

Friday 5th December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

My highlight this week was, of course, the Nursery and Reception Nativity play. I am consistently amazed by what our 3, 4 and 5 year old children are able to achieve and the huge efforts from staff to get the best out of our children. I was filled with pride watching the children singing and acting so well. I am now very much looking forward to our Year 1 and 4 plays next week.

Christmas Fair

We are very much looking forward to seeing as many people as possible at our Christmas Fair tonight from 5-7pm at St John's. Whilst there is a card machine available, this will be largely used for food purchases. Therefore, we would like people to bring cash, if possible, to make most purchases. If you can, please try to bring change so we can keep cash flowing. We are very excited about the evening!

Good of All

I have been extremely impressed this week by our Year 5 children. We had a new child starting with limited English and many Year 5 children went out of their way to support them, learning words from their language and making sure that they felt welcome in our school. Thank you to all of them.

Reading at Home

Please remember that reading at home is a crucial part of children learning to read and developing their reading skills. Part of our expectation in both schools is for all children to read at home with an adult every night. This really benefits them and enables their reading skills to progress.

St John's Church Christmas Tree Festival

Next Friday, 12th December, St John's Church welcomes families from both St John's and St Nic's to visit the Christmas Tree Festival after school - and to witness the opening of 'the 12th Day' of the 'Newbury Living Advent Calendar.' Hot chocolate, tea, coffee and mulled wine available. Advent Calendar 'opens' at 4pm.

Parking at St Nic's

Despite reminders in the past two parent updates, there are still people parking on the double yellow lines outside St Nicolas School. This week there was a near miss, when a car that was parked on the double yellow lines pulled out and almost hit someone. The safety of our school community is paramount. **Please do not park on the double yellow lines.**

Additionally, we have had a complaint from a neighbour at Link House, who has said that parents are parking in their car park to drop off and pick up. This is a private car park and should not be used.

Christmas Lunch

Christmas lunch at both schools takes place on Thursday 11th December. Children are welcome to wear their Christmas jumpers to school on this day. **This is not a non-uniform day and children will be expected to wear the rest of their school uniform as normal but can wear a Christmas jumper in place of their school jumper or cardigan.** Our Christmas lunches are always a special occasion, where we are able to gather together to eat and celebrate with children and staff participating.

Christmas Plays

This coming week, we have our Year 1 and 4 plays, which take place at the following times:

- Year 1: Tuesday 9th December 2pm
- Year 4: Tuesday 9th December 5.30pm
- Year 4: Wednesday 10th December 5.30pm
- Year 1: Wednesday 10th December 6pm

We are looking forward to welcoming parents and family to come and see the plays. Please remember that places will be strictly limited to people with tickets for the plays, as we have limited space in both schools.

St John's Christmas Post Box

The Christmas post box at St John's has returned. The post box is located by the hall and children can bring in their cards and post them when they come into school in the morning. **Please ensure that you write the name and class of the child you want the card to go to on the envelope** as this will help to ensure that all cards are delivered to the correct children.

After School Club – Thursday 18th December

After School Club will run as normal at both schools on the last day of term, Thursday 18th December, however it will finish at a slightly earlier time.

St John's ASC – 1.30pm – 4.15pm

St Nic's ASC – 1.45pm – 4.15pm

Writer of the Week

Congratulations to Vansh in Year 3, who was this week's writer of the week. The stimuli for next week's writer of the week are below:



Levi heard a quiet tap and tiptoed to the door. He opened it and gasped! Three kittens sat on the step, each wearing sparkly Christmas hats. They began to sing a merry carol. Levi clapped along, feeling warm and cheerful. "Where did you come from?" he asked, but they just sang louder. Levi's curiosity grew. Were they magic? He decided to follow them as they padded away into the snowy night. What a surprise!



She opened the door and stared in amazement. A group of snowmen stood silently, their twig arms pointing towards the snowy woods. One held a shimmering crystal. "We need you," it said, its voice soft but urgent. She wrapped herself in a coat and followed them, the snow crunching under her boots. The woods sparkled with icy light, and she felt as though she'd stepped into another world. What could the snowmen want her to do?

Phonics Books for this Week

Year 1:

[https://parents.fft.org.uk/viewer/?pdf=S44 The Night Before Christmas&d=The%20Night%20Before%20Christmas](https://parents.fft.org.uk/viewer/?pdf=S44+The+Night+Before+Christmas&d=The%20Night%20Before%20Christmas)

<https://vimeo.com/781539689/ac7cbe6844>

Year 2:

[https://parents.fft.org.uk/viewer/?pdf=Ants Are Everywhere&d=Ants%20are%20Everywhere](https://parents.fft.org.uk/viewer/?pdf=Ants+Are+Everywhere&d=Ants%20are%20Everywhere)

Upcoming Dates

Tuesday 9 th December:	Year 1 Nativity 2pm
Tuesday 9 th December:	Year 4 Play 5.30pm
Wednesday 10 th December:	Year 4 Play 5.30pm
Wednesday 10 th December:	Year 1 Play 6pm
Thursday 11 th December:	Christmas lunch in both schools – Christmas jumpers can be worn (children to wear school uniform as normal with their Christmas jumpers)

Yours sincerely,

Keith Harvey
Executive Headteacher