

The Early Bird

Issue 7 : Friday 12th December 2025



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

Dear Parents,

Christmas is well underway at St. John's with our wonderful Christmas performances. So far, these have been the best we've seen—and I still have today's to enjoy! We are incredibly proud of how our school community comes together to support one another. Thank you for all your help in preparing the children.

Mr. Farrell and I have recently completed our pupil progress meetings with class teachers over several days. It's clear that the hard work of our team and the positive attitudes of our children are making a real impact. We will continue to push for even more progress while maintaining our nurturing environment. We are so proud of everyone's efforts. Parents, please keep reading with your children and supporting them with the maths programs at home—your contribution is making a big difference.

Home-school engagement remains very important to us. The outcomes from our parent questionnaires (see further in the newsletter) and individual discussions are helping us improve even further.

Lesson timetables will continue as normal next week, so please ensure children are in school. We'll enjoy our class Christmas dinner on Thursday and have parties in class on the last day. There will also be a short Christmas newsletter next week to close the Autumn term.

Enjoy the weekend ahead and see you on Monday.

Mrs SM Bowyer Headteacher

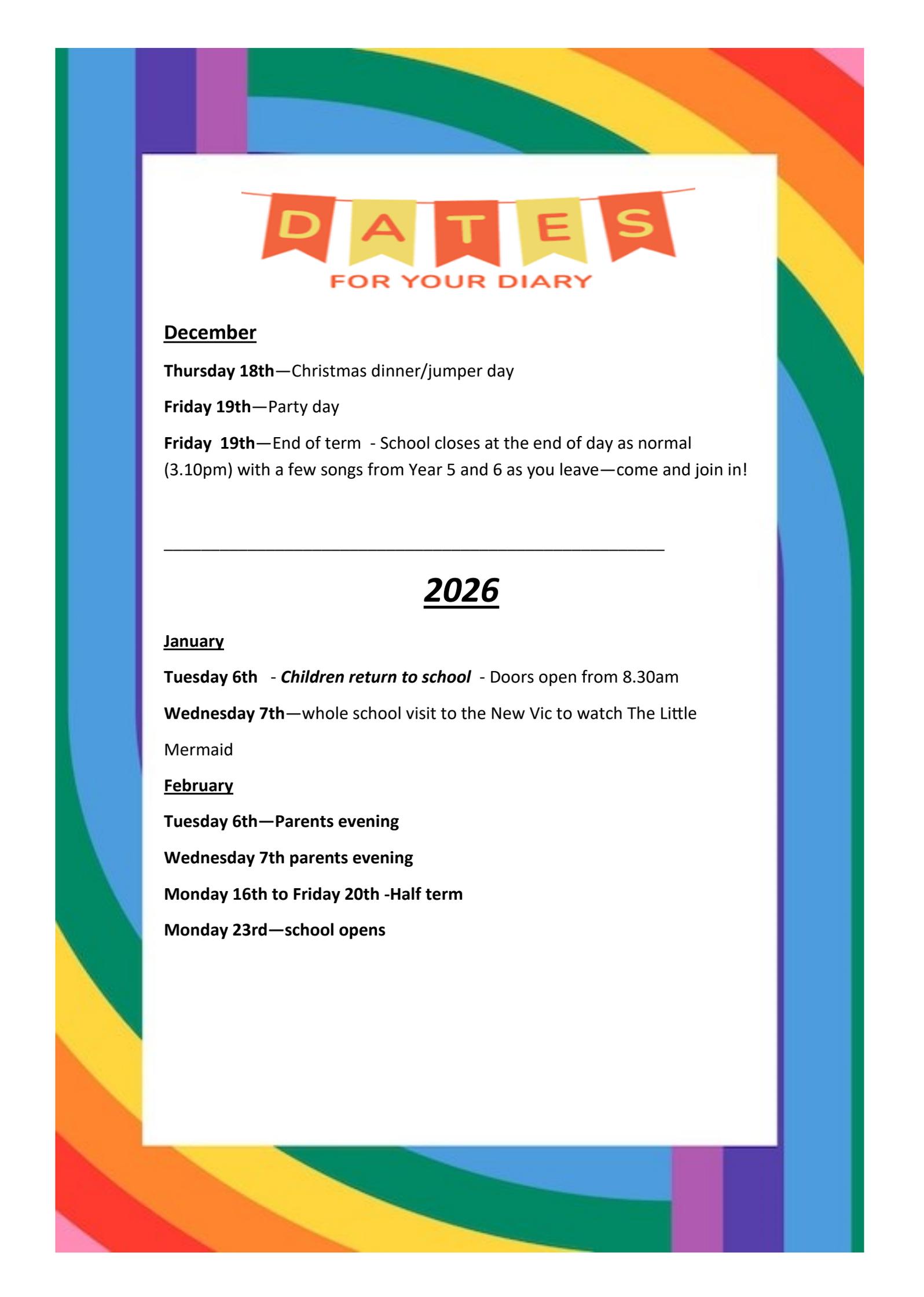
If you are purchasing electronic games for your children as Christmas presents, please pay close attention to the age limits indicated on the packaging. These age ratings are designed to help adults understand whether a game's content is suitable for a child's level of maturity. Many games include elements such as violence, strong language, or complex themes that may not be appropriate for younger players. By checking the age limit, parents can make informed decisions and ensure that the games their children play are safe, educational, and developmentally appropriate. Taking a moment to review these ratings helps protect children while also promoting responsible and thoughtful media use.

