

St John's Friday Newsletter

Friday 12th September 2025

Message from the Head

Welcome back everyone and a very warm welcome to our new families in Reception. I hope you all had a wonderful Summer.

We send a newsletter out on a fortnightly basis which will provide you with lots of information about what is going on in school and events that will be happening. We also share lots of the lovely things that the children have been learning about too.

I have put a calendar of events in this newsletter so that you know about some of the things that will be happening throughout the year (these are subject to change). All these events are in the process of being put on the calendar on the school website too.

I am sure that we will have a fantastic year!

Have a lovely weekend,
Mrs Findlay



St Johns CE (VA) J&I School
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Wakefield
WF1 3JP
Tel: 01924 369136
Headteacher: Mrs H Findlay
www.wakefieldstjohnscofeschool.co.uk

Dates for your diary	
25th September	**KS2 French Day**
26th September	**Macmillan coffee morning and Scholastic Book Fair**
2nd October	**Harvest Festival at St John's Church**
12th October	**St John's Church Harvest Festival**
10th October	**World Mental Health Day – Wear yellow to school**
13th – 15th October	**SMART Week "Growing together, becoming all that we are created to be"**
17th October	**SMART week dress-up day**



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

PE Days - Children should come to school in their outdoor PE kit on the day they have PE: plain white t-shirt, black shorts/tracksuit bottoms, black tracksuit top and trainers. Year 5 are also to wear their outdoor PE kit on their swimming day.

R	Tuesday
1	Tuesday and Friday
2	Wednesday and Thursday
3	Tuesday and Wednesday
4	Monday and Wednesday
5	Tuesday (swimming) and Thursday
6	Wednesday and Thursday

Please note earrings must be removed for physical activity.



Class e-mails: Each class has an e-mail address for you to contact the class teachers if you need to. Please contact during working hours (8.00am to 5pm).

Reception – classr@st-johns.wakefield.sch.uk
Year 1 – class1@st-johns.wakefield.sch.uk
Year 2 – class2@st-johns.wakefield.sch.uk
Year 3 – class3@st-johns.wakefield.sch.uk
Year 4 – class4@st-johns.wakefield.sch.uk
Year 5 – class5@st-johns.wakefield.sch.uk
Year 6 – class6@st-johns.wakefield.sch.uk



Macmillan Coffee Morning - On Friday 26th September, we will be hosting our annual Macmillan Coffee Morning to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Care. Each class will be able to come to the coffee morning. Please come and join us when your child's class is in the hall (see times below):

10.00am - Year 2
10.15am - Year 1
10.30am - Year R
10.45am - Year 3
11.00am - Year 4
11.15am - Year 5 and 6



We would be grateful if you could send in donations of cakes, buns and scones (homemade or shop bought) on the morning of the event. Please label any containers so that they can be returned to you afterwards.
The Scholastic Book Fair will be available at the Coffee Morning for children to purchase books. **Please ensure you bring cash to make any purchases.**

School Committees - Thank you to those children who put themselves forward to be leaders of our committees. The following children have been chosen:

School Council	
Year 2	Marcie Georgie
Year 3	Zara Imogen
Year 4	Bryn Ezrianna
Year 5	Hasnain Georgia
Library/Reading Ambassadors	
Year 2	Charlotte Khadijah
Year 3	Sohail Tula
Year 4	Hajar Sumayyah
Year 5	Veldah Emily
Year 6	Aizah Fred Khadijah
Collective Worship Committee	
Year 2	Nidhi
Year 3	Woody Lula
Year 4	Jennie Kelly
Year 5	Evelyn Arthur
Year 6	Zahra Niah
Sports Council	
Year 2	Raihan James
Year 3	Jack Seth
Year 4	Muneefah Ava
Year 5	Flo Elsie
Year 6	Dea
Wellbeing Warriors	
Year 2	Emma Vinnie
Year 3	Tula Eleanor
Year 4	Sumayyah Ruby
Year 5	Priscilla Aidan Elsie
Year 6	Fred

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 eg #StJohnsJ&ISchool2025 for Class R.



Year R and Y6 - An app message was sent out yesterday advising a letter is on the school website (under "parents" tab and "letters") regarding the National Childhood Measurement Programme. Please read this letter and if you are happy for your child to take part you do not need to do anything. **You only need to scan the QR code on the letter if you do NOT want your child to take part.**

All class parents will have received a notification to set up their Arbor accounts**.** We are a cashless school and this system is used to pay for Meals, MP Sports, school trips, raffle tickets etc, as well as all school correspondants and permissions.

