

St John's Friday Newsletter

Friday 18th September 2026

Message from the Head

Good afternoon,

I wanted to let you know that I will be going on maternity leave at the end of Friday 18th September and returning towards the end of June.

It is with mixed emotions that I prepare to take some time away from school. I am very much looking forward to this special new chapter, but I will also miss being part of our wonderful school community and seeing the children each day.

I am incredibly proud of our school and all that our pupils, staff and families achieve together. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support, encouragement and partnership. It is a privilege to lead such a caring and committed school community.

During my maternity leave, Miss Hale will take on the role of Acting Headteacher and will work closely with the staff team to ensure that the school continues to run smoothly and that our children receive the very best care and education. Mr Heseltine will take on the role of Acting Deputy Headteacher too.

I will be thinking of everyone at school during my time away and look forward to returning and seeing you all again.

Thank you once again for your support and understanding. I wish you and your families a happy and healthy year.

Kind regards,
Mrs Findlay



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

24th September	KS2 French Day – European Day of Languages
25th September	Macmillan coffee morning and Scholastic Book Fair
28th September	Individual and Sibling Photographs by Tempest
1st October	Harvest Festival at St John's Church
2nd October	Y6 Celebration Worship at 9:50am
8th October	World Mental Health Day – Wear yellow to school
9th October	Y5 Celebration Worship at 9:50am
12th – 14th October	SMART Week – more details to follow
13th October	**Parent Consultations (3:30-6pm) – please note the change of date**
15th October	Religion and World Views Day
16th October	SMART week dress-up day
20th October	Art Curriculum Day
21st October	Parent Consultations (3:30-6pm)
23rd October	INSET Day (School closed to children)



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.

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 black trainers. Year 5 are also to wear their outdoor PE kit on their swimming day.

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



Physical Education

Please note earrings must be removed for physical activity (please do this at home if your child is unable to do this independently.

Macmillan Coffee Morning - On Friday 25th 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 for teas/coffees and cakes etc. There will be a QR code that you can scan to purchase books directly with Scholastic using your mobile phone.**

KS2 teacher led after school clubs – After school clubs for KS2 children continue until week commencing Monday 19th October (6 weeks). If your child is unable to attend, please contact the school office to let them know. Children are collected from the main entrance at 4:20pm.



MP Sports - The club continues for KS1 children on Mondays and Wednesdays for KS2 children (6 weeks). Again, please let the school office know if your child is unable to attend on the day.



School Committees – The children in Y2-Y6 have been selected for our School Council, Sports Council, Collective Worship Committee, Wellbeing Warriors and Reading/Library Ambassadors. Congratulations to the following:

School Council: Emma and Kanz Y3, Hiba and Eliana Y4, Penny and Hareem Y5, Flo, Elsie, Evelyn, Arthur and Musa Y6

Sports Council: Noah and Osman Y2, Khadijah and Etienne Y3, Woody and Seth Y4, Ezrianna and Mohammed Y5, Veldah and Evelyn Y6

Collective Worship: Aiyla and Edith Y2, Frankie and Mustafa Y3, Imogen and Eleanor Y4, Holly and Joshua Y5, Malia and Esme Y6

Library/Reading: Zunirah and Isabelle Y2, Georgie Y3, Aizah, Audrey and Hareem Y4, Evelyn and Muneefah Y5, Isabelle and Tanatswa Y6

Wellbeing Warriors: Taya Y2, Marcie and Nidhi Y3, Ezra, Martha, Kloi and Meheytabel Y4, Kelly and Ava Y5, Flo Y6

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 of KS2 children** 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.



Benedict's Law – This academic year, schools have been given new statutory guidance on allergies in school. All schools are now required to have spare Adrenaline Injectors in case a suspected allergic reaction is evident. At St. John's, we have already been a nut-free school but this new guidance means the regulations around this are even more precise.

School Lunches – To ensure your child receives the correct meal all lunches, including packed lunches, must be pre-booked using the Arbor Parent Portal. Unbooked meals default to the daily green choice (jacket potato). Registering your packed lunch on the portal helps the school accurately track daily numbers.

How to Book or Select Packed Lunches on Arbor:



- Log in on the parent portal
- Navigate to Meals: From the main dashboard, use Quick Actions or tap the menu in the bottom corner to select Meals.
- Select the Day: Click on the specific day you want to manage.
- Choose your meal: Select the hot meal, or scroll to select the Packed Lunch option.
- Process: Tap to confirm and make sure you click the green Process button to save your choice.

You can also use the option to set your choices for future available dates if your child has a regular weekly routine

To ensure a smooth service, please select your child's lunch choice beforehand. Since all meals are made to order, children who sign up for a packed lunch are expected to bring one. Switching to a school meal at lunch time on the day, without prior notice, causes shortages.

Managing lunch selections correctly helps keep the kitchen running smoothly and guarantees every child gets their preferred meal. To prevent further mix-ups, it is helpful to establish a consistent routine at home so children are clear on which option they are taking each day.

School Uniform

- Black school trousers (black shorts in summer are optional), skirt or pinafore dress
- White polo shirt or formal shirt
- Royal blue sweatshirt, cardigan or jumper
- Royal blue and white summer dress
- Plain white or black socks or black tights
- Plain black shoes or black trainers

All children are expected to come to school in their PE kit on their class PE day:

- Plain white t-shirt
- Plain black shorts (no other logos)
- Plain black track suit (for outdoor activities if necessary)
- Black trainers or plimsolls
- Year 5 only – swimming kits and towel

ALL UNIFORM MUST BE CLEARLY NAMED.

