

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER HEADTEACHER'S NEWS



For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

John 3:16

As our Harvest Service approaches, I am delighted to report that this year we have decided to support Noah's Ark Children's Hospice. On Monday we had a speaker from this hospice come in and talk to the pupils about the work that this charity does and why it is important to support these children. She talked about how so many families have been really touched by the generosity of so many people and the difference that this has made to their lives. Together we will be supporting their From That Moment campaign, which runs from now until the 13th October. During this period, every pound raised will be doubled, helping us bring more comfort, joy and precious memories to seriously unwell children and their families.

Harvest, which so beautifully celebrates generosity and provision, falls within their appeal period. As Harvest approaches, many churches will be giving thanks for the abundance we receive and sharing that abundance with those in need. This year, Noah's Ark Children's Hospice are inviting churches and faith communities to hold a Harvest collection for Noah's Ark to help raise funds for Noah's Ark. If you feel this is something you could support, please donate on Noah's Ark donation payment item on your ParentPay account or bring your donation to school and a member of the School Council will be collecting at the school gate from next Monday.

Harvest reminds us that from the moment we receive, we are also called to give. By joining this special appeal this year, our school can ensure that families who hear the hardest words find hope, light and love – with every gift doubled in impact.

It was lovely to see so many parents at our Parents' sessions on reading this week, if you were unable to attend, please see your child's class teacher and we can always accommodate you at another time. Please ensure that you look at the dates list attached for reading and phonic sessions for parents in Ruby & Sapphire Class next week.

If you are interested in your child being confirmed this year, please come and have a chat with me or Mother Mitzi so that we can talk you through the process and the dates that have been set for the lessons and the Confirmation Service at St. John's Church. Today pupils from both Diamond and Emerald Class will be participating in a Eucharist Service at S. John's Church.



It's Shoebox Time!

Thank you for being an amazing supporter of Operation Christmas Child—your efforts are bringing great joy and the Good News of Jesus Christ to children all over the world. Now, shoebox time is upon us! So grab a shoebox, invite your friends to join you, and click the link below to be reminded why every gift-filled shoebox you pack is so valuable.

[Operation Christmas Child | Samaritans Purse](#)

[How to Pack a Shoebox | Samaritans Purse](#)

THIS YEAR'S FOCUS

Last year, 51% of Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes collected in the UK went to countries where Christians are marginalised and persecuted. This year, we want to send even more.

These are places where the message of Christ is suppressed and Christian activity is heavily censored. But together, through simple shoebox gifts, we have an opportunity to bring love, joy, and the hope of Jesus into these locations.

Please make sure that your donation of a Christmas Child Shoebox is with us after half-term on the 4th November.

Wishing everyone a relaxing and enjoyable weekend. Best wishes, Mrs. Notley

We are delighted to welcome Ms Ali (Zara's mum) in Year 4 to join our very successful Governing Body

New Parent Governor

My daughter Zara first started in reception; I wasn't sure how she would settle into a new school. However, the warm welcome from the staff and the caring atmosphere at St John's quickly reassured us. Zara settled in beautifully and has loved her time here ever since. Zara has grown in confidence and doing things I thought she would never do, like singing to an audience or being in a rock band.

As a parent, I have really enjoyed being part of the school community, especially Friday assemblies, church services and school day trips. They give a wonderful insight into children's learning and help bring families together.

My background is in pharmaceutical sciences, I have gained experience working in the NHS which included laboratory work, developing services in primary care and providing medical advice to health professionals. I have also worked in the private sector in which I would write and review scientific data received from Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency to ensure safety to public health.

I have some experience in teaching too, as I use to run my own weekend tuition centre (First Class Learning East Ham) which promoted independent learning and study skills focused on the national curriculum.

I understand that a school governor is an extremely important role and many essential decisions about the school are taken by the Governing Body. I am happy to be part of this team to continually improve the education and well-being of every child at St John's School.

Saika Ali

Dates List for Autumn Term 2025

OCTOBER		
Tuesday 7	Phonics session Nursery Class parents/carers	8.50am—9.30am
Wednesday 8	Phonics session Sapphire Class parents/carers	8.50am—9.30am
Wednesday 8	Harvest Festival at St. John’s Church	2.15pm
Monday 13	Phonics session Reception Class parents/carers	8.50am—9.30am
Monday 13	Assessment Week	8.50am—9.30am
Tuesday 14	Open morning for prospective parents	9.00am
Wednesday 15	Reading session Sapphire Class parents/carers	8.50am—9.30am
Friday 17	Paul Lyalls, poet - to work with all classes throughout the day	
Monday 20	No After School Clubs	
Tuesday 21	No After School Clubs	
Wednesday 22	No After School Clubs	
Thursday 23	INSET DAY – School Closed	
Friday 24	INSET DAY—School Closed	
Monday 27 to Friday 31	HALF TERM	

