

St John's Friday Newsletter

Friday 12th June 2026

Message from the Head

Welcome back! I hope you had a lovely half term holiday.

It was unfortunate that we had to make the decision to cancel Sports Day on Wednesday. Thank you for your understanding. It has been tricky to find an alternative date but we have rearranged the EYFS/KS1 Sports Day for Tuesday 16th June at 9:15am and the KS2 Sports Day for Wednesday 17th June at 9:15am.

The Y1 children had an amazing workshop from Alfresco Learning all about Neil Armstrong and got to launch their own rocket! Simon Lightwood MP joined us to see the workshop in action.

Y6 were a credit to our school whilst on their trip to Eden Camp last week. Y5 had a great time at the QEGS SPLATS event on Tuesday and Y2 thoroughly enjoyed their trip to Thackray Museum. Y3 were fantastic at the Bagshaw Museum on Thursday and YR had a great time on their very first trip when they went to Cannon Hall.

YR have had a very exciting week – they have had some eggs that have hatched and we now have 10 chicks!



We have lots of other events coming up including: Y1's visit to Yorkshire Wildlife Park, Y4's visit to Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Y5's trip to Gulliver's Valley Theme Park, KS1 Airport Day, cricket versus Newton Hill School for KS2, our St John's Service, Bottle Discos, Y4's Big Sing, Y6's Leavers' Celebration at Wakefield Cathedral, the Summer Fair, the Summer Concert, Y6 Production, Y6's Leavers' Celebration Worship and the annual Talent Show!

As it's a World Cup year, the children will have the opportunity to dress up in England kits or red, white and blue on the days when England are playing: Wednesday 17th June and Tuesday 23rd June.

Have a lovely weekend,
Mrs Findlay



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Growing together, becoming all that we are created to be

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

15th June	Y1 Yorkshire Wildlife Park
16th June	KS1 Sports Day 9:15am Y6 Cricket v Newton Hill
17th June	KS2 Sports Day 9:15am England Dress-Up in red, white and blue
19th June	Y1 Celebration Worship at 9:50am Y5 Cricket v Newton Hill
22nd June	KS2 Bottle Disco
23rd June	England Dress-Up in red, white and blue KS1 Bottle Disco New Parents Meeting for Reception 2026 at 6pm
24th June	Y3 Cricket v Newton Hill Fire Service talk with Y5/Y6
25th June	St John's Service at St. John's Church at 10am RE Parables themed day Y4 Cricket v Newton Hill
26th June	Y4 Yorkshire Sculpture Park
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
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

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.

Mrs Pollard - I would also like to share the news that Mrs Pollard will be leaving our school at the end of the academic year as she is taking "early" retirement. Mrs Pollard has worked at St John's since 2007 and has been an asset to our staff team. She has helped and supported so many families by being that friendly face in our main office. She has helped to organise so many events in school and always gone the extra mile to help our staff and children. I would like to personally thank Mrs Pollard for her hard work and commitment over the years and I wish her all the very best in her next adventure.



St John's Church – St John's church have invited all children to read prayers at the St John's Church day service on 28th June at 10.00am. If you wish your child/ren to take part please complete the tear off slip at the bottom of the letter, which was sent home last week. There is a "bring your own picnic" in the church grounds with outdoor games for the children from 12 noon to 2.00pm. All children to be accompanied by an adult.

Celebration Worship – It was lovely to see so many of you at the Year R Celebration Worship this morning. The children were wonderful and we are so proud of all their achievements. Thank you for your continued support. Y1 will be sharing their work on Friday 19th June at 9:50am. Please join us if you can.



World Cup - As it's a World Cup year, the children will have the opportunity to dress up in England kits or red, white and blue on the days when England are playing:
Wednesday 17th June
Tuesday 23rd June



Online Safety Support:

The Modern Primary School "Crush" & Group Chats

First crushes are normal, but group chats (like WhatsApp or Snapchat) have changed the game. For children aged 9–11 (Years 5 and 6), group chats are where friendships and drama happen, but they also bring new risks:

- "Shipping": This is when classmates collectively decide two children should be a couple and pressure or tag them in chats, even if they didn't ask for it.
- The Audience & Evidence: Private messages or jokes get screenshotted and shared widely, meaning simple playground rumours now have a permanent digital "paper trail."
- What to watch for: Look out for your child feeling anxious about their phone (especially at bedtime), screenshots being used to embarrass someone, or a sudden, unexplained withdrawal from their friendship group.

