

The Early Bird



Issue 24: Friday 20th March 2026

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

Dear Parents/ Carers,

We have had a busy couple of weeks, and it has been so valuable to see so many parents in school for a variety of events in the past week, and some great sports events after school too. A little mention to our football team, Mr Buckley and Miss Pickerill who got soaked in the storm last Thursday but they took part with determination.

We have also got to mention the buzz of excitement from some of our children, who are leading on raising money for the play equipment through a cake sale. It will be a BIG help in getting this updated ready for the children to use fully again...Watch this space!

Enjoy the weekend ahead and see you all next week.

Mrs SM Bowyer
Headteacher

Dates for your Diary

MARCH

Week beginning 23rd - Roots Week (more information to follow)

Wednesday 25th— 9am EYFS Easter worship & Easter Bonnet Parade

Monday 30th March to Friday 10th April—Easter holiday
April

Monday 13th April—school opens

April

Week commencing 27th April & 4th May All Years 3,4 &5 to complete Level 1&2 Bike right Training

Dedication - Courage - Joy

Class Worships

EYFS - Easter - 23/03/26

Year 1 - Jonah and the Whale - 29/06/26

Year 2 - Noah's Ark - 20/04/26

Year 3-4 - Pentecost - 18/05/26

Parent/Carers you are very welcome to come and watch your child in their class worship. All worships start at 9am.



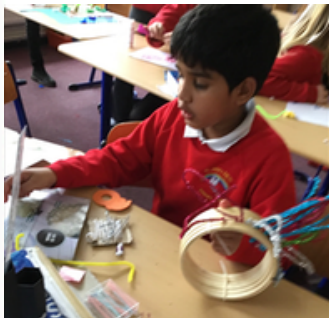
World Book Day

On Friday 6th March we celebrated World Book Day. The children and staff looked brilliant in their costumes and pyjamas. In the morning, each class had a different member of staff come in to read them a story, which the children really enjoyed. Thank you to all the parents and carers who came in to read with their children and helped make the day so special.



Year 5/6

In art this half term we have been learning about environmental art, which has helped us to explore how reusable materials can be used to make an art sculpture. Y5.6 have had access to reused materials and were given the opportunity to create their own montage or relief sculpture. They have thought about key environmental issues: deforestation, climate change, ocean litter and much more.



Learn With Me Session

Last Wednesday, Key Stage 1 welcomed parents to a “Learn With Me” workshop. As part of our Design and Technology topic, the children worked together with their parents to design and make their own beach huts. This activity also linked to our Geography learning about coastlines. Thank you to everyone who was able to join us – the children had a wonderful time and really enjoyed sharing their learning with you.



EYFS Mother's Day Afternoon Tea

On Friday 13th March, our EYFS children welcomed their mums, grans, aunts and other important ladies in their lives into school to celebrate Mother's Day and the special role they play.

The children were delighted to share a special afternoon tea with their guests, creating a warm and enjoyable atmosphere for everyone involved. It was a lovely opportunity for families and children to spend time together and celebrate these important relationships.

Thank you to all the family members and important ladies who attended and helped make the afternoon such a memorable occasion for the children.



Spirituality Day

On Tuesday 16th March we celebrated our whole-school Spirituality Day.

The children explored the concept of spirituality and spiritual development, beginning by using the doughnut analogy. This is where we think about how we all have a space inside of us that needs filling in order to be 'whole'. It's an invisible hole that is filled when we feel a connection to something bigger than ourselves and find meaning in our lives, resulting in peace and joy. The children reflected upon the aspects of their lives that help them to fill their spiritual hole. They also enjoyed eating a real doughnut!



At St John's, we recognise that, there is no universal definition of 'spirituality', because it is a very personal experience. It differs from person to person, and often spirituality changes within people during their lifetime.



Doughnuts!

CAKE SALE



A big well done to the group of children (and parents!) that helped organise the cake sale to help raise money to repair our outdoor play equipment.

The children raised a fantastic amount of **£209.44!**

Thank you to everyone that purchased cakes.



