School Newsletter
Autumn 1 2026

In harmony we
Nurture, Inspire, Flourish

Dear parent and carer

I hope this email finds you well. Firstly, I want to thank you all for your support this half- term. I have really appreciated the conversations on the school gate and for making me feel so welcome.

Thank you to all the parents who attended the Q&A session this half-term. I really appreciate your feedback and we will certainly look to address the concerns raised, as well as maintaining those areas that are a real strength of the school. We will be hosting some parent workshops after half-term which will focus on some of the changes we have implemented already around handwriting and mathematics.

Thank you to the parents who have worked hard organising the St John's cake sale today and to all those who donated cakes. It is appreciated.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a relaxing half-term break and I look forward to seeing you again on Tuesday 3rd November.

Best Wishes
Mr James Baguley

Attendance



Why is attendance important?

Missing school when we don't need to means we miss out on valuable taught parts of our lessons. It is hard to catch up on missed learning and to understand it as well as we would if we were here. We miss out things our friends do and the time to play with people we won't always see at home. The more we attend the easier the work is, and we always want to make life easier wherever we can, this is why we come to school to do better. Research has shown that children achieve better results when their attendance is higher.

Class Attendance – Autumn 1

Year 5	97.28%
Reception	96.33%
Year 6	95.73%
Year 3	95.34%
Year 1	93.27%
Year 2	92.79%
Nursery	92.1%
Year 4	89.97%

Free Breakfast Club

- Our free breakfast club has been up and running since September and it's popularity is growing weekly.
- If your child would like to attend then just book a place via Parent Pay – you can attend on an adhoc basis.
- There are a variety of breakfast options available – cereals, yoghurts, porridge, toast, crumpets and fresh fruit.



Nursery Happiness Class

This term in Nursery, we've been exploring our *All About Me* topic, helping children learn more about themselves and each other. Through fun activities, stories, and creative play, we've celebrated our unique qualities, talked about our families, and shared our likes and interests. It's been a wonderful way to build confidence, make new friends, and develop important social skills.





Our new children have settled in beautifully and they are all beginning to build friendships, follow the class/ school expectations and transition around the school in the correct manner







We have been to our school library, completed weekly music lessons and been to the farm where we had our Outdoor Learning experience with Mrs Davey.

Year 1 Love Class







What a fantastic first half term we have had in Year 1! The children have settled into their new classroom routines brilliantly and have shown great enthusiasm for learning. They have been working incredibly hard in our Little Wandle phonics sessions, developing their confidence with reading and recognising new sounds. In our Kinetic Letters handwriting lessons, the children have worked hard to form their letters correctly. During our Mastering Number maths sessions, we have been using rekenreks to deepen our understanding of 'what makes ten', helping us to build strong number sense and confidence with number bonds. We have also enjoyed spending time with our friends during Exploring Time, where the children have shown excellent teamwork, creativity and imagination. We are so proud of how well everyone has settled into Year 1 and look forward to another exciting half term ahead!





Year 2 Trust Class







What a busy and exciting time it has been in Year 2! The children have been working incredibly hard across all areas of their learning and should be very proud of the progress they are making.

In Maths, we have been developing our understanding of place value. The children have been learning to count in tens, explore larger numbers, compare numbers and partition numbers into tens and ones. We have been using practical base ten resources to help us represent numbers and understand how they are made up. The children have enjoyed getting hands-on with their learning and using different strategies to explain their mathematical thinking.

In PE, we have been taking part in lots of fun team games, focusing on our throwing and catching skills. The children have been practising how to throw with accuracy, catch with control and work together as a team. We have also been developing our communication, cooperation and sportsmanship skills while encouraging and supporting one another.





One of our highlights was our special cutlery workshop! The children learned about using cutlery safely and correctly, practising important skills to help them become more independent at mealtimes. They worked hard throughout the workshop and were delighted to receive their very own cutlery license at the end! We are so proud of their efforts and the confidence they showed.

Well done, Year 2, for your hard work, enthusiasm and fantastic attitude towards learning. Keep it up!

Year 3 Cooperation Class

What an amazing start to the year! Year 3 have settled well into their new routine of Key Stage 2. They have shown great progress and maturity.

This term, Year 3 have learnt about the Stone Age and thought about whether they would rather live in the Stone Age or the Iron Age. Some thought the Stone Age would be better, because it would be fun to live in a cave. They have linked this learning into their Art lessons, by creating Prehistoric art, using natural materials from the field and then created a collaborative piece with hand prints, thinking about negative and positive space.

Carrying on with the Stone Age theme, the children have written some lovely alternative endings to the book "Stone Age Boy". They thought about what adjectives they could use to describe what the boy saw, felt and smelt.

