

13th February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have made it to the end of what has been an extremely wet half term. Somehow, we have got there, despite more wet plays and lunchtimes than I can remember in a half term in my 30+ years of teaching. I hope that everyone enjoys their break and I look forward to seeing all the children back on Monday 23rd February.

Staff News

I am pleased to let you know that we have appointed Mrs Ellen Clinch as our new Family Support Worker to take over from Lesley O'Rourke, when she leaves us at the end of the spring term. Many of you will know Ellen as a former parent and the organiser of our international evenings for the past few years.

Spare Clothes – St John's

We are very short of spare clothes at St John's – items to put children into if they have an accident. If you have any clothes that can be donated, in particular trousers and pants, please drop them off at the school office.

St Nic's Parking

Once again, I have received a complaint due to parents parking on double yellow lines outside St Nic's school, leaving them unable to cross the road safely. Please think of others and park in a recognised parking spot.

Mrs Littlechild London Marathon

Mrs Littlechild is running the London Marathon in April for Sue Ryder. Please keep your eye peeled for some fundraising events after school next half term!

Here is her sponsorship link, all donations are greatly appreciated.

https://www.justgiving.com/page/charlotte-littlechild-6?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL

Astronomy Club – St Nic's

The local Astronomy Club has offered to come in and host a free evening event for children and parents, with a short talk followed by observing the night sky through telescopes.

This will take place on Monday 10th March with the session running from 6pm-8pm. The event is for St Nic's children accompanied by a parent with a maximum number of 25 children. If you are

interested in your child attending this, please email the school office. The first 25 emails received will be offered a place.

Pancake Day at St John's Church

St John's Church are having a pancake hour next Tuesday 17th February from 3.30pm to 4.30pm. If you are planning on going, please let Father Gary know (gcollins.priest@southnewbury.org) so that he knows the quantity of ingredients to purchase.



Library Show

I just wanted to share details of an exciting Watermill Theatre show 'Marina Sets Sail' that's taking place in some of our libraries during the holidays.

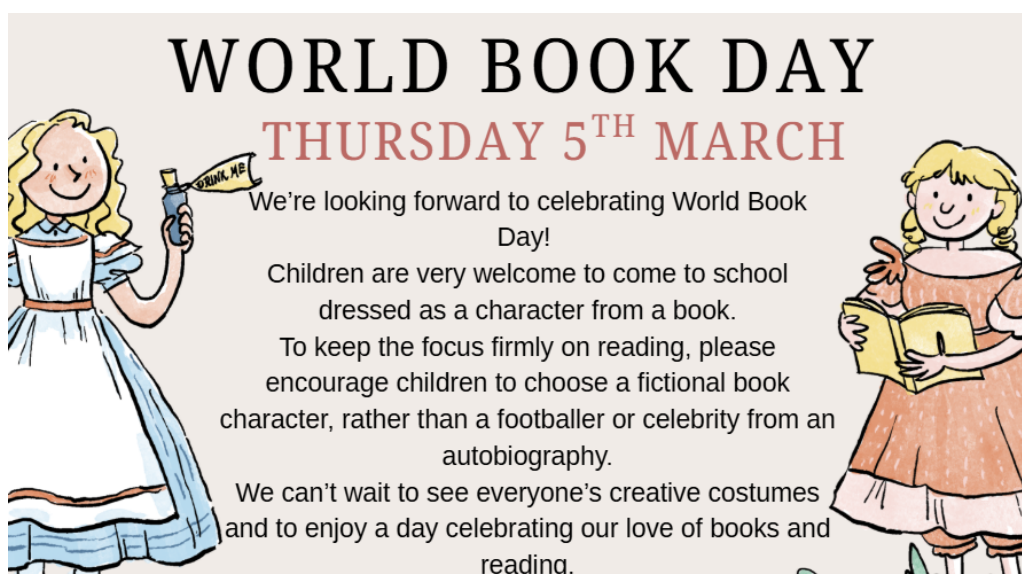
In partnership with the Watermill Theatre, this brand-new show is written and performed by Lizzie Lewis especially for children aged 2-6 years. The story is about Marina, who dreams of honouring her Sea Captain mother. After discovering a mysterious message in a bottle on the beach, Marina sets off on a treasure hunt across the waves and a journey full of surprises!

