

School Newsletter

Spring 1 2026

In harmony we
Nurture, Inspire, Flourish



It has been another busy and exciting term here at St John's. A huge thanks must go to our amazing staff team for organising and supporting all the various trips, visit and opportunities that have happened this term.

Our weekly swimming lessons have continued this term, enhanced by new heaters and dehumidifiers in the pool area. Thank you to the parents who have volunteered to support these sessions, without your help we couldn't run this level of swimming provision. Despite the exceptionally wet weather over the past month, Mrs Russell has continued to deliver our weekly Forest School sessions, it is something the children really enjoy and engage in, even if your washing machines haven't always loved the amount of mud.

Our Year 4, 5 and 6 children represented St John's exceptionally well at the Indoor Athletics event at The Spectrum. They worked well as a team and placed 2nd amongst the small schools and 4th overall. We have also welcomed 'Chance to Shine' this term who have delivered weekly cricket sessions for Years 1 – 6. Lots of new skills have been learnt.

We have also been busy on the music front. Our KS2 choir took part in the Young Voices concert at the O2 at the end of January. More of this later in the newsletter. This is an amazing experience for the children involved but can only take place because of the staff who are willing to give up their time to attend. Year 3 have had class trumpet lessons this half term while Year 5 & 6 children have had the chance to take part in guitar lessons.

We also squeezed in time for our SIAMS Inspection this term. I hope that you have had time to read their final report. We were delighted how strongly our pastoral support shone through and how our values of Nurture, Inspire & Flourish are embedded across the school.

Wishing you all a restful half term and fingers crossed for some drier weather when we return.

Kathryn Saunderson



Attendance

Thank you so much for your continued support with getting your child into school every day. Our attendance levels have dropped slightly this term from 94.7% at the end of last term to 94.2% this term. Hopefully, as the winter cold and flu season passes we can begin to see attendance rising again.

Just a reminder, that I am unable to authorise any holiday absences.

Unauthorised absences, such as holidays, will be referred to Surrey County Council for a Penalty Notice (further details of the process are at the end of the newsletter)

Too many children are still arriving late to school. If children arrive after 8.45am they are marked as late and this counts towards their absence levels. It also puts pressure on the office as children have to stop and get themselves marked in and give lunch choices. In addition it means that they miss the crucial part of the morning in class where they are settling in and finding out about the day ahead. Please could we all have a new year's resolution of leaving home just 5 minutes earlier each morning so that we can all be on time.

School Attendance to Date – Current National Attendance is 94.7%

Happiness (Nursery)	99.3%
Resilience (Year 4)	95.6%
Love (Year 1)	95.1%
Trust (Year 2)	94.6%
Respect (Year 6)	94.6%
Courage (Year 5)	94.2%
Co-operation (Year 3)	93.9%
Kindness (Reception)	92.01%



Nursery Happiness Class

This term the children have embraced our Recycling topic as we read 'Who's stolen the bin?'

The children then acted as detectives to find who has taken our recycling bin. We went on an investigation walk and hopefully the children told you who took it....



Our orange monster wanted it for his home. The children have blown us away with their kind words, gestures and all the lovely things they made him to feel happy again, this included many new homes used from old boxes, beds, chairs, letters and pictures.



Reception Kindness Class

Kindness Class have had a really lovely and busy half term in Reception. The children have enjoyed learning about real-life superheroes and people who help us in the community, with role-play learning activities focused on doctors, nurses and firefighters.



Forest School sessions have been fantastic, with the children developing new skills and working together outdoors. As part of our learning about caring for the environment, we have explored the topic of recycling and discussed how we can look after the environment around us. During Forest School, the children also took part in litter-picking activities around the school, where we talked about items we found and why they are not good for the environment.



In phonics, the children have continued to learn new sounds and are now blending longer words, which has been wonderful to see. In maths, we have practised working with numbers 0–5, explored one more and one less, investigated capacity and balance, and represented the numbers 6, 7 and 8, including making odd and even pairs.

