

Friday 6th March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

My weekly highlight has to be World Book Day yesterday. It was lovely to see the enthusiasm of the children across both schools – there were some amazing costumes and children were really showing a love of reading. Thank you to the parents, who were able to come in and read with their children; this really encourages children to develop a love of reading. Thank you also to the staff for the efforts that everyone put in to make the day so successful.

St Nicolas School Breakfast Club

Please ensure that children are not left unaccompanied before breakfast club starts at 8am.

Parent View Survey Results: February 2026

As governors we are always concerned to understand your perspective on our federation so that, alongside the senior leadership team, we can continue to work “for the good of all”

A big thank you to all of you who responded. We received 101 responses, 39 from St John’s and 63 from St. Nic’s. The results are all anonymous and are then combined across the federation. Using the same questions year on year enables us to evaluate responses from your perspective, as well as being able to address any concerns and issues you may have.

The overall results continue to be encouragingly positive:

- 99% agreed / strongly agreed that their child is happy, feels safe at school and that the school ensures its pupils are well behaved.
- Of those who had raised concerns only 5% felt they were not dealt with properly.
- 84% agreed/ strongly agreed that the school has high expectations of their child.
- 93% agreed/ strongly agreed that their child is doing well at school.
- Of those children with SEND, 98% of parents felt their child is receiving the support they need.
- Of those that were aware of the school’s response to bullying, 100% now feel it is dealt with quickly and effectively.
- As previously, 91% of respondents agreed/ strongly agreed that the school made them aware of what their child will learn during the year.
- 92% agreed/ strongly agreed that the school lets them know how well their child is doing, 6% disagreed and this was reflected in individual anonymous responses where concern was expressed that there is no feedback on progress except at parents’ evenings.
- 95% agreed/ strongly agreed that a good range of subjects is offered.
- 90% agreed/ strongly agreed that there is the opportunity to take part in clubs and activities at school.
- 92% agreed/ strongly agreed that the school supports their child’s wider personal development.
- 98% would recommend this school to another parent.

Thank you also for the additional positive and appreciative comments, which included wrap around care, enrichment activities, the quality of the staff and their own child's enjoyment of school life. These have been passed on and are greatly valued by the staff.

We also take note of your individual concerns. Thank you for raising them. These concerns include staff absence, extension work and the need for consistency across a year group.

All this data and the individual comments are fed back to the full governing board for consultation and action in conjunction with the SLT – thereby ensuring that the Federation continues to go from strength to strength as parents, staff and governors continue to work together 'for the good of all'

With best wishes and thanks to you all

Barbara McKenzie

On behalf of the full Governing Board of St John and St Nicolas Schools Federation

St Nic's Share and Celebrate

We will be holding Share and Celebrate at St Nic's on the week beginning 16th March. The plan for the sessions is as follows:

Tuesday 17 th March:	Year 3 9am - 9.30am
Tuesday 17 th March:	Opportunity for parents that can not make a morning session 6pm - 6.30pm
Wednesday 18 th March:	Year 4 9am - 9.30am
Thursday 19 th March:	Year 5 9am - 9.30am
Friday 20 th March:	Year 6 9am - 9.30am

St Nic's Mock SATs Results

We will be sending out a short report to parents of children in Year 6 next week, detailing their mock SATs results. This will be emailed to parents and will show the results that the children achieved in October and February.

Walk to School Initiative

This week, the children took part in a walk to school assembly organised by Living Streets. From this week, we are beginning to do a weekly check of how many children are walking, cycling or scootering to school, with the aim that children can earn badges for doing this.

We do know that some parents have no choice but to drive, but we would ask those parents to try to park around 10 minutes' walk from school so that your child can still walk to school through Park and Stride. I am sure that you will hear more about this in the coming weeks.

Bag2School

The Friends of St John's and St Nic's have arranged another Bag2School collection for Thursday 19th March at St Nic's School. Families from either school may drop any unwanted clothes, shoes, bags etc off at St Nic's School on Wednesday 18th March, or before 9am on Thursday 19th March.

