

School Newsletter

Summer 2 2025

In harmony we
Nurture, Inspire, Flourish



We would like to say a huge thank you to you all for the absolutely wonderful support and positivity you have shown to our St John's children, staff and community. Your fantastic contributions have proven to be so successful in supporting your children's progress and achievements across the curriculum and beyond. This sentiment extends to your children themselves and all the staff at St John's. As we say goodbye to our Year 6 Respect class with a flourishing exit of the exceptional performance of Joseph, we are reminded of the wonderful citizens and learners they have become.. The very best of our thoughts and prayers are with them as they embark on their next learning adventure.

We are extraordinarily proud of all our children's achievements, whether at Sports Day, when creating stalls for our summer fayre, representing St John's with strong behaviour and attitudes when out on trips or just simply sharing their passion for learning every day.

As I reach the final few days of my time here at St John's, I would like to share that it has been a genuine privilege to be part of St John's school and to get to know every single one of your children. A huge piece of my heart will be left in this wonderful school and I feel honoured to have been part of its history over the last ten years, surrounded by such love of learning and a flourishing community.. It truly has been a joy.

Mrs Saunderson, Mr Moody and the team look forward to welcoming you all into school in the Autumn Term on Thursday 4th September, working together to nurture your children to fulfil their potential next year.

We wish you all a lovely, summer break. Above all stay safe and we will see you all in September.

Blessing to you all.

Mrs Fyson
Executive Headteacher



Nursery Happiness Class

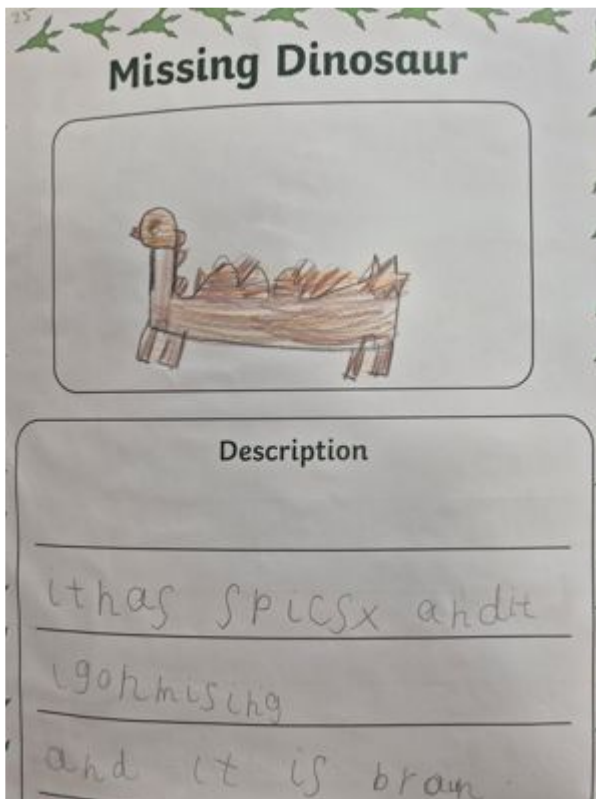
This term Nursery has been looking at the importance of eating healthy and how to look after our body with good nutrients. They had the lovely experience of Captain Carrot and Captain Fitness to visit the school and perform an interactive workshop for them. The hands-on interactive workshop equipped children to understand the importance of and how to look after their health each day and to have a strong mind. This workshop is designed to support the mental health elements of the Relationships and Health Education curriculum in a fun, practical session that lets children delve into their learning, understanding how physical & mental health are intricately linked and the importance of looking after (and improving) their mental health & wellbeing.



- Explore different emotions and looking after yourself, respectful and empathetic relationships with others
- Escape room type challenge, children work together to unlock the box before the time runs out
- Learn about being safe, basic first aid and where to go for / how to get help
- Take part in challenges, solve scenarios by working as a team to complete task
- Take part in a fun physical activity challenge
- Explore sensory stations to tune into and reconnect with their senses
- Hands-on activities to learn about relationships and that connecting with others is key to mental wellbeing

Reception Kindness Class

This term, Reception have been exploring life processes and living things. The children have learned all about dinosaurs and their habitats, building homes for dinosaurs and taking part in exciting activities such as searching for dinosaur fossils, and writing about a missing dinosaur. They then moved on to a fairytales topic, where they have thoroughly enjoyed using the roleplay area to act out a range of well-known stories and enjoyed making wanted posters of the big bad wolf.