Year 1 Love Class



This term has been so much fun! We have been learning all about the history of toys, and we especially loved looking at old toys and comparing them to the toys we play with today. It was exciting to spot all the similarities and differences between modern and traditional toys. One of our favourite moments was having a teddy bears' picnic to celebrate how toys have changed over time! In DT, we worked independently to design and make our own toys — our very own hand puppets — and we felt so proud of them. We also had a brilliant time at the toy workshop with Sam at the start of the term, which made our learning even more exciting. What a wonderful term it has been!



Year 2 Trust Class



Year 2 have really loved our topic learning based on 'Up, up and away' - 'How did we learn to fly?'. They have enjoyed freezing framing the historically significant events of the Wright Brothers, hot seating Neil Armstrong and reporting on Amelia Earhart.

Art has been so much fun this term! Creating texture using paint has been a fabulous learning experience. We have used a vast variety of different items to create weird and wonderful textures.

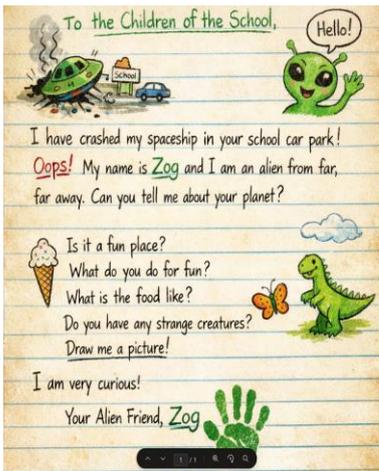


The alien invasion in English sparked so much enthusiasm and creativity. It also produced some great writing outcomes and was a real highlight of the term for many!

Finally, cricket on a Friday has been a fabulous end to the week. The children have learned so many new skills and worked well as part of a team.

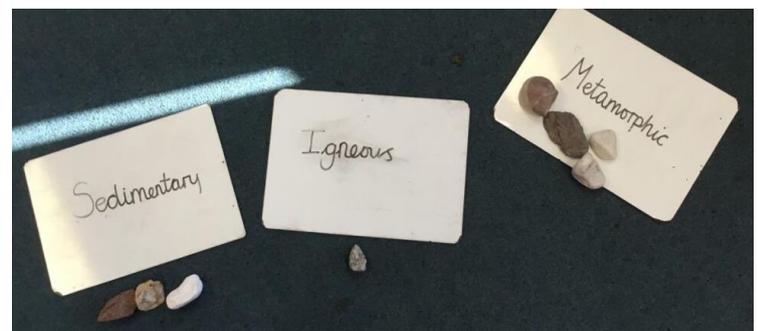
Year 3 Cooperation Class

Year 3 have loved their English this term as we were invaded by an alien! Mrs Bicknell left an envelope for the children with pictures from the CCTV showing an alien in our classroom, his spaceship crash landing in the car park and him enjoying time on the field! We read the letter he left us and had a great time replying, making sure to use full stops, capital letters and conjunctions correctly. We hope he visits our planet again after we have told him about all the wonderful things we have here.



In Science the children have been learning about Rocks and soil. The appearance of rocks and their physical properties, how fossils are formed and the job of a palaeontologist. They've also learned what soil is made up of and how important earth worms are.

In Geography, we have been looking at evidence for and against living near a volcano. The children have learnt about tectonic plates and how mountains and volcanoes are formed. We are looking forward to our workshop to consolidate this learning.



The children have been lucky enough to take part in trumpet lesson this half term.

Year 4 Resilience Class

What a lovely start to 2026 Year 4 have had. This half term we have been learning about the Rainforest and the importance of it to our planet, thinking about what we can do to make a change to the world. They have shown such enthusiasm for the topic and have had some very conscientious discussions on the changes that they could make. We summed this learning up during our class assembly, which we hope that you were able to see that passion shining through.



In our Science unit this half term, we have been exploring the changing states of matter and how these are seen all around us. The children have been carrying out investigations, thinking about the rate of melting and evaporation. They have shown some great scientific skills and thinking.