St John's Church Mothering Sunday Service



Tim Furr's Doodle Class



Suitable for children from 6 to 12 years. £16.50
City Arts Newbury, 10 Hampton Road, Newbury RG14 6DB

More information on the workshop can be found here:

<https://cityartsnewbury.org/march-2026/>

Attendance

Congratulations to Poplar Class at St John's with an excellent 100% attendance and 5N at St Nic's with 98.4% attendance. Both classes have won our attendance aardvarks for this week.

Attendance at each school last week was as follows:

- St John's: 98.2%
- St Nic's 95.9%

The attendance at both schools was really good last week, particularly at St John's. Every day in school is important and we are keen to boost our attendance. Across the two schools, there were 41 children late 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.

Food pouch lids needed please

If you have any lids from children's food pouches (as in the photo below), we'd appreciate them at St John's School. Please could you wash and hand them in to the office.



Writer of the Week

Congratulations to this week's writers of the week: Prisha (Year 4), Shinjan (Year 5), Avyaan (Year 3), Aarvi (Year 5) and Aadita (Year 4). The inspiration for next week is below:

Out of the pages

As Reuben turned the final page of the ancient leather-bound book, a gust of wind swept through his room, causing the pages to flutter wildly. Startled, he stumbled backwards, only to find himself standing at the edge of a dense, mysterious forest.



Year 2 Homework

Maths

This week in maths we have been measuring in cm and m. Encourage your child to find 5 objects around the house and measure them in cm. Ensure that they start measuring from 0 on their ruler!

Put the objects in order of length.

For challenge can they find the difference in length between the shortest and longest in cm?

[Coconut Ordering - Comparing Numbers, Prices, Mass, Length and Capacity](#)- please pick the game measuring length

[Measuring in Centimetres](#)

Spellings

Week 2	Irregular plural nouns & revise rule for -s /-es	half, woman, women*	Contraction: haven't
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E.g. foxes, dresses, buses, beaches, benches, pears, carrots

Introduce the idea that some nouns do not take an -s ending in the plural. They either stay the same or take another form to indicate the plural.

Remind children about the rule for regular plural nouns (add an -s) and for nouns ending 'sh', 'ch', 's', 'ss', 'x' or 'z' (add -es)

Model
boy + s
box + es
dish + es

Draw a table with two columns (singular and plural). 'fish' goes in singular and then also in plural, 'person' goes in singular then 'people' in plural, same with 'mouse' / 'mice'.

Model
fish - fish
person - people
mouse - mice

Remind the children about contraction words (when we 'push two words together' to shorten them, we use an apostrophe to show where the missing letter/s would go)

Model
haven't = have not

E.g. You haven't been to visit us for a while.

Guided Reading Book: [Viewer – Parent Portal](#) The dreams of Moxie Mouse and Cat Capone

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 story is The Three Little Pigs.

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

CONSTRUCT

STURDY

FLIMSY

TAUNTING

OBLITERATE

SCARPER

CELEBRATE

EXHALE



See if they can teach you the actions!

Phonics Books for the Week

Reception: https://parents.fft.org.uk/viewer/?pdf=S17_Goal&d=Goal!
<https://vimeo.com/692003431/d9fe7fb256>

Year 1: https://parents.fft.org.uk/viewer/?pdf=S52_An_Extra_Pudding&d=An%20Extra%20Pudding
<https://vimeo.com/731076508/bc15ad82ea>

Year 2:

https://parents.fft.org.uk/viewer/?pdf=The_Dreams_of_Moxie_Mouse_and_Cat_Capone&d=Fox%20and%20Hen

Upcoming Dates

Tuesday 10 th March:	Mini Grey visiting St Nic's
Wednesday 11 th March:	Mini Grey visiting St John's
Thursday 12 th March:	Celebration worship at 10.10am
Thursday 19 th March:	Bag2School collection at St Nic's 9am
Wednesday 25 th March:	Easter Services (St John's AM/ St Nic's PM)

Yours sincerely,

Keith Harvey
Executive Headteacher