Year 1 Love Class



It's been an exciting and busy time in Year 1! Our class assembly was a fantastic success, with the children showing off their creativity and confidence. We've also been learning all about the amazing features of plants, exploring the different types in our environment and how they grow. The children have been observing plants closely, making some great discoveries about their structure and needs. On top of all that, we've had an action-packed Sports Day, where the class showed incredible team spirit and determination. It's been a fun-filled few weeks of learning and growth, well done Love Class!



Year 2 Trust Class

Year 2 have had a busy half term with not one, but two exciting trips! The children thoroughly enjoyed their visit to the Rural Life Museum. The 1950s playground was a particular highlight, as well as exploring all the old-fashioned shops and learning about farming in the past. It was a fantastic way to bring history to life!



Year 2 Trust Class

Year 2 have been very lucky to enjoy two trips this half term. Our second trip was to Godstone Farm, where the children had a fantastic time being shown around by Farmer Tash.

We met and fed some of the animals, learned about wool production, and finished the day with lots of fun in the play areas.



Year 3 Cooperation Class

The children have been very lucky this year to participate in 'Tuning up', where they have had the experience of playing the trumpet. They have thoroughly enjoyed this and a letter has gone out with the opportunity to carry this on.



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Year 3 Cooperation Class

In Science we have been looking at Animals: Movement and nutrition. We have looked at the skeleton and why we have it. We have looked at the main bones in the body and how muscles help us to move. We've learn about the different nutrient groups and what makes a balanced diet. We were lucky enough to have some parents and carers come in and help us make our own hand models where the fingers could move independently. To finish our learning off we were lucky enough to go to The Natural History Museum at Tring where we had a full day of fact finding!

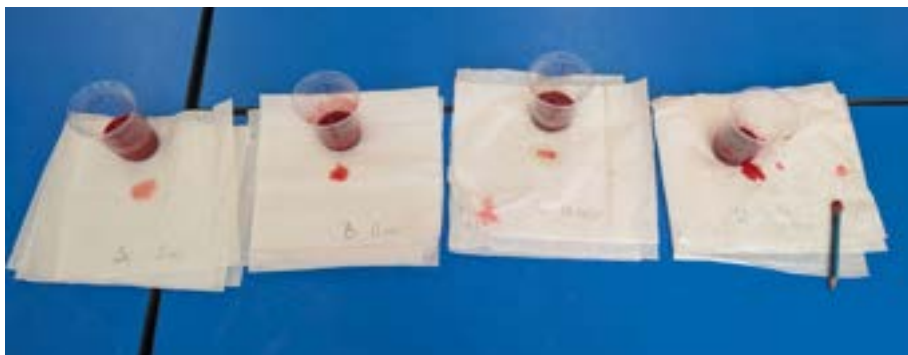


Year 4 Resilience Class

Resilience Class have had an amazing term learning about the Ancient Maya. We have been discovering the importance of their culture and how their inventions still affect our lives today. Following on from our Ancient Maya workshop, we were so excited to find out more and use this in our learning. The class learnt a new game which then took playtime by storm - although balloons and grass are not a good mix. They even got the chance to sacrifice me to the gods!



In Science this half term, Resilience class have been consolidating their learning from the year. They have planned, carried out and evaluated their own investigation to discover how the viscosity of liquid affects how it flows and absorbs into paper. They were able put together their findings to create a data chart and discuss what we could do better or different if we did the experiment again.



Year 5 Courage Class

Year 5 visited the beautiful Wisley Gardens this term. This consolidated their learning in science about asexual reproduction in plants and also reinforced their learning in geography about desert biomes and about how plants adapt to different climates. They took their own cuttings home - I hope some of those have survived better than the ones that we are looking after in class!



Back in school, we enjoyed our music unit where we explored the use of colour in music. This linked with our RE unit on Hinduism as we looked at how music could represent the Hindu Festival of Colour - the Holi Festival. We wrote graphic scores to learn about the structure of pieces of music and then created vocal compositions in response to colours and pictures and then finally, created a piece of music using percussion instruments.



Year 5 Courage Class

Y5 visited The Priory School for a taster session which is an important part of their transition to secondary school (irrespective of which school they choose after St John's). It's a fantastic opportunity to see a secondary school in action from walking the busy corridors to experiencing different types of lessons. They took part in a food technology lesson where they made bruschetta and a drama session where they blew us again with their positive attitude and fantastic performances.



