

St John's Friday Newsletter

Friday 6th November 2026

Message from the Head

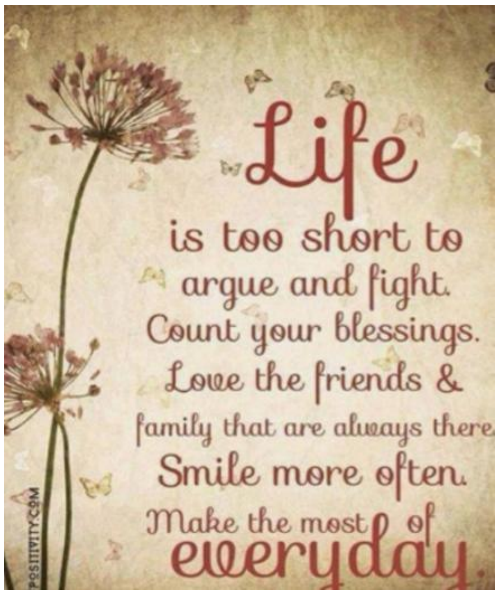
Welcome back to a new half term. I hope you all managed to enjoy a restful and happy break with your families, whether you managed to get out and about or simply enjoyed some valuable downtime together.

It has been lovely to welcome the children back this week and they have settled right back into their routines with enthusiasm and smiles.

We have a busy and exciting half term ahead with lots to look forward to so please take the time to note the dates below.

Thank you, as always, for your continued partnership and support of our school.

Miss Hale
Acting Headteacher



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Growing together, becoming all that we are created to be

Dates for your diary (all dates for the academic year are on the school app/website)

12th November	Y5 Poppies and Peace workshop at Wakefield Cathedral
13th November	Children in Need non-uniform day
16th - 20th November	Anti-Bullying week
16th November	Odd Socks Day
23rd November	KS1 Disco (please donate a bottle- see further details below)
24th November	KS2 Disco (please donate a bottle- see further details below)
3rd December	PTA Christmas Fair – 3:30pm to 5:00pm
4th December	EYFS/KS1 Christmas Production – 10:00am
9th December	Christmas lunch
11th December	Y3/Y4 Christmas Production – 10:00am
17th December	Christmas Service at St. John's Church – 10:00am
18th December	Y5/Y6 Christmas Production – 10:00am/ End of term

St John's All Stars

St John's All Stars

Need before or after-school childcare? St John's All Stars is here to help!

- Hours (Mon-Thu): 7:30am start | 3:20pm – 6:00pm
- Hours (Fri): 7:30am start | 3:20pm – 4:30pm
- Friday Bonus: Sausage Sandwich Friday mornings!

Important: Please book in advance. We are full most evenings so last-minute bookings may not be accommodated.
To book check the school website under Parent Information or contact the wraparound@st-johns.wakefield.sch.uk for further information.

Poppy Appeal - Year 6 children have been visiting classrooms this week with poppies and other merchandise for the Poppy Appeal, the last day will be **Wednesday 11th November**. We request voluntary contributions for the items but would suggest £2 for snap bands, £1 for wristbands, 50p for the reflective poppy keyrings, 50p for zippers and any donation for a poppy. Many thanks for your continued support for this worthy cause.



Children in Need - We will once again be raising money for Children in Need by having a non-uniform day on **Friday 13th November**. The link for this will be sent out to parents by app message next week.

School Odd Socks Day - It is Anti-Bullying Week the week beginning 16th November. The theme this year is 'Break the Silence'.

On **Monday 16th November**, children and staff can wear odd socks to celebrate what makes us all unique.

KS2 teacher led after school clubs – Clubs will run for 6 weeks this half term with the last sessions taking place during the week commencing Monday 7th December. Please contact the school office if your child is not able to attend on a particular day - they can then let the club leader know. Please collect your child from the main entrance at 4:20pm.

MP Sports - The club takes place on Mondays for KS1 children and Wednesdays for KS2 children, running for 6 weeks, with the last sessions taking place during week commencing 7th December. Again, please let the school office know if your child is unable to attend on the day.

Children are to be collected from the main office area now it is dark. KS1 children need to be collected by an adult after the club and KS2 children can be collected by an adult or a child of 16 or over.

Class Awards

Class R	**The St. John's Cup**	**Bridget**	**For always being so hard working and a kind member of Class R, well done!**
Class 1	**The Arts Cup**	**Freddie**	**A super Art Day- Oliver Jeffers inspired sketches of the Penguin and the Boy.**
Class 2	**The Topic Cup**	**Harry**	**A super start to our geography work, well done!**
Class 3	**The Improvement Cup**	**Henry**	**For a great start to the half term.**
Class 4	**The Reading Cup**	**Aizah**	**Great fluency and expression in her reading, well done!**
Class 5	**The Kindness Cup**	**Muneefah**	**Always showing kindness to others and treating people how you want to be treated.**
Class 6	**The PE Cup**	**Musa**	**For a brilliant pivot in Netball and for running his socks off in Fitness.**
	Opal	**Elena**	**For being a brilliant OPAL team player.**

PTA Meeting - The next PTA Meeting will take place on Thursday 12th November at 2.30pm. We will be finalising all the details of the Christmas Fair at this meeting. Please come along if you are able to.