School App - All new parents will have received a text message, and those whose children are recently new to school, with instructions on how to gain access to the school app. This is the school's main form of contacting parents. **Please ensure you download the app.** There is a parents guide explaining how to do this on the school website, under the "parent" tab then "school app" tab.

Walking Bus - Children can be dropped off at Capri at the Vine at 8.20am and collected at 3.40pm. The children will walk to and from school accompanied by our walking bus leaders, Mrs Price and Mrs Medina. **Children must be registered with the school office to use this service.**



Harvest Festival - Our school Harvest Festival will take place on Thursday 2nd October at 10.00am in St John's Church. Please come and join us if you are able to. **We will be collecting for the St Catherine's Food Bank so please send in any non-perishables from Monday 29th September.** Letters will be sent home regarding the Harvest Festival at St John's Church on 12th October. If your child/ren would like to read prayers in the service please return the reply slip.



Homework, Spellings and Reading - Every Thursday, your child will receive some homework to complete by the following Tuesday. This will be either some Maths or English work that they will have covered during the week to help consolidate their learning. Reception children will receive some home learning tasks to complete during the half term. Children will also have spellings to learn which will be given out on Friday ready for a spelling quiz the following Friday. We expect the children to be reading at home daily for at least 10 minutes too. We thank you for your support with this.



Birthdays - Children can bring in treats to share with their class when it is their birthday however, we do ask that no lollies are brought in. Please note teachers are unable to hand out birthday invitations.



PTA - Our next meeting is Friday 3rd October at 2.45pm. For further details, please see the attached poster to the newsletter.



EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS – KS2

All clubs can be registered for on Arbor, thank you to those parents who have already done this. Some clubs are now full, but please check for availability.

Mondays; Computer, Film, Cricket and Lego.
Thursdays; Netball and Forest School.
Lunchtimes; TT Rockstars and Homework.



Awards - Awards are given out each week. Children are presented with awards in recognition of their achievements. They will receive a trophy to keep for the weekend. There are also class awards for attendance and the children can receive Headteacher awards too. Postcards may be sent home if your child has gone 'above and beyond' what we expect them to do too. If your child achieves something out of school, please bring it in and we can share their successes in the awards celebration worship on a Friday.



Boom Reader - 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 home last week 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.



Collective Worship:

This half term, we are thinking about the Christian value of **'Creation'** and linking this to our school vision 'Growing together, becoming all that we are created to be'. Christians believe that they are created in God's image and so we are thinking about how we are special and unique and how we can live our 'One Life' well.

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 'Nurture', the Christian value of 'Creation' and our focus on spiritual development (Self, Others, World and Meaning)

What makes you special?

This question helps us to reflect on ourselves as human beings and how we are all unique and wonderful individuals. It reflects the 'Others' aspect of spiritual development by encouraging us to appreciate how everyone is special and unique in their own ways.

One Life:
We continue to have our 'One Life' programme to support children's understanding of how to keep physically, mentally and socially fit in order to live their one life really well.

The Morning Routine (Begins at 8:50am)
The children are greeted by an adult with a safe touch (handshake, hug, high five, fist pump) which releases oxytocin (the hormone which makes us feel loved).

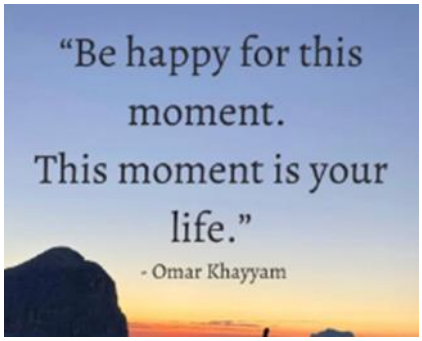
The children then journal - they write down all their thoughts to clear some space in their busy minds. Sometimes we focus on the past and other times we are focusing on what is coming next but we need to ensure that we are fully present in each moment to get the most out of our day and learning. By journaling, we are teaching the children that it is normal to think and have thoughts but we need to remember that not all thoughts are facts.

We then have a mindful minute of deep breathing. This is because there are two main modes to our nervous system: sympathetic mode which is when our brain detects danger and tries to keep us safe by going into stress response (fight, flight or freeze) and when we feel like this, our heart beats faster, our breathing shallows and all our energy is being sent to our major organs so we do not have much energy left to concentrate and make really good decisions. The other mode is called parasympathetic mode which is when we feel calm, our breathing is regular and we have lots more energy to focus, concentrate and learn.

