



# Newsletter October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

A great start to the Autumn term so far as we head into October. We have been super pleased with the way children have settled into new routines and learning. In addition to our class based lessons we are very keen to ensure that our curriculum offers many quality, fun enrichment experiences and opportunities. These include trips to bring learning alive and enjoy the arts, residential trips, high quality swimming lessons for every year group- including reception class later in the year, after school clubs, music lessons and gardening.

We will also be looking at ways to develop children's leadership skills through offering leadership roles and responsibilities for our older children in Years 5 and 6. This will include Eco Council, Student Council, Collective Worship Leaders, Sports Ambassadors, Librarians, Digital Learning Leaders and Peer Mediators who will be known as, 'Peace Makers.'

We aim to ensure that we keep you up to date with everything that is happening at St John's and we are finding that Facebook is a great way to do this. If you haven't done so already, please can I encourage you to subscribe to our page [St John's Primary School, Weymouth | Melcombe Regis | Facebook](#)

We are looking forward to welcoming parents, carers, friends and family to come and find out what your child has been learning through our Parent/Carer Celebration of Learning that take place on Friday mornings in the school hall. This will begin with our year 6 children on 10<sup>th</sup> October. They will be sharing their recent learning about WWII and their visit to The Nothe Fort. Please check out the diary dates for other year group's Celebration of Learning dates at the end of this newsletter.

Over the year we want to offer parents and carers a variety of opportunities to come into school to find out about your child's learning and progress. In response to your feedback in the Parent Carer Survey that was conducted last year we have also decided to increase the number of times we report your child's progress to you so that this takes place 3 times a year instead of 1. Snapshot Reports will be shared at the end of the Autumn Term and Spring Term with a full report at the end of the Summer term. This will be in addition to the parents/teacher consultations that will take place in the autumn and spring terms.

As always please do not hesitate to get in touch if you need to discuss anything. We are always keen to listen and help in any way we can so that we do the best for the children at our school,

Best wishes,

Amanda Aze  
Head Teacher

## Student Council visit Weymouth Food Bank

On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September some of our student council visited Weymouth Foodbank to meet the team of volunteers that work there and see what St John's School can do to help. The school Council then led collective worship this week to share what they had done and found out about with the rest of the school. As a result of this we are asking for donations that we can send to the foodbank as part of our Harvest Thanksgiving. This term we have been learning about the importance of thankfulness in collective worship and this is a great way to put our learning into action.

Our Harvest Festival Service will take place on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October at St John's Church-a separate letter has been sent home this week about this. We hope to see you there!





## Attendance

We are really pleased to report that so far this year, our whole school attendance is looking good! We aim for every child to achieve a 96% attendance percentage. Thank you for supporting our attendance improvement and getting your child to school every day.

A few reminders;

- Every child will receive an attendance update email every half term. This is to ensure that you are kept up to date with your child's attendance and help us to provide support where necessary.
- No leave of absence will be granted during term time, except in exceptional circumstances. Should you wish to take your child out of school for any leave of absence, holidays or otherwise, requests will not be routinely granted. It is essential that any requests for leave of absence are put in writing via an Absence Request Form, 2 weeks before the absence. Forms can be found on red paper in the school foyer, at the main entrance.
- It is important that pupils are in school on time. Time keeping is not only important in obtaining maximum benefit from education it is also a key skill for life. Lateness is monitored by the school and can contribute to absence rates. Classroom doors are open at 8.30am for Years 1 through to 6 and all children MUST be in school by 8.45am.
- We will continue to celebrate attendance. Within our monitoring, we recognise that children sometimes get poorly and, on those days, of course, it is entirely appropriate that they stay at home to be looked after by a parent/carer. Some children may have hospital medical appointments, for ongoing medical issues, which cannot be avoided. With these things in mind we try to be as inclusive as possible and award children who have an attendance percentage between 96-100% every half term. This means that all children start back each half term with a fresh start, giving them as much opportunity to be included in our awards scheme as possible.