Tip for Parents: Talk about group chat drama broadly before it happens to your own child. If they know you won't overreact or immediately confiscate their phone, they are more likely to come to you when a line is crossed.

Tech Tip: How to Hide YouTube Shorts

"Shorts" are YouTube's version of TikTok—fast, endless, vertical videos that are highly addictive for short attention spans. If your child is mindlessly scrolling, you can add some "friction" to make it harder to access.

- How to turn them off (in the standard YouTube App):
  Go to your child's YouTube account → tap the profile icon → Settings → General → toggle off Shorts on Home Feed
- Note: This isn't a permanent block, as tech-savvy kids can find workarounds, but it removes them from the main screen.
- The safer option: For children under 13, switching them to YouTube Kids is highly recommended, as it blocks Shorts entirely and gives parents much tighter control.

The Summer Screen-Time Reset – taken from 'Common Sense Media'

Support with Roblox Settings:



How-To: Setting Up Parental Controls on Roblox

If Roblox is part of your children's summer plan—now is a good time for a settings refresh. Roblox is social, busy and easy to sink into, so the defaults are worth checking.

There are actually more controls in the platform than most parents realise. Here's where to start:
Log in to your child's account at roblox.com, then go to Settings → Privacy.

For Who can message me and Who can chat with me in-app, "Friends" is the safer default for most children. "Everyone" opens the door to strangers in ways that are hard to track.
Who can join them in games
Under Who can join me in experiences, selecting "Friends" limits who can follow your child into a game session. For younger children who mostly play solo, "No one" may make more sense.

Account restrictions
Under Settings → Security, turn on Account Restrictions to limit your child to a curated list of age-appropriate games and disable the chat. This is especially useful for younger children.

Parental PIN
Set a PIN under Settings → Security so your child can't change the settings themselves. Without the PIN, the rest of the setup is more of a suggestion.

Spending controls
If a payment method is linked, go to the Parental Controls page and set a monthly Robux spending limit.

A reminder: Roblox has more than 150 million daily active users. Settings help, but they aren't the whole story. The better check-in is still simple: What are you playing, and who are you playing with?

Tonight's to-do: Walk through Roblox settings together. For the full step-by-step, use our Parents' Ultimate Guide to Roblox Parental Controls.

Water Safety: With the upcoming warm weather forecast this weekend, Wakefield Safeguarding Children Partnership would like to share a timely reminder about the potential dangers around open water. As temperatures are set to rise, we know that children, young people and families may be spending more time outdoors and it's important that we help raise awareness of the risks. For more information, here are links to council page - https://www.wakefield.gov.uk/parks-countryside-and-outdoor-spaces/water-and-fire-safety

Key Water Safety Guidance (for CYP, families, and practitioners)

- Cold Water Shock: Sudden immersion in open water—even in warm weather—can cause an involuntary gasp, rapid breathing, and heart strain. This is one of the biggest risks for strong and weak swimmers alike.
- Hidden Hazards: Open water often contains unseen dangers such as strong currents, weeds, sudden drop-offs, and debris. These hazards can trap or disorient swimmers.
- Supervision Near Water: Children and young people should be closely supervised around rivers, lakes, reservoirs, canals, and even garden ponds. Drowning can be silent and fast.
- Jumping Into Water: Jumping or diving into unknown water can lead to serious injury due to submerged objects or shallow areas.
- Inflatables Warning: Inflatables can easily be swept away by wind or currents. They are safest in supervised pools, not open water.
- What To Do in an Emergency: If someone is in trouble:

Call 999 and ask for the Coastguard (coastal) or Fire & Rescue (inland)
Use the "Reach or Throw, Don't Go" principle
Keep eyes on the person and guide emergency services to the location

Birthdays:

I know some parents like to send treats into school when it is their child's birthday but it would be appreciated if you could refrain from sending in cakes that needs cutting up. Unfortunately, we do not have the capacity to be cutting up cakes during school time. It would therefore be preferred, if you really want to send something in, to either send in individually wrapped sweets or cakes that has already been cut into slices and put into serviettes.

