

Note from the Head

The staff and I would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year! We are back for the Spring term, the first half is 6 weeks long, followed by a 5 week half term, both of which are much shorter than the Autumn half terms and we have lots planned for the children to enjoy and develop a love of learning.

I welcomed the children back to school in our whole school assembly on Tuesday in which we talked about having a positive start to the New Year and how we should aim to be the best version of ourselves that we can be. Having walked around the classrooms this week. It is clear to see the enthusiasm and enjoyment of learning, we're already off to a great start!

Attendance

I have received a positive report from our attendance officer which shows that our overall attendance for the Autumn term is 96.7%. However, 5.4% of pupils are classed as 'persistently absent'. I would love to see this figure reduced during the Spring term.

Calendar

The term dates for this year and 2026-2027 are now available for you to view on the school website (Parents section/Term dates). You are now also able to subscribe to the school calendar and have all of the events linked to your mobile phone. Please scan the QR code to enable this to link to your phone or device.



Forest School

With the cold spell of weather, Forest School session will not resume until February. Dates will be shared through the newsletter.

School Uniform - PE kits

It is essential that all children have a PE kit in school. Our school uniform policy is a light blue round neck t-shirt, blue or black shorts and black pumps. When PE is outside, children may bring their trainers to wear. Wearing a PE kit is important for comfort, ability to perform and not least, for health and safety reasons. Earrings are not to be worn in PE lessons.

There is a decline in standards of PE kits in Class 4 in particular. Several children in this class do not have a PE kits and are wearing branded sports clothes. The rules at High School are far stricter than in Primary and I would like to ask parents to support us in helping their child in making the right decisions regarding uniform.

Please can all parents check that their child has a PE kit and that it is left in school for the half term, these can then be taken home at the end of half term to be washed and returned for the second half term

Friday 9th January



Mass times

Sunday 09.00 am Saturday 06.30 pm

11/01/26 Baptism of the Lord

Gospel Reading: Matthew 3:13-17

Notes for Adults

The Baptism of the Lord reminds us of Jesus' mission and God's saving plan. Through His baptism, Jesus is revealed as God's beloved Son, chosen to bring light and salvation to the world. This moment marks the start of His mission, showing His humility and obedience as He identifies with sinners. The Holy Spirit descends upon Jesus, giving Him the strength to fulfill His work, while the Father's voice affirms His love and approval.

This feast also invites us to reflect on our own baptism. Through baptism, we are called to follow Jesus and live as lights in the world. Like Jesus, we are strengthened by the Holy Spirit to bring hope, love, and healing to others. The Baptism of the Lord reminds us of our identity as God's children and encourages us to trust in His plan, live faithfully, and share His light with everyone we meet.

Approaching the Gospel with children

John baptises Jesus in the river, and there is a voice from heaven that says something important. God reminds everyone that Jesus is his son, and that Jesus is doing God's work on earth.

Water is very important in baptism. It is used to show that we are starting a new life with God. In Baptism, the priest put holy water on your head and welcomes you into God's family. Water is also important for other reasons. There are many ways that we use water every day.

We all need water to live, but so many people around the world don't have access to safe water.

Jesus offers us new life in the water of our baptism and so together this week, let us focus our prayers on people around the world - that they may have safe water to drink and not have to travel long distances to collect it.

Robinwood

The final payment is due today. Every year we have parents request a place, complete the booking form and pay a deposit. Sadly, some parents do not make some or all of the payments and subsequently cancel their child's place on the trip. By paying a deposit you have committed to reserving a place for your child - should you now cancel, you will still be required to pay the full amount.

Any monies not paid previously have had to be taken from the school budget. This is no longer an option as our school budget is incredibly tight this year due to the rising costs of living.

Published Admission Number (PAN)

We are seeking to consult and reduce the PAN from 25 to 20. This reduction in PAN will not affect the ethos, values and success of St John's Catholic Primary.

Reducing the PAN will assist the school to provide stability in its long-term planning and allow us to continue to secure high quality education for the pupils currently on roll, whilst continuing to provide an appropriate number of places for future pupils in line with local demand. A letter was sent home this week giving more detail about the consultation. Please ask at the office if you have not received one.

Dates for your Diary

Mon 12th Jan - Y4 & Y5 Train Imagination Station trip
Week beginning 26th Jan - British Values themed week
Wednesday 11th February - KS2 Valentines Disco
Thurs 12th Feb - Half term achievement assembly 9am
Thurs 12th February - Nursery & KS1 Valentines Disco
Friday 13th February - School closes for half term week
Monday 23rd February - School closed for INSET
Tuesday 24th February - School reopens
Monday 2nd March - Class 3 Swimming lessons begin
Thursday 5th March - World Book Day
Friday 6th - Sunday 8th March Y5/6 Residential trip
Week beginning 9th Mar - British Values themed week
Thursday 12th March - Mothers Day assembly 2:30
Friday 20th March - Easter Bingo
Week beginning 23rd March - Y5 Bikeability
Tuesday 24th March - Y6 Good Shepherd fundraising
Wednesday 25th March - Parents evening
Thursday 26th March KS1 Easter Bonnet parade @ 2:30
Friday 27th March - School close for Easter at 1:15

Class Mass.

Children will attend 9 am mass on alternate Wednesdays with their class on the following dates. You are very welcome to come along and join us.

Class 1: 04/02, 11/03

Class 2: 28/01, 04/03

Class 3: 21/01, 25/02,

Class 4: 14/01, 11/02, 18/03

Our value for this half term is - Courage

The following children were awarded certificates by their class teacher for showing courage this week.

Well Done!

Class 1: Kohen

Class 2: Ivy

Class 3: Alfie

Class 4: Scarlett M and Callie-Mae



The following children have been chosen by the Lunchtime Supervisors for wonderful behaviour!

Class 1: Romee

Class 2: Maddison

Class 3: Donovan

Class 4: Toby