The performance at Newbury Library takes place on Sunday 15th February, 11am-11:45am. The running time is 35 minutes followed by an opportunity for children to take part in a creative activity.

Advance booking is essential. Adults: £10, children £7.

To book online: <https://tinyurl.com/wberkslibraries29>

World Book Day



Attendance

Congratulations to Tulip Class at St John's with 96.9% attendance and 6S at St Nic's with 98.5% attendance. Both classes have won our attendance aardvarks for this week.

Attendance at each school last week was as follows:

- St John's: 94.0%
- St Nic's 95.7%

Across the two schools, there were 63 children late last week, which is an increase on the previous week. Please ensure your child is in school, on time, each day.

Writer of the Week

Congratulations to Sebi in Year 3 and Ryan in Year 5 for being this week's writers of the week. A particular well done to Mina in Year 4, whose story starter is the stimulus for next week's writer of the week:

Daisy the Diver

Hi, my name is Daisy and I love adventure. Every Wednesday, I go diving deep under the sea. I pull on my blue wetsuit, clip on my oxygen tank and slip my pink flippers onto my feet.

As I sink beneath the rippling water, colourful fish dart past me and bubbles float up to the surface. It is usually calm and peaceful down here... but today feels different.

Clutching my waterproof map, I spot something unusual ahead. Something shiny. Something mysterious. I take a deep breath and swim closer, wondering if this dive is about to turn into my biggest adventure yet.



Year 2 Homework

Maths

This week we have been looking at the 2 times table and dividing by 2. Help support your child by practicing counting in 2s, grouping objects into twos and writing number sentences. Can they solve the following division problems?

How many fish are there altogether?
Can you count in 2s to find the total?



There are 8 fish altogether.

We can write a multiplication to match the representation.

4 groups $4 \times 2 = 8$ 8 altogether
 2 in each group

There are 24 socks on a washing line.
They are put into pairs.
How many pairs of socks are there?

I'm going to use a
number line.



We have also been doubling and halving numbers and working out whether they are an odd number or an even number. Here are some online games your child might like to play:

Doubling and halving, times tables and division-

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>

<https://ictgames.com/mobilePage/archeryDoubles/index.html>

Division games <https://ictgames.com/mobilePage/doggyDivision/index.html>

Spelling

In spelling we have been consolidating our learning from this term:

Week 1	Words ending in: -le/-el	parents	Contraction: it's
Week 2	Words ending in: -al/-il	father, past*, fast*, last*	Contractions: wasn't /isn't
Week 3	Words ending in: -y (happy)	what, pretty, every, everybody	Contraction: what's
Week 4	Words ending in: -y (cry)	any, many, busy, does	Contraction: doesn't
Week 5	Adding endings to single-syllable words ending in a single consonant (e.g. pat/patted)	could, would, should	Contractions: couldn't, wouldn't, shouldn't

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 Bagpuss.



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

EXTRAORDINARY
MISPLACED
GORGEOUS
FELINE
DISCOVERED
SNOOZING
AWAKENED
ALERT

See if they can teach you the actions!

Phonics Books for the Week

Reception: https://parents.fft.org.uk/S15_Up_the_Tree
<https://vimeo.com/692003394/cb4c8c52cd>

Year 1: https://parents.fft.org.uk/S50_The_Sock_Dispute
<https://vimeo.com/781539663/c5fb4a5dbb>

Upcoming Dates

Monday 23 rd February:	Beginning of Spring Term 2
Wednesday 25 th February	Year 4 cross country trials
Thursday 26 th February:	Year 4 Greek Day at Ufton Court
Thursday 26 th February:	Celebration worship 10.10am
Friday 27 th February:	Year 6 cross country trials

Yours sincerely,

Keith Harvey
Executive Headteacher