

St John's Friday Newsletter

Friday 4th September 2026

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



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Dates for your diary	
w.b. 7th September	**Y6 Bikeability / Y5 Swimming begins on Mondays**
24th September	**KS2 French Day**
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**
15th October	**Religion and World Views Day**
16th October	**SMART week dress-up day**
20th October	**Art Curriculum Day / Parent Consultations (3:30-6pm)**
21st October	**Parent Consultations (3:30-6pm)**
23rd October	**INSET Day (School closed to children)**



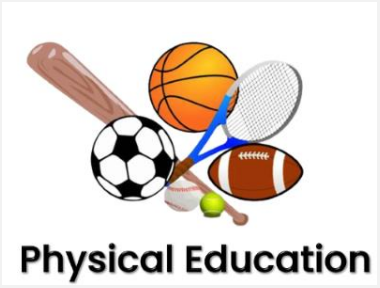
St John's All Stars

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.

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

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



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

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 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.**

School Committees – The children in Y2-Y6 have the opportunity to be on the Junior Leadership Team in various committees. These include: School Council, Sports Council, Collective Worship Committee, Wellbeing Warriors and Reading/Library Ambassadors. The children have taken an application form home to complete today if they wish to represent their class as one of these leaders and we ask that these are returned by Wednesday 9th September. The staff member in charge of the committee will then decide who will take on these roles from each year group and this will be shared in the Celebration Worship on Friday 11th September.













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.



School Uniform and Equipment - The children have returned to school looking very smart and proud in their school uniforms.

Please could you take the time to make sure your child's full name is included in all items of school uniform and their belongings. It is always surprising how quickly our lost property boxes get full of unnamed uniform. Each day, your child will need to bring their water bottle filled with still water only. We do not allow juice, fizzy drinks or flavoured water. Infant children will require their book bag daily.

Parking – As we start the new school year, can I take this opportunity to remind you that we politely ask that you, including additional family relatives who may do school runs, do not park on the zig zag lines outside of school and ask that you are respectful of residents and do not block their driveways.



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 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.**



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 send in buns/sweets rather than a full cake to cut up. Please note teachers are unable to hand out birthday invitations.



PTA - Our next meeting is Friday 11th September at 2.30pm. For further details, please see the attached poster to the newsletter.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS – KS2
All clubs can be registered for on Arbor. These will go out next week for you to book your child into a club. Please make sure you only book one club per evening. By requesting the club, you are consenting to your child attending. Clubs run from 3:20-4:20pm. They will begin the week beginning 14th September and run for 6 weeks. Please collect your child from the main entrance at 4:20pm.



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.



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 will be sent home 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).

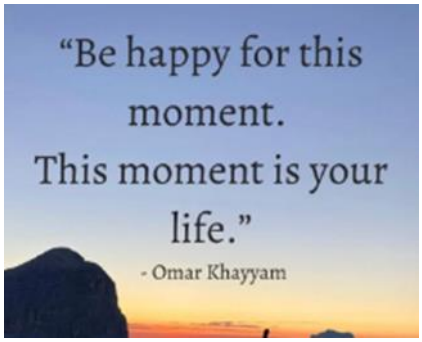
The children then journal - they write down all their thoughts to clear some space in their busy minds. Sometimes we focus on the past and other times we are focusing on what is coming next but we need to ensure that we are fully present in each moment to get the most out of our day and learning. By 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 14th September until Monday 19th October for KS1 and Wednesday 16th September until Wednesday 21st 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 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 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 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!



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

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.

Just to remind you that chocolate spread should not be in packed lunches and particularly any nut-based spreads. This includes peanut butter. Some biscuits, cereal bars and flap-jacks also contain nuts so please ensure these are not included in children's packed lunches. If they are in packed lunches, in order to keep all children safe, I'm afraid they will be removed.

Medication -
Please ensure inhalers and EpiPens are in date.

Accidents -
Any accidents that occur in school will be reported to you via email through our Medical Tracker system.

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.