Once we are calm in our minds and bodies, we set our intentions for the day. We remember that we are not our thoughts, we are the watcher of them. We can choose the ones we pay attention to, so we encourage the children to pay attention to the positive thoughts. In every situation, there is a thought, which creates a feeling, which gives us a sensation and then an urge to act. If we know this and understand this, we can 'catch' negative thoughts and swap them for positive ones. The children repeat a positive affirmation such as 'I am kind'.

We finish the routine with some wise words for the day. We remember the world sends out messages all of the time, especially in the digital world and it is important to keep an eye on what we consume mentally. We want our children to fill their minds with goodness and messages which encourage us to grow personally so we can show up to be our best selves.

One Life Lessons:
The children then have a weekly lesson on a particular theme. This half term's theme is 'Being self-aware' and having our 'inner cheerleader'!



MP Sports - MP Sports is our sports provider. The after school club will begin on Monday 15th September until Monday 20th October for KS1 and Wednesday 17th September until Wednesday 22nd October for KS2. This can be done through your Arbor account. Please remember to collect your child from the hall doors on the KS2 playground so please ensure you make your way around school via the gate to the left of the main office and follow the path round. You will need to wait on the KS2 playground and the MP Sports leaders will ask you to come to the door to collect your child/ren. 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.



SMART Week - This year we will be having our SMART week again! This is a lovely week where the children work together with children from other classes. The theme for this year is our school vision: **'Growing together, becoming all that we are created to be'**. The children will choose 6 different activities to do; two on Monday 13th October, two on Tuesday 14th October and two on Wednesday 15th October. They will make their choices on Monday 6th October. Activities will be around the theme of what they would like to be in the future and/or what kind of person they would like to be in the future etc. A letter will be sent out soon with further details and there will be information on this if you are able to help during the week. On **Friday 17th October**, the children can dress up in something that they would like to be in the future or what kind of person they would like to be. Please don't go to any expense!



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.

SNACKS - Our school is part of the Free Fruit and Vegetable Scheme which provides a piece of fruit or vegetable each day for all EYFS and Key Stage 1 children. Parents may send children with a piece of **fruit, vegetables, cheese (if pre-wrapped e.g. Babybell), fruit salad, dried fruit or seeds (with no added salt or sugar)** to be eaten during break time. Chocolate, sweets, crisps or biscuits are not allowed to be brought into school for break time. **We are a nut-free school.**

School Milk - With effect from January 2015, as part of the new school food plan, schools became legally obliged to ensure that milk is available during the school day to all pupils. Under the Department of Health Nursery Milk scheme, children in Reception Class who are under five are eligible to receive free school milk up until their fifth birthday. For children aged five years and over, milk is offered but it is chargeable to parents. All milk is to be ordered using the link http://coolmilk.com even if your child is entitled to free milk.





If you would like to help out and join the PTA team, please give your details to the school office. There are lots of ways to get involved.

1. **Sourcing donations:**
   We are always seeking donations and support from local businesses for tombola prizes or to sell at our events. Recently these have included generous donations of a keg of beer, vouchers for restaurants and hampers. You would support the PTA by contacting local businesses to ask for donations. Letters and coordination will be provided.

2. **Helping out at PTA events:**
   This could involve running a stall, selling refreshments, face painting or managing the tombola.

3. **Providing donations:**
   Most of our profits come from the very generous donations of parents and staff who bake cakes and donate prizes to be sold or given at PTA events.

4. **Treasurer:**
   Requires some basic financial knowledge. The treasurer is a role part of the PTA team. In addition will have responsibility for the PTA bank account

5. **Secretariat:**
   The secretariat role is part of the PTA team. In addition will lead on the PTA communications and admin.

6. **WhatsApp Group:**
   Being a member of this WhatsApp group means that you are happy to receive communications about the PTA. School social media policy applies.

St. John's CE (VA) J&I School

WELCOME BACK!

I hope everyone had a lovely summer. As we're starting to get settled back into the school year, I wanted to reintroduce the PTA. We have many fundraising events throughout the academic year, which are organised by the PTA. These help to fund lots of extra resources that our school budget cannot stretch to pay for, as well as creating fun experiences and happy school memories for the children. We always need extra help so if you are able to help run a stall, make some buns, contribute tombola prizes etc. it is much appreciated.

What have we been up to?

In the last year, the PTA raised over £4000. So far, we are very happy to have been able to support the school library by funding a range of new books and furniture, fund school trips and the school disco and treat our school leavers.

