

St John's Friday Newsletter

Friday 6th February 2026

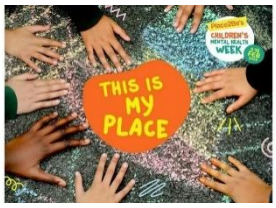
Message from the Head

We are very much looking forward to marking Children's Mental Health Week next week. The Wellbeing Warriors have been busy planning lots of lovely things for the week including a **'Wear something that makes you happy day'** on Friday 13th February (see the attached poster). They will also be leading Collective Worship on Wednesday 11th February too.

Safer Internet Day 2026 | Tuesday 10 February

Coordinated by the UK Safer Internet Centre

saferinternetday.org.uk



Safer Internet Day 2026 takes place on Tuesday 10th February, focusing on the theme **"Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI".** This global event promotes safer, more responsible, and positive use of digital technology, particularly for children. We will be having live lessons and using resources available to help navigate AI, social media, and online security. The children have also had a 'Tech for Online Safety' session this week.

It was lovely to see some of you at the SEND Coffee and Chat session on Thursday. This is the first of many that the Wakefield Parent Carer Forum will be hosting to support families of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

Have a lovely weekend!
Mrs Findlay

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BE THAT ONE

Be that one. That one who forgives when deep offense has been committed.

That one who loves when no one else does.
That one who gives kindness to those who are mean.
Be that one who looks past the insult.
Instead seeing the pain that motivated it.
That one who shines light upon those who sit in utter darkness.

Because the impact of being that one runs far and wide.
It brings healing to the wounded, joy to the sad, and hope to those in despair. Be that one.

- SHERI ECKERT | TheMindsJournal

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

9th – 13th February	Children's Mental Health Week
10th February	Safer Internet Day
12th February	Art Day
13th February 3:20pm	End of Term
23rd February 8:50am	School Reopens
25th – 27th February	Year 5 Residential to High Adventure
26th February	Y1 Easter Workshop at Wakefield Cathedral (am only)
5th March	World Book Day
6th March	Rearranged NERF Event
9th March	Science Day
10th – 11th March	Parents' Consultations 3:30-6:00pm
11th March	Class Photos
12th March 2-3pm	SEND Coffee and Chat
13th March	Coffee Morning and Book Fair
19th March	Y6 Resurrection Workshop at Wakefield Cathedral (am only)
20th March	PTA Chocolate Bingo Night 3:30-4:30pm
25th March	RE Crosses from around the World themed day
26th March 10am	Easter Service at St. John's Church
27th March	End of Term

Growing together, becoming all that we are created to be



St John's All Stars

If you require childcare before or after school, we have St John's All Stars which opens from 7:30am and then again from 3:20pm-6:00pm Monday to Thursday and 3:20pm-4:30pm on a Friday. Children can enjoy sausage sandwich Friday on Friday mornings! Look at the school website under Parent Information or contact wraparound@st-johns.wakefield.sch.uk for further details.

Please note All Stars always runs between these times, even when we have other events happening in school



KS2 teacher led after school clubs - Clubs continue again this week until the week commencing Monday 9th February (5 weeks). 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.



Walking Bus - School gets very congested at the start and end of the day. We have a walking bus service where children can be dropped off at Capri at the Vine at 8:30am and collected at 3:40pm. The children will walk to and from school accompanied by our walking bus leaders, Mrs Price and Mrs Medina. **This is a free service but children must be registered with the school office to use this.**



MP Sports - The after-school club continues until Monday 9th February for KS1 and Wednesday 14th January to Wednesday 11th February for KS2. 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.



Celebration Worship – It was lovely to see so many of you at the Year 1 Celebration Worship this morning. Thank you for your continued support.

Year R will be sharing their work with you on Friday 13th February at 9:50am. Please come and join us if you are able.



School Communication – We have a few different ways of communicating with you:

Arbor - Arbor is where you keep your information up-to-date should we need to contact you at all. It is also where you order and pay for school meals (even if your child has a packed lunch). **Parents'/carers' responsibility - If your child is halal or vegan for example, you must ensure the dietary information is completed. For allergies/intolerances please contact the school office directly as children cannot eat off the main menu.**

The School App - The School App is where you will find a copy of the newsletter and all the dates for your diary as well as all the information that is on our school website.

Medical Tracker - You will receive a notification via email regarding any injuries that occur in school.

Instagram - You will get to see what the children have been up to during the day on Instagram.

Tapestry (For Reception Class only)

You will get to see what the children have been up to and the progress that they have made.

Boom Readers - I just wanted to remind you about using Boom Reader at home. This is our online reading log to monitor reading in school and at home (Access is also available via the school website). Details of how to access this were sent at the last Parents' Consultation meeting but if you do need further support with this, please email Mrs Atkinson on classr@st-johns.wakefield.sch.uk.