Year 4 Resilience Class

For our computing unit, we have been looking at animation and creating our own short animations. The children really thought about how to create their frames and how to tell their story. We had a dog catching a ball and a ticking time bomb that ended with a ghost. They have such passion and creativity running through them



We've also been very fortunate to have additional Cricket lessons this half term, which the children have enjoyed thoroughly. They have built on their teamwork skills and their hand/eye coordination, combining these into a game of cricket.



Year 5 Courage Class

Y5 have had a great start 2026! We have been lucky this term with extra cricket sessions, guitar lessons and Forest School! The whole were honestly fantastic in Forest School – never have we seen a group of children so prepared to get stuck in and have fun! They made the wet and muddy sessions an absolute pleasure!



Year 5 Courage Class

Back in class, we have learnt all about the importance of the oceans in geography this term. As plastic pollution is a major threat to our oceans and marine life, we carried out a litter survey and litter pick in our nearest stream, Bents Brook. We know that most litter ends up in the oceans as it is carried to streams by the wind and then fed into rivers and eventually, the sea. We were shocked by how much litter we found! We even found a chair and a wheel!



We have also enjoyed our architecture art unit this term where we enlarged a section of a front elevation sketch and made abstract monoprints. To broaden our understanding of architecture, we have also looked at the works of groundbreaking architects like Zaha Hadid and Frederich Hundertwasser.



Science has been all about space this term and we cannot wait to see the children's solar system models after half term!

Year 6 Respect Class



The aliens have landed!

While the rest of the school were invaded by fluffy green aliens, Year 6 welcomed some rather more unusual unidentified life forms to the classroom. These visitors have sat and watched as we have prepared letters persuading them that Earth is worth staying on!

We then used our powers of persuasion to write to a couple of local MPs – our voices are important and we should use them to stand up for things when we can; local MPs speak on our behalf in Parliament and so we implored them to do all they can to protect the world. Fingers crossed that they will send a reply next term.



In Science, we have explored survival. We have been investigating light and used this understanding to imagine we were WWI troops in trenches. How could our understanding of light - how it travels and how it can be reflected - help us to create periscopes? We needed to see the enemy without being seen ourselves.



Some of the children have enjoyed guitar lessons with Alex; the rest of the class have listened to soundtracks and sound effects and explored how to create a soundtrack to match a particular scene in a movie. Creating our own graphic scores was a test of resilience for many ... and are still a work in progress!



Carers Kids Club at St John's

Our Young Carers group, recently came together at St John's for a fun and well-deserved get-together, led by our Home School Link Worker, Helen Young.

The session began with some tasty treats, as the children enjoyed a selection of sweets while catching up with one another. They then put their knowledge to the test with a lively round of true or false questions, sparking plenty of discussion, laughter, and impressive thinking skills!

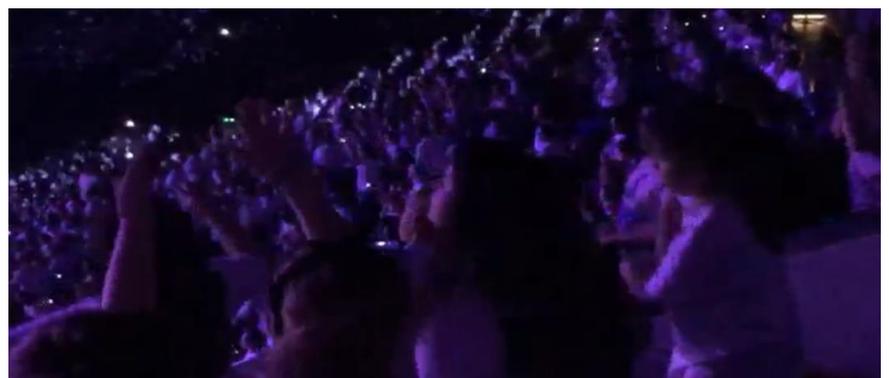
After the quiz, the children had time to relax and recharge. Some chose to play games together, while others enjoyed some quiet time with colouring activities. The session provided a safe, supportive space where our young carers could unwind, connect with friends, and simply enjoy being children.



