

St John's Friday Newsletter

Friday 9th January 2026

Message from the Head

Happy New Year to you all! I hope you had a wonderful Christmas and a lovely break. We have lots to look forward to over the next few weeks: we will be doing lots of activities for Children's Mental Health Week including Safer Internet Day and we will be having another Art Day at the end of this term. There is also an INSET day on Friday 23rd January.

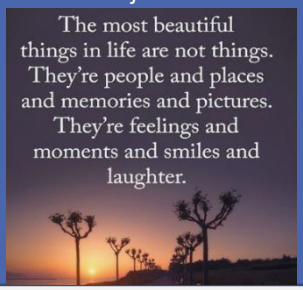
There will be a meeting for parents of Year 6 children to discuss the SATS tests in May and how you can support your child. This will take place on Tuesday 13th January at 6:00pm.

Year 5 will be going on their residential trip after the half term holidays. There is a meeting for parents to give further information about this on Tuesday 20th January at 5:00pm.

To give you all advance notice, we will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 5th March. Children will have the chance to dress up as their favourite character from a book. More details will follow.

Have a lovely weekend!
Mrs Findlay

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

23rd January	INSET Day – school closed
4th February 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

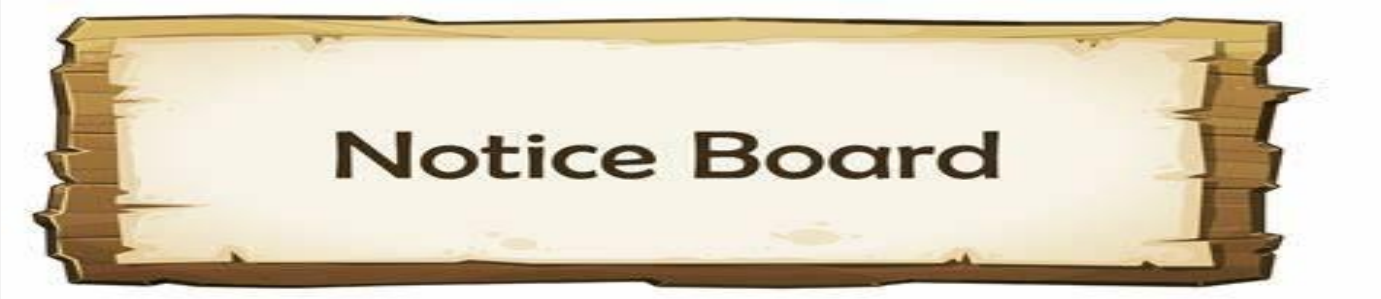


St John's All Stars

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 begin again the week commencing Monday 12th January until 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 begins again Monday 12th January to 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 2** will be sharing some of their work in a celebration worship on Friday 16th January at 9:50am.
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.



Year 5 Residential Trip - Year 5 will be going on their residential trip to High Adventure after the half term holidays. There is a meeting for parents to give further information about this on Tuesday 20th January at 5:00pm.



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.



Class Awards

Class R	**The Arts Cup**	**Ehan**	Fantastic effort and perseverance in our art and craft activity.
Class 1	**The Topic Cup**	**Noah**	For always contributing well in our topic lessons and helping others with their learning.
Class 2	**The Improvement Cup**	**Bilal**	Amazing progress in RWI and a super learning attitude in Maths and writing. Well done Bilal!
Class 3	**The Reading Cup**	**Aizah**	Super reading in class!
Class 4	**The Kindness Cup**	**Ruby**	For always showing kindness to everyone in school.
Class 5	**The PE Cup**	**Subhaan**	Fantastic rhythm during our street dance lesson.
Class 6	**St John's Cup**	**Aizah**	For continuous hard work in all of her subjects.

Year 6 SATS Meeting - There will be a meeting for all Year 6 parents to inform you about the SATS tests which take place the week beginning 11th May 2026. The meeting will take place on Tuesday 13th January at 6pm.



St John's PTA Make-Up Evening - Unfortunately the make-up evening with Mrs Johnston has had to be postponed. More details will follow on a future date.



St John's PTA – The next meeting will be on Friday 16th January at 2:30pm. Please come along to help organise future events in school.





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 makes me happy?

This question helps us to think about ourselves and what brings us happiness.

It helps us to reflect on the 'Self' aspect of spiritual development by encouraging us to focus on the importance of family, friends and memories made together rather than the materialistic things in life.

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.

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.

Oscar's Buddy Bench

We are delighted to share the wonderful news that Oscar's Buddy Bench is now proudly in place on our KS2 field.

This special bench was made possible thanks to the generosity of our school community, and it already has pride of place as a welcoming, supportive space for our children. The Buddy Bench is designed to encourage friendship, encourages kindness, and offers a place for pupils to sit if they would like company or support during playtimes, which is the perfect way to celebrate and remember our former student Oscar Grayson.

A huge thank you goes to our fantastic Well-being Warriors, whose thoughtful idea and dedicated fundraising brought this project to life. Their commitment to promoting mental health and well-being across our school is truly inspiring.

Thank you once again to everyone who donated and supported this meaningful initiative. Together, we continue to build a caring and inclusive school environment for all.
#StJohnsWellbeingWarriors





FREE Parenting Clinics

Anisa Lewis - Positive Parenting



November 2025
Helping kids to navigate friendships

December 2025
When your touched & talked out (Parent Wellbeing)

January 2026
Screens, scrolling and staying sane

February 2026
Raising Resilient Kids

Register Here

Online

https://anisalewis.as.me/theclinic

ANISA LEWIS
POSITIVE PARENTING

Growing together, becoming all that we are created to be

St JOHN'S CHURCH WAKEFIELD

Sharing Christ in the Community

Come and try our

LEGO BREAKFAST



Want to spend quality time with your children?
Do you like building with Lego, demolishing Jenga
or playing traditional board games?
Like to share a bacon sandwich
(vegetarian option available) and a drink,
while playing games in good company?
All children please bring an adult.

Come along and join in:

St John's Church, Wentworth Street, WF1 2QU

Saturday 17 January 2026

9.00am - 11.00am

Free admission (no unaccompanied children, please)

Voluntary donation of £1 for a sandwich and a drink