When you listen to your child read at home, please log this onto Boom Reader. You can comment on your child's reading and make notes of any words that they have struggled with. This will help the class teachers to monitor the child's reading and where they need further support.

We also ask that you add any books that your child reads - this can be easily done using the ISBN number of the book. Many thanks for your continued support.

Spellings - Your child will receive spellings to learn each week.

In Year 2-Year 6, the children will be given 10 words to learn. These will be words that they are expected to know in each year group and will often have a spelling pattern that they need to learn. They will then be tested on 5 of those words by applying them in a correctly punctuated sentence the following week.

Please help your child to learn these spellings on a weekly basis. Many thanks.



Medical Tracker – School has introduced a new online medical system to support how we record and communicate information about accidents and medical care in school.

When your child has a minor accident in school, this system will automatically notify you by email with details of the incident. Please be reassured that our usual procedures will remain in place for more serious accidents, including direct contact with parents or carers where necessary.

In the near future, the system will also allow us to track medicines given in school and outside of school, as well as provide parents with the option to give consent and sign online for medicines to be administered in school.

We believe this system will help improve communication, accuracy, and efficiency, and we will share further information with you as these additional features are introduced.

Thank you for your continued support.

PTA Chocolate Bingo Night – The PTA have organised an Easter Chocolate Bingo Night on Friday 20th March from 3:30-4:30pm. There will be lots of Easter Egg prizes to be won! Please come along and support the event if you are able to. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Tickets are priced at £5 for adults and £2 for children (these must be purchased from the School Office by Friday 13th March).

More details are on the poster attached.



National Storytelling Week – This week is National Storytelling Week (2–8 February), led by the National Literacy Trust. It's all about celebrating the power of stories and getting children talking, imagining and enjoying storytelling in all its forms, not just writing.

This year's theme is "Soundtrack your story", which links stories with sound, music and rhythm.





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.

How do we do the right thing, even when it's hard?

This question helps children think about integrity in everyday situations — making good choices, being honest, and doing what is right even when no one is watching.

It supports Self by encouraging children to reflect on their own choices, and Others by helping them see how fair and truthful actions help everyone feel safe and respected.

You might like to share a simple time when you or your child chose to do the right thing — and how it made a difference.

Collective Worship:

This half term, we are thinking the Christian value of endurance. We will be listening to parables that Jesus told that teach us how to live our lives and help us to build resilience. This will also link in with Children's Mental Health week and One Life and how we can help the children have healthy minds.


St. John's PTA Chocolate Bingo Night
Friday 20th March at 3:30pm – 4:30pm
BINGO
Bingo!
Adult £5.00
Children £2.00
3 Games of Bingo •
Raffle •
Refreshments •
Tickets are available from the School Office – please purchase these by Friday 13th March.
Children must be accompanied by an adult.
Lots of Easter Egg prizes to be won!
St. John's CE (VA) J&I School PTA
Parentkind
Member Association

Attendance - As previously advised, the Department for Education has issued a new national framework to help tackle inconsistencies in the issuing of penalty notices for unauthorised absences in term time. The guidelines have also been tightened to improve overall attendance nationally.

It is important that children attend school regularly and benefit fully from the educational opportunities provided for them and infrequent or irregular attendance is known to adversely affect a child's attainment. We appreciate that absence from school is sometimes unavoidable and at times it can be difficult to know whether your child is too ill to attend school but if your child is suffering with a mild respiratory illness, including general cold symptoms like a minor cough, runny nose or sore throat as long as they don't have a temperature NHS guidance is clear that it is appropriate for parents and carers to send their children to school. There is more guidance in the NHS document 'Is my child too ill for school' which can be found at: https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/

All pupils whose attendance is 90% or below are deemed by the Government to be persistent absentees. As a school these children have their attendance monitored at regular meetings with our Education Welfare Officer.

Schools target for attendance is 96% - (attendance is above 93%)

Children whose attendance falls below 93% are at risk of becoming 'Persistent Absentees' and their attendance is therefore monitored closely by school.

Children whose attendance is 90% or below are deemed by the Government to be 'Persistent Absentees' and their attendance is monitored by both school and the Education Welfare Service at a half termly meeting. If it is felt necessary letters will sent to parents and/or invites to meetings in school will be arranged.

While the importance of learning and the legal obligation to attend are core reasons for children to be in school, we want to remind parents of the wider holistic benefits for children's wellbeing and happiness – such as the development of friendships and fantastic extra-curricular opportunities. I cannot stress enough how important regular attendance is and would ask that parents take this into consideration prior to keeping their child/ren off school and also when booking holidays during term time.

