

St John's Friday Newsletter

Friday 26th June 2026

Message from the Head

We have had such a busy half term so far! Our St John's Service at church yesterday was wonderful and the children read and sang beautifully. It was also lovely to see so many of you at the service. Some of the children will be reading prayers at St. John's Church on Sunday so we look forward to seeing you then. Thank you for your continued support.

A huge well done to Essie and Juliette in Year 6. They represented our school so brilliantly at the 'Let's Talk History' event at the Town Hall. They researched the history of the Stanley Ferry and presented their findings so eloquently. They were a credit to our school. Thank you to their families for their support too.

We are looking forward to our Summer Fair on Saturday 4th July from 1.00pm -3.30pm. If you are able to donate any cakes, biscuits or buns, please bring these on Friday 3rd July or the morning of the fair. Thank you.

We have lots of other events coming up including: KS1 Airport Day, Y4's Big Sing, Y5's visit to Gulliver's, the Summer Fair, the Summer Concert, Y6 Production, Y6's Leavers' Celebration Worship and the annual Talent Show!

Have a lovely weekend.
Mrs Findlay



Health is not just about what you're eating or doing
It's also about what you're thinking, feeling, and saying

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WF1 3JP
Tel: 01924 369136
Headteacher: Mrs H Findlay
www.wakefieldstjohnscofeschool.co.uk

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

28th June	St John's Sunday Service at St John's Church at 10am
1st July	Y6 Leavers' Celebration at Wakefield Cathedral
2nd July	Summer Music Concert
4th July	Summer Fair 1-3.30pm

Growing together, becoming all that we are created to be

6th July	SEND Parent Coffee Morning 9-10am
7th July	KS1 Airport Day
8th July	Y6 Production
16th July	Y6 Leavers Celebration Worship Talent Show
17th July	End of Term

St John's All Stars

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.

KS2 teacher led after school clubs – Clubs continue to week commencing 6th July. If your child is in Year 6, they can walk home on their own after the club but please let the school office know if your child will be doing this.



MP Sports – MP Sports continues on Monday 29th June for EYFS/KS1 and Wednesday 1st July for KS2. The club will run for 6 weeks until the week beginning 6th July.



FAO Reception Parents/Carers - We are pleased to invite **Reception parents/carers** to a **Stay and Play session** at the end of continuous provision. This will be a lovely opportunity to come into school, see your child in class, and join us for **tidy time and story time** before taking them home.

There are **two sessions available**:

- **Wednesday 1st July 2.30pm**
- **Monday 6th July 2.30pm**

Please **sign up for one session only**. Sign up sheets will be available at the beginning and end of the day commencing Monday next week.

Summer Fair - Our annual Summer Fair takes place on Saturday 4th July from 1.00pm – 3.30pm.

There will be a bouncy castle, assault course, football shootout and pillow bash. We will have lots of different stalls such as the tombola, bottle hoopla and face painting!

We would be grateful if you could send in donations of cakes, buns and scones (homemade or shop bought) and send these in on Friday 3rd July or the morning of the fair, prizes for the tombola and bottles of wine/prosecco.

If you can help on a stall, it would be very much appreciated! Please contact Mrs Findlay if you can.



Raffle tickets are on sale through Arbor. They are £1 per ticket. There are some fantastic prizes up for grabs including an M&S summer hamper!

Food at the Fair: There will be Asian food on sale and the ice cream van along with various refreshments!

Frozen Fridays! The PTA will be selling ice lollies at the end of the school day every Friday during the final half term. These will be on sale in the front car park.



Break time snacks reminder – 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.** 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.



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.

Year 6 Leavers Celebration at Wakefield Cathedral- Year 6 will be taking part in a Leavers' Service at Wakefield Cathedral on Wednesday 1st July at 1:30pm. Parents are welcome to come along and support the children.

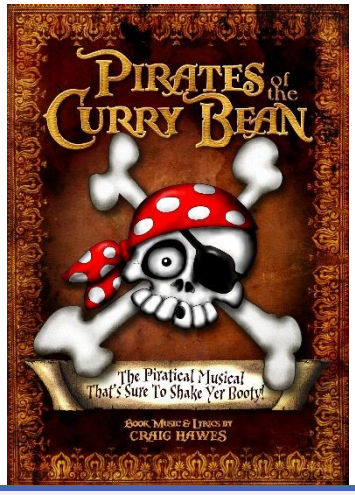




Year 4 Big Sing - On Tuesday 30th June, the Year 4 children will be taking part in the 'Big Sing' at Wakefield Cathedral. This is led by the Wakefield Music Service. The event will comprise of a workshop/rehearsal in the morning and a performance from 1:00pm until approximately 2:00pm. There will be limited seating on the day so please bear this in mind if you decide to come along.

