

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a great and busy few weeks we have had in school! Over the last few weeks we have had several visitors here at school and some of our children have been on several sporting events – even with the wild weather we have been experiencing. Each time the feedback about our children's engagement in learning and respectful attitudes to each other at sporting events has been well-received. It is so lovely to see our school values in practise.

Last week, our U11 Girls Football Team A won the Carterton Partnership Tournament and will represent Carterton at the West Oxfordshire Tournament next year. Mr Lamb reported that the Girls all played fantastically and demonstrated the school values of Success, Respect, Self-belief and Unity. Well done Girls, what a fantastic achievement!



Year 4 Dance Festival took place last week. Despite the wet weather, our Year 4's showed great responsibility and self-belief at Carterton Community College in their street-dance workshop. The children (and staff) thoroughly enjoyed the sessions and demonstrated their talent for street-dance.

Christmas is coming...

This week the children have been getting into the Christmas spirit making Christmas decorations ready for the school Christmas trees which are arriving at the end of this week. This is one of our favourite events in school – decorating the Christmas tree!

Additionally, our EYFS team and KS1 team have been busy practising their Nativity plays and songs ready to share with parents. Invitations for these performances have been sent to parents and carers this week.

As we grow ever nearer to Christmas, there are lots of both school and PTA events to enjoy. Please check the diary dates section below for more information.

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)**

My colleagues and I look forward to an exciting and Christmas filled term ahead and to working in partnership with you all.

Best Wishes

Amy Peace

Assistant Headteacher

VALUE OF THE TERM

RESPECT

We care for ourselves, each other, the environment and our community



'Do others what you would have them do to you.' Matthew 7:12



Forthcoming Events

Elf Day - Wednesday 3rd December

This is a wonderfully festive day where the children in Reception and Nursery are invited to come to school dressed as an Elf or in Elf colours (red, green etc) and we enjoy lots of Elf and festive activities.

This is a charity event in aid of Alzheimers - our youngest children supporting our eldest in society.



The children have already brought home their sponsorship forms for the Elf Run - 10 laps around the playground.

Film Night for the Children of Forces Families

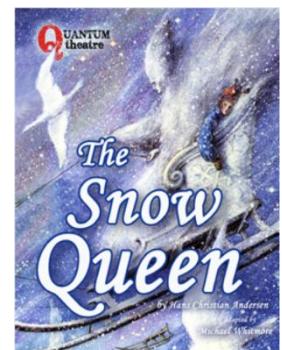
As part of our programme of events for our forces children, the pastoral team will be holding a film evening on 8th December from 3.30pm to 5.30pm. Look out for the separate letter.

Visiting Panto – Tuesday 9th December

We are very excited to have a travelling theatre group visiting us for a performance of The Snow Queen for all pupils in Reception through to Year 6.

This is being funded by the money raised from the School Discos so there will be no cost to parents.

Thank you to The PTA for organising the discos and other events throughout the year and raising money for the school to enable events like this to be arranged for the children.



School Christmas Lunch

At St John's we celebrate Christmas lunch as a whole school, decorating the tables, pulling crackers and even a sing song! If you would like to book a Christmas lunch for your child, please visit the School Grid in the usual way to order. **Please order by Tuesday 9th December.** The full menu can be found near the end this newsletter!



Christmas Jumper Day

On Thursday 11th December we are inviting all children to put on a festive jumper to raise money for Save the Children. We are asking for a £1 donation to help give children the magical future they deserve. Christmas Jumper Day has raised over £30 million for children in the UK and around the world since it began in 2012!

Christmas Performances

Reception Christmas Play Thursday 11th December at 9.30am for Oak class parents and 2.00pm for Beech class parents

Nursery Christmas songs with parents Friday 12th December at 9.15am and 2.45pm

Year 1 and 2 Christmas Play on Tuesday 16th December at 9.30am and 2.00pm

General Reminders

Admission for Reception Class for September 2026

From 4th November 2025 you can apply online for a reception place at

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

If you 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.

The deadline for receipt of reception applications is **15th January 2026**.



Is your child starting school in September 2026?

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

9th January 2025

13th 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.

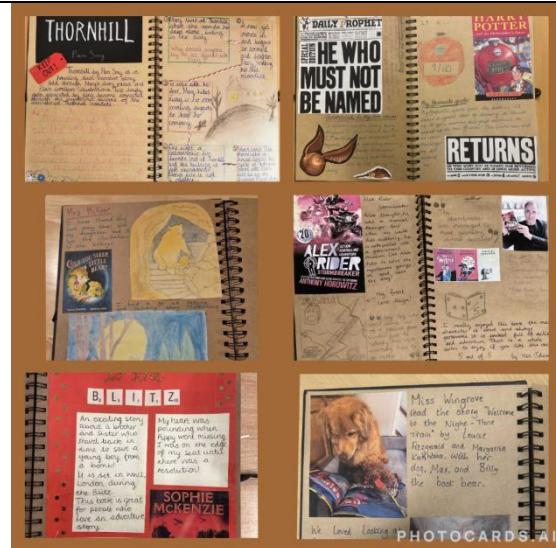
In addition, if you are a parent and are employed in the Armed Forces, please let us know.

