



Newsletter January 2026

Dear everyone,

It might have been a wet and windy start to 2026, but that has not stopped us from getting out and about and enjoying trips, visits and sports activities at St John's. As usual the children have been fantastic, full of enthusiasm and enjoying their learning.

Staffing Update News

We will be wishing Miss Williams well as she begins maternity leave at the start of term 4. We can't wait to meet baby and are so excited for Miss Williams and her partner. This means that Miss Emma Allan will take up her role as Year 1 teacher when we return after the half term holiday. Miss Allen has been coming into school regularly over the past few weeks to get to know the class.

Mr Dearden will also be spending some time away from St John's next half term as he goes to work at another DSAT School- Beaminster St Mary's. This is to gain experience working in another year group as part of his teacher training. He will return to St John's after this placement so we will look forward to welcoming him back at the end of term 4, just before the Easter Holidays. We will be welcoming Mrs Denney- a higher level teaching assistant from Beaminster St Mary's Primary School, to come and work as part of our Year 6 team while Mr Dearden is away.

During the half term holiday, myself and Mrs Cast will be taking part in a trip to visit our Kenyan Link school- Wiru Primary School. This is a self funded trip and we will be going with a group of nearly 30 other people- including some teachers from other Weymouth/ Dorset schools. We will be spending most of our time at Wiru Primary School teaching the children and finding out about life in Kenya. We will be taking letters from the children at St John's out with us and bring letters back from Wiru too. We will make sure that we send photos!

Best wishes,

Amanda Aze
Headteacher

Year 3 Visit to Stonehenge

On Friday 9th January Year 3 had an amazing trip to Stonehenge to kick off their new Bronze Age topic! They explored the famous stone monument, investigated fascinating artefacts inside the round houses, and enjoyed learning lots of new facts in the museum. Despite the cold weather, the children stayed enthusiastic, curious, and brilliantly behaved throughout the day. A fantastic time was had by all, and they're so excited to continue our Bronze Age learning back in school!



Year 2 Visit to Southampton Arts and Heritage Museum

On Monday 12th January Year 2 visited Southampton Arts and Heritage Museum. When they arrived, the children listened to a talk about key information on The Titanic before taking part in four different activities. These included matching clues to objects that may have been used on the Titanic and also deciding who should be saved on a lifeboat. This led to a discussion about why children would have been saved first. The children also explored the museum and learnt more facts about the Titanic using the hands-on activities and even received a guided tour! It was a brilliant day of interactive learning and enjoyed by all.



Sports News

On Wednesday 14th January, several KS2 children enjoyed a multisports event at Weymouth College, learning new sports skills and having lots of fun. They were brilliantly behaved and helped the College students practise their coaching skills.

Weymouth College are holding an After School Multisports Club for children in Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 on Tuesdays 3.30-4.30pm. If you would like your child to take part, please speak to the school office.

On Wednesday 21st January, each KS2 class enjoyed a table tennis session with local coach, Andy Millar. They learnt some super skills and played small games against each other. We're hoping some might join the table tennis club on Saturday mornings at the Wey Valley Tennis Centre - all KS2 children brought home a flyer with further information.



Wildlife Garden

As you know, we are creating a Wildlife Garden using the sponsorship money raised from our litter pick last year. James Mitchell from The Seedlings Programme is working with lots of our children every Friday and so far the children have...

- Planted 39 trees.
- Made a dead hedge (a haven for wildlife and we've seen wrens and Robins in there).
- Made a giant bug hotel.
- Planted bee friendly plants like lavender, Russian sage, buddleia, and fleabane.
- Made a woodchip path.

James still has lots more planned for the garden including, making a wildflower meadow and putting up bird houses that the children have camouflaged. Keep up the good work everyone, it's looking amazing!



SEND at St John's

At St. John's Primary School, we are committed to the equal inclusion of all pupils in all areas of primary school life. Every child is entitled to a broad and balanced education. We have an inclusive culture in our school and we are responsive to the diversity of children's backgrounds, interests, experience, knowledge and skills. We recognise the diverse and individual needs of all of our pupils and take into account the additional support required by those children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

If any parent/carer has a question regarding the SEND process, the first port of call is the class teacher. If you need to speak to your child's class teacher, please email them via office@stjohnswey.dsat.org.uk

If the class teacher feels the best approach is for parents to meet with Miss Jones, they will always advise this.

Dorset's Local Offer provides county wide information and guidance for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities and links can be found on our website here [SEND at St John's](#)

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;

Addison, Binazir, Bryan, Dhvanish, Esme S, Eva, Evelyn, Harley M, Harry, Hector, Jacob, Jasmine, Jesse D, Keeva, Layla E, Lola, Marli, Moses, Nicole, Ruby, Scarlett Y, Serah, Sophia H, Teddy B, Tiana, Zac B & Zayn.



Dates for your diary

February

11th Year 5 Shakespeare Performance at Weymouth Pavilion 6.30pm

13th Last day of term

16th-20th HALF TERM

23rd First day of Spring Term 2

March

5th World Book Day

17th Years Rec – 6 Parent/Teacher Consultation 4-7pm

19th Years Rec – 6 Parent/Teacher Consultation 3.30-5.30pm

20th Comic Relief

24th Easter Experience EYFS & KS1KS2

24th Easter Service

27th Last day of term

30th - 10th EASTER BREAK

April

13th DSAT HUB INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED

14th First day of Summer Term 1

24th Fraser Portraits Group Photos



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
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