

The Early Bird

Issue 5 Friday 14th November 2025



'I have come in order that you might have life - Life in all its fullness.' John 10:10

Dear Parents,

We've had a fantastic start to the new term, and I'd like to share some highlights with you.

This week, our Year 5 children, guided by Mr Buckley and Mrs Bettany, led us beautifully in our Remembrance Day service. We are also grateful to the children who have been selling poppies in support of the Poppy Appeal — thank you for your continued encouragement and generosity.

Our reading class challenges are going strong, with plenty of excitement around which class will be crowned the best home readers. Please continue supporting your children with reading at home — every effort helps their class move closer to victory!

A proud moment for our school came when the Lord Mayor of Stoke-on-Trent unveiled the clay tile artwork created by our children. This project celebrates 100 years of Stoke as a city, and the tiles will remain a lasting memory within our school building. We encourage you to take a closer look when visiting, as the detail and care shown by the children is remarkable. The inclusion of tiles from the Beth Johnson Foundation made this event even more special, highlighting the value of intergenerational connections.

Last week, we welcomed Staffordshire headteachers to St. John's as part of our ongoing collaboration to strengthen school improvement. They were impressed by what they saw, praising our excellent relationships, calm environment, and well-established routines. They noted how children were confidently retrieving knowledge from previous lessons, using apparatus effectively in maths, and developing fine motor skills in the early years — all vital steps toward strong writing. We are proud of the positive feedback and of our children's achievements.

Finally, please take care in the windy weather and enjoy some family time together this weekend.

Mrs SM Bowyer

Headteacher

Prayer

Dear God, Thank you for all the courage shown by men, women and children in wartime. We pray that you help everyone to live peacefully together, in this country and around the world. Amen



Dedication - Courage - Joy



D A T E S
FOR YOUR DIARY

November

Monday 24th 9am —Yr6 class assembly—parent/carers welcome

December

Thursday 11th—LKS2 Christmas Service (am)

UKS2 Christmas Service (pm)

Friday 12th— EYFS—Christmas Service (am)

KS1—Christmas Service (pm)

Thursday 18th—Christmas dinner/jumper day

Friday 19th—Party day

Friday 19th—End of term

2026

January

Tuesday 6th - Children return to school

Wednesday 7th—whole school visit to the New Vic to watch The Little Mermaid

February

Tuesday 6th—Parents evening

Wednesday 7th parents evening

Monday 16th to Friday 20th -Half term

Monday 23rd—school opens

Beth Johnson Foundation

A special tile was unveiled at St John's to celebrate **Stoke 100** and the wider area's rich heritage. The artwork, created in collaboration with artist **Philip Hardaker**, involved **50 children** working alongside the **Beth Johnson Foundation** to produce one of two beautiful **poetry mosaics**.

We held an event in school on Wednesday to celebrate the creativity, community, and local pride, with the children's words and designs capturing the spirit of Stoke - on-Trent

The unveiling was attended by **the Lord and Lady Mayoress, Councillor Lynn Watkins** and **Stephen Gunther, Director of Public Health**, who joined in celebrating this inspiring community achievement.

Keep an eye out on the sentinel as we will appear in there soon!





You're Invited!

ENCOUNTER CAFÉ

- **When:** Every Tuesday
- **Time:** 8.30am– 10:00am (after drop-off)
- Come along for a friendly chat, a hot drink, and a chance to:
 - Meet other parents and carers
 - Share ideas and experiences
 - Catch up on school news
 - Listen to invited speakers
 - Have fun doing Arts & Crafts