NOVEMBER		
Monday 3	INSET DAY—School Closed	
Tuesday 4—Friday 7	No After School Clubs this week	
Monday 10	Catriona’s Writing Competition begins	
Monday 10	Flu Immunisations for Reception to Year 6	
Tuesday 11	Open Morning for Prospective Parents	9.00am
Tuesday 11	Parents’ Evening	
Wednesday 12	Remembrance Service at St. John’s Church	2.15pm
Wednesday 12	Parents’ Evening	
Friday 28	INSET DAY—School Closed	

Please remember that any of these dates may alter because of changing circumstances.

On INSET days the school is closed to pupils.

Dates List for Autumn Term 2025

DECEMBER

Wednesday 10	Nativity for Ruby Class – parents & carers are invited to attend	
Friday 12	Wrap making workshop for all pupils	
Monday 15	Rocksteady Concert for parents of child who attend this club	
Monday 15	Collective Worship led by Emerald Class – parents & carers are invited to attend	9.00am
Tuesday 16	Collective Worship led by Diamond Class – parents & carers are invited to attend	9.00am
Wednesday 17	Collective Worship led by Sapphire Class – parents & carers are invited to attend	9.00am
Wednesday 17	Carol Concert at St. John’s Church for KS1 & KS2	2.15pm
Thursday 18	Collective Worship led by Ruby Class – parents & carers are invited to attend	9.00am
Thursday 18	Christmas Lunch	
Thursday 18	Class parties	P.M.
Friday 19	Final Celebration Assembly for 2025	9.00am
Friday 19	END OF AUTUMN TERM - School Closes at 1.00pm Ruby Class Collection time is 12.45pm Sapphire Class Collection time is 12.50pm Diamond Class Collection time is 12.55pm Emerald Class Collection time is 1.00pm	

Monday

- 8.00am Breakfast Club
- 3.00-4.00pm Netball Club (KS2)
- 3.00-4.00pm Arts & Crafts (Recep, Sapphire Class)
- 3.00-4.00pm Jiu-Jitsu (KS2 & Year 2)

Tuesday

- 8.00am Breakfast Club
- 3.00-4.00pm Football Club (KS2)
- 3.00-4.00pm Yoga Club (Recep, Year 1, 2 & 3)

Wednesday

- 8.00am Breakfast Club
- During school Keyboard
- During school Recorder
- 3.00-4.00pm Football (Reception & Sapphire Class)
- 3.00-4.00pm Choir Club (KS2 & Year 2)
- 3.00-4.00pm Pathways (KS2 & Year 2)

Thursday

- 8.00am Breakfast Club
- 3.00-4.00pm Tennis Club (KS2)
- 3.00-4.00pm Activities Club (Recep, Sapphire Class)

Friday

- 8.00am Breakfast Club
- 8.00am Rugby Club (KS2)

After School Clubs & Breakfast Club Agenda

NOTICES

Attendance for the week

DIAMOND CLASS have the highest attendance this week and will be allowed to come into school in non-uniform on Monday 6 October in recognition for their achievement this week for the most attendance this week

This Week's Attendance

<u>Class</u>	<u>Week</u>
Ruby	88.2%
Sapphire	92.6%
Diamond	96.3%
Emerald	96.0%
Overall	93.3%



Spare School Uniform Shop

Nearly new school uniform shop run by a collaboration between St. John's School staff and parents. Any items required please send a text message to 07985 467 033, stating the item you require and size.

You will receive a confirmation text to collect the item and can make a payment on ParentPay under Item Name 'Donation to St. John's'

Absent Procedures

Please may we remind parents/carers of the following if your child is absent.

- Please telephone or email the school office on the morning your child is absent.
- On the return of your child's absence a letter with an explanation needs to be brought into school or you can email the school with the reasons.
- If your child is absent for more than 3 days then we do require medical evidence, otherwise this will be an unauthorised absence.

INFORMATION

School Dinners

This is a reminder that Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 are all receiving & entitled to UIFSM (Universal Infant Free School Meals) & KS2 (Year 3, 4, 5 & 6) are receiving free school meals as the Mayor of London has given schools some funds towards this.

Nursery do have to pay for school dinners at £3.74, so please ensure that your ParentPay school dinner account is in credit.

Breakfast Club

- Starts at 8.00am (please do not bring children any earlier, they will not be allowed in)
- Please ring the Breakfast Club bell
- If you require breakfast for your child, please ensure you are at school by 8.10am
- Breakfast Club account should always be in credit (either weekly, monthly or termly) £4.00 per day
- Any changes to the days your child is attending, please leave a message on the Breakfast Club line.
- If you would like to join Breakfast Club, please collect a form from the school office

School Uniform

This can be purchased from Smiths Schoolwear, 223 Baker Street, EN1 3LA.