Easter Services

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

at St John's Trent Vale

PALM SUNDAY

29TH MARCH 10AM
Benefice Holy Communion

WEDNESDAY

1ST APRIL 8PM
Prayer and Reflection

MAUNDY THURSDAY

2ND APRIL 7PM
*Holy Communion
with foot washing
followed by vigil*

GOOD FRIDAY

3RD APRIL
10:30AM
Family Craft and Worship

2PM
Stations of the Cross

EASTER SUNDAY

5TH APRIL 10AM
Holy Communion





ENCOUNTER



Join us for an
EASTER
FAMILY CELEBRATION

25/03/2026

3.15pm - 4.45pm

Easter Crafts

Easter Egg Hunt Snacks
Competitions Celebration



Places are free but numbers are limited so you will need to book.

When Something Goes Wrong Online — A Simple Action Plan for Parents

1. Stay Calm First

If your child tells you something worrying:

- Thank them for telling you
- Avoid blaming or panicking
- Reassure them: "We'll deal with this together."

2. Keep the Evidence

- Take screenshots (include usernames and dates)
- Save messages
- Keep profile links

3. Use Official Reporting Routes

Grooming or exploitation – CEOP: www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre

Illegal images – Internet Watch Foundation: www.iwf.org.uk/report

Nude images shared (under 18s) – Report Remove: www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/report-remove

If in immediate danger, call 999.

4. If You Feel Overwhelmed - Use Structured Support

You can use free ChatGPT to help structure next steps.  ChatGPT

Free access: <https://chat.openai.com> Example prompts:

- My child received inappropriate messages. What steps should I take in the UK?
- How do I report online grooming?
- What should I say to my child after cyberbullying?

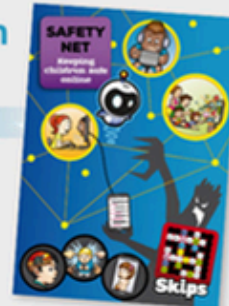
Important: ChatGPT is a support tool and does NOT replace official reporting or police action.

5. Ongoing Protection at Home

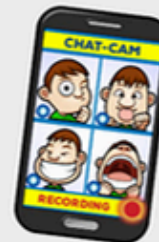
- Keep regular, calm conversations
- Review privacy settings together
- Monitor gaming contacts
- Encourage early disclosure

Children will make mistakes online, just as they do offline.

Trust and communication protect them more than punishment.



scan the QR code with your phone's camera for Parent Guides on how to help keep your children safe online



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

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

Skips Educational Email: info@skipssed.com Tel: +44 121 227 1941

Skips

www.skipssafetynet.org

Developed in partnership with



St. John's CE(A) Primary School Term Dates 2026-2027



Inset Days x 5

Please note we may receive 6 weeks' notice in relation to our school being used as a Polling Station for government elections. These can take place in October/ November or May. We will inform you as soon as dates are confirmed to enable you to plan for childcare on these dates.

Autumn Term 2026

School open to staff (inset day)	Tuesday 1 st September
School open to pupils	Wednesday 2 nd September
School closes end of day	Friday 23 rd October
Half term	Monday 26 th October to Friday 30 th October
School open to staff (inset day)	Monday 2 nd November
School opens to pupils	Tuesday 3 rd November
School closes end of day	Friday 18 th December
Christmas Holiday	Monday 21 st December to Friday 1 st January

Spring Term 2027

School open to staff (inset day)	Monday 4 th January
School open to pupils	Tuesday 5 th January
School closes end of day	Friday 12 th February
Half term	Monday 15 th February to Friday 19 th February
School opens to staff and pupils	Monday 22 nd February
School closes end of day	Thursday 25 th March
Easter Holiday	Friday 26 th March to Friday 9 th April (Easter Sunday - 28 th March)

Summer Term 2027

School open to staff and pupils	Monday 12 th April
May Day Bank Holiday (School closed)	Monday 3 rd May
School closes end of day	Thursday 27 th May
Staff inset (converted to twilights)	Friday 28 th May
Half term	Monday 31 st May to Friday 4 th June
School open to staff (inset day)	Monday 7 th June
School open to staff and pupils	Tuesday 8 th June
School closes end of day for pupils	Wednesday 21 st July
Summer Holiday	Thursday 22 nd July to Friday 3 rd September



Prayer

Dear God,
Thank You for our school and for this
new day.
Help us to learn with open minds and
kind hearts.
Guide us to be honest, respectful, and
helpful to one another.
May our school be filled with peace,
friendship, and joy.
Help us do our best in everything we
do.
Amen.