Year 6 Production- Year 6 will be performing their production of Pirates of the Curry Bean on Wednesday 8th July at 6:00pm. They have worked incredibly hard and learnt lots of words!

We do not have a limit on places as it is only Y6 performing and we can accommodate more people.



Summer Concert - On Thursday 2nd July at 6:00pm, we will be having our annual Summer Concert. This is a wonderful opportunity for the children to showcase their talents! As so many of our children will be taking part, we have limited space so we would appreciate it if only up to 2 people came per child.



KS1 Airport Day - You will have received a letter about the KS1 Airport Day this week. This will take place on Tuesday 7th July. This is a wonderful day where the children 'experience going on an aeroplane and visiting France, Italy and Spain'. They will sample food and the culture of the country.



School Reports - On Tuesday 7th July, you will receive your child's end of year report. This will include your child's attendance, how well they are doing in class and their thoughts on the year too. If your child has completed any assessments this year such as EYFS Early Learning Goals Good Level of Development, the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check or Recheck in Year 2 or the KS2 SATs in Year 6, their results will be included. If you would like to discuss the content of the report with your child's class teacher, please contact the school office to make an appointment.

Transition Days -Your child will have the opportunity to meet their new class teacher and teaching assistant during the morning of Wednesday 8th July and then they will visit their new class on Friday 10th July. The class teachers will be meeting to discuss the children in their class to ensure a smooth transition for the new academic year.

Year 6 Leavers' Celebration Worship - On Thursday 16th July at 9.50am, the children in Year 6 will be sharing their memories of St John's and performing some 'interesting' acts! Please come along if you are able to.



Talent Show - On Thursday 16th July at 1.30pm, we will be having our annual Talent Show. The children will have the opportunity to share their talent in the classroom and then the two winning acts will be able to perform in the Talent Show. If your child is performing, you will be able to attend the Talent Show in the afternoon.



INSET Days for 2026-2027

Tuesday 1st September 2026
Friday 23rd October 2026
Friday 22nd January 2027
Friday 28th May 2027
1 day still to be confirmed

Please note: School will close for the academic year on Wednesday 21st July at 3.20pm.



The Summer Reading Challenge combines **FREE** access to books with fun, creative activities in all Wakefield Council Libraries during the summer holidays.

This is a fantastic opportunity to encourage children to continue their reading journey and access free activities.

More details to come following a Collective Worship on Thursday 9th July where Emma from the library will be coming to launch it with the children.

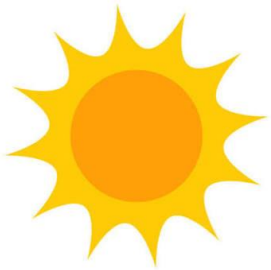
Water safety in the warm weather:

With weather warnings in place for high temperatures this week, I just wanted to send a quick reminder to continue sharing key water safety messages with children, young people, and families.

Hot weather often leads to increased use of open water, where risks remain high - even for confident swimmers.

Key reminders:

- Cold water shock can happen even in warm weather
- Hidden hazards and strong currents are common
- Always supervise children near water
- Avoid jumping into unknown water
- In emergencies: **Call 999 - Reach or Throw, Don't Go**



Please remember the **Phone. Float. Throw.**

Class Awards –

Class R	**The Kindness Cup**	**Eleanor**	**For always being a kind and caring friend to all.**
Class 1	**The PE Cup**	**Nate**	**For super tennis skills in our PE lessons.**
Class 2	**St John's Cup**	**Kanz**	**For always working hard, being kind and helpful. You are a super role model to others.**
Class 3	**The Arts Cup**	**Selene**	**Super sketching of deserts!**
Class 4	**The Topic Cup**	**Faizan**	**Fantastic knowledge of rainforests!**
Class 5	**The Improvement Cup**	**Bilal**	**Working hard in booster classes to massively improve your arithmetic scores.**
Class 6	**The Reading Cup**	**Dea**	**For always logging on Boom Reader – what a super reader!**
Class 4	**OPAL award**	**Mohammed**	**Always tidying and being an OPAL superstar!**

School Uniform – Children are proud to wear the St John's uniform and it has many benefits such as giving a sense of belonging and making it easier for staff to identify children when on school trips. **All children are expected to wear the uniform:**





- Black school trousers (black shorts in summer 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 trainers

are

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)
- Trainers or plimsolls
- Year 5 only – swimming kits and towel



ALL UNIFORM MUST BE CLEARLY NAMED.