Nursery Admissions

- Complete our supplementary forms, which can be found on the school website or collect them from the school office.
- Return the supplementary forms to the school office as soon as possible.
- Full time places available

Ruby Class

Ruby Class is really starting to settle into a lovely rhythm. The children are exploring their surroundings with curiosity, getting to know other members of the school, and growing in confidence every day. Friendships are blossoming, and we have been so impressed by the children's wonderful readiness to learn.

Our topic *Outside Inside* has given us plenty of opportunities to notice and celebrate the changing season. The children have been helping to make the classroom their own by decorating our displays little by little – it's becoming a true reflection of their ideas and creativity.

This is a special time of year as we prepare for Harvest. Reception children are looking forward to joining the Harvest Service next week, while Nursery will stay back this time but will be preparing for the next big service before long (dare we say it... Christmas!).

Finally, a big thank you to all our families for supporting your children so warmly as they begin their school journeys. Your encouragement and positivity help them to start each day with ambition and confidence – and it shines through in everything they do.

Miss Kelleher, Ms Lee, Ms Dall'Aglio & Mrs Dall'Aglio mimi.kelleher@stjohnsprimarysch.org.uk

SAPPHIRE CLASS

A Special Visit: Sharing Joy with Our Community

Our **KS1 children in Sapphire Class** had the wonderful opportunity to visit a local **care home** where they spent time with older members of our community. The children truly shone as they shared their **talents** from **gymnastic acts** and **beautiful singing** to **joke-telling** that brought lots of smiles and laughter. They also went bearing **thoughtful gifts** generously provided by our families. A heartfelt **thank you to our parents and carers** for your **kindness and generosity**; this visit was made even more special because of your support. Moments like these reflect the strong **community spirit** we are so proud of at **St John's School**.

Writing -The children have been learning and developing a range of writing skills through different genres from creating **warning posters** to writing well-structured **emails to Mrs Notley** about the loose monster spotted in her office! Our next text is *Wolves* by Emily Gravett, where we will be exploring both **fiction and non-fiction features**. By the end of the unit, we aim to produce an engaging **documentary-style piece** all about wolves. Throughout, we'll continue to focus on **sentence structure** and **writing composition** as key goals for our young writers.

Maths - We're building strong foundations in **number and place value** and will be developing our skills in **addition and subtraction**. The children are enjoying using different methods to solve problems and explain their thinking. There has been **great learning happening over the past few weeks** - we've explored **fractions**, investigated **2D shapes** and will soon be diving into **3D shapes**, learning about their **characteristics and properties**. The children are showing **great enthusiasm** and confidence as they tackle new mathematical challenges.

RE - We're exploring **what it means to live as a Jewish person**. We're learning about significant **objects, places and practices** that help Jews grow in their **faith and spirituality**. As we deepen our understanding, we are also being **reflective about the symbolism** behind these objects such as the **menorah, mezuzah** and **Torah scrolls** - and how they represent important values, beliefs and traditions within Judaism. The children are asking thoughtful questions and showing growing respect and curiosity as they explore how faith is expressed in everyday life.

Science - We are discovering the **life cycle of a plant** from a tiny seed to a thriving, healthy plant. We're becoming fantastic **plant detectives**, learning through **careful observation, hands-on experiments** and **real-life investigations**. The children have been planting seeds, monitoring their growth and recording changes over time to understand what plants need to grow. Through these practical experiences, they are developing their **scientific enquiry skills** and building a deeper understanding of the natural world.

*Dear God,
Thank you God for the love we share and the joy we give.
Help us to be kind and caring every day,
To listen, to learn and to walk in Your way.*

Amen

Ms Chebbi, Mrs Qayum, Mrs. Hargate & Mrs. Hocyk asma.chebbi@stjohnsprimarysch.org.uk

DIAMOND CLASS

It's been a wonderfully busy few weeks in class, with so much rich learning taking place across the curriculum. In maths, we've been building confidence with addition and subtraction methods—breaking them down into manageable steps and using manipulatives to deepen understanding. Our English writing has been inspired by the beautifully illustrated book *The Varmints*, which sparked thoughtful discussions about nature and change. After planting seeds and writing clear instructions, the children discovered that the wilderness had disappeared and have been crafting persuasive pieces to encourage others to help bring it back.

In science, we've explored the parts of a plant in more detail, learning about their functions and how pollination happens—whether by wind or insects. History has taken us back to the Stone Age, where we investigated the fascinating site of Skara Brae and wrote news articles imagining its discovery.