Class Awards

Class R	**The Improvement Cup**	**Isla**	**For her positive outlook on coming into school and her learning.**
Class 1	**The Reading Cup**	**Florence**	**For fabulous work in RWI – always focused and working hard in lessons.**
Class 2	**The Kindness Cup**	**Vienna**	**For being such a kind and helpful member of the class. She is brilliant and cares for everyone.**
Class 3	**The PE Cup**	**Raihan**	**For great demonstrating.**
Class 4	**St John's Cup**	**Selene**	**For being positive and helpful in class.**
Class 5	**The Arts Cup**	**Penny**	**An amazing start to our ukulele lessons. You have fantastic rhythm!**
Class 6	**The Topic Cup**	**Evelyn**	**For a wonderful attitude to our history topic on Monarchs.**
	Opal	**Ava**	**For helping to get equipment out.**

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&ISchool2026 for Class R.

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 send in buns/sweets rather than a full cake to cut up and no juice please. Please note teachers are unable to hand out birthday invitations.



Harvest Festival - Our school Harvest Festival will take place on Thursday 1st 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 28th September.**



St. John's Church Harvest Festival – St. John's Church will be having their Harvest Festival on Sunday 11th October at 10am. Some of our children lead the prayers during this service. A letter will go out shortly with further details regarding this.



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. 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.



PTA Halloween Discos – On **Tuesday 3rd November from 5.00pm-6.30pm**, DJ Dan will be entertaining the EYFS and KS1 children again with his fantastic disco. There will be a £2 charge for admission (to help cover the cost of DJ Dan and for unlimited juice and biscuits) and there will be sweets to purchase on the night. (See posters for further details) Please do not send more that £5 for sweets. Children can dress up in Halloween costumes if they wish.



On **Wednesday 4th November from 5.00pm-6.30pm**, the KS2 children will have their Halloween disco with DJ Dan. There will be a £2 charge for admission (to help cover the cost of DJ Dan and for unlimited juice and biscuits) and there will be sweets to purchase on the night.
(See posters for further details) Please do not send more that £5 for sweets. Children can dress up in Halloween costumes if they wish.

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

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 in different workshops.

The children will choose 6 different activities to do; two on Monday 12th October, two on Tuesday 13th October and two on Wednesday 14th October.

They will make their choices on Monday 5th October. A letter has been sent out with further details and there is information on this if you are able to help during the week.

The theme for this year's SMART Week is **'Anyone can do any job.'** **We would like to remind the children that anyone can do any job they choose, regardless of whether they are a boy or a girl. We want to encourage children to follow their interests, talents and dreams without feeling limited by stereotypes.**

Children will have the opportunity to try being a carpenter, a dancer, a paramedic, a gardener etc.

On Friday 16th October, the children can dress up in something that they would like to be in the future. Please don't go to any expense!



World Mental Health Day 'Wear something yellow' – On Thursday 8th October, the children will be able to come to school in something yellow.

St John's Well Being Warriors 2026-2027



On Thursday 8th October, our school will be glowing bright as we take part in the **YoungMinds Hello Yellow campaign**! Our fantastic **Wellbeing Warriors** will be working incredibly hard to plan a wonderful day of awareness, positivity, and connection. They take huge pride in making this event special every year, and they have come up with some brilliant ideas to help us all focus on looking after our minds.
Here is what we have lined up across the school:

- **Wear Yellow Day (Friday 9th October):** We are asking all pupils and staff to come to school wearing something bright and yellow. Whether it is a full yellow outfit, a bright jumper, or just a pair of yellow socks.
- **Mindfulness & Yoga:** We are delighted to welcome Sally back to school! She will be running peaceful mindfulness and yoga sessions to teach the children practical tools for staying calm and centered.
- **Enjoying Nature & Quieter Spaces:** Classes will be spending extra time outside in the fresh air, taking quiet moments to connect with nature and enjoying the peaceful, reflective areas of our school grounds.
- **In-Class Activities:** Teachers have planned a variety of engaging, age-appropriate activities designed to encourage open conversations about feelings and emotional wellbeing.
- **Well Being Warriors Collective Worship:** The Well-being Warriors will deliver a collective worship about Wear Yellow and World Mental Health day.

🔗 **How You Can Help Us Raise Money**

We want to ensure that no young person feels alone with their mental health. If you are able to support our fundraising efforts, please follow go to https://fundraise.youngminds.org.uk/s/9677/10500 to make a contribution. Every penny raised goes directly toward providing vital resources and early support for children's wellbeing. It will also help school be in the running to win a seated planter for our playground from Young Minds.

Thank you as always for your incredible support in making our school a kinder, brighter place!



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.

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

How can we look after our world? What small things can we do to help protect our world?

This question helps us to reflect on ourselves as human beings and how we are all unique and wonderful individuals. It reflects the 'Others' and 'World' aspect of spiritual development by encouraging us to appreciate our wonderful world that God has created.


PTA
HALLOWEEN
DISCO
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from 5.00pm-6.30pm
DJ Dan will be entertaining
the EYFS and KS1 children again
with his fantastic disco.
£2
There will be a £2 charge
for admission
(to help cover the cost of DJ Dan and for
unlimited juice and biscuits)
and there will be sweets to purchase on the night.
Please do not send more
that £5 for sweets.
Children can dress up in Halloween
costumes if they wish.


PTA
HALLOWEEN
DISCO
On Wednesday 4th November
from 5.00pm-6.30pm
the KS2 children will have their
Halloween disco with DJ Dan.
There will be a £2 charge for admission
(to help cover the cost of DJ Dan and for
unlimited juice and biscuits)
and there will be sweets to purchase on the night.
Please do not send more
that £5 for sweets.
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