



Headteacher: R Soper BA (Hons) PGCE
Chair of Governors: J Walker

Deputy Headteacher: J Morrish BA (Hons) PGCE
Assistant Headteacher H Chapman BED (Hons) MA NASENCo Award



Through our love of God and of each other, our children will thrive personally and academically in a happy, safe place of faith and high expectation for all

March/April 2026

Headteacher's message:

We are so proud of the children and thank our parents for all your continued support during our Ofsted visit just before the Easter break. It was a very thorough inspection conducted by three inspectors with integrity and commitment to ensuring that our children receive the very best learning experience whilst at school with us. Thank you very much for all the parental feedback given during the inspection; it was so inspiring to know that your support was with us throughout the inspection. The children that were spoken to spoke highly of the school and their learning and all three HMIs were extremely complimentary of the behaviour and maturity of the children in lessons and around the school.

The St John's family are...

RESPECTFUL by

- being thoughtful
- being patient
- being silent when walking around the school
- SLANTing in lessons and Collective Worship

LOVING ONE ANOTHER by

- being kind
- caring for and helping one another across the school
- being polite

RESILIENT by

- being hard working
- verbalising our emotions safely
- being the best ME I can be
- believing in yourself
- always engaging in our challenging learning



THIS IS OUR PROMISE



Please can I ask you to continue to support your children with their reading at home by ensuring your child(ren) share their reading books to you daily. Ask them about the books they are reading in school and encourage them to visit the school library as we are still highlighting our most recent purchases!

We are going to be changing our school logo so that is in line with our school values of **respect, resilience** and **kindness**. The children are being consulted as well so hopefully we will come up with a new design that embodies everything we stand for here at St John's.

Thank you for your patience with our kitchen issues before Easter – our new cookers are working brilliantly and just in time to welcome our new catering company, Caterlink.

Mrs Soper
Headteacher

Can I also remind all parents/carers and visitors that the Trim Trail and Forest School area should NOT be used at drop off/collection times please.

Just a reminder that we are a Nut Free School so please ensure that any products, including drinks, do not contain any element of nut based produce. Thank you.





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Calendar reminders coming up this term

Details	Date and time
Woodpecker Class Collective Worship	Friday 8 th May 2026 9:10am – 9:30am
Puffin Class Collective Worship	Friday 22 nd May 2026 9:10am – 9:30am
Nightingale Class Collective Worship	Friday 12 th June 2026 9:10am – 9:30am
Sports Day	Friday 19 th June 2026
Back Up Sports Day	Friday 26 th June 2026
Year 5 & 6 End of Year Production	Tuesday 14 th July 2026 2 pm Wednesday 15 th July 2026 2 pm
Leavers Assembly for Year 6	Friday 17 th July 2026 9.10-10.10
Celebration Assembly (Invitations to be sent directly to parents)	Thursday 16 th July 2026 9.10-10.30
St John's Transition Days	Wednesday 1 st July and Thursday 2 nd July 2026
Father's Day Lunches	Thursday 11 th June 2026 Thursday 18 th June 2026 Thursday 25 th June 2026
PTA Non-Uniform Day	Thursday 21 st May 2026
INSET Day	Monday 2 nd June 2026





A compilation of news from around the school...

In Reception, the children have been developing their phonics skills by building and decoding words. They have also been practising sentence dictation and developing their early reading skills. In literacy, we have focused on recognising speech bubbles in stories and understanding their purpose. The children have practised asking and answering simple questions, linking this to their phonics learning. They have also been writing simple sentences based on familiar stories while exploring new vocabulary.

In maths, the children have been learning to name and identify 3D shapes, describing their properties using vocabulary such as edges, vertices and faces. They have explored 3D shapes in everyday objects and within their environment. The children have also been creating and continuing repeating patterns, including making their own patterns through practical activities such as threading.

Year 1

In Literacy, the children have been studying *The Emperor's New Clothes*. They have been learning how to use conjunctions to form compound sentences, as well as developing their ability to ask questions and use the correct punctuation.

In maths, the focus has been on measurement, including height, weight, capacity and length. The children have used a range of measuring equipment, compared different objects and practised measuring accurately in centimetres.

In Art, the children have been learning how artwork can tell a story. They have explored how characters and settings are shown in pictures and how these features help communicate ideas. The children have also practised sketching using pencils, developing their control and observation skills.

They have looked at how characters are represented in art and discussed the different ways artists express meaning. The children studied Vincent van Gogh's *Starry Night*, focusing on how colour, movement, and brushstrokes are used. They then experimented with a range of brush techniques in their own artwork.