Please always bear in mind that we have children in school with nut allergies and we are a totally 'nut free school' and we also have children who follow halal/vegetarian and gluten diets.



Bottle Discos - On Monday 23rd June, the EYFS and KS1 children will be having a Bottle Disco. The children in KS2 will have their disco on Tuesday 24th June. Juice and biscuits will be on sale for 20p (this helps create the floats for the Summer Fair). Please send your child with a bottle (pop, shampoo, sauce etc) - this is for the Summer Fair too. Children can wear their party clothes on the morning of their disco. Please make sure they have suitable shoes and no jewellery or make-up.

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 15th June for EYFS/KS1 and Wednesday 17th June for KS2. The club will run for 6 weeks until the week beginning 6th July.



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.



Staffing for 2026-2027

As you know, I am expecting my second child in October. I will therefore be on maternity leave around that time. Miss Hale will be Acting Headteacher in my absence and Mr Heseltine will be Acting Deputy Headteacher. Mrs McPhillips, who is a qualified teacher, will be teaching in Year 1 and Mrs Lister, who used to be the Teaching Assistant in Year 5, will support the children in Year 5 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Over the next few weeks, the children will have the opportunity to visit their new class for September 2026. Your child's current class teacher will be meeting with the next class teacher to pass on all relevant information too. Please find below the staffing for 2026-2027:

	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

PTA Meeting – The next meeting will take place on Thursday 18th June at 2:30pm. We will be finalising the arrangements for the Summer Fair which takes place on Saturday 4th July from 1:00pm -3:30pm. Please come along if you are able to help with the organisation.



Summer Fair - Our annual Summer Fair takes place on Saturday 4th July from 1.00pm - 3:30pm. We are asking parents/carers if they are able to purchase a small item that can be sent into school to use on the tombola for prizes. Please do not feel obliged but slips will be going home with children after the holidays. We are also requesting raffle prizes and will require donations of cakes and buns for the cake stall. A poster about the event is attached. If you are able to help with the event, please contact the school office.



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.

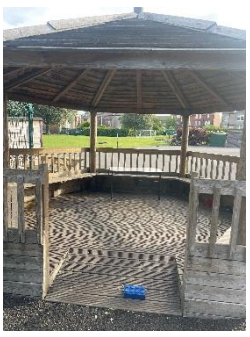


Internet Matters – Internet matters has made a new hub for children with additional needs. Scan the QR code to access the support:

OPAL Silver Award – This week, we were successful in achieving our Silver OPAL Award. A huge thank you to Mr Heseltine and the Play Team who have transformed our playtimes. There is so much for the children to play with and lots of different areas to explore!

Outdoor Classroom - Books, colouring and drawing will be in here from the OPAL shed

Table – Lego and block building area





Peace Garden Area





Social Area (can you build a den here?)



Digging!



Hammocks!

Sandpit and den building



New trowels and digging equipment



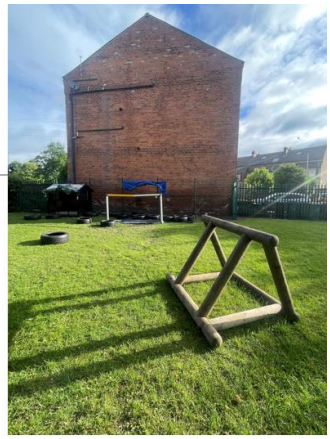
Sticks and a new army tarpaulin!

Small World Area



New playing shed!





Build your own dens and make your own houses with the tarpaulin covers!

Social Areas for sitting and chatting!





New sitting area in wilding area (now open!)



Field

Playing on the grass!
Gymnastics, dancing, running, playing, throwing



Football pitch!



Stage! Music, dancing and dressing up!



Scooters!

Make sure we're taking turns

And

Being safe!





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:

What is hope?

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 5th 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

HOW TO REDUCE MY CHILD'S SCREEN TIME WITHOUT BATTLES?

Reduce *your own* screen use

Children copy what we model.



