



St John's CE Primary School Newsletter

17 July 2026

Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for all we have learned, achieved and shared together this year. Thank you for the friendships we've made, the challenges we've overcome and the ways we have grown in confidence and kindness. We pray for our Year 6 children as they begin an exciting new chapter and for those staff who are moving on to new adventures. Keep our families safe over the summer and bring us back together in September with hope and excitement.

Amen.

Message from Mrs Miles



As we reach the end of a successful school year, it is the perfect opportunity to reflect on everything that has been achieved across St John's. Looking back over the year, I am incredibly proud of the hard work, determination and enthusiasm shown by our pupils, supported every step of the way by our dedicated staff and wonderful families.

There is certainly much to celebrate. Academically, our outstanding phonics results are a testament to the excellent foundations being laid in our early years and Key Stage 1, while our Reception outcomes have been amazing. We are also delighted with our Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check results, reflecting the commitment of both pupils and staff. As we await our Key Stage 2 SATs results, we already know how proud we are of our Year 6 children. Their results will of course be important but they tell only part of the story. Over their time at St John's, we have watched them grow into kind, capable and independent young people who are ready to embrace the opportunities and challenges of secondary school. They leave us as excellent ambassadors for our school and we wish each and every one of them every success in the next stage of their journey.

As always at this time of year, we say farewell to some valued members of our staff who are moving on to new opportunities and we thank them sincerely for everything they have contributed to our school community. At the same time we are excited to welcome new colleagues who will join the St John's family in September bringing fresh ideas and enthusiasm as we continue to develop and grow.

I would like to give a personal thank you to the entire school community for your support throughout the year. From backing me to be the new headteacher to the positive feedback and support I have received since taking over in January. Together, we have created another year filled with learning, laughter, achievement and memorable experiences.

I hope you all have a wonderful, restful summer break, spending time with family and friends and making happy memories together. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September for another exciting year at St John's.

Sports roundup



Disability Sports Morning – Thursday 16th July

On Thursday 16th July, the whole school came together to take part in an exciting Disability Sports Morning. Throughout the morning, every class had the opportunity to experience a range of inclusive sports, including blindfold football, boccia, seated volleyball, and curling. The activities encouraged everyone to develop teamwork, communication, resilience, and an appreciation of how sport can be adapted so that everyone can participate.

Pupils embraced each challenge with enthusiasm, supporting one another and showing excellent sportsmanship throughout. It was fantastic to see the entire school getting involved, trying new activities, and learning about the importance of inclusion in sport.

District Athletic Champions!

On Wednesday 8th July, our athletics team travelled to Tonbridge Boys' School to compete in the District Sports competition. Every child represented the school by taking part in either a track or field event before joining their teammates for the relay races at the end of the day.

The track events offered something for everyone, with pupils competing in sprint, middle-distance and long-distance races, as well as fun and challenging events such as the Scotch Handball relay and the Over/Under relay. Meanwhile, our field athletes demonstrated their skills and determination in a variety of events, earning valuable points for the team.

Our pupils gave their all throughout the afternoon, showing fantastic teamwork, resilience and sportsmanship. Their hard work was rewarded with an impressive medal haul of 6 first-place finishes, 8 second-place finishes, and 4 third-place finishes.

These outstanding performances meant that we finished the competition as the overall District Athletics Champions! We are incredibly proud of every child who took part and represented our school so brilliantly. Congratulations to the entire team on a fantastic achievement!

Cricket at The Oval

Moses, Daniel & Megan (year 6) and Zed (year 4) had a fantastic afternoon at the Oval watching Australia beat West Indies in the Women's T20 World Cup Semi-Final. It was a hot but exciting afternoon, and everyone had a great time!



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Special mentions



RECEPTION

Lola, for always being an amazing role model when listening on the carpet - you're a superstar!

Willow, for trying hard in writing - we are so proud of you!

Willie, for working hard on sitting and listening on the carpet - your concentration is so much better! Well done!

Jack, for making such an effort to concentrate in learning time - keep it up!

Lili and Phoebe, you are so creative and giving any writing challenge a go - we are so proud of you!

YEAR 1

Cole, for being so helpful and considerate - what a fabulous member of our team!

Georgie, for being an enthusiastic learner and making a big effort in phonics!