In Science, the children have been learning about the three types of pollution and how we can help to look after the Earth. They have explored the importance of recycling and how it can benefit the environment. The children have sorted materials into recyclable and non-recyclable groups and discussed how our actions can have both positive and negative effects on the planet.

In RE, we have been learning about Holy Week and trying to understand what life would have been like at that time. Holy Week is very important to Christians because it remembers the final days of Jesus' life, including his death on the cross and his resurrection on Easter Sunday. We have also explored different symbols of Easter, such as the egg, which represents new life, the cross, which reminds Christians of Jesus' sacrifice, and the Bible, which teaches about these events. These symbols help Christians understand the meaning of Easter, which is about hope, new beginnings, and the belief that Jesus came back to life.

In PSHE, children have been learning about online safety, including how to recognise when something online makes them feel uncomfortable and the importance of telling a trusted adult. They have also explored where money comes from and how to keep it safe.

In History, Year 1 children have been learning about King Charles I and how he did not want to listen to Parliament. They have explored the idea that there was a time when England did not have a king, helping them understand that the country has changed over time. Children have also been



introduced to the idea of the Divine Right of Kings, where a king believed he had all the power because he was chosen by God. These lessons have helped children begin to understand how power and leadership worked in the past.



In **Year 2** we have had a busy few weeks. As we near the end of our topics, children have been consolidating their learning across the subjects. We have also finished our term of swimming this week. The children worked really hard during our swimming lessons learning safety and confidence in the water. The children all had a go swimming in the deep end, which was a huge confidence boost from the first week! Last week, we also went on a trip! Year 2 went to Ramsey Heights countryside centre, we did lots of outdoor activities and the children had so much fun!





In maths we have been learning about multiplication and division. We have been looking at how we can represent them using arrays and equal grouping problems. The children have been good at remembering the commutativity rule, which has helped them in our lessons. We will continue to revisit addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division throughout the rest of the year to ensure that children continue to improve their arithmetic. In English we have been reading the Legends of King Arthur. As a class, we have been answering questions and using our inference skills with the story to help our understanding. Our skill focus has been to punctuate direct speech. We have looked at the rules that we use to write direct speech, and the children have also thought about synonyms of said.

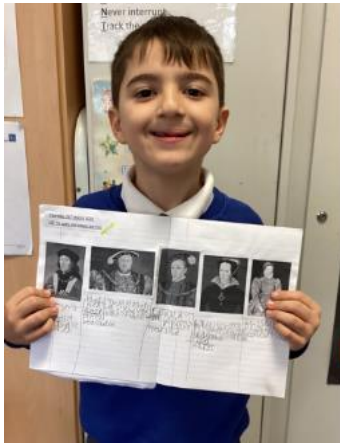


In science, we have been monitoring the cress seeds that we planted to see what the perfect conditions for growth are. The children have taken on the independence of reminding us that they need to be watered so they don't die. Children completed their summary to see if their predictions matched what happened in the experiment.



In History we have nearly completed our topic on the Tudors. Our lessons have focused on the lives of some of the Tudors. We looked at Mary I and Edward VI, two children of Henry VIII, and thought about what the similarities and differences between them were. Finally, we have learned some key facts about Elizabeth I, which we are sure the children will want to share with you. In RE, we have been looking at the topic of salvation. We have been recalling the easter story and thinking deeper about the meaning of some key parts of the story. We have been thinking about the theme of forgiveness and how the Easter story shows the importance of forgiveness. Overall, we have had a busy half term, Well Done Woodpeckers. We are very proud of you! Keep it up. Have a restful break and we will see you next term.





It has been another busy and enjoyable fortnight in **Year 3**, with the children showing great enthusiasm across all areas of learning.

Art

In art, the children explored Anglo-Saxon designs and looked closely at artefacts discovered at Sutton Hoo. They discussed the interlaced, looping patterns often used in Anglo-Saxon jewelry and metalwork, sometimes including animals woven into the designs. The children painted their own symmetrical patterns using watercolours. They also learned about the Lindisfarne Gospels and began designing their own illuminated letters inspired by these beautifully decorated manuscripts.

Geography

In geography, we have been learning about the Southwest of England and its famous coastline. The children explored how erosion shapes the coast over time and learned about the Jurassic Coast and landmarks such as the Durdle Door. We also discussed why the Southwest is a popular tourist destination and why tourism is important to the region.

History

In history, the children learned about Viking raids and invasions in Britain, including the attack on the monastery at Lindisfarne. They also studied King Alfred the Great; the Anglo-Saxon king of Wessex who defeated Viking forces at the Battle of Edington and helped establish peace between the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings.