Create *screen-free* routines

Predictable rhythms reduce arguments and negotiation.

Don't just take away - *replace*



Children need something engaging to move towards.

Start *small*

Tiny changes are easier than dramatic bans.



Make *real life* more appealing

Books, crafts, bikes, baking, dens, music, games.



Expect pushback at first



Habits take time to change.

Keep phones *out* of bedrooms

Especially at night.



Use *family* screen rules

Not constant case-by-case decisions.

Protect *boredom*



Boredom is often where creativity begins.

Focus on *connection*

Children need attention more than entertainment.



@SMARTPHONEFREECHILDHOOD

Concerned about online influences

MOLLY ROSE FOUNDATION

6 practical things to do as a family:

1. Talk about who and what influences them online

Ask what they enjoy, who they follow and what catches their interest. Keeping this part of normal conversation helps you understand the trends, ideas and people shaping their online world.

2. Explore why certain content appeals

Gently ask what they like about a creator, community or trend. This helps them think more critically about the messages they see without feeling judged or shut down.

3. Build curiosity and simple critical thinking habits

Prompt light questions such as "What do you like about this?" or "Would everyone agree with that?" and offer simple checks they can use on their own like "does this feel good or not?" or "is this healthy or harmful?"

4. Talk about unsafe influence online

Explain that some people online say unsafe things that can hurt others or stop them getting help. Support your child to understand the difference between this and safe support. Encourage them to recognise this as a sign to step away, stop talking to that person and tell a safe adult. Reassure them that they are never in trouble for coming to you and that you will help them stay safe.

5. Encourage a wide mix of content

Support them to follow creators and join communities that help them feel positive, inspired and safely supported. A varied feed reduces the impact of repeated unhelpful messages and gives a more balanced view of the world.

6. Create space for questions and worries

Let them know they can come to you when something feels off. Respond calmly and work through concerns together. Remind them that everyone is influenced at times and that if something leaves them feeling bad or encourages unsafe choices, it is a sign to reach out for help, including services like Childline (0800 11 11) and Shout (85258).

Spotting harmful online influence:

1. Individuals and communities that encourage risky or unsafe behaviour.
2. Accounts which promote messages that make people feel not good enough or worthless.
3. Individuals and communities that encourage and celebrate harmful coping behaviours.
4. Individuals and communities who discourage people from getting help or talking to loved ones.
5. Accounts and communities which incite hatred towards others.
6. Repeated exposure to narrow or extreme views.

If your child spots these on their feed encourage them to...

MUTE IT	UNFOLLOW IT	REPORT IT	REACH OUT FOR SUPPORT
They can mute posts and accounts that they want to take a break from.	They can unfollow accounts they have noticed are having a negative impact on them.	They can report content to the platform that they think is harmful to others.	If you're worried about a child's safety or wellbeing call: **NSPCC Helpline** on **0808 800 5000** or **Young Minds Parent Helpline** on **0808 802 5544**. You can also visit the 'Get Support' pages on our website for more advice: **mollyrosefoundation.org**

www.mollyrosefoundation.org | Registered Charity No:1179482


SMART UNIFORMS
THE SCHOOL UNIFORM SPECIALIST
NEW STARTERS PRICE LIST
Sweatshirts from £5.99
Cardigans from £5.99
Polo's from £3.99
Trousers from £6.99
Skirts from £6.99
Selected schools only
Sweatshirts • Cardigans • Polos • Trousers • Skirts
Pumps • Book Bags • Swimwear • & Much More
BUY ONE GET ONE HALF PRICE ON SELECTED TROUSERS
PRICE GUARANTEE
Specialists in School Uniform for Primary, Secondary, Academy's & Grammar Schools.
With or without School Logos
APPROVED SUPPLIER
Trusted by schools across the region
QUALITY GUARANTEED
High quality uniforms that last
PREMIUM UNIFORMS
Comfortable, durable & smart
DURABLE & RELIABLE
Built to withstand every school day
10% OFF
WHEN BRINGING THIS LEAFLET INTO STORE OR USE CODE
SMART10
FOR 10% OFF ONLINE
MINIMUM SPEND OF £50
ONLY UNTIL 7TH AUGUST
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