We have also been lucky to be the first class to enjoy Outdoor Learning this half term. Mrs Davey has spent time with them refreshing routines and linking their learning with out History unit as well. They created a lifesize wolly mammoth from natural materials, painted with natural resources to name but a few.

What an amazing start to the year!













Year 4 Resilience Class

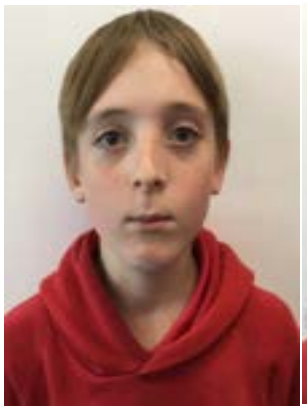
What an amazing and busy start to the school year we have had in Year 4! The children have settled brilliantly into their new classroom routines and have shown fantastic enthusiasm, determination and a positive attitude towards their learning. We are incredibly proud of how hard they have been working.

In English, we began the year exploring Jack and the Beanstalk, developing our storytelling skills before planning and writing our own imaginative narratives. More recently, we have been learning about Fairtrade and developing our persuasive writing skills.

In Maths, we have been working hard on column addition and subtraction before moving on to place value, developing our understanding of four-digit numbers, including comparing, ordering and rounding numbers, and explaining our mathematical thinking.

In PE, the children have been developing their football skills, focusing on passing, teamwork and ball control, and have particularly enjoyed putting these skills into practice through small-sided games. It has been lovely to see the children growing in confidence, supporting one another and approaching new challenges with such enthusiasm. We look forward to another exciting half-term of learning!

Year 6 Respect Class





We are delighted that so many of the class wanted to take on roles and responsibilities across the school – and everyone who put themselves forward should be very proud of themselves.

7 brave souls stood up in an assembly and campaigned to be Lead Ambassadors and then polling stations opened and votes were cast. Josh and Brylyn will be Lead Ambassadors for this year and are already looking forward to helping improve life at St John's in a variety of ways.



17 people were interviewed by Mrs Saunderson as they wanted to become House Captains. She was delighted by the enthusiasm that each child showed. House Captains are as follows : Reggie and Lily (Red House); Sofia and Zachy (Blue House); Harriet and Freddie Ch (Yellow House) and Laurence and Cheyenna (Green House).



As well as enjoying sitting on the benches in assembly, as a class we are looking forward to developing further roles across the school, so that our legacy can be a better place to learn.

In our own learning, we have enjoyed writing narratives and war poetry (aided by the dictionaries The Rotary Club gifted us) in English. We have begun to deepen our understanding of place value and think about using accurate maths vocabulary in Maths. We have explored classification in Science – even using playdough in one lesson – and the importance of sound tracks and sound effects in Music.





In RE, we have explored the concept of The Holy Trinity and also thought about the effects of WWII on women, children and also those people who came to this country on the Empire Windrush boat.





The chidlren have settled well into new routines – we may not be in a new classroom, but a new lay-out has certainly helped make it feel a very different place.

Young carers

On 2nd October, Helen Young, our Home School Link Worker, led the first Young Carers' Club of the term.
Each time the club meets, Helen reminds the children why St John's has a Young Carers' Club and, importantly, who they can talk to if they ever have any worries, concerns or simply need someone to have a chat with. It is a lovely opportunity for the children to feel supported, understood and able to spend time with others who may share similar experiences.
Of course, there were also some treats! The children enjoyed some sweets and a biscuit before getting involved in some fun games that Helen had organised. The games got everyone moving, laughing and having fun together.
If you feel that your child may be a young carer, please speak to Helen to find out more about how we can support them.





Diary Dates 2026/7

October 2026	
19th-30th October	Half Term
November 2026	
2nd November	Inset Day
3rd & 5th November	Parents Evening
6th November	Year 2 Drama Workshop
9th November	Year 6 Bikeability Try Out Day
10th November	Yr R-6 Flu Vaccinations/Height and Weight Check
11th-12th November	Year 4 Bikeability
11th November	Year 6 Memorial Gardens Remembrance
12th -13thNovember	Year 6 Bikeability Extra Try Out Day
20th November	Year 4 Egyptian Workshop
23rd-27th November	Year 6 Bikeability
December 2026	
2nd December	Year 3 Volcano Workshop
9th December	Nursery/Reception & KS1 Nativity
10th December	Christingle Service
16th December	Rocksteady Concert
17th December	KS2 Carol Service at St John's Church
17th December	Nursery End of Term
18th December	End of Term 1.15pm Finish
21st Dec -1st Jan	Christmas Holidays
January 2027	
4th January	Inset Day
5th January	Children return to school

