

Friday 17th April 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been lovely coming back to school, this week, following the Easter break. I have had the privilege of taking assemblies in both schools and have been impressed with the positive attitude that I have seen from the children, as they have settled back in. One of my highlights this week was the opportunity to spend time in Reception watching children taking part in drawing club. The children's progress in their writing skills is really clear to see. Later today, I will be taking a group of Year 6 children to focus on writing and am looking forward to seeing how those early foundations that we set are translated to our oldest children.

School Offer Day

Yesterday was the primary school offer day. Parents of children in Year 2 will have heard about their placement for Year 3 and we are really looking forward to them carrying on their education at St Nic's. We always give a period of time for parents to accept their offers, and in a few weeks', will be sending out a welcome letter providing parents with the key dates for transition.

For those of you with children due to start in Reception next year, we are looking forward to welcoming our new children. Again, a letter will be sent out in a few weeks' time to our new Reception parents.

Lunchtime Controller Advert

We are currently advertising for a lunchtime controller at St Nicolas School. If you are interested in applying, the link for the advert is below:

<https://www.stjohnandstnicolasschools.org.uk/vacancies/>

Year 6 Parent Meeting – Osmington Bay and SATs

On Tuesday 21st April at 6pm, I will be holding an information evening for parents of Year 6 children combining information about the Year 6 residential visit to Osmington Bay in June with information on the Year 6 SATs tests and teacher assessments happening this term. The meeting will be on Teams and the link to join is below:

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/375387063246171?p=AlsRUtw86DScgfxm97>

Meeting ID:

375 387 063 246 171

Passcode:
Da2iB3eW

Healthy Snacks – St Nic's

Please remember that there are some snacks that children are not allowed as break time snacks – these include crisps, sweets and chocolate. If you would like your child to bring a break time snack, we would recommend a piece of fruit, a cereal bar or perhaps some plain popcorn.

Parking Near the School

Once again, this week, we had a parent who narrowly avoided their foot being run over by a car, when walking home from school. There are two main reasons for this: parents parking in inappropriate places, obstructing points where parents might cross roads and not properly observing people nearby before pulling away.

We very much encourage all children to walk, cycle or scooter to school. In order for our children to be able to do this safely, it is essential that those people who drive their children think about others around them.

Please help us to avoid a serious incident.

Support for Families: Breakfast Clubs and School-Age Childcare

We know that reliable childcare before and after school is really important for many families.

There is currently a national programme to introduce free breakfast clubs in schools across England. At this stage, the programme is being rolled out first to schools with the highest levels of disadvantage, based on national criteria set by the Department for Education.

Because of this, most schools in our area are not eligible to take part at the moment. One local school is currently involved in the programme, and the local council is supporting that school with delivery.

Alongside this national programme, the council is continuing to work with schools and local childcare providers to make sure families can access:

- Before-school care
- After-school clubs
- Holiday childcare

The council's main priority is helping to maintain and protect existing childcare provision, which many parents and carers rely on for work, training, and family life. The council will continue to keep in touch with schools and monitor any future changes to national funding or eligibility for breakfast clubs.

We run our own wraparound childcare, including before- and after-school provision. If you have any questions, please contact the school office for further information.

Music lessons at St John's

Good Vibes Music Academy has two spaces left for guitar or ukulele lessons at St John's and want to make sure that any students that wish to learn have the opportunity to do so. Good Vibes' lessons are based around famous songs that students will love playing! If you want to start lessons, sign up at <https://www.goodvibesmusicacademy.co.uk/stjohns> and your child will be strumming in no time!

Newbury Building Society Competition

Cake-tastic Calendar Competition – Newbury Building Society

Newbury Building Society's calendar competition is back, and this year, we're on the lookout for glorious cake designs to help to celebrate our 170th anniversary!

The winner will receive a **£50 Hobbycraft voucher**, have their design feature on the front cover of our calendar, and have their cake design made for real! The 11 runners-up will have their designs included in the calendar and win a **£25 Hobbycraft voucher** and special apron perfect for future makes, bakes, and creative projects.

How to enter

Scan the QR code to be taken to our website or pick up a paper entry form in your local Newbury Building Society branch. All entrants will need permission from a parent or guardian, and don't forget to read the terms and conditions before entering.



For full terms and conditions and further information, visit bit.ly/nbs-caketastic, email marketing@newbury.co.uk or visit us in branch.

The competition will close on **1 September 2026**. Happy designing, and good luck!

Kind regards,

Marketing Team
Newbury Building Society

Attendance

Congratulations to Cherry Class at St John's with 97.8% attendance and 3S at St Nic's with 97.1% attendance. Both classes have won our attendance aardvarks for this week.

Attendance at each school last week was as follows:

- St John's: 95.1%
- St Nic's 95.1%

Across the two schools, there were 43 late marks last week. Every minute that a child is late can impact on their learning. Please ensure your child is in school, on time, each day.

Writer of the Week

Well done to Aadita in Year 4, who was this week's writer of the week. The inspiration for next week's writer of the week is below:



Sam couldn't believe his eyes. Through the lens of his new telescope, the night sky burst into life with twinkling stars and swirling galaxies. It was as if he had unlocked a secret door to the universe

Year 2 Homework

Marvellous Maths

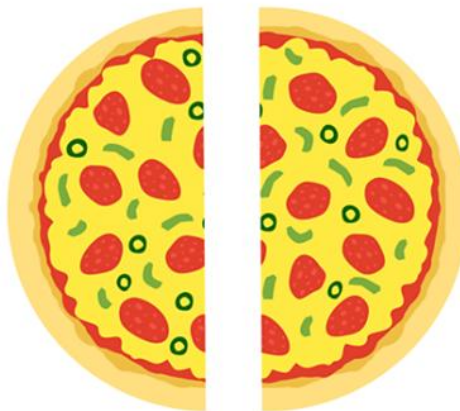
This week in maths we have started to look at Fractions. BBC Bitesize has some information on what Fractions are.