Year 6 Respect Class

What an exciting final term Respect Class has had. It began with the Isle of Wight where we enjoyed visiting places across the island and singing karaoke and play board games in the evenings.

We then brought the black and white score of “Joseph and his amazing technicolour dreamcoat” into a riot of colour for our Production, complete with : bearded brothers; a rock and roll Pharaoh; golden chariot.... And of course our very own dreamcoat. We raised more than £60 that evening for Christian Aid and so thanks to those who contributed.



The Awards Ceremony was a chance to celebrate the children's achievements over the course of the year and we were delighted to award Aqsa with the Outstanding Progress Award and Verity with Outstanding Student.

Year 6, we are so proud of you all.

Outdoor Learning/Forest School

After carefully watering their plants, the children made a return trip to Squires to find out how many potatoes they had grown. It was fun digging them up but best of all, they were made into chips at Squires Cafe-delicious!



Our Eco Warriors finished the year with a visit to Felpham Beach to help them develop their 'Ocean Connection' and understand the importance of keeping our waterways and sea clean for marine life and us! Well done for all your ideas and efforts to protect our environment.



The children have shown that they are amazing at leading their own learning during our FS and Outdoor Learning Days down on the farm. St John's children are so creative, adventurous, curious and care for nature. Brilliant!



Sports Day

Sports Day was a huge success with some fantastic all round skills and knowledge being demonstrated in our carousel of activities alongside some competitive running in our races, including our parents of course! Thank you to everyone who attended and enjoyed the picnic, encouraging the children in their skills and sportsmanship.



Friends of St John's

We would like to say a huge thank you to our incredible volunteers for all their tremendous support. We are incredibly lucky to have you. They raised a huge amount towards upgrading our library/Quest area at the summer fayre and work tirelessly with second hand uniforms and so many other ways to support the school.

We cannot thank all our volunteers enough and rely on you to run swimming lessons, hear readers and just generally make the lives of our children more wonderful. If you would like to volunteer then please do contact us in September. A special shout out goes to our Open The Book volunteers and Worship Committee who share bible stories regularly with our children and lead worship.

Local Committee

We are also very grateful for the work our Local Committee has done over the past year to support our school. We are very sad that we have to say goodbye to both David Draper, who has served for 12 years at St John's and Vikash Bhanot as they move onto new ventures in their lives and would like to thank them on behalf of the whole community for their enduring support to ensure we have the highest standard of enriching education at St John's.

Diary Dates 2025/26

July

18th-22nd July

Inset Days

23rd July-2nd
September

Summer Holidays

3rd September

Inset Day

September

4th September

Start of Term

8th September

Reception to Start School

October

23rd & 24th October

Inset Days

27th-31st October

Half Term

November

11th November

Year 6 "We Will Rock You" at the
Ashcombe

December

16th December

Flu Immunisations
Reception-Year 6

18th December

Nursery -End of Term

19th December

End of Term 1.15pm Finish

22nd Dec-2nd Jan 2026

Christmas Holidays

Diary Dates 2025/26

January

5th January

Inset Day

6th January

Children Return to School

February

16th-20th February

Half Term

23rd February

GST Inset Day

24th February

Children Return to school

25th- 27th February

Year 4 PGL Marchants Hill

March

19th March

M&M Productions-The Secret Garden

26th March

Nursery End Of Term

27th March

End of Term - 1.15pm Finish

30th March-10th April

Easter Holidays

April

13th April

Children Return to School

May

11th - 14th May

Year 6 SATs Week

25th- 29th May

Half Term

Diary Dates 2025/26

June

July

16th July

Nursery End of Term

17th July

End of Term -Finish 1.15pm

20th, 21st & 22nd

Inset Days

School Attendance – We Need Your Help

Overall school attendance at St John's this year is just under 92%. This is significantly below the national average for primary schools (96%). We need your help to improve this next year and in doing so give your child the best chance of achieving their best.

It will be no surprise to you that when we look at pupil progress data there is a direct correlation between those children who make good progress and those who attend school regularly.

Not being in school has a negative impact on the progress children are making in their learning. By missing out on regular schooling some children are having to constantly try to play catch up. Having chunks of knowledge missing really disadvantages your children compared to their classmates (for instance if they miss out the lesson that explains what a fraction is they will really struggle when they start doing calculations involving fractions with different denominators).