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!



Library News

Library News

A large order of brand new books has arrived in the library this week for the children to choose from. The children are encouraged to let me know which books they would like in the library.

Scholastic Book Fair

Thank you to all parents/carers who supported the Scholastic Book Fair. A selection of books was able to be purchased for the library from the commission received.

Responding to overdue library book letters

Group reminders are issued every week to classrooms to remind the children to return their overdue books. The reminders are read out to the children by the teacher. Individual reminders are issued for the children to take home every two weeks. A book can be loaned for two and a half weeks. Should your child bring home a letter from the library regarding an overdue book you child has borrowed, please respond to the reminder, choosing one of the choices, and return it to school. Lost books has a detrimental effect on the school library budget.

Books being returned damaged

Unfortunately books are being damaged beyond repair either by lack of care or water damaged. Letters will be issued to cover the cost of replacing these books. Please encourage your children to be responsible and take care of the library books they have on loan.

Visits by Andrew Bayliss, Manager, Carterton Library

Andrew Bayliss will be visiting the school on Friday 28th November to read to the children in Nursery Class in the morning and afternoon. Andrew will also be reading to Year 2 children in the afternoon. Andrew has kindly agreed to visit the school in the coming weeks on a regular basis to read to individual classes.

Books and book vouchers for Christmas gifts

Stuck for a present – books are ideal for popping into a child's Christmas sack. There are great offers on books in supermarkets and online too. Book vouchers also make an ideal gift.

If you have a question or a query about a library book/s please email the Librarian directly. library@st-john.oxon.sch.uk

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)

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 absence 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: 20/10	w/b: 03/11	w/b: 10/11	w/b: 17/11
Oak	88.1%	91.9%	92.3%	96.1%
Beech	89.3%	98.7%	93.7%	91.7%
Elm	93.9%	95.0%	90.7%	91.1%
Horse Chestnut	90.3%	97.3%	97.7%	91.0%
Ash	89.3%	85.9%	91.7%	93.8%
Hazel	94.0%	97.7%	92.7%	95.7%
Cedar	98.7%	95.7%	99.0%	98.7%
Rowan	89.3%	98.7%	95.3%	97.3%
Holly	93.7%	94.8%	94.4%	95.6%
Silver Birch	94.3%	98.2%	97.9%	97.5%
Sycamore	92.5%	98.6%	97.5%	97.1%
Maple	91.5%	95.4%	93.9%	90.4%
Walnut	94.3%	93.0%	96.7%	96.7%
Willow	95.2%	99.4%	97.4%	97.1%
% Attendance Whole School	92.5%	95.7%	95.1%	95.0%

Here's what's happening with the PTA as we get ready for the Christmas festivities!

Christmas fair and grotto

Join us for a festive fun afternoon on **5th December** being held in the main school hall from 3.30 - 7.30pm. Free entry!
We will have;

- shopping stalls with local crafts people
- kids craft and activities
- sweets and cakes
- hot drinks
- hot food
- licensed bar
- raffle
- tombola

we also have a pre-pay Santa's grotto, follow this link to book your slot today to avoid disappointment!

<https://www.ticktaylor.com/events/stjohntheevangelistpta/1892433>

Christmas jumpers

It's nearly Christmas Jumper Day! We're collecting pre-loved Christmas jumpers of all sizes.

Please drop donations in the big box in reception by **5th December**. We'll be selling them from **8th–10th December**. Thank you for helping make the season festive *and* affordable for everyone!

Tombola

We're getting ready for the Christmas Fair! There is a bag in each class room and there's a box in Reception for **tombola prize donations**.

Please send in any goodies by **Wednesday 3rd December** so we can prepare for the fair on **5th December**. Thank you for your support! Please note, we unfortunately cannot accept donations containing alcohol.

Tell us what you are thinking...

The PTA is planning for the year ahead and wants to understand what works well for your family, what you enjoy most and how you might like to get involved.

Your feedback will help us plan inclusive events that everyone can enjoy and ensure volunteering opportunities work around busy family schedules.

This short survey should only take a few minutes to complete. If you have any questions, please feel free to email us at pta@st-john.oxon.sch.uk.

[Help Shape Our School Community - PTA Survey – Fill in form](#)

Join Our new “Lend an Hour” Helpers list.

Do you want to help out now and then, but can't commit regularly?

Join our new, friendly “Lend an Hour” email group!

We'll send out a quick message when we need an extra pair of hands, for things like setting up events, wrapping gifts, or helping with stalls.

No pressure, no commitment, just help when you can.

To join, simply email PTA@st-john.oxon.sch.uk with the subject “Lend an Hour” and we'll add you to the list!

Thank you for your continued support!

Every donation, idea and volunteered moment helps make our school community brighter.

