



St John's CE Primary School Newsletter

13 March 2026

Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for our wonderful school and for every child who learns and grows here.

Help us to look after our classrooms, playground and the world around us.

As spring brings new life and brighter days, help us to grow in kindness, curiosity and joy.

May St John's be a place where everyone feels happy, safe and ready to do their best.

Amen.

Message from Mrs Miles



As we begin to see the first signs of spring and the weather brightens, it has been lovely to see the children enjoying more time playing outside.

I'm pleased to share that the playground equipment has now been fixed and with the spring clean and tidy-up of the school grounds booked in, the outside will be neat and tidy in no time! Inside the school we are also continuing to improve and refresh our environment.

Our current 'Tweak of the Week' is for children to tidy up at the end of playtime when the first whistle blows – and I'm delighted to say that the children are *mostly* doing this brilliantly.

When I first took over as Headteacher, I said I would like everyone to know just how amazing St John's is and this term has certainly helped with that! We have won two competitions: Year 5 won a token design competition with the winning entries soon to be displayed in Quebec House and featured in First News and Year 2 won the 'Name the Food Waste Truck' competition with Olivia's suggestion of *Trash-a-saurus Rex*. Both providing some positive PR for the school!

We also enjoyed a wonderful Book Week full of costumes, activities and reading fun, followed by a fantastic Science Week with an exciting show, hands-on learning and children really thinking like engineers.

Mrs Miles

A big thank you



Amazon Wish Lists

A huge thank you to everyone who has already purchased something from our Amazon Wish Lists. We are very grateful for your continued support and these items are already being put to very good use in school!

There is absolutely no expectation or obligation to contribute. Whether big or small, every single donation is appreciated and goes straight to enriching the children's school experience.

NEW: Playground Wish List - <https://amzn.eu/OdZvclx1>

Reception - <https://amzn.eu/0240h3iy>

Year 1 - <https://amzn.eu/0cOtJ36i>

Year 2 - <https://amzn.eu/0iomP0mP>

Year 3 - <https://amzn.eu/06A536lc>

Year 4 - <https://amzn.eu/00SzEOE3>

Year 5 - <https://amzn.eu/05JzbvIs>

Year 6 - <https://amzn.eu/09XW2Nzm>

Forest School - <https://amzn.eu/02tD62rs>



Wooden Pallet donation

Thank you to Mrs Robinson who very kindly donated some wooden pallets that our Site Manager, Mr Rumford, has fashioned into a wonderful storage for the Reception outdoor play area!

School activities



Introducing 'Trashasaurus Rex'

Year 2 were the proud winners of the 'name the food waste truck' competition run by Sevenoaks council. They entered Olivia's suggestion of *Trashasaurus Rex* and were awarded with a certificate by Cabinet Member for Cleaner and Greener, Cllr Irene Roy.

Cllr Irene Roy explained how important it is to recycle our food waste at home. The children told her all about our food waste recycling at school - we could tell she was impressed!

Their photo will feature in the next edition of Sevenoaks Council's In Shape magazine - check it out in your copy when it is delivered to your door!

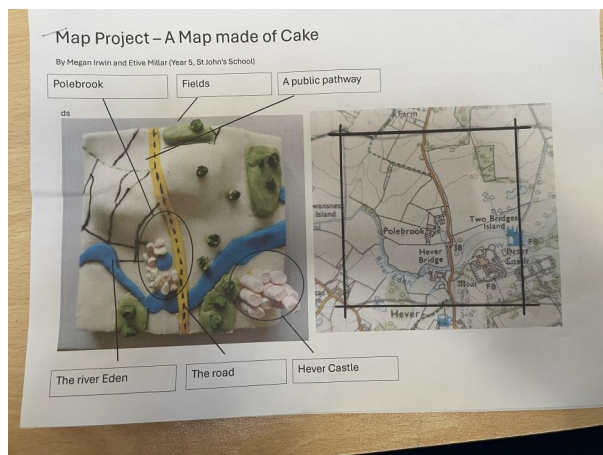
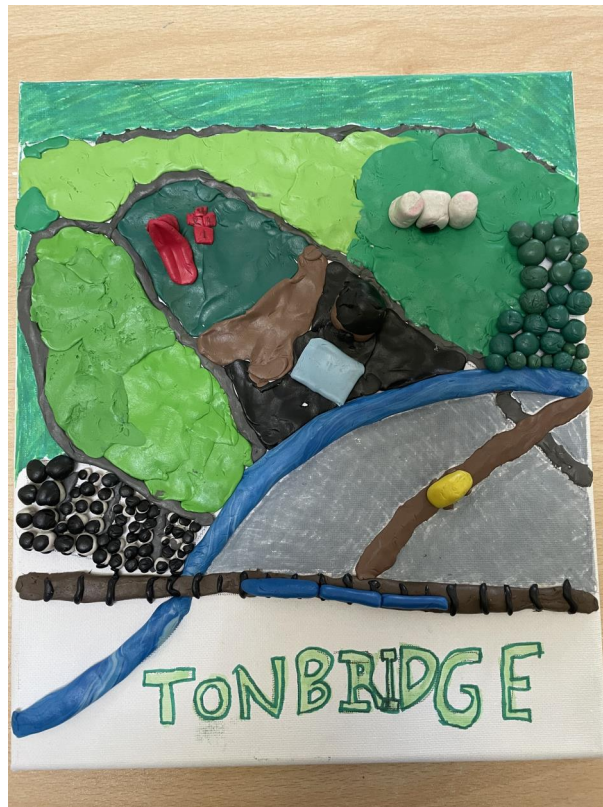


