

Friday 9th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back after what I hope has been a lovely Christmas break. The children have settled back into school really well and I have been impressed with the quality of work that they have been producing and their focus in class. I look forward to seeing this continue. Part of this week's update is an attendance letter from Mrs Allen and Ms King, which contains some key information for everyone.

Staff News

Lesley O'Rourke, our family school support worker will be retiring at the end of the current term. I know that many families have worked very closely with Lesley over a number of years and will understand when I say how lucky we have been to have her involved in our federation. Lesley has provided amazing support for families and children and always goes above and beyond to help people out, with a smile on her face at all times. She will be really missed by us all, but I know that she is keen to support us with our transition to a new family school support worker and we will be advertising for this role in the coming weeks.

Attendance

Dear Parents/Carers of St John and St Nicolas Schools Federation,

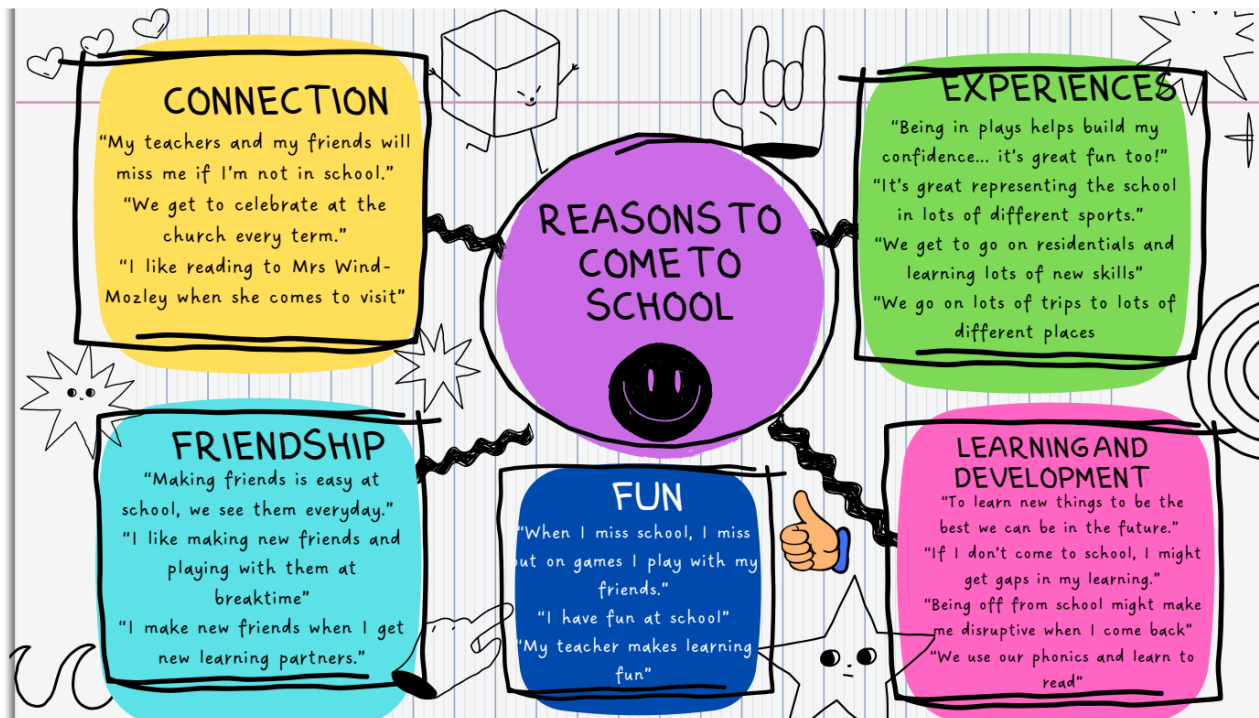
We need your help, please.

Children across the schools have been absent for 1715 days of school, which is equal to 9 school years missed so far this school year!

We know that sometimes our pupils cannot come to school because they are really unwell - and that's the right thing to do for them and other students. Medical advice is clear however that children with mild illness will often be well enough to attend - for example if they have a cough, or cold, without a temperature. The NHS guidance <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/> is designed to support parents in their decision making about mild illness.

We also know that pupils fall behind their friends and classmates when they miss school. At St John and St Nicolas Schools Federation we want the amount of missed education to be reduced as much as possible. We believe that our community is stronger together, with all of our pupils in school, on time, every day. We are building life skills, life-long friendships and preparing your child for future success.

We have discussed the reasons to come to school with some of the children and have included their thoughts below.



We also know that you can have a significant effect on your child's absences and this academic year, we would really appreciate your help and support ensuring that your child comes to school every day so that they can get the best possible outcomes.

We want to work with you to achieve this – please call or come in and meet your child's class teacher if there is anything we can do to support you or your child. We appreciate that every family's situation is unique.

If we have ongoing concerns about your child's attendance, we will be in touch to request a meeting with you.