Contact us any time at PTA@st-john.oxon.sch.uk

DIARY DATES

Term Dates for 2025-2026 Term 1 Wednesday 3 rd September to Friday 24 th October 2025 Term 2 Monday 3 rd November to Friday 19 th December 2025 Term 3 Tuesday 6 th January to Friday 13 th February 2026 Term 4 Monday 23 rd February to Friday 27 th March 2026 Term 5 Monday 13 th April to Friday 22 nd May 2026 Term 6 Monday 1 st June to Friday 17 th July 2026	<p>We may add to the following dates as school and community events are confirmed.</p> <p>Wednesday 3rd December: Nursery & Reception Elf Day Wednesday 3rd December 10am: Reception Phonics workshop Thursday 4th December: Reception Panto Trip Friday 5th December: Christmas Fair & Grotto Monday 8th December: Film Night for the Children of Forces Families Tuesday 9th December: Snow Queen Theatre Production Wednesday 10th December: Year 2 Trip to Didcot Railway Museum Wednesday 10th December: Year 1 Phonics Workshop Thursday 11th December: Christmas Jumper Day for Save the Children Thursday 11th December: Reception Christmas Plays – 9.30am Oak Class and 2.00pm Beech Class Friday 12th December: Nursery Christmas Songs at 9.15am and 2.45pm Tuesday 16th December 9.30am and 2.00pm Year 1 and 2 Christmas Play Wednesday 17th December: Christmas lunch Thursday 18th December: Christmas Craft Afternoon with Parents Friday 19th December: Whole School Christmas Church Service Friday 19th December 1.30pm End of term Tuesday 6th January: Start of the new term</p>
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CHRISTMAS LUNCH

December
2025

MAINS

ROAST TURKEY, STUFFING & CHIPOLATA
PUFF PASTRY CHRISTMAS CRACKER (VG)

SIDES

ROAST POTATOES, CARROTS, PEAS, SPROUTS, GRAVY

DESSERTS

STICKY TOFFEE PUDDING & CUSTARD (V)
REINDEER SHORTBREAD (VG)
FRESH FRUIT

dolce



PTA FUND RAISING
EVENT
ALL PROCEEDS GO TO
HELPING OUR
CHILDREN AT ST
JOHNS!



merry CHRISTMAS KIDS FAIR, SHOPPING & SANTA'S GROTTO!

JOIN US FOR A FUN FILLED AFTERNOON...

★ GAMES, ACTIVITIES, SWEET TREATS,
FOOD, DRINK, GIFTS AND MUCH MORE!! ★

Licenced bar for the adults

EVENT TO BE HELD IN OUR SCHOOL HALL

DECEMBER 5TH

3:30PM - 7:30PM

FREE GENERAL
ENTRY!

GROTTO IS PRE-BOOK ONLY
£6.50 PER CHILD INCLUDES GIFT
SCAN QR CODE TO BOOK.....





MARRIOTTS WALK

CHRISTMAS MARKET

27TH - 30TH NOVEMBER

THURSDAY 27TH 10AM - 6PM

FRIDAY 28TH 10AM - 7PM

SATURDAY 29TH 10AM - 6PM

SUNDAY 30TH 10AM - 4PM

FREE ENTRY

FREE PARKING



COTSWOLD MARKETS LTD.



Need an activity so you can do some last-minute Christmas shopping or wrapping?



Book a JazzDanceFusion workshop, these will incorporate dance, cheerleading, and gymnastics to have fun learning a Wicked routine, take part in drama, singing, games and children can dress up for the costume competition!

Wicked: For Good Part Two Themed!



Monday 22nd December 10-1pm
£26

(Primary school children)

Monday 22nd December 1-4pm
£26

(Dancers 11+)

To book a place please email JazzDanceFusion@gmail.com to request payment details.

Dance Workshops at the Davenport Road Methodist Church, Witney, OX286EL.



Dance & Gymnastics for All Ages

Jazz Dance Fusion offers engaging, supportive classes where students can explore a variety of dance and gymnastics styles. Whether for fun, fitness, or dreams of performing, our welcoming environment encourages creativity, growth, and



Classes Available:

- Modern Jazz
- Contemporary Ballet
- Acro-Gymnastics
- Cheerleading
- Heels
- Commercial Street Dance
- Lyrical
- Limbering
- Dance for Schools PE

Performance Opportunities:

Students can participate in Dance Shows, Competitions, Workshops, Performances, and Afterschool Clubs, with plenty of chances to shine!

***Jazzdancefusion@gmail.com
07714849818
@jazzdancefusion***

Lantern Workshops

8 November 2025 The Family Centre 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

22 November 2025 Carterton Community Centre 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Join one of the workshops and make a lantern
Parade takes place 29 November 2025

£1 suggested donation for cost of materials.

29 NOVEMBER

Carterton Fayre & Christmas Lights Switch On

Lantern Parade

FOOD - STALLS - ENTERTAINMENT

Fayre 1pm - 7pm Lights go on at 6pm

Carterton Market Square