A big thank you to Helen for organising such a positive and welcoming session. We're so proud of our Young Carers and the resilience they show every day.

Young voices choir

On January the 20th the choir had the pleasure of attending Young Voices at the O2. Some of us travelled up on the train and some on the minibus. The children were part of an 8,996 strong choir on the day and they represented our school brilliantly. It was wonderful to see them letting themselves go and enjoying the pure joy of music. An amazing time was had by all.



Outdoor Learning/Forest School

More pictures from year 5 as we loved Forest School so much!



Mental Health Week

During the last week of the half term (9th Feb-13th Feb) we as a school have explored Mental Health across the week. This has included age-appropriate activities and book that we read as a class. It is a time to shine a light on the importance of emotional wellbeing for our children and young people. This year's theme is "**This is my place**" encouraging every child to feel valued, and empowered to express themselves.



As parents and carers, you play a vital role in supporting your child's mental health. Here are some simple ways to get involved this week:

- **Listen without judgement** – Give your child space to share their thoughts and feelings.
- **Encourage creativity** – Drawing, music, writing, or play can help children express emotions they can't yet put into words.
- **Model self-care** – Show your child that looking after your own wellbeing is important too.
- **Celebrate their uniqueness** – Remind them that their voice, ideas, and feelings matter.

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/>

Diary Dates 2025/26

February 2026

16th-20th February

Half Term

23rd February

GST Inset Day

24th February

Children Return to school

March 2026

5th March

World Book Day- Mufti

9th March

Year 3 Feet First Walking Training

11th March

Year 2 Sayers Croft Trip

17th March

Parents Evening 3.30-6pm

18th March

Year 1 ZooLabs Visit

19th March

Parents Evening 3.30-6pm

19th March

M&M Productions-The Secret Garden

25th-27th March

Year 4 PGL Marchants Hill

Diary Dates 2025/26

26th March	Easter Service Led by Year 3 at St John's Church 9.30-10.30am
26th March	Nursery End Of Term
27th March	Sponsored Easter Walk - am
27th March	End of Term - 1.15pm Finish
30th March-10th April	Easter Holidays
April 2026	
13th April	Children Return to School
15th April	Reception Bocketts Farm Trip
May 2026	
4th May	Bank Holiday
11th - 14th May	Year 6 SATs Week
25th- 29th May	Bank Holiday/ Half Term
June 2026	
1st- 5th June	Year 6 Residential Isle of Wight
16th June	Year 1 Wisley Trip
17th June	Year 6 Leavers Service at Guildford Cathedral 9am-1pm
19th June	Year 6 Trip to Wintershall
25th June	Mufti Day-Donations for the Summer Fayre
26th June	Sports Day

Diary Dates 2026/7

July 2026

1st July

Transition/Move up Day

3rd July

Summer Fayre 2-4pm

9th July

Year 6 Awards and Production Evening

13th July

Year 6 Leavers Service St John's Church 9am-1pm

16th July

Nursery End of Term

17th July

Leavers Assembly 9am-9.45am/
End of Term Finish at 1.15pm

20th, 21st & 22nd

Inset Days

23rd July- 31st August

Summer Holidays

September 2026

1st-2nd September

Inset Days

3rd September

Start Of Term

October 2026

19th-30th October

Half Term

December 2026

18th December

End of Term 1.15pm Finish

21st Dec -1st Jan

Christmas Holidays

January 2027

4th January

Children return to school

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.

We are recruiting



Looking to balance family life and work? Caterlink have the role for you! We are recruiting for a variety of roles across the business.

We are looking for a **Chef Manager** to work at **Surrey Hills and All Saints**.

- Hours 25 per week
- Rate of Pay **£14.50** an hour

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We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, all successful applicants will be required to complete an enhanced DBS application, provide 2 references and have right to work in the UK. If you're interested, please contact Chrwilliams@caterlinktd.co.uk.