[What are fractions? - KS1 Maths resources for Year 2 - BBC Bitesize](#)

How to write fractions

Look at this pizza. It has been cut into two equal slices.

Each of the equal slices is a fraction.



What is a fraction?

A **fraction** is part of a whole.

The whole can be a shape, a length, a number or a set of objects.

Fractions are always divided into equal parts.



Half

A **half** is one of two equal parts that together make a whole.



Quarter

A **quarter** is one of four equal parts that together make a whole.

This pizza has been cut into **halves**. This means there are 2 equal parts.

The two parts must be the same size and shape.

If you put the two halves back together you will get one whole.

To write a fraction, follow these steps:

1. Write the division bar.

2. Write the denominator. This is how many parts the whole has been divided into.

3. Write the numerator. This is how many parts you have.



1 numerator
— division bar
2 denominator

Does this show $\frac{1}{2}$?



No - there are 3 equal parts

Does this show $\frac{1}{2}$?

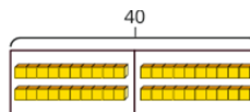
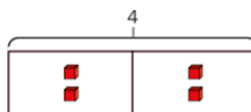
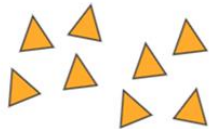


Yes - there are 2 equal parts

Online game you may wish to play— can you spot a half or not a half? [Is it half? - True or false](#)

Is it a whole or a half? [Math: Whole & Half - Quiz](#) We have also looked at finding $\frac{1}{2}$ of an amount

Find $\frac{1}{2}$ of each set of objects.



$\frac{1}{2}$ of 4 = _____

$\frac{1}{2}$ of 40 = _____

$\frac{1}{2}$ of 6 = _____

$\frac{1}{2}$ of 60 = _____

$\frac{1}{2}$ of 8 = _____

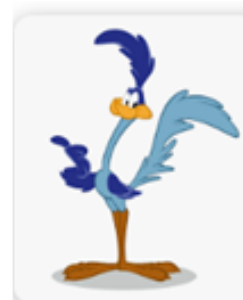
$\frac{1}{2}$ of 80 = _____

Year 2 Spellings

Term 5	New Skills for Year 2	Special Skill
Week 1	/or/ phoneme spelt 'a' before 'l' and 'll' (e.g. fall/ball, talk/walk)	Homophones: there/their/they're

Drawing Club

Drawing Club is a way of igniting joy and a love of stories with the early years and follows Greg Bottrell's beliefs and passions. Your child will be using their imagination to create new characters, settings, and events for this story. They will be adding marks, codes, labels, and messages to their work and realising that they are writers! Each week we will choose a different story or an animation, this week our animation is:



They will also be learning some exciting new vocabulary with actions. This week's vocabulary list is:

Speedy
Zooming
Accident
Slinking
Ambush
Escape
Patient
Boulder

Phonics Books for the Week

Reception:

[https://parents.fft.org.uk/viewer/?pdf=S21 Jim and the Corn&d=Jim%20and%20the%20Corn](https://parents.fft.org.uk/viewer/?pdf=S21%20Jim%20and%20the%20Corn)
<https://vimeo.com/692012728/717092ecf4>

Year 1:

[https://parents.fft.org.uk/viewer/?pdf=S57 In the Spring Sunshine&d=In%20the%20Spring%20Sunshine](https://parents.fft.org.uk/viewer/?pdf=S57%20In%20the%20Spring%20Sunshine)
<https://vimeo.com/731076564/070241abe9>

Year 2: <https://parents.fft.org.uk/viewer/?pdf=Lost&d=Lost>

Upcoming Dates

Tuesday 21 st April:	Year 6 parent meeting – SATs and Osmington Bay 6pm
Wed 22 nd to Fri 24 th April:	Year 5 residential visit to Grittleton House
Friday 1 st May:	Early Years Trip to Highclere
Friday 1 st May 6.30pm:	International Evening
Monday 4 th May:	Bank Holiday – no school
Week beginning 11 th May:	Year 6 SATs Week
Wednesday 12 th May:	Year 4 Multiplication Check Parent Meeting 6pm
WB 18 th May:	Arts Week
WB 18 th May:	Early Years Share and Celebrate
WB 25 th May:	Half Term break
Monday 1 st June:	Start of Summer 2
WB 1 st June:	Year 4 Multiplication Check
Thursday 4 th June:	Pentecost picnic and service
WB 8 th June:	Year 1 and 2 phonics check week
WB 8 th June:	St Nic's share and celebrate
Sunday 14 th June:	Year 6 leaving for Osmington Bay
WB 15 th June:	Year 1 and 2 share and celebrate
Friday 19 th June:	Year 1 and 2 Sports Day
Friday 19 th June:	Junior Music Festival at Hexagon
WB 22 nd June:	Sustainability Week
Tuesday 23 rd June:	St Nic's Sports Day
Friday 27 th June:	FOSJSN Summer Event
Friday 3 rd July:	Early Years Sports Day
Monday 6 th July:	Change over day
WB 6 th July:	Parents' Evenings
WB 13 th July:	Year 2 and 6 Plays
Monday 20 th July:	St John's Leavers' Service am
Monday 20 th July:	St Nic's Leavers' Service pm
Tuesday 21 st July:	End of term

Yours sincerely,

Keith Harvey
Executive Headteacher