All of our school uniform, with logo, can be purchased from Smart Uniforms in Wakefield https://smartuniforms.co.uk/product-category/schools-2/wakefield-2/primary-schools-3/ or School Trends who offer an online ordering service www.schooltrends.co.uk. Most high street stores also stock the black trousers and skirts, white polo shirts and royal blue jumpers. There is no obligation for parents to purchase uniform with the school logo. Any Hijab worn should be plain black, white or royal blue. Sensible footwear should be worn to ensure safety – no open-toe sandals to be worn. Nail varnish, make-up or unsuitable hairstyles or colouring do not complement the school uniform and are not allowed.

Jewellery - Children may only wear a pair of stud earrings if they have pierced ears. These must be removed by the child for physical activity. Children may also wear a watch. Wearing jewellery of any kind can be dangerous for your child because the jewellery may get caught or accidently pulled which can cause a painful and unpleasant accident.

Summer Survival Guide: Balancing Screens and Skills for a Fun-Filled Break

Want to learn how to balance screen time over the summer holidays? Scan the QR code and watch the webinar.

What Summer Does to Screen Time

Aura Parents' **State of the Youth Report** combines real device data with real-world insight from parents and kids to put numbers behind a very familiar summer problem: More free time often means more screen time. For families, that can mean a lot of extra hours to fill, guide, or negotiate.

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AURA Parents

The State of the Youth:

To infinity… and autoplay

The childhood summer is changing. Today, **75% of kids (ages 7–11) say they'd rather watch videos than play with toys***, and Aura Parents' data shows the impact: as screen time rises over the summer, wellbeing drops. **One in three children (ages 8–17) falls from a healthy range during the school year into "low" digital wellbeing**, linked to changes in mood, stress, and sleep.

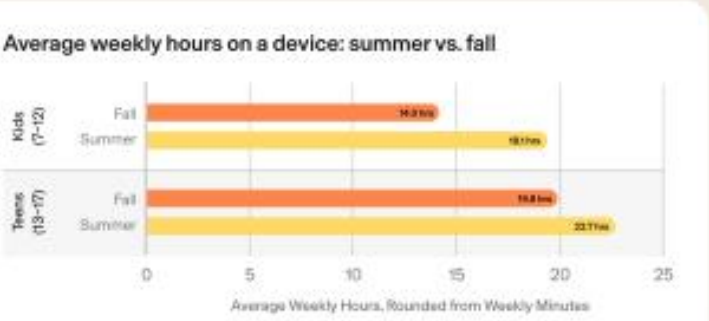
*Data Source: Talker | Data Source: Aura Device Data, Wellbeing Index



School's out, screens are in

The screen time climb

On average, younger kids (7–12) log over four more hours of screen time per week during the summer — **a 30% jump compared to fall.** Teens (13–17) add nearly three hours, a **15% increase.**



Every day becomes Saturday

Without the structure of the school day, weekday device usage no longer dips — it stays at weekend levels.



The endless summer scroll

Throughout the summer, this pattern shows up clearly in kids' on-screen behaviors:

Approximately **70%** of teens (13–17) are on their devices by mid-afternoon.

More than **1 in 10** kids (7–17) are still on their devices at midnight.

2X

Nighttime messaging activity **more than doubles** across age groups, compared to the school year.

Data Source: Aura Device Data



Where the time goes

For younger kids, most of their time is concentrated in just a couple of places: YouTube and Roblox together make up about **86% of total time spent** across the top five platforms.

Roblox really stands out, with younger kids spending more than **4x as much time** there as on the next most-used app, TikTok.

For teens, it's a different story: Social Media usage **makes up more than 50%** of total time spent on devices.