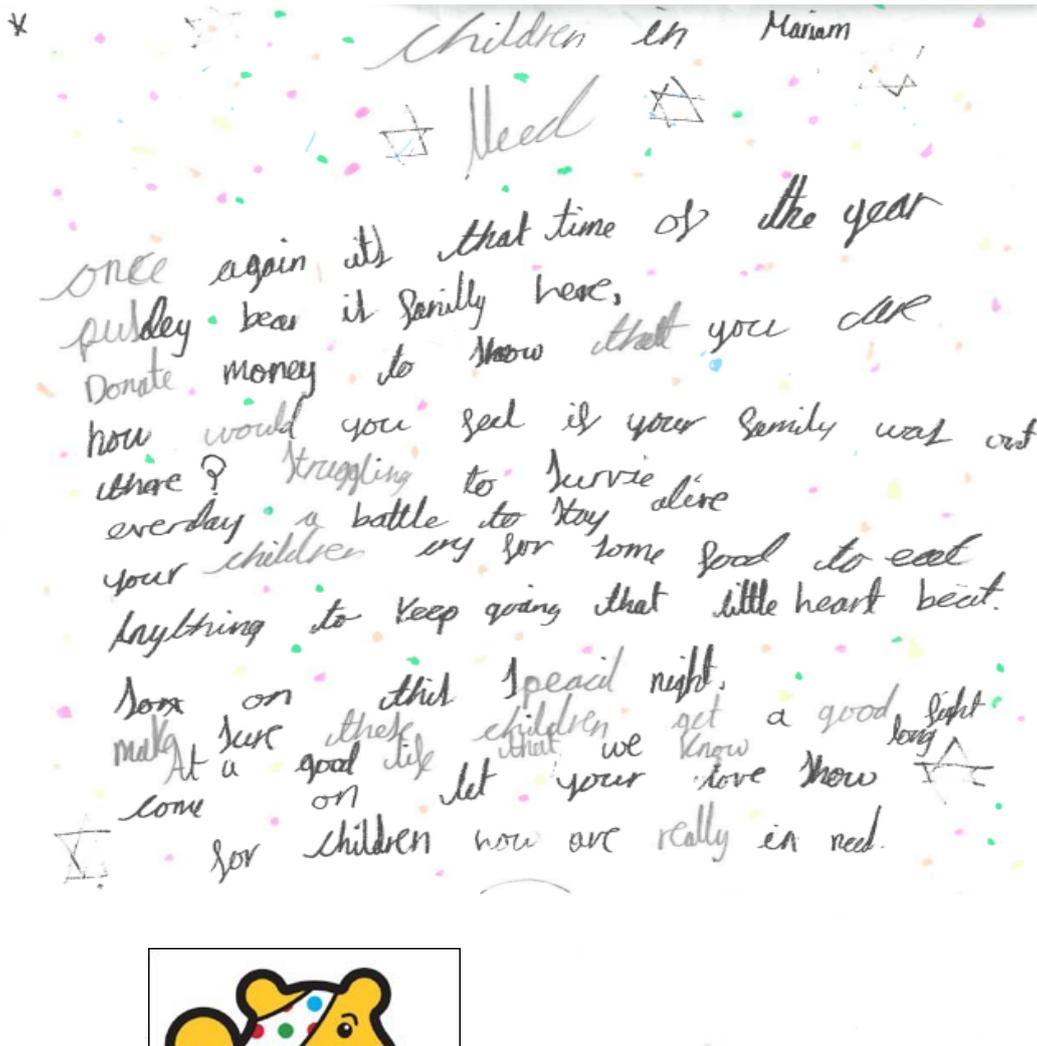
Everyone is welcome – even if you can only stay for a short while. Younger children are also welcome!

We look forward to seeing you there!



A Poem

This is a lovely poem written by Mariam in Year 4 about Children in Need. Well done Mariam



Family Learning Workshop

On Wednesday 22nd October we had Festive Sparks session. Parents & children had fun making fireworks and Diwali pictures



Firework Spectacular

It was a night of joy, unity, and celebration on Thursday 23rd October, making it a highlight of the season for our community, even though the weather could have been better. A big thank you to all who made this spectacular event possible!



GLURBS



LANGUAGE LEARNING MADE SIMPLE



Completely safe, ad-free and designed by the specialists at Language Angels for children to learn and play independently in a way parents can trust.

- ★ It's not just fun, it's effective
- from first word to fluency.
- ★ The more you play, the more you learn!
- ★ Boosts memory, creativity & communication.



HOW TO GET AN ENTIRE YEAR'S SUBSCRIPTION FOR JUST **£1.99**:

1. Register a new account
2. Go to 'Settings'
3. Tap **LAOFR25**



**ON MOBILE?
CLICK HERE**

Family Hub



NEW!! SEND FAMILY GROUPS

A monthly support group for parents and carers of children and young people (age 0 -25 years) with special educational needs or disabilities. The groups are designed to offer support, helpful resources, professional advice, and a sense of community for families.

You can attend alone or bring your child(ren) along - activities will be available to keep young children entertained. Our groups provide a safe and welcoming environment where you can chat, ask questions, and connect with other families.

WHAT TO EXPECT

We welcome all parents and carers of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) regardless of diagnosis. Attendance is completely free, and light refreshments will be provided.

**CHAMPIONING INCLUSION,
CELEBRATING DIVERSITY** 

WHERE AND WHEN

Our SEND Family Groups will take place monthly at the following family hubs. To discover the dates and times for your preferred hub, please visit our website at www.projectindi.org.uk/sendfamily or feel free to reach out to us.

-  Bentlee Family Hub
-  Chel Heath Family Hub
-  Normacot Family Hub
-  Shelton Family Hub



For more information or to book your place, feel free to contact us:

families@projectindi.org.uk
01782 683 057

The Indi Club,
Ralph Drive, Sneyd Green
ST1 6HZ

projectindi.org.uk



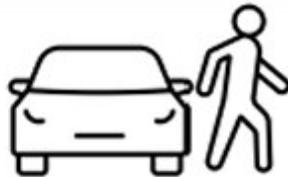
Dropping off and
collecting by car?

4 THINGS

YOU NEED TO DO



Morning Drop Off



In the morning, please either park on the top playground or use the drop-off zone. **Dropping off by the barriers is not permitted.**

Afternoon Collection



The drop-off is not to be used when collecting your child at the end of the day. Please park on the top playground.

Please be considerate

Please park considerately on the car park, taking care not to block in other vehicles or obstruct any pavements or crossings.

Watch your speed

Keep your speed low when driving on the school site.