What is good attendance?

If your child's attendance was at 90% this year this means that they missed:

- One half day of school each week this year or,
- The equivalent of nearly four weeks of school

If a child has 90% attendance over their whole school career they will miss out on over a whole year of school.



The Rules

Under the Education Act 1996 parents and carers have a legal duty to secure their child's regular and punctual attendance at school. If your child is absent you must tell us each day by 9am with a reason.

Don't be Late

It is really important that your children are in school, on time every day. Children who are regularly late can never recover certain essential parts of their school day such as: settling down to get ready to learn, early reading time, the lesson's introduction, important announcements, discussions, questions, explanations and the thinking that makes learning come alive and gets them ready for the rest of the day. Arriving late at school can be very disruptive for your child because it makes them feel awkward, especially when the lesson has to stop for them to enter. It causes unnecessary stress and discomfort that can affect them emotionally and socially. It is also very disruptive for the teacher as well as the other pupils in the class because it throws them off track. You may think that your child is only missing a few minutes in the morning but a pupil who is 10 minutes late every day, will miss over 31 hours of teaching during the year. That's a large number of teaching hours that cannot be replaced. Children can enter school from 8.30am each day and registration is at 8.45am.

Fixed Penalty Notice Reminder

Just to remind parents/carers that if they take their children out of school without authority for 5 or more days – 10 school sessions - (which do not have to be consecutive), then the following will apply:

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 s444 Education Act 1996.

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.

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Screens, Devices, and Kids' Brains: A Quick Reference Guide

A summary of key insights from Dr. Brenna Hicks' *"Device Detox: A Parent's Guide To Reducing Usage, Preventing Tantrums, And Raising Happier Kids,"* focusing on the impact of excessive screen time on children's brain development and behavior. It provides essential information for healthcare providers to understand and address screen-related issues in pediatric patients.



1. The Brain Chemistry of Screen Time

- Adrenaline and Dopamine:
 - Surges of adrenaline during video games can trigger a fight response
 - Dopamine release creates a pleasure response
 - Screen content involving fighting, survival, or competition unleashes adrenaline
 - Without breaks, children's bodies can't recover from the chemical rush
 - Dopamine rewards kids for playing and watching, elevating adrenaline
- Impact on Behavior:
 - Children may bring fight mode into interactions with parents and siblings
 - Parental requests to turn off devices can trigger emotional eruptions
 - Kids may first enter flight mode, escaping into themselves
 - When forced to stop, they may have tantrums, fits, and tears



2. The Stress Factor: Cortisol

- Cortisol Production:
 - Natural byproduct of stressful environments
 - Screens trigger high levels of adrenaline and dopamine, causing stress
 - Prolonged screen time results in dangerous amounts of cortisol
- Consequences of Excess Cortisol:
 - Can cause frontal cortex damage
 - Affects ability to handle difficult situations, control impulses, and make effective decisions
 - Associated with higher rates of anxiety, depression, and ADHD



3. Behavioral Impacts of Screen Overexposure

- Attention and Focus:
 - Difficulty sitting still, staying calm, and remaining quiet for long periods
 - Constant stimulation conditions brains to react to every stimulus
 - Symptoms often parallel those of ADHD
- Physical Effects:
 - Gray matter atrophy observed in brain scans of children with excessive screen time
 - Loss of white matter integrity, affecting body-mind connection



4. Sleep Disruption

- Screen use can compromise children's ability to sleep
 - Blue light emitted from devices influences melatonin and sleep cycles
 - Using devices before bed leads to inferior quality of sleep



Conclusion:

Understanding these effects can help healthcare providers better assess and address screen-related issues in children. For more detailed information and strategies, refer to *"Device Detox: A Parent's Guide To Reducing Usage, Preventing Tantrums, And Raising Happier Kids"* by Dr. Brenna Hicks.

This handout contains information excerpted and adapted from the book *"Device Detox: A Parent's Guide To Reducing Usage, Preventing Tantrums, And Raising Happier Kids"* by Dr. Brenna Hicks, PhD. Content is used with permission from the author. This quick reference guide is intended for educational purposes only and should not be considered a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. Always seek the guidance of a qualified healthcare provider with any questions regarding a medical condition or treatment.