Ruby, for making a big effort to settle in class and remembering to put up your hand!

Leo, for trying hard in your maths assessments and persisting when unsure.

YEAR 2

Polly, for making great choices and being respectful and resilient!

William, for giving 100% in writing tasks. His music teacher was impressed with his dedication too!

Caomihe, for working hard, showing others the right choice and always the first on the carpet ready to learn!

Benjamin G, for working hard on your pictograms and showing resilience and a growth mindset!

Louis, George and Maya, for trying hard in Scootability and showing some amazing skills!

YEAR 3

George, for settling down to your work and always making good choices!

Ayla, for your enthusiasm, effort and teamwork during Sports Day and being supportive to others!

Amara, for being a good friend and for excellent manners!

Noah, for always working hard and setting an excellent example for the class.

YEAR 4

Juno, for her positive attitude in all subjects and always trying her best!

Luca, for your fantastic effort with your handwriting - keep it up!

Sima, for showing resilience in maths and therefore being really successful - well done!

YEAR 5

Edie, for always being ready to learn and helping earn rainbow rewards. Also for your wonderful monologue!

Katie, for being a good friend, always trying to resolve difficulties with kindness and tolerance .

Felix, Etive and Megan, for picking up the plastic on St John's Feast Day - environmental champions!

Teddy, for amazing motivation, concentration and effort writing the story of The Highway Man!

Ronnie and Hugo, for focussing well and completing a fantastic letter to The King in English!

YEAR 6

Sofia, for always representing the school well with her excellent behaviour - well done!

Roman, for always being a great role model!

School activities



St John's Feast Day

We enjoyed celebrating St John's Feast Day with a special Collective Worship led by Father Robin, who helped the children understand why this important day is celebrated and the significance of St John's message of faith and light. Throughout the morning, the children took part in a range of light-themed crafts before ending the day by finding some welcome shade on the field and enjoying a refreshing ice pole together in the sunshine. It was a lovely opportunity for everyone to spend time together as a school community, celebrating, creating and enjoying each other's company.





Summer Concert

Last Wednesday was our last Music concert of the year. It was a very hot afternoon, but was very well attended by parents and carers and the children performed and behaved beautifully.

The year 4's on their violins and brass instruments, played a Two Finger Boogie and then Elizabeth and Flora performed a jazzy duet on their Trumpets accompanied by Mr Truscott. Choir started and finished the proceedings with two rousing favourites of theirs, and the orchestra serenaded us with a ChaCha, featuring Iris on the triangle.

We also had many soloists displaying their skills, who have lessons in school with myself, Ms Norton and Mr Truscott, showing what a versatile and musical school we are.

Soloists: Year 6: Matilda C, Betty, Polly

Year 5: Ruby

Year 4 Elizabeth, Molly D, Saoirse, Deya

Year 3 Jude

Year 2 William SS, Polly, Benjamin, Frederica

It was a very enjoyable afternoon for all concerned and I was very proud of the children's achievements.



Year 1 Stonepitts Strawberry Picking

In science, we have been learning about different plants and how they grow. Did you know we can eat some plants? We had to discover this for ourselves at Stonepitts Farm. Jackie spoke to us about how the strawberry plants grow and how they protect them from magpies, pigeons and crows.

Our punnets were overflowing and we were very excited to cheekily eat a few before going home.





Wally Hall Great Maths Race

Congratulations to **Seren, Elizabeth, Jack and Max** (year 4) who proudly represented St John's at the Great Maths Race at Walthamstow Hall on Tuesday 23rd June. The team worked brilliantly together to persevere through some very tricky problems, racing around the course to gather as many points as they could.

Mrs Reynolds was so pleased to see how well they collaborated; showing patience, determination and resilience throughout the challenge. These qualities are even more important than winning, and we are incredibly proud of the way they represented our school. Well done, team — we look forward to taking part again next year and doing even better!

Scootability

On Thursday 2nd July, pupils in Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 took part in scooter training delivered by Rubicon. The sessions focused on road safety, helping children to develop their scooter skills while becoming more aware of how to stay safe around roads.

All of the pupils thoroughly enjoyed the training and showed great enthusiasm throughout the day. We hope they will continue to practise the skills they have learned at home during

the summer holidays, helping them to become even more confident and safe when using their scooters.