Science

In science, the class investigated friction and learned that it is the force created when two surfaces rub together. The children carried out an experiment using toy cars and different surfaces to see which created the most friction. We also began exploring magnets, learning that magnets attract certain metals such as iron and steel.

English

In English, the children have been focusing on grammar, including adverbs, compound and complex sentences, and different types of nouns. As part of our Easter learning, they wrote diary entries from Mary's perspective during the events of the crucifixion and resurrection, using emotive language and writing in the first person.



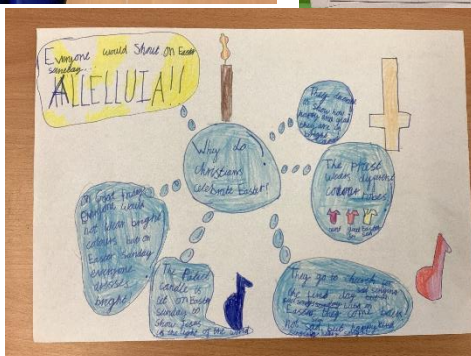
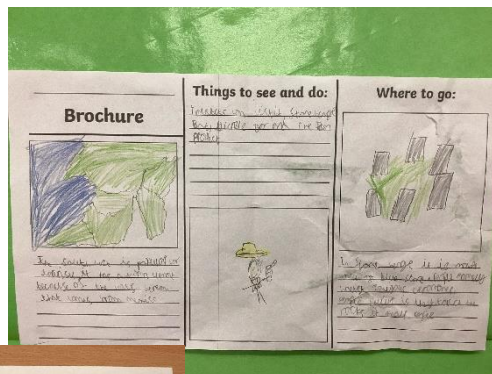
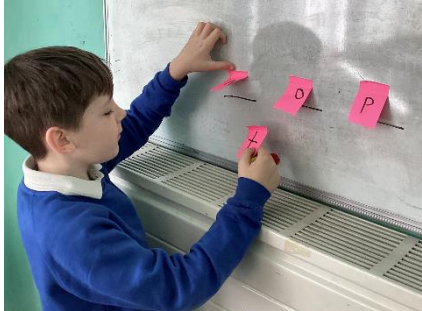
Maths

In maths, the children have been learning to find unit and non-unit fractions of amounts, solving worded problems and representing fractions using pictures. They have also been exploring simple linear sequences.

RE

In RE, the children learned about the importance of Easter for Christians. They explored the events of Holy Week and discussed why Christians believe the resurrection of Jesus is important. The children also looked at how Christians celebrate Easter in their church communities.

Well, done to all the children for their continued effort and enthusiasm in their learning!





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In **Year 4's** Maths class, we have been deepening our understanding of decimal numbers to two places. The children have used this knowledge to sequence decimal numbers and say which is greater or less using the correct notation. They have then moved on to solving worded problems too. In English, we have learnt all about punctuating direct speech accurately and finding appropriate reporting clauses. We have remembered all about statements, commands, exclamations and questions, and we have learnt to identify and use relative clauses. Additionally, we have also revisited how to use fronted adverbials effectively.

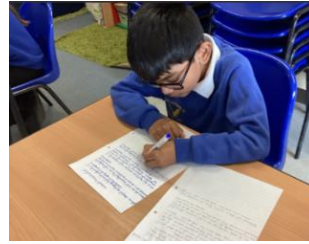


In Geography we have been focusing on Northern Ireland in the UK, and we have researched why the country has so many visitors and the physical and human features there too. In RE, Year 4 have continued to study the Pentecost, and in history Year 4 have been learning about Pax Romana and the rule of the first Emperor -Augustus. In Science we have continued to study how sound is created and how it moves through air, water and solids.

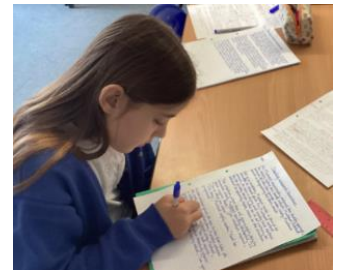




This week in **Year 5** English, the children completed and edited their *Skellig*-inspired narratives, showing great care in improving their vocabulary and sentence structure. They then moved on to a non-fiction historical report, focusing on the three main reasons behind the abolition of the slave trade in 1807. This included resistance from enslaved Africans, political and economic factors such as the war between Britain and France making trade routes more dangerous and the impact of the Haitian Revolution, and the work of key abolitionists like Olaudah Equiano, William Wilberforce and Thomas Clarkson. The children carefully planned and wrote their reports, focusing on using a formal tone, relative clauses and adverbials to create cohesive writing



