

16th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am pleased to say that the issues with the St John's heating and hot water have now, hopefully, been resolved. Thank you to everyone for being so flexible with lunches this week.

I was particularly impressed this week with our Year 6 children, on their trip to Williams Racing. I have heard that their behaviour was very good and that they showed real interest in the trip. We are so fortunate to have opportunities such as this, particularly with STEM subjects. Thank you to all of the staff that accompanied and to Mrs Davies for organising.

Safeguarding

We work hard in both of our schools to ensure all children are safe, following national safeguarding procedures across both schools. This is our number one priority for our children. We always value parents' feedback on any aspect of our school life and this is particularly important if you are concerned that your child is not safe, for any reason. Please do email me, if you have concerns. Our safeguarding policy is available on our website:

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

St John's Pick Up

At St John's, we have recently noticed a small number of children being picked up by older siblings in Year 7 or 8. Please be aware that due to the age of the children at St John's, we will not be able to release children to any sibling under the age of 14, without a parent also being present.

Can parents also please remember to wait in the lower car park area, until the gates are opened, when you are picking up at the end of the day. It can be quite disruptive to children's learning, particularly in Beech class, when parents are waiting near the classrooms.

Attendance Aardvark

Congratulations to Oak Class at St John's with 97.7% attendance and 6N at St Nic's with 99.7% attendance. Both classes have won our attendance aardvarks for this week. Attendance at each school last week was as follows:

- St John's: 95.0%
- St Nic's 96.6%

Across the two schools, there were 64 children late last week. For most of these, it was just a couple of minutes, but even this can have an impact, with children arriving late into class for their register and often feeling a bit flustered. Please try to ensure your child arrives in school in plenty of time for the start of the day. St John's officially starts at 8.45am and St Nic's at 9am. Please try to ensure your child arrives before these times.

Smart Watches

We have noticed a number of children wearing Smart watches since the Christmas break. Can we please remind all parents that Smart watches are not allowed to be worn to school. The reason for this is that on some models, children have the ability to communicate using the watch in a way similar to a mobile phone. If your child has a Smart watch, please do not allow them to wear it to school.

Science Festival

We have been asked to let you know about a free, family-friendly science festival taking place at Oxford Brookes University.

The Oxford Brookes Science Bazaar will be held on **Saturday 21st February, 9:30am-4:00pm**, at the **Headington Campus (OX3 0BP)**. The event is designed to inspire curiosity and excitement around science through hands-on, interactive activities, and is most suitable for children aged **5–12**, though all ages are welcome.

With over **70 drop-in activities**, families can explore science together in a relaxed and engaging environment. On the day, visitors can enjoy:

- **Hands-on science activities** led by real scientists, researchers, and students.
- **Live science shows and demonstrations** throughout the day.
- **Interactive workshops** covering topics such as psychology, medicine, engineering, robotics, coding, nutrition, and more.
- **STEM games and challenges**, with prizes to be won.

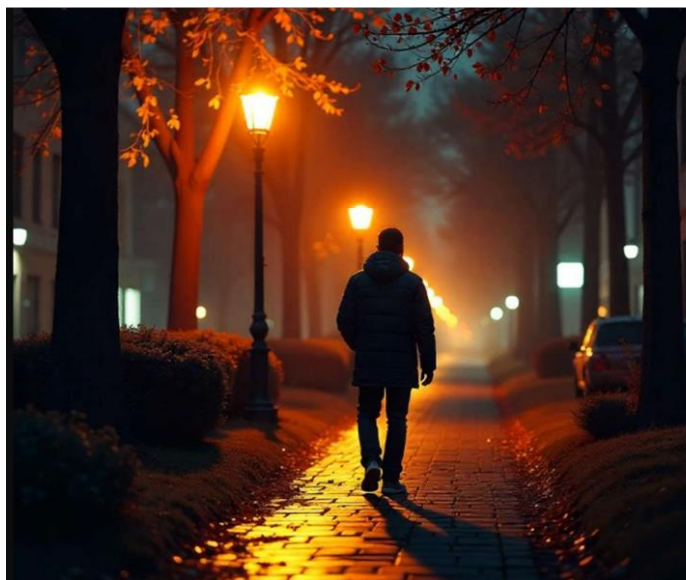
The Science Bazaar is a great opportunity for children to experience science outside the classroom, ask questions, and see how science connects to everyday life and future careers.

Event details

- **Date:** Saturday 21st February 2026
- **Time:** 9:30am-4:00pm
- **Location:** Oxford Brookes University, Headington Campus, OX3 0BP
- **Cost:** Free
- **Booking required:** [\[booking link\]](#)

Writer of the Week

Congratulations to Prisha in Year 4, who is this week's writer of the week. The stimulus for next week is below:



As he walked
along the
cold, dark
night, a
rustling
began from
the trees...

Year 2 Homework

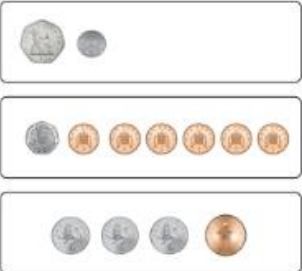
Maths

This week we have moved onto handling money.

Let your child explore some of your spare change. See if they can recognise the value of each coin.
How much is it worth?

Can they find the total of adding various coins and notes up.

Your child may like to complete the following sheet

Circle the smallest amount of money below.  © greenacres.co.uk	James has 2 coins in his wallet. He has 1 10p coin. He has 30p altogether. Circle the other coin James has in his wallet.  © greenacres.co.uk
Amy describes the coins she has in her pocket. Amy I have 3 10p coins and 6 1p coins in my pocket. Write the amount of money Amy has in her pocket. ____p	Shen counts the money below.  Shen There is 7p in total. What mistake has Shen made?

Or try the game using the link: <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/money/coins-game>

Spellings

In spellings this week we are focusing on words ending in **al** or **il** eg

We have also been learning to chunk words to help us spell eg pe-tal (petal) de-vil (devil) her-bal (herbal) e-vil (evil) lo-cal (local) da-ffo-dil (daffodil)

Finally, our Special Skill has been to remember 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: isn't = is not wasn't= was not

Phonics Books for this Week

Reception: https://parents.fft.org.uk/S11_Ben_Gets_to_Bed
<https://vimeo.com/692003266/6cf7e94da0>

Year 1: [https://parents.fft.org.uk/S46 Every Good Thing](https://parents.fft.org.uk/S46_Every_Good_Thing)
<https://vimeo.com/731076317/d11815c207>

Year 2: [https://parents.fft.org.uk/YR2 Kongy Arrives](https://parents.fft.org.uk/YR2_Kongy_Arrives)

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

FLOWING
SHOCKED
ENDLESS
DESPAIR
CEASE
COVERED
STEAMING
GLOOP

See if they can teach you the actions!

Upcoming Dates

Thursday 22 nd January:	Celebration worship at 10.10am
Monday 26 th January	Year 1 Jonathon Jungle Roadshow
Tuesday 3 rd February	Young Voices at Wembley Arena

Yours sincerely,

Keith Harvey
Executive Headteacher