Geography and French Day

What a fantastic Geography and French Day we had at school!

We started the day with our Year 6 pupils sharing highlights from their incredible trip to Normandy with the whole school. They spoke confidently about their experiences, bringing French culture and geography to life for everyone.

The focus of this year's Geography Day was **sustainability** and exploring how we can all help to reduce waste in our school and care for our environment.

Our youngest learners in Reception used their senses to explore the meadow, collecting natural materials to create beautiful nature collages.

Across KS1 and Lower KS2, children demonstrated their creativity by transforming recycled materials into imaginative works of art, showing how everyday items can be reused instead of thrown away. Meanwhile, Upper KS2 focused on caring for our school environment. Some pupils helped to keep our grounds tidy by litter picking, while others watered plants and helped maintain our outdoor spaces, learning the importance of looking after the world around us.

For our French part of the day, we learned all about the French impressionist painter, Claude Monet. Each class chose a different medium and we created impressionist scenes or water lilies. Some classes embraced the impressionist mindset by painting outside in nature! We listened to some French traditional tales, such as Jack and the Beanstalk and The Three Little Pigs, then played a game of Boules on the playground.

It was wonderful to see every class taking part in meaningful, hands-on activities that encouraged teamwork, creativity and environmental responsibility. We are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm and care shown by all of our pupils throughout the day.

Year 5 Debating Team at Sevenoaks School

On **7th June**, **Billy, Etive and Thea** (year 5) represented St John's at the **Sevenoaks School Debating Competition and Masterclass**. Having developed their skills through debating sessions in school, they then took part in a masterclass before competing against other teams.

They made an awesome team, listening carefully, building on each other's ideas and speaking with confidence and clarity. We were delighted that they went on to win their debate on about their animal. They had to give it a magic power and debate that their creature was the best.

Congratulations, Billy, Etive and Thea — St John's is very proud of you!



Year 5 Visit to Tunbridge Wells Mosque

Muslims pray facing Mecca on a prayer mat. Imam Yasser also explained the different areas of the mosque, including the separate prayer spaces for men and women, and why everyone removes their shoes to keep the prayer area clean. We admired the beautiful tiles decorated with calligraphy and learned about the 99 names of Allah. A special part of the visit was being allowed to respectfully handle the Qur'an, learning that it must be held carefully and never placed on the floor or your lap. We were also very grateful to be gifted a beautifully illustrated copy of the Qur'an to add to our school resource box. Thank you to all our volunteers who helped accompany us on our trip.



Year 5 Refugee Experience

On Tuesday 22nd June, the children visited Sevenoaks School to take part in a refugee immersive experience, marking World Refugee Day, which falls on 20th June each year. The experience took place in a maze-like set and used immersive theatre techniques, striking visual installations and a powerful soundtrack to help the children understand some of the difficult journeys and choices faced by refugees. During the experience, the children climbed into lifeboats, listened to the sad story of someone who had travelled by boat, and took part in dramatic scenarios where they had to think about how it might feel to evade guards, wait in refugee camps, and make difficult choices between safe legal routes or dangerous smuggler routes. The 60-minute session included a briefing, a guided experience led by volunteer cast members, and time for reflection, feedback and discussion afterwards.

The children described the experience using words such as **thought-provoking, emotional, mind-blowing, scary, sad** and **desperate**. It was a moving opportunity for them to develop empathy, ask thoughtful questions and reflect on the importance of compassion, welcome and understanding. Each child was given a handmade leather shoe keyring to remind them of their journey "walking in other peoples' shoes"

We also sent written feedback to Empathy Action, including this thoughtful letter from Margot:

Dear Empathy Action, I really enjoyed the experience that you put together so that we could understand what it is like to be a refugee. All of the noises and the impossible choices really made me think about how desperate those families might be. All the smugglers, boats and long waits in refugee camps made me realise what these families go through. Thank you so much for giving us this experience, full of empathy, sadness and interest surrounding refugees.

From Year 5 at St John's Primary

Wimbledon

On Wednesday 8th July we were lucky enough to go to Wimbledon! We met at the train station and made our way to London. After a long tube journey, we started walking to Wimbledon. We even managed to get a free drink on the way! When we arrived, it was very busy so we went straight to Court 2 where we had seats. We watched the men's invitation doubles match and could also see Court 12 behind us where the boy's singles were happening too.