What we have planned this term

- Xmas4Schools – All children have the opportunity to draw a Christmas picture which can be turned into fun gifts – a perfect Christmas present!
- Christmas Fair – Thursday 4th December 3:30-5pm
- Summer Fair – Saturday 4th July 1-3:30pm
- Spring Disco with Disco Dan

Our next meeting is **Friday 3rd October at 2:45pm.** Please come and join us – everyone is welcome!

Parentkind Member Association

School Calendar 2025-2026

Month	Date	Events
September	8th-10th 25th 26th 29th	Y6 Bikeability European Day of Languages/KS2 French Day/PTA Meeting 2:45pm Macmillan Coffee Morning/Scholastic Book Fair School photographs (individual/with siblings)
October	2nd 8th 10th 12th 13th-15th 16th 17th 21st - 22nd 23rd	Harvest Festival at St. John's Church 10am Messy Church 3:30-5:30pm at St. John's Church World Mental Health Day St. John's Church Harvest Festival at 10am SMART Week 'Growing together, becoming all that we are created to be' Religion and World Views Celebrations Day (in classes) SMART Week dress-up day Parent Consultations (3:30-6pm) Art Day (in classes)
November	10th-14th 14th	Anti-Bullying Week Children in Need non-uniform day/Future in Mind Coffee Morning 9am
December	4th 5th 10th 12th 15th 16th 18th 19th	PTA Christmas Fair (3:30-5pm) KS1 Christmas Production at 10am Christmas Lunch/ Messy Church 3:30-5:30pm at St. John's Church Y3/Y4 Christmas Production at 10am EYFS&KS1 Christmas Party Y3&Y4 Christmas Party Christmas Service at St. John's Church 10am/Y5&Y6 Christmas Party Y5/Y6 Christmas Production at 10am
January	5th 23rd	School begins INSET Day
February	4th 9th - 13th 10th 12th 25th-27th	Messy Church 3:30-5:30pm at St. John's Church Children's Mental Health Week Safer Internet Day Art Day (in classes) Y5 Residential to High Adventure
March	5th 9th 10th - 11th 13th 25th 25th 26th	World Book Day Science Day/ Parent Consultations (3:30-6pm) Parent Consultations (3:30-6pm) Coffee Morning and Book Fair Messy Church 3:30-5:30pm at St. John's Church Religion and World Views Crosses from around the World Day Easter Service at St. John's Church 10am
April	13th	Back to School
May	11th-14th 13th 21st 22nd	Y6 SATS Week Messy Church 3:30-5:30pm at St. John's Church Art Day (in classes) INSET Day
June	1st 8th-12th 10th 22nd 25th	Y4 Multiplication Check (online) Y1 Phonics Check/Y2 Phonics recheck KS2 Sports Day am EYFS/KS1 Sports Day pm St. John's Day Service at St. John's Church 10am St. John's Day School Service at 10am/RE Parables Day
July	2nd 4th 7th 8th 10th 16th 20th	Summer Concert at 6pm PTA Summer Fair 1-3:30pm EYFS and KS1 Airport Day Transition morning to new classes/Messy Church 3:30-5:30pm St. John's Church/Y6 Production at 6pm Transition morning to new classes Y6 Leavers' Celebration Worship 10am/Talent Show 1:30pm INSET Day

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 27 September 2025

9.00am - 11.00am

Free admission (no unaccompanied children, please)

Voluntary donation of £1 for a sandwich and a drink

WEST YORKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE EVENT SATURDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER 2025

ON SATURDAY 13 SEPTEMBER THE PIECE HALL IS PLAYING HOST TO A CEREMONY TO CELEBRATE LONG SERVICE AND DEDICATION AT WYFRS.

YOU ARE INVITED TO VISIT BETWEEN 10:00AM AND 1.30PM TO MEET CREWS WHO WILL ATTEND WITH FIRE ENGINES AND OTHER SPECIALIST VEHICLES.



WE WILL BE RUNNING A CHILDREN'S TRAIL FROM THE VISITOR CENTRE
£3, RUNNING FROM 11AM-2.30PM.

IN THE LEARNING STUDIO WE WILL BE DOING FREE THEMED CRAFTS 11AM-3PM.

FACE PAINTING £3
GLITTER TATTOOS £2

THE PIECE HALL,
BLACKLEDGE, HX1 1RE



YOUNGMINDS

Hello Yellow

FRIDAY 10 OCT

Wear it loud. Wear it proud.

Wear yellow this World Mental Health Day, 10th October,
and donate to YoungMinds to support young people's mental health.

#HelloYellow

M&S | YOUNGMINDS

YoungMinds, registered Charity in England (1005968) and Scotland (SCO39700)