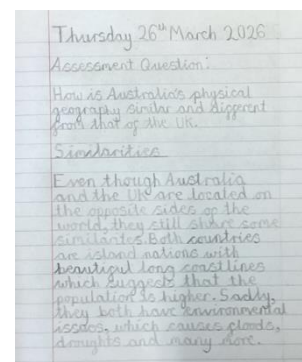
This week in Maths, the children developed their understanding of equivalence between fractions, decimals and percentages. They used Dienes to represent tenths and hundredths, exploring how 1/10 is equivalent to 0.1 and 1/100 is equivalent to 0.01, and discussed their ideas using key vocabulary such as equivalent and value. They then linked this to percentages, recognising that 10% is equivalent to 1/10 and 1% is equivalent to 1/100. Finally, the children practised converting fractions into equivalent fractions with a denominator of 100 to find percentages, for example changing 2/5 into 40/100 to show it is equivalent to 40%.



This week in Art, the children explored traditional Chinese art, focusing on both painting and ceramics. They learned about Chinese brush painting, including the materials used, common subjects such as nature, and key features like symmetry, simplicity and the use of black ink, as well as the inclusion of calligraphy, poetry and seals. They then studied Ming Dynasty porcelain, exploring how it was carefully made and decorated using cobalt blue, and how it was traded with Europe before being produced there. Throughout the week, the children practised using traditional materials to create their own calligraphy and paintings of bamboo and flowers, developing control, precision and confidence in using a range of brushstrokes and ink techniques to create expressive pieces.



In PSHE this term, the children have been exploring how to lead healthy lifestyles. They investigated healthy eating using the Eatwell Plate, learning about the different food groups and how to create balanced meals. The children then applied their knowledge by designing their own healthy school menus, carefully considering nutrition and variety.





Alongside this, we have been discussing digital lifestyles, focusing on the importance of healthy habits when using screens. The children learned about the potential consequences of too much screen time, including poor posture and eye strain, and explored ways to stay safe and healthy in a digital world.

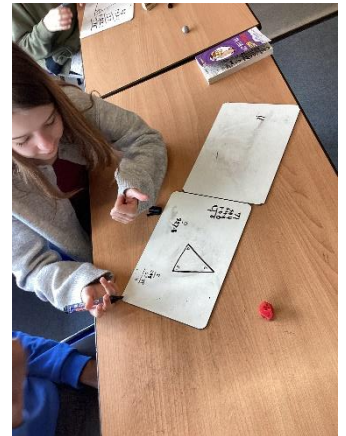
In Geography this term, the children completed their end-of-unit assessment, where they demonstrated their understanding of the similarities and differences between the Australia and the United Kingdom. They explored key geographical concepts including hemispheres, climate, and environmental issues, as well as comparing native animals and types of land use such as pastoral farming. The children showed great knowledge in identifying how these two countries are both similar and different in a range of physical and human geographical features.

Year 6

The last couple of weeks have been a whirlwind of learning, energy and determination in Year 6. With SATs on the horizon, the children have been working incredibly hard and showing real maturity in their approach to revision and new learning.

English

Year 6 have been securing their understanding of **subordination and co-ordination**, linking these skills to effective **sentence combining**. This is a challenging area of grammar, but the children have shown real perseverance as they break down the components of complex sentences and apply



accurate punctuation.

They have been putting these skills to excellent use in their **newspaper reports about Kristallnacht**, demonstrating both thoughtful writing and a growing command of sentence structure.

Maths

Mr Walter's class have been deepening their understanding of **fractions**, exploring how to use a range of calculations confidently—an essential skill as they prepare for secondary school.

Mrs Hase's class have been investigating **angles**, covering:

- Angles on a straight line
- Angles in triangles
- Angles in quadrilaterals
- Angles around a point

The children particularly enjoyed the interactive games and challenges designed to secure this knowledge.





History

Our World War II topic has continued to spark thoughtful discussion. This fortnight, the children have explored: The **Battle of Britain**, The **Holocaust** and the events surrounding it. They have approached these sensitive topics with maturity and respect, showing a real depth of understanding.

Geography

Year 6 have been travelling (in spirit!) to **South America**, discovering the wonders of the **Inca Empire** and the incredible site of **Machu Picchu**. They've also been linking this learning back to their English work through sentence combining—an impressive bit of cross-curricular thinking.

PE

This week's PE session put Year 6 through their paces with an **intense circuit-training workout**. The activities challenged their: strength, co-ordination, stamina. The children rose to the challenge brilliantly and showed great team spirit.

