshop Success

A huge *thank you* to everyone who came along and helped raise **£271** at our wreath-making workshop. Together we created **22 beautifully festive wreaths** and they look amazing! Huge thanks to Jen and Sam for hosting such a fun event!



#### Our Christmas Fayre Sparkled!

Thank you to everyone who joined us for a wonderfully festive afternoon, the event was buzzing as families browsed local craft stalls, got creative with children's activities and indulged in sweets, cakes, hot food and drinks.

Our raffle and tombola kept the excitement going, and our Santa's Grotto proved a huge hit with **72 magical visits** to Father Christmas!

**Thanks to your incredible support, we raised an amazing £736!**

What a fantastic way to kick off the festive season, thank you for making it such a warm, joyful community event!



#### PTA Survey – We Want to Hear From You!

Your thoughts and ideas make all the difference. Please take a 2 minutes to fill in our PTA survey:

<https://forms.office.com/r/mJsihngWmE>

#### Join Our New “Lend an Hour” Helpers List

Want to help out now and then but can't commit regularly? You're not alone! Join our friendly new “**Lend an Hour**” group and we'll get in touch whenever a small helping hand is needed. A great way to support the school, just an hour at a time!

#### Join our school lottery!

Support our school by joining the **Your school lottery!** Tickets are just £1 a week giving you the chance to win cash prizes including a **£25,000 jackpot**. All while helping raise valuable funds for our school.

View the poster and find out more here and sign up today!

#### [How it works](#)

Thank you, as always, for your incredible support, enthusiasm, and community spirit. Together we really do make the school a brighter place!

Got questions or suggestions? We'd love to hear from you, email us anytime at [pta@st-john.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:pta@st-john.oxon.sch.uk)

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> and Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September, Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October, Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January, Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July

May Day Bank Holiday (school closed): Monday 4<sup>th</sup> 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 Friday 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: Monday 1<sup>st</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> December: Whole School Christmas Church Service

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 1.30pm: End of term

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January: Start of the new term

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January: Reception Teddy Bear WOW Day

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January: Young Voices

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January: Dolce Diner lunch menu for Census Day

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January: Height and Weight checks for Reception and Year 6

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

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

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

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**

Caring for Others † Achieving Excellence

### The Tim Henman Foundation and Excel Tennis Academy

# FREE

## Tennis Lessons

For children with SEND

# For Year groups 3 – 6

Introduce them to the exciting world of tennis in a fun, safe, and engaging environment!

**Join us at the Windrush Leisure Centre in Witney**  
**Fridays 4:45 – 5:45pm**

- No experience needed
- Focus on coordination, teamwork & confidence
- Fun games + age-appropriate equipment
- Led by friendly, Enhanced DBS checked and Qualified coaches

**Flexible online bookings:**  
**Visit our website or scan the QR code:**

Sessions led by the team from: **EXCEL Tennis Academy**

Working in Partnership with: **TIM HENMAN FOUNDATION**

[info@exceltennis.co.uk](mailto:info@exceltennis.co.uk) [www.exceltennisacademy.co.uk](http://www.exceltennisacademy.co.uk)

Excel Tennis Academy coaches have been delivering SEND tennis sessions, funded by THF, to local pupils this year. In order to increase opportunities to play tennis outside school, we would like to draw your attention to the **FREE SEND sessions the Excel Tennis Academy are running at Windrush Leisure Centre in Witney.**

These sessions run on term-time Friday afternoons, 4.45pm to 5.45pm (arrival from 4.30pm), and which are fully funded by THF. These sessions will commence on 9 January 2026. Anyone wanting to sign up should follow the links on the booking

form: [https://enrolmy.com/excel-tennis-academy/activity/123-SEND Tennis Sessions For years groups 3 6](https://enrolmy.com/excel-tennis-academy/activity/123-SEND-Tennis-Sessions-For-years-groups-3-6)

If you have any questions please feel free to contact us directly on [info@exceltennis.co.uk](mailto:info@exceltennis.co.uk)

We look forward to seeing you on court soon



# Dolce

## 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



# SUPPORT OUR LOTTERY TODAY

**£1 per  
week**

**Weekly  
cash prizes**

**£25,000  
jackpot**



**YOUR  
SCHOOL  
LOTTERY**



## Splitting the £1.00



- 40p goes to our school
- 36p goes to cash prizes
- 20p goes to admin costs
- 4p goes to VAT

## How it works...

It's simple—choose 6 numbers between 0-9 and if they match the weekly lottery draw, you win great prizes. One of our players will win a cash prize every week, maybe even the £25k jackpot! Tickets cost just £1 per week and the proceeds are donated to St John the Evangelist CE Primary School

Every Saturday at 8pm the numbers are drawn and posted online. Winners are notified by email and winnings paid into the account of your choice.

The easiest way to join our lottery is online by direct debit or debit card.

**It's so easy to join and will make a real difference to St John the Evangelist CE Primary School**

**The Maths...** 100 tickets sold a week means  
= **£30** weekly cash prize  
= **£2,080** a year for our school



**Buy A Ticket**

GambleAware





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

**COMING TO BURFORD  
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**

**CHRISTMAS  
2025**



## TECH & STEM CAMP

WITH TAKE HOME INVENTIONS!



**Inventions**



**Movie Making**



**Tech Fun**



**Robots**



**DIY STEM**



**Snow Science**

## CHRISTMAS CAMPS 2025

What's on?

Different activity theme each day, please check website for your specific camps activities



**Rocking  
Robots**



**Festive  
Filming**



**Magical  
MINECRAFT**



**3D  
Baubles**



**Tech  
Fun**

Take Home NEW STEM Inventions & Science Creations!



**Bath Bomb!**

**29TH - 31ST DECEMBER £39.99 PER DAY**

### WHAT TO EXPECT:

This Christmas, leap into a world of wonder — build robots, bring Lego creations to life with animation, craft decorations with 3D pens, film festive masterpieces, embark on epic Minecraft quests, and experiment with their own Christmas bath bombs and magical snow!

GET £5 OFF  
WITH CODE BELOW

**SNOW5**

Valid on single-day bookings only.  
Not applicable to 5-day offer

★★★★★  
"Would recommend this  
even if your child isn't  
into technology"  
Sonali Amin - Stanley Park School

★★★★★  
"The activities  
sounded amazing and  
he loved them all!"  
Suzie Mendes - Westlea Primary

★★★★★  
"Our two children loved  
making the electronic  
contraptions"  
Rachel Stone - King's College School

**LIMITED SPACES! BOOK NOW**  
**[www.nextthing.education](http://www.nextthing.education)**



SCAN ME

**Blake Primary School, OX28 3FR**

AGES 5-11, 9 AM - 4 PM DAILY

**[www.nextthing.education](http://www.nextthing.education)**