Lazy and hazy, by design

This always-on pattern isn't accidental, it's built into how these platforms work. The result: stopping takes more effort than continuing. When surveyed:

Parents are seeing it:

63%
of parents say infinite scroll makes it harder to set boundaries.

41%
of parents say they have to frequently physically intervene or call out to get their child to stop.

Kids (7–11) feel that pull, too:

38%
say they're looking for something and want to keep watching until they find it.

33%
say they want to watch their favorite videos again and again.

25%
say their brain feels quiet and they don't have to think.

Autoplay adds momentum:

47%
Nearly half of kids say they had a device start playing a video they didn't pick that made them feel worried or confused.

57%
More than half of them kept watching anyway, even when it made them feel confused or yucky.



A childhood culture shift

For kids and parents, screen time is hard to stop — and even harder to replace, as childhood and technology become increasingly intertwined.

Displacement:
57% of parents say they've noticed infinite scrolling replace a hobby their child once loved, like reading or drawing.

Dependence:
61% of kids (7–11) say it's easier to get bored without a screen, and **79%** say watching the same content as their friends helps them feel closer to them.

Distraction:
73% of parents say their child is less patient with slower-paced content, and **71%** say their child can't make it through a 90-minute movie without reaching for a second device.

When kids' tech time is interrupted, fights follow:
56% of parents report irritability or "tech-rage" when devices are taken away.

Data Source: Talker



The new social companion

AI adds a new dimension to this shift:

About 1 in 3 parents say their child is unsure what AI is, sees it as a mix of human and machine, or believes it's human-like or real.

Nearly half (46%) say their child at least sometimes seems to believe AI has thoughts or feelings.

Nearly half (45%) of kids (7–11) say talking to a digital companion feels like talking to a character or a friend.

Today, screens aren't just delivering content — they're responding, blurring the line between tool, companion, and trusted voice.

Data Source: Talker

90s kids at heart

Even as childhood shifts online, kids (7–11) still want bikes, backyards, and being with friends.

More than half (52%) recognize that too much screen time isn't good for them.

That shows up in what they're looking forward to this summer: kids prefer real-world play, with **36%** choosing time with friends and **24%** opting to go outside — compared to just **20%** who say using their tablet.

Parents see it too, with the **majority (60%)** saying their kids would stay outside longer with simple offline options.

The bottom line: The appetite for a more present, offline childhood is still there, but in an environment built on infinite scroll and constant engagement, stepping away takes more than intention.





Methodology

Data for this report derives from three primary sources. The first is Aura's commercial data from 29,868 children aged 7–17, representing more than 1,584,665 days of activity from summer (6/16–8/8/2025) relative to fall (9/15–11/7/2025), respectively. Data was analyzed to examine device and platform engagement for children of different age groups (younger=7–12; older=13–17) over the different seasons. The second source is Aura's Digital Wellbeing Index (DWI), a composite score examining 17 dimensions of digital life, anchored in real-world evidence stemming from Aura's TECHWISE study that aggregates sleep health, self-regulation, and engagement quality to derive a score that best predicts psychological well-being and digital stress. The third source comes from Talker Research findings, surveying 2,000 American parents of kids aged 7–11 and their kids ages 7–11, who have access to the internet; the survey was commissioned by Aura and administered and conducted online by Talker Research between Apr 28, 2026, and May 1, 2026. Visit the Talker Research Process and Methodology page here and read the full questionnaire here.

www.aura.com/parents

AURA Parents



Our 'Dinner Debate' for this newsletter is for you to discuss as a family if you wish

Our vision for school is 'Growing together, becoming all that we are created to be,' linked to our focus on spiritual development (Self, Others, World & Beauty and Beyond)

Our Dinner Debate for this week is:

How can we have hope in the world?

This question helps children think about what they hope for, for themselves, for others and for the world. It reflects the Self, Others and World aspects of spiritual development by helping children notice we need hope to believe in ourselves and believe that the world can be a better place. You might want to share a moment around the table where someone's encouragement made a big difference.


St. John's School PTA
SUMMER FAIR
Saturday 4th July
1pm – 3:30pm
Join in the fun...
lots of stalls including tombola, bottle hoopla, refreshments, inflatables and much more!
St. John's C E (VA) Jnr School

Parent/Carer of Pupil who
Qualifies for Free Travel
In West Yorkshire

23/06/26

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to tell you about a change in the way free travel for school pupils will be provided from September 2026.