Year 5 girls and OS Maps

We were delighted to take part in the Weald of Kent Grammar School Geography Map-Square Competition this term. Our Year 5 girls were challenged to choose a square from an Ordnance Survey map and recreate it as a 3D model using materials of their choice.

I was amazed by the creativity and effort shown in the entries we received (despite the short notice!) Some pupils created edible landscapes, while others used clay, cardboard, icing and a variety of other materials to carefully build their map squares. Each model showed fantastic imagination as well as thoughtful attention to the features shown on the map. I am incredibly proud of everyone who took part and the effort they put into their designs. We are now eagerly waiting to hear the results. Here are the photos of the wonderful creations below.

Well done to you all: Teddy, Romilly, Nieve, Megan and Etive.



about our Map



We got a layer of sponge, then put two fairy cakes on top to act hills. After that we covered it in a layer of white icing. We used yellow icing to shape the road, then used cake pens to do the black lines.

We dyed white icing green and turned it into little squares to place on the map to mark out the fields. We took time doing the river bit by bit to make it the right shape.

We cut marshmallows in half and coloured them in green with the cake pens to make them into trees.

For Hever Castle we were stuck but then we thought we could stick marshmallows together with icing and form a shape which resembled a castle. For the little town we cut marshmallows into small pieces into different rectangles and squares and then stuck them around the pond. But this wasn't easy as we had to make sure that it was the right shape and line it up against the road.

And finally, we used cake pens to mark out the black lines, we took turns doing them and making sure the proportion was right. As a finishing touch added the small green line as a footpath.

We did this all by ourselves and we are very proud.





Sevenoaks Bookshop trip

With the warmer weather and book day imminent, Year 1 were excited to visit Sevenoaks Bookshop to spend our book-tokens. The staff welcomed us in and read a range of stories to us whilst we had the chance to browse through a selection of books which we could buy ourselves at the counter in exchange for a book-token. What a lovely opportunity and walk in the early Spring sunshine!





Review: Midweek Music Concert

On the Wednesday before half term, we hosted a Mid Week Music informal concert in the hall. Year 4 violins and trumpets performed a fanfare that they had composed themselves, firstly singing then playing it, then our Orchestra (Felix, Elizabeth and Polly), played some rousing music to show Year 4's what they could aspire to. They are always open to new members.

I really enjoyed listening to the solo performances of Elizabeth, Deya, Saoirse, Ruby, Romilly, Matilda, Betty and William. A very enjoyable afternoon was had by all.

Mrs Hanna



Sports update



Interhouse Games

On Wednesday 4th March, pupils from Years R to 5 took part in an exciting Interhouse Games event organised and run by our Year 6 pupils. The activities had been carefully planned by Year 6, who also took on the responsibility of running the stations, timing events and recording scores.

Pupils competed to earn points for their houses by taking part in a range of throwing challenges and racing through obstacle courses as quickly as they could. Staff commented on how well Year 6 had designed the activities and how challenging and engaging they were for all of the year groups taking part.

After all the points had been collected and counted, the overall winners were Red House, finishing with an impressive 671 points. Well done to everyone who took part and a special thank you to Year 6 for organising such a fantastic event.





Special mentions



RECEPTION

Otti, for her progress in phonics - she loves blending!

Dylan, for being a good Samaritan and helping others - well done.

Amira, we are so pleased with your learning this week! Your concentration on the carpet and willingness to learn has been amazing.

Sophia W, for trying hard with phonics and generally growing in confidence in the classroom and around the school - well done!

YEAR 1

Reuben, for fabulous independent writing on 'Storm Whale', with capital letters, finger spaces & great content!

Hudson and Louie, for improved focus learning digraphs in phonics and their eagerness to learn more!

Olive, for her thoughtful and caring attitude to learning and to her classmates, and for always trying her best!

YEAR 2

Alexander and Luka P, for building a beautiful house for the Jolly Postman to live in and working well as a team!

Melina, for always working hard in every lesson and always wanting to learn more

Frederica, for always challenging herself in Maths and working really hard on her division!