Updated Version - Wakefield Council 'Penalty Notice Code of Conduct'

An updated version of the Wakefield Council 'Penalty Notice Code of Conduct' has been added to the school website under the 'parent' tab 'letters'. I would ask that you take a look at the whole document but the main changes are at sections 15 and 16 and a copy of these sections are highlighted below:

15. The National Framework states the following: If in an individual case the Local Authority believes a penalty notice would be appropriate, they retain the discretion to issue the penalty notice before the threshold is met. Wakefield Council retain the right to exercise this discretion.

Examples of when such discretion could be used are:

a) Where a pupil has 4 days of unauthorised absence that are G coded, and, where the absence immediately precedes or includes a 5th day which is a school INSET day, or an enforced school closure, and, where this has previously occurred and a penalty notice was not issued for that absence.*

b) Where a pupil has had fewer than 5 days of G coded absence, and, where this has previously occurred and a penalty notice was not issued for that absence.*

c) Where a pupil has had fewer than 5 days of G coded absence, and, where there has been a penalty notice issued for an absence, the Local Authority would issue a further penalty notice or seek a parental prosecution in line with the National Framework for Penalty Notices.* *NB. The examples provided are not an exhaustive list and they can be used separately or in conjunction with each other.

16. Where a pupil has previously had an extended period of absence (unauthorised term time leave) of 20 (or more) school days, and where a penalty notice was issued for this absence, if the pupil then has a further extended period of absence, the Local Authority may, in agreement with the pupil's school, seek a parental prosecution rather than issue a further penalty notice. Where a pupil has been absent for 20 (or more) school days, the school can liaise with the Child Missing Education Team for advice and for appropriate action to be agreed.


USE CODE "15%" FOR 15% OFF ANY BOOKING (OFFER ENDS 31ST OF JAN)
JOIN US AT ONE OF OUR LOCAL YORK VENUES!!!
SEE REVERSE FOR VENUES!!
totalsports
FEBRUARY HALF TERM HOLIDAY CLUBS
FUN, ACTIVE, AWARD WINNING CHILDCARE
THIS FEBRUARY HALF TERM IN YORK
OPEN 8AM - 5:30PM | FOR 5-11 YEAR OLDS
• 50+ ACTIVITIES ACROSS THE WEEK
• ARTY | CRAFTY | SPORTY | ADVENTURE OPTIONS
• 2 ACTIVITY CHOICES EVERY HOUR
• SWIMMING DAYS - CHECK WESBITE FOR MORE INFO
• FOOTBALL CAMPS AT SELECTED VENUES
SCAN TO BOOK!!!
Ofsted Registered
WE ACCEPT
✓ Childcare Vouchers
✓ Tax-Free Childcare
BOOK NOW, PLACES GO FAST AT ALL VENUES!!
WWW.TOTALSPORTSLIMITED.CO.UK

VENUES NEAR YOU!!

YORK

- ARCHBISHOP HOLGATE'S SECONDARY
- HEADLANDS PRIMARY
- HUNTINGTON SECONDARY
- MANOR SECONDARY

EASINGWOLD

- OUTWOOD ACADEMY SECONDARY

WAKEFIELD

- QUEEN ELIZABETH GRAMMAR SCHOOL (QEGS)

HARROGATE

- HARROGATE LADIES' COLLEGE
- ROSSETT SPORTS CENTRE

EAST YORKSHIRE

- POCKLINGTON SCHOOL
- TRANBY

CASTLEFORD

- BRIGSHAW HIGH SCHOOL

WHATS ON AT WHICH CAMP KEY:

ENERGY CAMP – 50+ ARTY/CRAFTY/SPORTY/ ADVENTURE/FUN ACTIVITIES

FOOTBALL CAMP

SWIM DAYS – CHECK WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO!

JOIN TOTAL ENERGY THIS HALF TERM!

50+ ACTIVITIES ACROSS THE WEEK & 2 CHOICES EVERY HOUR!!

CHOOSE BETWEEN DODGEBALL OR DEN BUILDING, CRAFTS OR CAPTURE THE FLAG, PARACHUTE GAMES OR BASKETBALL, YOUR CHILDREN RULE THEIR DAYS!



SWIMMING ON SET DAYS AT SET VENUES INCLUDED AS PART OF ENERGY PROGRAMME - CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO!!





FOOTBALL CAMPS FOR FOOTBALL MAD CHILDREN!!

JOIN OUR FA QUALIFIED COACHES FOR A BRILLIANT HALF TERM OF FOOTBALL FUN! AT SET VENUES, OUR FOOTBALL CAMPS ARE PERFECT FOR CHILDREN OF ALL ABILITIES, SCHOOLS AND CLUBS! JOIN US FOR SKILL DRILLS, CHALLENGES, MATCHES AND TOURNAMENTS!!



SCAN TO BOOK!!!

BOOK NOW, PLACES GO FAST AT ALL VENUES!!