In PSHE, we've been reflecting on our rights and responsibilities in the classroom, and how these link to rewards and consequences—important foundations for a respectful learning environment. Computing has been a highlight, with children writing emails full of fun facts about themselves. They were thrilled to receive replies and may find another surprise waiting in their inbox next week!

In RE, Diamond Class have been learning about how Hindus worship and the special traditions within the Hindu faith. We were fortunate to welcome a visitor (Nayana's mum - Ms Hari), who shared her experiences with us, and the children were so enthusiastic, asking many thoughtful and respectful questions. They have also enjoyed designing their own beautiful Pookalam patterns, inspired by the traditional Hindu celebration - Onam. Through these activities, the children have gained a deeper understanding and appreciation of this rich and vibrant faith.

Finally, a big thank you to all the parents who joined us for our guided reading sessions on Wednesday—it was lovely to see so many of you, and the children were proud to share their reading routines with you.

A huge number of children have been selected to perform in the Write2Speak showcase on Tuesday next week, please get the permission slips back to me on Monday and keep practicing the poem over the week.

Have a lovely weekend, **Miss Anderson** lauren.anderson@stjohnsprimarysch.org.uk

EMERALD CLASS

An extremely busy few weeks in Emerald class have cumulated in some great work based around our book *The Arrival* by Shaun Tan which focuses on immigration. We had a number of excellent discussions based on the topic and the writing produced was of a pleasing standard.

In maths this week we have been focusing on fractions; ordering them in both ascending and descending order and adding and subtracting fractions, looking at both equivalent fractions and simplifying them.

Our computing topic has been using Microbits to produce programs using coding to allow the Microbit to work. The children have really enjoyed this and have produced some great coding to allow the machines to work.

In our history topic based on Ancient Greece we have looked at a number of topics including the Greek Gods and Goddesses, The Olympic Games, City States, Democracy/Oligarchy and we have also produced some detailed sketches of Greek vases in our art books.

As part of their exploration of life's journey from a Christian perspective Emerald Class have been learning about Baptism, the Eucharist and the many sacraments that shape a Christian's path through life. Their reflections have also focused on the themes of commitment and spirituality within the Christian faith. Inspired by Sapphire Class's recent visit to the care home the children have been considering how St John's School continues to live out Christian values in service to the wider community

Thank you very much to all the parents who managed to attend the reading workshops. These are extremely valuable as it allows you to see how the lessons are structured and also the expectations of the children. I hope you enjoyed them.

Please remember if you need any further clarification on anything please don't hesitate to contact me either at the gate or via my email. We hope you have a relaxing and enjoyable weekend.

Mr Law & Mr Pople joe.law@stjohnsprimarysch.org.uk

St. John's C.E. Primary School

Academic Year 2025-2026

September 2025							October 2025							November 2025							December 2025						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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29	30																										

January 2026							February 2026							March 2026							April 2026						
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May 2026							June 2026							July 2026							August 2026						
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|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| = School days | = School holidays | = Bank holidays |
| = weekends | = Inset Day | |

Autumn Term: Monday 1 September 2025 – Friday 19 December 2025
Half Term 27 October – 31 October
 Inset days Thursday 23 October, Friday 24 October Monday 3 November & Friday 28 November 2025

Spring Term: Monday 5 January 2026 – Friday 27 March 2026
Half Term 16 February - 20 February

Summer Term: Monday 13 April 2026 – Monday 20 July 2026
Half Term 25 May – 29 May, and May Bank Holiday - 4 May
 Inset day Monday 20 July 2026

St. John's C.E. Primary School Spare School Uniform Shop



St. John's Primary School are proud to launch our school uniform shop with the aim of: preserving resources, eliminating waste and reducing our carbon emissions – all contributing to a more sustainable school and world.

We can't make this work without you! You can help by making your school uniform purchases from our nearly new school uniform shop. You can also help by donating any St. John's School uniform.

- For purchases, simply send a text message to 07985 467 033.
- Just state the item you require and size.

You will receive a confirmation text to collect the item and can make a payment on ParentPay under Item Name, Donation to St. John's. **Simple.**

All items are priced at only £2

Many items are brand new with tags, or nearly new; ready to be worn. Please enquire, it's quick, easy and can save you money.

Items in stock in various sizes:

PE Jacket / PE white polo / Blue School Jumper

Blue School Cardigan / Grey School Pinafore / Grey School Skirt

Grey School Trousers / St. John's Tie / St. John's Book Bag

The uniform shop is run by a collaboration between St. John's School staff and parents. Proceeds from uniform sales will support St. John's School and pupils. We thank you for your continued support.



At
St John's Church
Strayfield Road
9:00am
Every 2nd Sunday of the Month

Come
And See



At
St Luke's Church
10:00am
Every **First Sunday** of the
Month

Come
And See