St John's C of E Primary and Nursery School

Goodwyns Road, Dorking, RH4 2LR



Prospective Parent Tours

Wednesday 4th November at 9.30am
Thursday 19th November at 9.30am
Tuesday 24th November at 9.30am & 5.00pm

'An exciting and challenging learning experience for every child. Strong Christian values, outstanding facilites and a nuturing and suportive learning environment'



JOIN DORKING BADMINTON CLUB

Junior coaching for ages 9-18 and all abilities

- Progress from beginner to competitive match play
- Badminton England qualified coaches
- Established local club with a thriving junior section
- Friendly, supportive and challenging sessions
- Perfect for those considering badminton for GCSE or A-Level PE

Junior Sessions

School Years 5-8	School Years 9-10	School Years 11-13
Thursdays 4:30pm-5:30pm Dorking Sports Centre	Wednesdays 6:00pm-7:00pm The Ashcombe	Wednesdays 7:00pm-8:00pm The Ashcombe

Join us for a free taster session

We are part of the Mole Valley Sports Club Access Scheme which provides grants to eligible young people to remove financial barriers to sports participation.

Register as a Junior Member or contact us through:

www.dorkingbadmintonclub.co.uk



MID SURREY COMMUNITY FRIDGES

Open 5 Days a week

We collect good food from supermarkets and manufacturers that would otherwise end up in landfill and distribute it around the community.

You can help us by collecting food from one of our 15 locations and making a donation to help up continue to operate.







To find our locations and opening times, visit our website

www.mscfridges.org

Dear Parent/Carer

If you consider that there are exceptional circumstances relating to your request, please let the school have full details. Each application for a leave of absence will be considered on a case by case basis.

Penalty Notices to Address Poor Attendance at School

A Penalty Notice may be issued as an alternative to the prosecution of a parent/carer for their child's unauthorised absence from school (absence without the agreement of the school or not covered by a medical note) and will be used by Surrey County Council in the following circumstances :-

1. Pupils identified by police and Attendance Advice Officers (formerly Inclusion Officers) engaged on Truancy Patrols and who have incurred unauthorised absences.

2. Leave of absence in term time (5 days or 10 sessions or more).

   Please be aware that the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024

   state that Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.

   They may request that Surrey County Council issue Penalty Notices when the absence is not authorised.

Warnings will not be given where it can be shown that parents have been notified that such absences will not be authorised.

3. Finally, the issuing of a Penalty Notice will also be considered where it is judged that a parent is failing to ensure their child's regular school attendance.

This will be considered when a pupil has incurred 10 or more unauthorised sessions in the

previous 10 school weeks, which may include a pupil arriving late after close of registration.

If you believe at any stage that your child's absence from school may leave you liable to receive a Penalty Notice, it is extremely important that you act without delay to secure their regular attendance.

If you have any questions or require further support to achieve an improvement in your child's attendance, please contact your child's school or the Attendance Advice Officer.

Surrey County Council is not responsible for authorising pupil absence and therefore cannot withdraw any Penalty Notice requests without the written permission of the Headteacher.

Advice and support is available from an Attendance Advice Officer by contacting Surrey

Attendance Service as follows :-

North West - Tel: 01483 518130 South West - Tel: 01483 517874

North East - Tel: 01372 833588 South East - Tel: 01737 737777

Penalty Notice relating to Exclusions

If a child is excluded from school, Section 103 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 places a duty on parents/carers to ensure that their child is not in a public place without justifiable cause during school hours.

This duty applies to the ***first five days of each exclusion***. Failure to do so will render the parent/carer liable to a Penalty Notice. (Alternative education provision will be made available from the sixth day of any exclusion.)

Amount Payable for a Penalty Notice and Consequences for repeat unauthorised absences

1. If you have not incurred a penalty notice relating to this child/children in a rolling 3 year period since 19 August 2024, then the penalty notice will be charged at the rate of £160.00, **per parent/carer per child,** if paid within 28 days. This will be reduced to £80.00 if paid within 21 days of receipt of the notice. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in Surrey County Council considering legal proceedings against you in the Magistrates Court.

2. If you have incurred a penalty notice relating to this child/children since 19 August 2024, the rolling 3 year period will be activated from the date of the first penalty notice and the second penalty notice will be charged at the flat rate of £160.00, **per parent/carer per child**, if paid within 28 days. There will be no reduction for payment within 21 days. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in Surrey County Council considering legal proceedings against you in The Magistrates Court.

3. If you have incurred 2 penalty notices relating to this child/children in the rolling 3 year period since the first penalty notice was issued, then you will NOT receive a third penalty notice –Surrey County Council will have no option but to consider a prosecution, **per parent/carer per child**, in the Magistrates Court under s 444 Education Act 1996.