WWW.TOTALSPORTSLIMITED.CO.UK

TUESDAY 10 FEBRUARY, 7PM - 8PM

eduthing.co.uk

CLICKING WITH CONFIDENCE: HELPING CHILDREN STAY SAFE ONLINE

FREE Parent & Carer Online Safety Webinar

eduthing
IT Services for Education

in conversation with
SCREENSAFE

We are excited to again be celebrating the upcoming Safer Internet Day by hosting a virtual parent & carer support session with Anna Sarjantson, ScreenSafe and experts from the eduthing Professional Learning team, and you're invited!

Join us in conversation as we explore the best ways to support our children and young people navigating the online world covering topics such as:

- Artificial Intelligence - What to know and how to support your children and young people
- Resources to facilitate discussion with children and young people on online safety
- Top Tips and Tricks for Parents & Carers
- Particular Apps or Features to be aware of!
- Interactive Q&A Session



ABOUT SCREENSAFE

I started Screen-Safe to help more parents, carers, teachers and anyone working with children, have access to support, the information they need now and the tools they need for the future when it comes to keeping our children and young people safer online. As a parent myself, I know just how challenging and sometimes, overwhelming it can be to navigate the digital world our children are growing up in. The online world can provide incredible opportunities but also some serious risks, especially where children are concerned.

We want them to be able to recognise the risks, be able to call out fake profiles or misinformation and have the confidence to say NO and get away from anything or anyone online that doesn't feel right or safe to them.







ABOUT EDUTHING

eduthing are a leading technology provider to schools across the UK. As well as providing technical support to ensure teaching and learning runs smoothly, eduthing work with teachers, parents, carers and students with Computing, EdTech and Online Safety support and workshops.

We are passionate about ensuring the safety of children and young people when they experience the online world and immerse themselves in a safe and measured way.



SESSION REGISTRATION

Click here to register for the upcoming session:
https://eduthi.ng/SIDW-2026 Please note that this is a live session.



🌈 Wear What Makes You Happy Day 🌈

Children's Mental Health Week

📅 Friday 13th February

To celebrate Children's Mental Health Week, all children are invited to come to school wearing clothes that make them feel happy!

This could be:
✨ Bright colours
✨ A favourite outfit
✨ Something cosy
✨ Clothes that make you smile

The aim of the day is to celebrate individuality, self-expression, and wellbeing.

👕 No uniform required
💛 Please ensure clothing is suitable for a normal school day

Let's fill school with colour, confidence, and happy feelings!

Become a Parent Governor at St. John's CE (VA) Junior and Infant School

We are looking for a parent to join our Governing Body.

School governors play a key role in raising school standards and monitoring performance. Governors hold senior leadership to account and make important decisions covering issues such as policy making, site management, the school's budget and the curriculum.

Governors can be involved in school in a variety of ways such as supporting subject leaders in areas of the curriculum, listening to pupils read in school, participating in committees which lead on finance, premises and the curriculum, and supporting staff well-being in addition to attending governing body meetings four times a year.

Being a governor is an enormously challenging and rewarding opportunity. The personal benefits can be summarised as:

- A sense of satisfaction through knowing children will benefit from your efforts.
- The opportunity to develop new skills and to strengthen existing ones.
- The opportunity to work with people from a variety of social, cultural and religious backgrounds.
- The opportunity to gain understanding in key areas such as finance, personnel, and strategic planning.
- The opportunity to gain awareness of the education system as a whole.

Further information about school governors can be found at www.becomeagovernor.com

Interested? Please email headteacher@st-johns.wakefield.sch.uk for a nomination form. The closing date for this round of nominations is 12 noon on 27th February 2026.

Dear Parents and Carers,

World Book Day takes place on Thursday 5th March and we hope you'll join us to celebrate. We are celebrating World Book Day because we support the charity's mission to change lives through a love of books and reading.

Dressing up or bringing books into school is a big part of World Book Day celebrations and is something that children and families particularly enjoy. We are inviting children to dress up this World Book Day as it's an exciting way for children to get book recommendations from each other.

The book choice is key – even if it's just a prop or a clue, make sure your child is recommending something to read with their costume.
We are aware that the cost of living crisis might make this difficult for some families, so we encourage you to use things you already have at home to make a creative costume.
Please send your child's chosen book in with them on the day so we can read it to them and their friends.

The children will be given various activities to complete on World Book Day. There is also a live event that the children in KS2 will be watching:
LIVE-STREAM: World Book Day LIVE BBC Teach Live Lesson at 11am

Your child will also receive a free £1 book token. You can take your £1 book token to your nearest bookseller and swap it for a World Book Day £1 book or use it to get £1 off any book or audiobook costing £2.99 or more. You can find your nearest bookseller at worldbookday.com/participating-retailers. You will also be able to purchase books at the Coffee Morning on Friday 13th March.

We're very much looking forward to celebrating World Book Day, which could not happen without the support of parents and carers – thank you.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Best wishes
Mrs Findlay