Prayer—3rd Sunday in Advent

Lord God, may we, your people, who look forward to the birthday of Christ experience the joy of salvation and celebrate that feast with love and thanksgiving. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen."



Dedication - Courage - Joy



D A T E S
FOR YOUR DIARY

December

Thursday 18th—Christmas dinner/jumper day

Friday 19th—Party day

Friday 19th—End of term - School closes at the end of day as normal (3.10pm) with a few songs from Year 5 and 6 as you leave—come and join in!

2026

January

Tuesday 6th - *Children return to school* - Doors open from 8.30am

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

Christmas Concerts

We hope you enjoyed the Christmas concerts over the past two days. Thank you for providing the costumes — they were greatly appreciated. I'm sure you'll agree that we have some very talented children.



Reminder

The Department of education made changes to the law for families wanting to request leave of absence in term time.

All leave of absences in term time **cannot** be authorised. This can lead to a penalty fine, which is £80 per person, per child (if paid within 21 days).

School does not benefit from this fine, it is paid in to the LA.

Please remember to call the school before 9:00 AM and leave a message if your child will be absent. If your child will be late due to an appointment, we also ask that you inform the school in advance.

Many thanks

Winter Crafts Family Learning Session

On Wednesday 3rd December we had our winter crafts session. There was lots of glitter glue, cutting & colouring



Please remember that these sessions are run by Adult & Community Learning and are designed for you to enjoy quality time with your child through fun activities.

If you book a place but later find you are unable to attend, **please inform Mrs Ramsden** as soon as possible. We are finding that some people book a space and then do not turn up. At times we have a waiting list, so letting us know means we can offer the place to another family.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Parent Survey Outcomes—October 2025

Thank you to everyone that completed the survey during the October Parents Evening.

The focus of the survey was supporting children's learning at home and school.

A summary of the results are show below and we are pleased with the positive response, with the results showing that we are working well together:

Q1) How well do you understand what your child is learning at school? **85% of parents responded Well or Very Well.**

Q2) Which ways help you to know what your child is learning at school?

- **34% - Talking to their child helped them to know**
- **24% - Termly class newsletters**
- **19% - Asking class teachers**
- **12% - Meetings e.g. parents evenings**
- **6% - School Facebook Page**
- **5% - School Website**

Q3) Would you be interested in attending workshops or events about how to support your child's learning. **79% said Yes.**

Q4) Which times would be best for us to arrange sessions so that you could attend? **After School (e.g. 4pm) was the most popular time followed by drop off/pick up times.**

Q5) Are there any things that make it difficult for you to support your child's learning at home? The highest response was that **26% said not enough time, followed by 20% of parents saying that there were no barriers.**

Q6) Overall, how well do you feel the school works with you to support your child's learning? **92% said Well or Very Well.**

We will be using the information that we have gathered to help inform us how best to engage with you to ensure that you are as involved as possible in working together. We will be looking in particular at how best to communicate information regarding learning in school and at home e.g. the times of meetings, the use of communication apps/tools etc. We will update you further once plans have been developed.

We have spoken to some parents face to face to discuss responses where needed - this is very helpful in aiding us to move forwards together. Some surveys were completed anonymously—if you wish to discuss your response in more detail, please come and speak to us.

Here is the statement for the newsletter about RSE ready for next half term.

PSHE/RSE Parental Consultation

As you may already be aware, PSHE and RSE Policy Relationships and Sex Education (RSE), along with Health Education, is now a statutory part of the National Curriculum. Schools are required to consult with parents when developing and reviewing their policies for Relationships and Sex Education (RSE), which will inform schools' decisions on when and how certain content is covered.

We appreciate it if parents and carers could share their thoughts on the policy. The policy can be found below. Please email the school office office@stjohnscea.org.uk, for the attention of Mrs Bowyer and Mr Buckley if you have any concerns or queries.