Kind regards

Louise Allen and Lauren King
Heads of School

Attendance Awards

Congratulations to Beech Class and 3S, who got our Attendance Aardvark award this week for the highest attendance in each school.

St John's Church Christingle Service

The annual Christingle service at St John's church is taking place on Sunday 25th January at 10am. This is a lovely service, specifically aimed at children and families, which we would encourage as many people as possible to attend.

What I Wish My Parents or Carers Knew

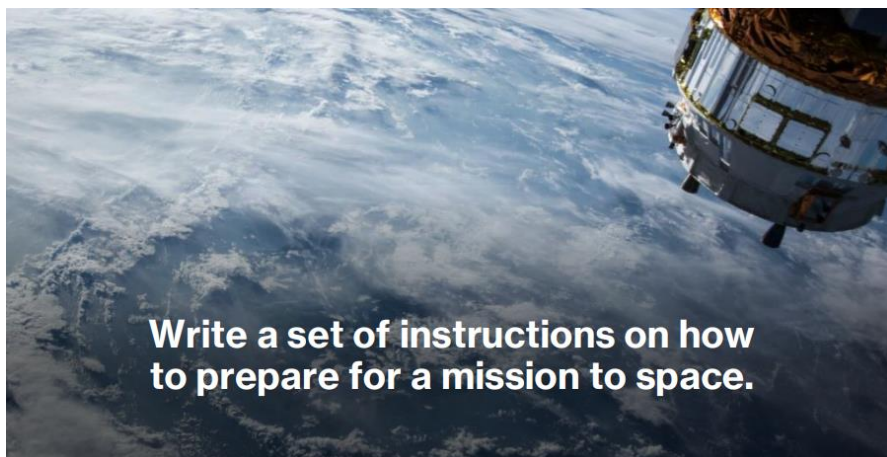
We have received an email this week from the Children's Commissioner with a link to a guide for parents on managing children's digital lives, called What I Wish My Parents or Carers Knew. It looks like a really good read and I believe would be very helpful for our parents. To access the document, please [follow this link](#).

West Berkshire Foodbank

Thank you to everyone who made a donation at the St Nic's Christmas Service to the West Berkshire Foodbank. We raised an excellent £112.79, which has been given to the Foodbank. Please remember that both schools still have receptacles in reception for people to donate food for the Foodbank, which is collected each week.

Writer of the Week

The writer of the week stimulus for next week is below. We welcome entries from any child each week:



Year 2 Homework

This week we have been looking at 3D shapes and their properties. Please find attached with this update, a document showing what your child needs to know by the end of Year 2. At home you can help support your child by getting them to name 3D shapes in their environment. Pick up a box- how many edges, vertices or faces does this shape have? What is it called? You might like to get your child to answer some of the questions below or you might like to play this online game: [Sorting 3D Shapes on a Venn Diagram - Mathsframe](#):

I have 5 vertices. What shape am I?  Circle the correct shape below:  © grammarresources.co.uk	James has a shape. He counts the number of vertices. James counts 8 vertices altogether. What shape could James have? Circle the correct answers <table border="0"> <tr> <td>cube</td> <td>square-based pyramid</td> </tr> <tr> <td>triangular prism</td> <td>cuboid</td> </tr> </table> © grammarresources.co.uk	cube	square-based pyramid	triangular prism	cuboid
cube	square-based pyramid				
triangular prism	cuboid				
A cylinder has 2 edges so it must have at least 1 vertex.  Do you agree with Abdul? Explain why _____ _____ © grammarresources.co.uk	Sarah is describing the shape below.  This shape has 7 vertices.  Is Sarah correct? Explain why. _____ _____ _____ © grammarresources.co.uk				

Drawing Club

In Reception this week we have started Drawing Club with the children, you may have already found several pictures in their book bags!

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 Gruffalo.



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

Courageous

Wandering

Encounter

Puzzling

Snuggle

Slumbering

Trudging

Gusty

See if they can teach you the actions!

Phonics Books for this Week

Reception: [https://parents.fft.org.uk/S10 Jazz in the Sun](https://parents.fft.org.uk/S10%20Jazz%20in%20the%20Sun)
<https://vimeo.com/692001984/33d77834dc>

Year 1: [https://parents.fft.org.uk/S45 The Turning of the Year](https://parents.fft.org.uk/S45%20The%20Turning%20of%20the%20Year)
<https://vimeo.com/731076273/cbee72de1c>

Year 2: [https://parents.fft.org.uk/YR2 Kongy Arrives](https://parents.fft.org.uk/YR2%20Kongy%20Arrives)

Upcoming Dates

Tuesday 13 th January	6S Trip to Williams Racing
Wednesday 14 th January	6N Trip to Williams Racing
Thursday 15 th January	Celebration worship 10.10am
Monday 26 th January	Year 1 Jonathon Jungle Roadshow
Tuesday 3 rd February	Young Voices at Wembley Arena
WB 9 th February	Year 6 Mock SATs week
Friday 13 th February	Year 2 trip to Living Rainforest

Yours sincerely,

Keith Harvey
Executive Headteacher