## Eco Council Garden

Our Eco Council have been working with James, from The Seedlings Programme, to design and create a garden with the money raised from our sponsored litter pick, which took place last year.

Children in Year 1 have been helping James create an enclosed area with wood chip paths. Gardening Club, that meet each Friday after school have also been helping. We will keep you updated, on our Facebook Page, on the progress over the coming weeks.

Thank you again to everyone who sponsored the children! We hope the garden will create a great habitat for wildlife.



## Year 6 Nothe Fort Visit

On Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September, Year 6 had a fantastic WWII evacuation experience at the Nothe Fort. They learnt all about what life was like during the 1940s and how the Nothe Fort played its part in the war too. They even experienced a night in an air raid shelter - that was pretty scary! The Nothe volunteers praised St. John's for their excellent behaviour and listening skills and we are super proud of them all.



## Fraser Portraits

Fraser Portrait photo proofs were sent home recently.

You can place an order following the link. <https://orderphotos.co.uk/welcome>

If you would like a copy of your child's proof card, please email the school office as soon as possible.

The order deadline, for free delivery to school, is Wednesday 8th October. Thank you.

## Spirit of St John's

Each week we notice and celebrate children who are putting our school values into action. Recently the following children have received a Spirit of St John's Award!

Well done goes to;

Aaron, Alexa, Amelia N, Aubree, Dexter, Emily, George, Harley, Ivy M, Ivy S, Joshua, Kayla, Lena, Logan, Luna, Marcelina, Mason, Milo, Nabhya, Nakul, Oliwier, Phoebe, Ruby, Talia, Tempany, Tyler D, Tyler M and Zac M.



## Dates for your diary

### October

**3rd** Year 4 Dorchester Museum Trip

**10th** Year 6 Parent Celebration of Learning 8.55am in the school hall

**14th** Nursery, Reception, Years 1 & 2 Harvest Church Service 10am @ St John's Church

**14th** Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 Harvest Church Service 2pm @ St John's Church

**17th** Show Racism the Red Card Day- Wear Red

**17th** Reception - Year 6 Flu Immunisations

**21st** Reception 2026 starters tour 10am - please book via the school office

**21st** School Link Worker Drop In 3.15pm - please book via the school office

**22nd** Year 4 iSing Pop Concert at Salisbury Cathedral

**22nd** Reception 2026 starters tour 2pm - please book via the school office

**23rd** The Nest Weymouth Library Visit

**24th** Year 3 Parent Celebration of Learning 8.55am in the school hall

**24th** Last day of term

**27th - 31st Half Term**



## **November**

### **3rd Inset Day**

**4th** First day of Autumn Term 2

**6th** Reception 2026 starters tour 3.30pm - please book via the school office

**7th** Year 4 Parent Celebration of Learning 8.55am in the school hall

**14th** Year 1 Parent Celebration of Learning 8.55am in the school hall

**19th** Reception 2026 starters tour 9.30am - please book via the school office

**20th** Reception 2026 starters tour 1.30pm - please book via the school office

**21st** Year 2 Parent Celebration of Learning 8.55am in the school hall

**28th** Year 5 Parent Celebration of Learning 8.55am in the school hall

## Safeguarding - Child Protection

### **Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility**

REMEMBER: If you have a suspicion or concern about child abuse you should always take some consult, seek advice and take action. Families and members of the public can contact the Family Support and Advice Line (FSAAL) on 01305 228558 Alternatively, during term time, you can contact the school to speak to Amanda Aze (Designated Safeguarding Lead –DSL), Heidi Martin (Deputy DSL) or Alice Rist (Deputy DSL). The safety of our children is the responsibility of us all. St John's CE Primary School, Weymouth, Dorset, DT4 7TP Tel: 01305 785711 email: [office@stjohnswey.dsat.org.uk](mailto:office@stjohnswey.dsat.org.uk)