A full list of the PSHE coverage can be found on the school website;

Our Learning > Curriculum > Personal, Social, Health, Economic & Education > Relationships & Health Education

Please read—Giovanna is in Year3

Hello, My name is Giovanna 🍷.

This Christmas, I decided to do something truly special, I'm cutting my hair to support children with cancer, who have lost their hair during their brave journeys through chemotherapy.

I was inspired by my mom, she is an Oncology Nurse who helps people living with cancer get better every day, and I want to help too!

I'm raising funds for The Little Princess Trust, a wonderful charity that provides real hair wigs and supports children and their families through the toughest times.

Please donate! Every donation, big or small, helps bring comfort, confidence, and smiles to children who really need it. 💙

Thank you for helping me make a difference this Christmas! 🎁🌟🎄

The Little Princess Trust provides wigs to children to help restore their confidence and identity. All costs, including the making, fitting, and styling of the wig, are met by the charity, and this free service is available to any young person up to the age of 24 with hair loss. As part of its Hair and Hope mission, The Little Princess Trust also funds childhood cancer research aiming to find kinder and more effective treatments.



Online Safety

It's Christmas Time – Parents guide to help keep children safe online

It's Christmas Time!

It's always best to be prepared

Many parents may be planning to give electronic gadgets to their children this festive period. This guide is designed to help parents take a realistic approach to help keep their children safe when using the internet, social media and playing online games. Please click on each image below for more information.



A Parent's Guide to Social Media



A Parent's Guide to Sharing Pictures



A Parent's Guide to Gaming



A Parent's Guide to Live Streaming



A Parent's Guide to Online Grooming



A Parent's Guide to Online Influencers

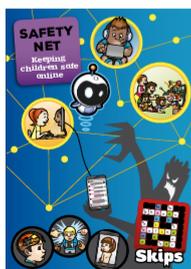


A Parent's Guide to Fake News



A Parent's Guide to Privacy Settings

Online safety is when young people know who they can tell if they feel upset by something that has happened online.



Parents please contact your school if you would like to attend a parents internet safety workshop or have any concerns.

Schools please [contact us](#) if you would like a SKIPS Safety Net session delivered to your parent groups or staff.

Skips Educational

Web: www.skipssafetynet.org
Email: info@skips.com
Tel: +44 121 227 1941

142 Newton Road
Great Barr
Birmingham B43 6BT

Working with Home Office 'PREVENT', The Police and Crime Commissioner and Children's Safeguarding Partnerships to help keep children safe online.

Developed in partnership with



Keeping children safe online

www.skipssafetynet.org

Is my child too ill for school? These are government guidelines for schools and nurseries about [health protection and managing specific infectious diseases at GOV.UK](#). These say when children should be kept off school and when they shouldn't. If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school or nursery on the first day. Let them know that your child won't be in and give them the reason.

High temperature - If your child has a [high temperature](#), keep them off school until it goes away.

Feeling anxious or worried - It's normal for children to feel a little anxious sometimes. They may get a tummy ache or headache, or have problems eating or sleeping. Avoiding school can make a child's anxiety about going to school worse. It's good to talk about any worries they may have such as bullying, friendship problems, school work or sensory problems. You can also work with the school to find ways to help them. If your child is still struggling and it's affecting their everyday life, it might be good to talk to your GP or school nurse.

Coughs and colds - It's fine to send your child to school with slight [cough](#) or [common cold](#) symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat or headache, as long as they're otherwise well and do not have a high temperature. But if they have a high temperature, keep them off school until the temperature has gone. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues and to wash their hands regularly.

Chickenpox - If your child has [chickenpox](#), keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over. This is usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared.

Cold sores - There's no need to keep your child off school if they have a [cold sore](#). Encourage them not to touch the blister or kiss anyone while they have the cold sore, or to share things like cups and towels.

Conjunctivitis - You don't need to keep your child away from school if they have [conjunctivitis](#), unless they are feeling very unwell. Do get advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly.

Ear infection - If your child has an [ear infection](#) and a high temperature or severe ear-ache, keep them off school until they're feeling better or their high temperature goes away.

Head lice and nits - There's no need to keep your child off school if they have head lice. You can treat [head lice and nits](#) without seeing a GP.

Sore throat - You can still send your child to school if they have a [sore throat](#). But if they also have a high temperature, they should stay at home until it goes away. A sore throat and a high temperature can be symptoms of [tonsillitis](#).

Vomiting and diarrhoea - Children with [diarrhoea or vomiting](#) should stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea for at least 2 days (48 hours).

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?
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