Christmas Fair - The Christmas Fair will take place on Thursday 3rd December from 3:30-5:00pm. There will be a raffle with some great prizes (including the M&S Luxury Hamper), Santa's Grotto, refreshments, the cake stall and lots of games! If you are able to help, please let the school office staff know or see Miss Hale.





We will also be having our annual bauble competition. The children will be given a bauble to decorate and then pay £1 to enter the competition to win some fantastic prizes! More details will follow.

School Discos for bottle donations

One of the games at the Christmas Fair is the very popular 'Bottle Hoopla'. So that we have plenty of bottles to give as prizes for this game, we are having EYFS/KS1 and KS2 discos in the school hall.

The disco is free for each child but we ask each child to donate a full unopened bottle on the morning of their disco - this could be pop, juice, shampoo, shower gel etc.

The **EYFS/KS1** Bottle Disco will be on **Monday 23rd November** at 2:30pm and the **KS2** Bottle Disco will be on **Tuesday 24th November** at 2:30pm.

The children can come to school in their party clothes and sensible shoes (no make-up, jewellery) on the day of their disco.





Easyfundraising - If you purchase anything online, please go to the Easyfundraising website at www.easyfundraising.org.uk or download the Easyfundraising app.

You need to search for our cause which is:

St John's School PTA Wakefield and click 'Support this cause'.

You will need to create an account by putting in your name and email address and click 'Get Started'. You simply search for the retailer and it will direct you to the website of your choice.

Each time you purchase something, a percentage of your sale will be donated into our St. John's School PTA Wakefield account on the Easyfundraising page and we can then use the donations to purchase resources for school.

easyfundraising

Instagram - We have a school Instagram page **wakefieldstjohns** for you to see what the children are getting up to each week. Each class will post pictures for you to see with a #StJohnsJ&ISchool including the year your child started school e.g. #StJohnsJ&ISchool2026 for Class R.

Navigating the Future: An AI Guide for Primary School Parents

Artificial Intelligence isn't just a passing trend—it's here to stay, and it is rapidly changing how our children learn, create, and interact with technology. As the landscape shifts, staying informed isn't about becoming a tech expert overnight; it's about giving our children the guidance they need to navigate an ever-evolving world safely and confidently.

Key Insights for Families

- Understanding the Basics: AI tools are increasingly embedded in learning platforms and everyday apps. Recognising how these tools function helps parents set healthy boundaries and realistic expectations.
- Building Critical Thinking: As AI makes information instantly accessible, the focus shifts from memorisation to discernment. Encouraging children to question, verify, and evaluate what they see online is becoming an essential life skill.
- Fostering Human Strengths: Technology can process data, but it cannot replace human creativity, empathy, and adaptability. Supporting these core qualities at home ensures children remain well-rounded digital citizens.
- Collaborative Learning: You don't need to have all the answers. Exploring new tools together as a family normalises curiosity and opens up healthy conversations around screen time and online safety.

Featured Video Resource

For a deeper look into how AI is shaping primary education, watch our short video guide designed specifically for parents by scanning the QR code below.

CAPA- Following SMART workshops before half term, we have established a link with CAPA College who run separate free dance sessions for boys and girls. If your child is interested in attending these sessions please follow the link below for further information. Please note, Charge Boys is currently for 11 years plus, however the college are looking to deliver a Charge session for 8-11 year olds if there is enough interest.
https://www.capa.college/charge-classes-2/



Dinner Debate:

Spirituality in School:

As a school, we have defined spirituality as: "Spirituality is not something we can see; it is something we feel inside ourselves (Self) and how we treat others (Others). It is about awe and wonder (World), asking questions, inspiration and being aware of something 'bigger' outside of ourselves (Meaning)."

Each newsletter will contain a 'Dinner Debate' for you to discuss as a family if you wish. Linked to our value of 'Together', the Christian value of '` Peace' and our focus on spiritual development (Self, Others, World and Meaning)

How can we show respect to others even when we don't agree with them?

This question helps us to think about others and understand their viewpoints and although we might not always agree with others, we listen and respect their views.
It helps us to reflect on the 'World' aspect of spiritual development by encouraging us to have a peaceful world.

Collective Worship:

This half term, we are thinking about the Christian value of 'Peace' and linking this to our school vision 'Growing together, becoming all that we are created to be'. We are thinking about what peace is and how we can find peace, commemorating Remembrance Day, discussing peace in our community and world peace and looking at who have been peacemakers in the past and who are the modern day peacemakers.