After that we found some shade and had lunch before heading back to Court 2 where we watched the men's doubles quarter final and saw the British team playing (unfortunately they lost after a tie break)! Then we decided we could do with a snack so the only correct snack to have at Wimbledon is of course – strawberries and cream! Everyone enjoyed this treat together in the shade.

Once we had finished it was time for the big Fery match. We went to Henman Hill and found a spot to sit together and watch the match on the big screen. When Fery won the whole crowd went wild and it was an amazing atmosphere to be part of! On our way back through Wimbledon we saw a girl's doubles match being played on Court 7 and we managed to get front row seats to watch it! After a long, exciting day we headed back to the station, chatting about everything we had seen during the day.

Everyone had an amazing time and we are very grateful that we got to go!





Fundraising



Green and Yellow House Marie Curie Charity Day

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our Marie Curie fundraising day! The children came to school wearing creative green and yellow accessories. It was wonderful to see so many imaginative ideas, with some accessories bought and many lovingly homemade and handcrafted.

We are delighted to have raised money for **Marie Curie**. We are currently counting the total and will let you know how much we raised very soon.

Quiz Winners

- **Key Stage 1:** Annabel (Year 1)
- **Key Stage 2:** Margot (Year 5)

Most Creative Accessories

Key Stage 1 : Matilda (Year 1) for her fabulous creation

Key Stage 2: Arthur O (Year 3) for his amazing cap.

Congratulations to all of our winners, and thank you to everyone who took part and helped make the day such a success in aid of Marie Curie.





Young Lives Vs Cancer

Thank you to everyone who raised almost £200 to Young Lives vs Cancer, a UK charity dedicated to supporting children, young people, and their families through the challenges of cancer, offering practical, emotional, and financial assistance.



Celebrating our children's success



Sophia (year 3) completed her first 5km Rainbow Run and raised a total of £348 for St Wilfrid's Hospice in East Sussex. They looked after her Uncle and provided grief counselling through The Seahorse Project for her cousins, so it meant a lot to her to take part.



Alyssa (year 4) got a gold medal and the Floor & Vault awards in her gymnastics competition and won 4 gold and 1 silver medal in her swimming gala



Caoimhe (year 2) won the Royal Arts Young Artists competition and her work is currently on exhibition in The Royal Academy of Arts London until the end of August. Amazing Caoimhe!



Phoebe (year 3) and her cricket team recently won the Holmesdale Cricket Club tournament. She was playing matches from 09:00-16:00. Phoebe loved every minute of it. She took a couple of wickets and hit some great 4s. Well done Phoebe!



Charlie (year R) was named Junior O's Player of the Season at Otford Football Club. Congratulations Charlie!



Casper (year 2) recently took part in a karate competition, got **2nd place** and received a silver medal! He put in a lot of hard work and dedication, so well done Casper!



Noah (year 3) had his end of season awards for Danson Sports FC and picked up the managers player of the season award! This has been Noah's first competitive season of football, hopefully more awards to come.



Notices



Free Family Fun Day

4 August 10:30 am – 1:30 pm

The FREE Family Fun Day at Greatness Recreation Ground returns! Hosted by Sevenoaks District Council and Sevenoaks Town Council.

There's no need to book, simply turn up and have fun. However, children must be supervised by a parent or guardian at all times. Activities are provided for children under the age of 12, but they may not be suitable for very young children.

Please bring waterproof clothing, sunscreen, and your own refreshments.



Diary Dates



Please check Parentmail/school website calendar¹ for full details.

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

July

20.07.26—Year 6 Horton Kirby Leavers Activity

21.07.26—09.30 Leavers Service, St John's Church

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

¹<https://www.stjohnssevenoaks.co.uk/calendar/?calid=2&pid=9&viewid=3>

September

01.09.26—02.09.26—INSET Day

03.09.26—First day of Term 1

08.09.26—Year R settling in sessions

09.09.26—Year R settling in sessions

10.09.26—Year R settling in sessions

10.09.26—Year 6 Kent Test

11.09.26—Year R in all day

