Together in love we learn with
Respect, Hope, Friendship and Forgiveness.

Newsletter Autumn Term

Friday 2nd October 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we move further into the autumn term, it has been another busy and enjoyable week at St John's, with many opportunities for our children to learn, compete and demonstrate our school values.

This week, all children in Key Stage 2 took part in a live Picture News assembly focused on allergies and how we can all play our part in keeping one another safe. It was wonderful to see the children engaging thoughtfully with such an important topic and developing their understanding of how small actions can make a big difference to others.

A huge well done to our girls' football team, who played their first-ever match representing the school. Although the result ended in a 3-1 defeat, Mr Clarkson and Mrs Wood could not have been prouder of the way they conducted themselves throughout. They demonstrated resilience, teamwork and respect in abundance and represented St John's impeccably, showing our values at every opportunity.

Some of our Year 2 children also had a fantastic time at the Olympics event with Mr Toon, competing alongside pupils from other local schools. Their enthusiasm, determination and encouragement of one another were a credit to the school, and they showed true sportsmanship throughout the day. Thank you to Mrs Wood for organising these opportunities and all the staff who helped out. We look forward to future events

Over the last month, we have been placing a strong focus on our four school values. As part of this, we have relaunched our Golden Tickets, which are awarded to children who demonstrate these values in their daily life at school. Each week, one winning ticket is drawn, giving us another opportunity to celebrate the many positive choices our pupils make every day. It has been wonderful to see so many children striving to live out our values and helping to create the caring and respectful community we are so proud of.

I would also like to mention how well our Reception children in Red Class have settled into school life. As a result, I am now looking forward to spending more time out on the main playground in the mornings and welcoming families at the school gate. Since the start of term, I have been greeting and supporting our newest pupils in Red Class each morning, and it has been a real pleasure to see their confidence grow so quickly.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. I hope you all have a wonderful weekend.

Mr Blackburn
Headteacher

Dates for your diaries:

School closes for end of half term – Thursday 22nd October

School reopens – Monday 2nd November

School closes for end of term – Friday 18th December

School reopens – Tuesday 5th January

School closes for end of half term – Friday 12th February

School reopens – Monday 22nd February

School closes for end of term – Thursday 25th March

School reopens – Monday 12th April

School closed – Monday 3rd May

School closes for end of half term – Thursday 27th May

School reopens – Tuesday 8th June

School closes for end of term – Wednesday 21st July



Toys, Squishies and Keyrings in School:

We have noticed an increasing number of children bringing toys, squishies, fidget items and large collections of keyrings into school. Unfortunately, these items often cause distractions, take up valuable space, lead to arguments between children, and can become lost or damaged.

Please remember that children should not bring toys, squishies or personal fidget toys into school. The only fidget resources permitted are those provided by school staff for specific children in exceptional circumstances. In addition, children may have **one keyring attached to their book bag only**. Multiple keyrings or large, bulky accessories are not permitted.

From **Monday**, any toys, squishies, personal fidget items, or additional keyrings brought into school will be confiscated and taken to the school office. Parents and carers will then be asked to collect these items.

We appreciate your support with this matter in helping minimise lost learning time, reduce unnecessary distractions and ensure that health and safety across the school is not compromised.



KS2 Reading Workshops for Parents and Carers:

We are delighted to invite parents and carers of our **Key Stage 2 children** to attend one of our Reading Workshops on **Monday 12th October.**

- Years 3 and 4: 9.00am
- Years 5 and 6: 10.15am

The session will provide helpful information about how reading is taught in school and offer practical advice on how you can support your child with their reading at home.
There will also be an opportunity to work alongside your child during a reading lesson, allowing you to experience first-hand how we help our children develop their reading skills and foster a love of reading.
We hope you can join us and look forward to working together to support your child's journey as a confident, enthusiastic and successful reader.

KS1 Phonics and Reading Workshops:

We are delighted to invite parents and carers of our **Early Years and Key Stage 1 children** to a **Phonics Workshop** on **Monday 19th October from 9.45am to 10.45am.**
The session will provide helpful information about how phonics is taught in school and offer practical advice on how you can support your child with their reading and phonics learning at home.
There will also be an opportunity to visit your child's classroom and see them in action during a phonics lesson, allowing you to experience first-hand how we help our children develop their early reading skills.

Parents Evening:



Our first Parents' Evenings of the year will take place on:

- Tuesday 20th October: 3.30pm to 5.00pm
- Wednesday 21st October: 3.30pm to 7.00pm

This is an excellent opportunity to discuss how your child has settled into their new class, celebrate their achievements and learn more about the progress they are making across our Rainbow Curriculum. Booking is now live, any problems please see the office.

Harvest Festival:

We are looking forward to celebrating our **Harvest Festival** on **Tuesday 13th October 2026 at 9.15am** in school.

Due to limited space, this service will be attended by our **Early Years** and **Key Stage 1 children.** However, we would love the whole school community to be involved by supporting our Harvest collection.

We would be grateful for donations of **tinned foods, dried foods, pasta, rice, cereal, long-life milk, tea, coffee, biscuits, toiletries and other non-perishable items.** Donations can be brought into school from now until **Tuesday 13th October**.

Harvest is a time to give thanks for all that we have and to share with those who are less fortunate. This year, all donations will be given to **CART**, helping to support people and communities in Africa.

Thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity. Your donations will make a real difference and help us demonstrate our school values of compassion and service to others.

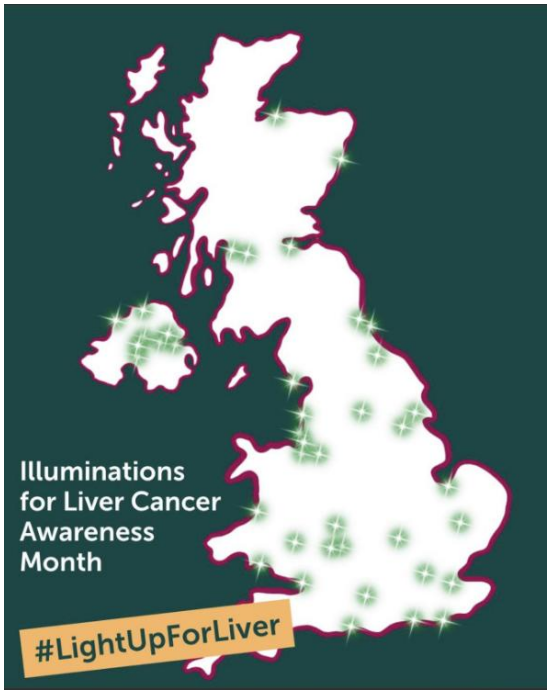
Liver Cancer Awareness Month:

October is Liver Cancer Awareness Month, and we want to highlight this campaign as it is close to a staff member's heart.

Liver cancer is the UK's fastest-rising cause of cancer death, yet awareness remains low. Symptoms can be vague or appear late, limiting treatment options, and only 13% of those diagnosed survive for five years or more.

Throughout October, participating landmarks and monuments across the UK are illuminated in green. Look out for local landmarks that you may wish to visit. By shining a light on liver cancer, we hope to raise awareness, start conversations and show support for everyone affected by the disease.

For statistics and further information, visit Liver Cancer UK and Liver UK.



St John's Stars

	Hafsa
	Elyza
	Ateeque
	Hasan
	Zayyan
	Keira
	Haris R
	Inaam



Weekly Attendance

	91%
	99%
	98%
	97%
	99%
	96%
	95%
	99%