

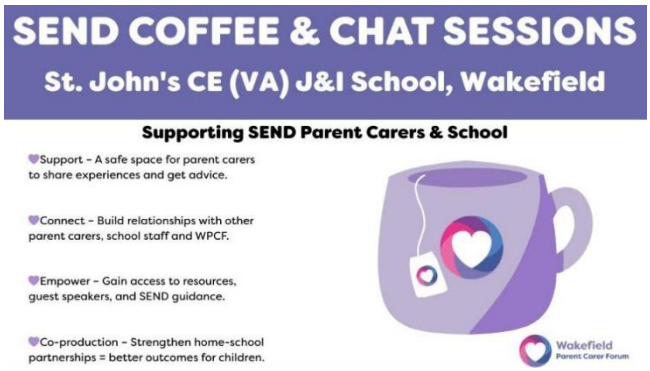
St John's Friday Newsletter

Thursday 22nd January 2026

Message from the Head

We have had a lovely couple of weeks in school. Year 5 thoroughly enjoyed their visit to Outwood Grange Academy for their Space Science Day. Year 2 had a wonderful morning on Tuesday learning about The Great Fire of London – a big thank you to Alfresco Learning for the amazing workshop.
Thank you to those Year 5 parents who attended the meeting for the residential to High Adventure. It sounds very exciting and I am sure that your children will have a fantastic time.

On Thursday 5th February at 9-10am, there will be a 'Coffee and Chat' session for parents of children with SEND run by the Wakefield Parent Carer Forum. They will be able to support and share their experiences and offer any advice.



Don't forget that tomorrow is an INSET day so school is closed to all children.
Have a lovely weekend!
Mrs Findlay

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Wakefield
WF1 3JP
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Headteacher: Mrs H Findlay
www.wakefieldstjohnscofeschool.co.uk



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

23rd January	INSET Day – school closed
28th January 3:30-5:30pm	Messy Church at St. John's Church
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

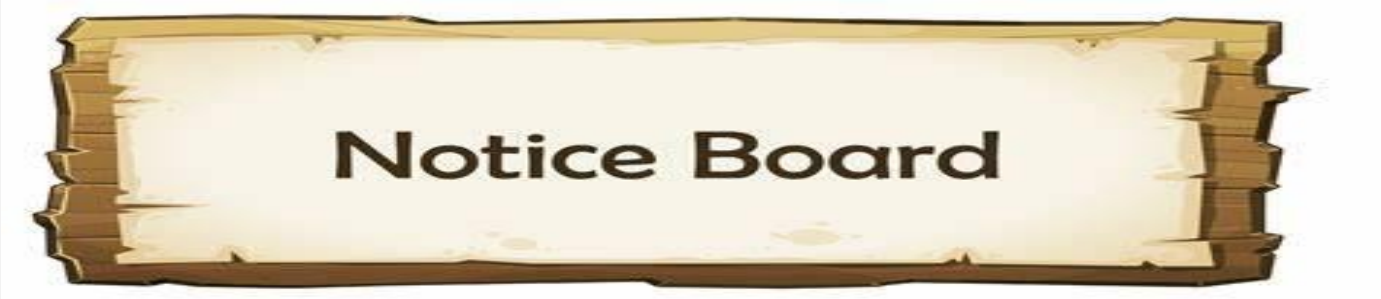


St John's All Stars

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

Growing together, becoming all that we are created to be



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.



INSET Day -

School will be closed on Friday 23rd January for an INSET Day.



Celebration Worship –

Year 1 will be sharing some of their work in a celebration worship on Friday 6th February at 9:50am and **Year R** 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. As children are swapping between packed lunches and dinners please ensure the dietary box is completed on their details, if they have any (eg halal).

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.

medicaltracker

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.



The National Year of Reading 2026 – This is a national movement from the Department of Education to get everyone reading!

The National Year of Reading 2026 is a UK-wide campaign designed to help more people rediscover the joy of reading.

The campaign 'Go All In' aims to tackle the worrying decline in reading for pleasure, especially among young people which has dropped to its lowest level since 2005, with just one in three 8- to 18-year-olds saying they enjoy reading in their spare time and teenage boys affected the most – in 2025, just 25% of boys aged 8-18 said they enjoy reading, compared to 39% of girls.

The year aims to address this challenge head on bringing together everyone from families and schools, to libraries, businesses and ambassadors to connect people of all ages with the joy – and varied benefits – of reading for pleasure. The campaign is calling on everyone to make time to Go All In and read about the everyday things they love – from playlists and football to films, food and family time – in whatever way that works for them, whether reading a novel, an e-reader, a comic, or an online blog.

Women's Super League star Leah Williamson, authors Cressida Cowell, George the Poet, Michael Morpurgo and Julia Donaldson, as well as social media star Jack Edwards alongside Richard Osman and Joe Wicks are just some of the ambassadors who will use their voices and platforms to encourage the nation to get reading.





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.

What strategies do we use when we face challenges?

This question helps us to think about ourselves and how we build resilience and show perseverance.

It helps us to reflect on the 'Self' aspect of spiritual development by encouraging us to focus on having the ability to bounce back when things are challenging.

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.


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



Messy Church - 28th January 2026

Wednesday 28 January 2026 at 3:30 p.m. for 2 hours

St John's Church, Wakefield
Wentworth Street/ St. John's Square Wakefield, WF1 2QU, United Kingdom

Come and join us at Messy Church.
Crafts, games, songs and lots of fun, friendship and being 'Messy' together.
Food provided for children and adults.
Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Growing together, becoming all that we are created to be