YEAR 3

Aoife, for going above and beyond with her writing. Her concentration and teamwork have been excellent!

Esme, for her extra effort in completing the comprehension questions with great success!

Layla, for always making good choices, concentrating with her work and doing her best.

YEAR 4

Flora, for your amazing Viking quest story - you put so much effort and thought into this, well done!

Alyssa and Sam, for their effort in Maths while we have been learning the Bus Stop method - amazing work!

Zed, for the extra effort with your handwriting - you are working so hard and your writing looks lovely!

YEAR 5

Teddy, for persevering when things are tough, overcoming challenges and writing an amazing poem!

Axel, for writing some lovely, emotive poetry - you listened well and met all the success criteria - well done!

Ted, for your focus and commitment to producing a spectacular poem about refugees.

YEAR 6

Adam, Sadie and Matilda, for their work to support the local community - well done

Inky, for working extra hard in all lessons and for your focus - keep it up!

Fundraising



Little Princess Trust

Elizabeth (year 4) has kindly donated an amazing **13 inches** of her hair to the Little Princess Trust. This wonderful act will help provide real-hair wigs for children and young people who have lost their hair due to illness. Elizabeth's family are extremely proud of her generosity. You can support her fundraising efforts by visiting her page:

[Elizabeth's fundraising page is fundraising for Little Princess Trust](#)



1 - Before...



2 - After!

Charity Donations

We have recently made the following donations from all of your fundraising efforts over the past few months...

Blue House Charity day raised **£257**, which was divided equally between **Cancer Research UK** and **Great Ormond Street Hospital**

Over the Christmas period, we raised **£256** which was divided equally between **CRISIS** and **Shelter**.

Thank you for helping us support these deserving causes.

Celebrating our children's success



On Wednesday 4th February, **Adam** (year 6) was invited to speak with the Mayor of Sevenoaks and Zoe from Retro Zo's Sweets about how small businesses in the town can be better supported.

Sadie (year 6) and Matilda (year 6), who are both big fans of the shop, went along to share their views. The invitation came after Adam wrote a petition that caught the Mayor's attention and sparked an important conversation about the challenges facing local traders.

During the meeting, the children learned just how vital it is to support local businesses rather than relying solely on online shopping, and how small choices can make a big difference to the community. Unfortunately, if we do not use these businesses, we will lose them.

What will you do this week to support a local business?



Well done to **Arthur P** (year 3) who has passed his Initial Music Performance in piano with Trinity College London. He's been practicing every week without fail over the past six months.

Huge well done Arthur!



Notices



2026/27 Term Dates

Please note that the term dates for 2026/27 have now been published on the school website.

[St John's CE Primary School - Term dates](#)

Grapevine Magazine - Spring edition

The magazine includes hundreds of local listings for families, some amazing competitions, upcoming Spring events and lots more.

[The West Kent Family Grapevine Magazine – Spring 2026](#)



Polite Reminder: Bag Charms

We have noticed an increasing number of children have bag charms attached to their school bags.

We are requesting that bag charms are not attached to school bags as we are very short of space on the pegs and also the loss of, or damage to such toys, is resulting in upset and therefore lost teaching and learning time.

We thank you for your co-operation.

Diary Dates



Please check Parentmail/[school website calendar](#) for full details.

Please note that for some future events, details may not have been sent out yet and are to follow.

March

19.03.26—09.15 Year 3 class assembly

20.03.26—Own Clothes Day

20.03.26—Year 2 Fairy Cake Friday

20.03.26—PTA Quiz Night

23.03.26—STEMQuest

24.03.26—Online workshop (Understanding Neurodiversity) - see ParentMail for details

25.03.26—14.30 KS2 Disney's The Lion King, London

27.03.26—PTA Bunny Hop Disco (KS1 15.15-16.30/KS2 16.45-18.00)

28.03.26—PTA Spring Clean

30.03.26—District Cross Country

April

01.04.26—09.30 Easter Church Service

02.04.26—PTA Easter Egg Hunt

02.04.26—Last day of Term 4 (**13.30 finish**)

20.04.26—First day of Term 5

24.04.26—Year 4 start Forest School

25.04.26—Mini Marathon

May

01.05.26—Red House Charity Day

04.05.26—Bank Holiday

08.05.26—09.15 Year 1 Class Assembly

13.05.26—15.05.26—Year 5 PGL

22.05.26—14.30 Sharing Afternoon

22.05.26—Last day of Term 5

June

01.06.26—INSET Day

02.06.26—First day of Term 6

03.06.26—KS2 Interhouse Games

05.06.26—Year R start Forest School

08.06.26—12.06.26—Year 6 Normandy residential

16.06.26—Sports Day

July

08.07.26—District Sports

08.07.26—Wimbledon

09.07.26—RESERVE Sports Day

07.07.26—Year 6 Disco

21.07.26—Last day of Term (**13.30 finish**)