Currently, pupils who qualify for free travel are issued one of the following passes or combination of passes:

- Pupils using the public bus network - Zero fare School Pass
- Pupils using a dedicated school bus service operated commercially – Zero fare School Pass
- Pupils using a dedicated school bus service funded by the Local Council – Zero fare Boarding Pass
- Pupils using a dedicated school bus service funded by the Combined Authority - Zero fare School Pass (+ Priority PhotoCard where there is a need to control the number of students using the service).

From September 2026, there will be change to the system, which will standardise arrangements across all five West Yorkshire Local Council areas. The arrangements will be as follows:

- Pupils using the public bus network - Zero fare School Pass [Unchanged]
- Pupils using a dedicated school bus service operated commercially – Zero fare School Pass [Unchanged]
- Pupils using any dedicated school bus service that is funded by the Combined Authority or Local Council – Zero fare Boarding Pass [Change].

What this means for pupils:

- Pupils issued with a Zero fare School Pass will only be able use the public transport network or dedicated school bus services that are operated commercially (A list of dedicated school bus services operated on a commercial basis is provided on the Combined Authority's School web page (**wymetro.com/schools**).
- Pupils issued with a Zero fare Boarding Pass will only be able to use the service shown on their Pass.
- Pupils issued with a Zero fare Boarding Pass will have to pay to travel on the public bus network (including when they participate in after school activities).

- Pupils without a Zero fare Boarding Pass will have to pay a fare to use any school bus service that is funded by the Combined Authority or Local Council (single fare or prepaid MCard ticket – details on **wymetro.com/schools**).

The reason for making these changes is to ensure that the cost to Local Councils for funding free travel is proportional to the number of students who qualify for it and that all students who receive free travel are treated the same across West Yorkshire.

If you have any questions about this, please telephone or email the Combined Authority's Education Transport team on (0113) 348 1122 or at educationcustomerservices@westyorks-ca.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Education Transport Team

Mrs Hall wanted to share this Family Agreement with you to think about how you use devices in your home and to discuss their use.



AURA Parents | common sense media

Family Device Agreement

Your family is unique. Use these guidelines to frame a conversation. Use the check boxes and open fields to create specific guidelines that work for your family!



Responsibility

- ☐ I will respect and follow the rules set by my school for device and internet use, including my school's online code of conduct
- ☐ I agree that my parents can review my devices, accounts, and online presence at their discretion to ensure my health and safety
  - ☐ I understand that my parents may use tools to help manage and monitor my technology use

Online actions & behaviors (aka safety & kindness)

- ☐ I will not lie about my age online
- ☐ I will only use apps and games that my parents approve of. I will get permission before downloading new apps or games or creating new online accounts
- ☐ My parents will create and/or have access to any of my online accounts and passwords
- ☐ I will be kind online
- ☐ I will not like, comment on, or share anything that could hurt or embarrass someone
- ☐ I will not request or share anything I wouldn't want my grandmother to see
- ☐ I will talk with my parents if something online makes me uncomfortable
- ☐ I will not share my full name, address, or personal financial information online
- ☐ I will not share my account passwords with others
- ☐ Other _____

Communication

- ☐ I will talk with my parents if anything in a text or chat makes me uncomfortable
- ☐ I will only call, text, or chat with contacts approved by my parents. I will get permission before adding anyone new.
- ☐ Other _____

Health & wellbeing

- ☐ I understand that using technology can have negative effects on my physical health, my mental health, and my cognitive development
- ☐ I know that my parents are paying attention to how my tech use makes me act:
  - ☐ Mentally
  - ☐ Physically
  - ☐ Emotionally
- ☐ My parents may require me to do some things without my devices to help me balance my tech use
  - ☐ Spending time outdoors
  - ☐ Exercising
  - ☐ Getting enough sleep
  - ☐ Eating healthily
  - ☐ Spending time with friends in person
  - ☐ Developing hobbies
  - ☐ Other _____

Name: _____

Device and services I use:

_____

_____

_____

_____

No screen zones

I will respect my family's no screen zones including:

- ☐ Meal times
- ☐ Bathroom
- ☐ Bedroom
- ☐ During family time
- ☐ During homework
- ☐ During sports/activities
- ☐ In the car
- ☐ Other _____

Limits: Weekdays _____ Weekends _____ Exceptions _____

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