Staffing for 2026-2027

As many of you know, I am expecting my second child very shortly. I will therefore be on maternity leave from the middle of September. Miss Hale will be Acting Headteacher in my absence and Mr Heseltine will be Acting Deputy Headteacher.

	Teacher	Teaching Assistant
EYFS	Mrs Rebecca Atkinson	Mrs Lauren Grayson
Y1	Mrs Laura McPhillips	Mrs Norma Crawford
Y2	Mrs Joanne Roclawski	Mrs Kiran Zeb
Y3	Miss Sarah Jackson	Mrs Rachel Lambourn
Y4	Mrs Rachel Toomes	Mrs Sam Morris
Y5	Mrs Lisa Earley/Mrs Carla Hall	Mrs Suzanne Lister Mrs Gulnar Abassi
Y6	Mr Jacob Heseltine	Mrs Angie Sykes

We welcome Mrs Bell to our staff team. She will be in the school office with Mrs Sharp. We also welcome back Mrs Lister who will be working in Year 5. I am sure that you will make them both feel very welcome.

Timings of the School Day

Lessons start at 8:50am and finish at 3:20pm. Doors open from 8:40am. Children in KS2 can arrive at school from 8:30am (please make sure it is no earlier than this as the gate is not open until then) and can wait on the KS2 playground until the doors open.
If your child needs to arrive before 8:30am, please use All Stars wraparound care (see information above).



Back to School Photographs

Many people will be sharing 'back to school' photographs on social media.
Please remember:



- Blur/hide the school logo
- Ensure only your child's face is in the photo
- Do not include personal details e.g. house numbers, school nam, street names etc.

Some information you put in the caption may be more harmful than you know.
See the information from NSPCC for more details:
https://www.nspcc.org.uk/about-us/news-opinion/2024/how-protect-childs-back-to-school-photos/

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 3rd December 3:30-5pm
- Summer Fair – Saturday 3rd July 1-3:30pm
- Halloween Disco with Disco Dan

Our next meeting is **Friday 11th September at 2:30pm.** Please come and join us – everyone is welcome!

Parentkind Member Association

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.

School Calendar 2026-2027

Month	Date	Events
September	7th -11th 11th 24th 25th 28th	Y6 Bikeability PTA Meeting 2:30pm European Day of Languages/KS2 French Day Macmillan Coffee Morning/Scholastic Book Fair School photographs (individual/with siblings)
October	1st 8th 13th 12th-14th 15th 16th 20th 21st 23rd	Harvest Festival at St. John's Church 10am 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) / Parent Consultations 3:30-6pm Parent Consultations 3:30-6pm INSET Day
November	16th-20th 14th	Anti-Bullying Week Children in Need non-uniform day/Future in Mind Coffee Morning 9am
December	3rd 4th 9th 11th 14th 15th 17th 18th	PTA Christmas Fair (3:30-5pm) KS1 Christmas Production at 10am Christmas Lunch 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 / End of term

January	4th 22nd	School begins INSET Day
February	1st – 7th 9th 11th	Children's Mental Health Week Safer Internet Day Art Day (in classes)
March	5th 9th 10th – 11th 13th 17th – 19th 25th	World Book Day Science Day/ Parent Consultations (3:30-6pm) Parent Consultations (3:30-6pm) Coffee Morning and Book Fair Y5 Residential to High Adventure Easter Service at St. John's Church 10am
April	12th	Back to School
May	10th-13th 20th 28th	Y6 SATS Week Art Day (in classes) INSET Day
June	7th 7th – 11th 9th 24th 27th	Y4 Multiplication Check (online) Y1 Phonics Check/Y2 Phonics recheck KS2 Sports Day am EYFS/KS1 Sports Day pm St. John's Day School Service at 10am/RE Parables Day St. John's Day Service at St. John's Church 10am
July	1st 3rd 6th 7th 15th 21st	Summer Concert at 6pm PTA Summer Fair 1-3:30pm EYFS and KS1 Airport Day Transition morning to new classes/Y6 Production at 6pm Transition morning to new classes Y6 Leavers' Celebration Worship 10am/Talent Show 1:30pm End of term