

Friday 7th November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been lovely to have the children back in school this week and to see them calmly working around school. I was particularly proud to see how calm and settled everyone was at St John's, when I was doing my parent tour this week. It is always a pleasure to show people around our schools and to see such quality work taking place.

Friends of St John's and St Nic's

Next Thursday 13th November is a non-school uniform day for all children in both schools, with the aim of collecting items for the Christmas Fair. On that day, we would be grateful if people could send in any of the following items:

- Bottles and other items for the tombola
- Bars, bags or boxes of chocolate
- Jars filled with small items
- Cuddly toys

All of these items will be used in the Christmas fair to raise money for Friends of St John and St Nicolas Schools and will be spent on providing resources and experiences for our children.

The Christmas Fair will be taking place at St John's School on Friday 5th December. Further information will be sent out in coming weeks, but in particular, we are looking for volunteers to give up some of their time to help set up, run a stall and/or tidy up. This might be just for 30 minutes on the evening of the fair, but the more people that volunteer, the more smoothly the event will go.

Volunteer sheets are available in both school offices for you to sign up or you can email Fosjnschools@gmail.com to let us know if you can help.

We are also looking for donations of sweets, bottles, general items for tombola, good quality soft toys and clean empty jam jars or similar. Donations can be dropped off to either school but where possible, St John's is preferable.

Staff News

Our inclusion manager, Mrs Blakemore, who has been at St John's for the past 13 years and working across our federation since we started working together, will be taking up a role with the local authority after the Christmas break, although she will be able to continue working with us for one day per week after this time.

Mrs Blakemore has been instrumental in transforming support for our more vulnerable children over the past few years and she will be hugely missed by us all. I am sure that you will join with me in

thanking her for her support and commitment over the years and I know that the local authority will be lucky to have her.

Share and Celebrate

On Monday and Thursday next week (10th and 13th November) there will be a share and celebrate for our Nursery and Reception children. Parents are welcome to join their children on one of these days at the start of the school day for the children to share their learning with you. (8.45am until 9.15am).

On Wednesday 19th November, there will be a share and celebrate for children in Years 1 and 2. Parents can come and share their children's work with them on this day. This could be either at 8.45am until 9.15am, at 3.30pm just after the end of the school day or at 6pm for parents that are unable to attend at other times. On that morning, Year 1 and 2 children whose parents are not sharing their work with them should be dropped off at the top playground, where staff members will be waiting to support.

Share and celebrate for children at St Nicolas School will take place during the week beginning 24th November and further details of this will be sent out next week.

Year 6 Mock SATs

Next week, Year 6 children will be undertaking their first set of mock SATs tests. We do these tests at this time to familiarise the children with the tests that they will be taking later in the year and to gain an idea of areas for further focus during the year. I am sure that the children will take these tests in their stride, but if there is any concern, please do speak with Mrs Allen or myself.

Winter Reading Challenge

We are excited to launch our Winter Reading Challenge!

There are two options available this year:

- Challenge 1 – for early readers
- Challenge 2 – for confident readers

Children are encouraged to read as much as they can before the holidays. Once they complete their challenge sheet, they should hand it to their teacher by Friday 12th December to be entered into a prize draw. Challenge sheets are attached with this email.

Please encourage your child to take part and enjoy some cosy winter reading time together at home.

Dads Do Pads

We have been asked to share information below about two education sessions for dads and male guardians from All Yours:

Wednesday 12th November @ 7.30pm online

Dads Do Pads, our original session on disposable and reusable period products.

Join us for this unique workshop, designed to help Dads learn about the wide variety of period products available today. From pads to tampons, menstrual cups to period underwear, we'll provide a comprehensive overview that demystifies these essentials and equips you with the knowledge needed to guide and support your daughters as they navigate their menstrual health journey.

Register here: <https://bit.ly/DadsDoPadsNov2025>

Tuesday 18th November @ 7.30pm online

Dads Do Pads: Menstrual Cycle Edition

Join us for a relaxed, informative session designed especially for dads, carers, and any men curious to learn more about the menstrual cycle and how it affects those who have periods, especially our young people.

Register here: <https://bit.ly/DadsDoPadsMCENov2025>

Newbury Living Advent Calendar

One of our governors, Mrs Wind-Mozley is once again organising the Newbury Living Advent Calendar this year. This is a lovely event, which brings a real community feel to Newbury. Our choir will be singing at the West Berkshire library on 17th December, but I would encourage you to go along to as many openings as you can.

Newbury Living Advent Calendar 2025

Enjoy the countdown to Christmas by joining us in revealing 24 magical Christmas windows. Bring this flyer with you to collect a stamp, and if you visit 12 or more of our window reveals you'll be entered into a prize draw to win a little treat. Please return your stamped flyers to Magdalen (33 Gloucester Road, RG14 5JR). All windows will be open for you to enjoy as a trail until the 1st January. Follow us on Facebook for updates: Newbury Living Advent Calendar. We will be supporting Newbury Soup Kitchen, Loose Ends and Eight Bells for Mental Health.

1st	6pm	WILLOW & BLOOMS	36 Bartholomew Street
2nd	4:30pm	HILLIER & WILSON	64 Bartholomew Street
3rd	5pm	BLUECAT QUILTING	109 Craven Road
4th	6pm	BUICK MACKANE	14 West Mills
5th	6pm	PAGEANT/MAGPIE & MOB	3 Cheap Street
6th	6pm	ROCKET PROPELLED GAMES	151 Bartholomew Street
7th	11am	SHAW HOUSE	Church Road
8th	6pm	RESTYLED BY SLC	The Arcade
9th	6pm	ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL	Newport Road
10th	6pm	CITY ARTS	10 Hampton Road
11th	6pm	ST NICOLAS CHURCH	West Mills/ Northbrook Street
12th	4pm	ST JOHN'S CHURCH	St John's Church (where else)
13th	4pm	GLOBE GARDEN (SGP)	Newbury Lock
14th	3:30pm	WEST BERKSHIRE MUSEUM	The Wharf
15th	6pm	ARTISANS	Parkway
16th	6pm	THE WATERSIDE CENTRE	canal path entrance
17th	4pm	WB LIBRARY	The Wharf
18th	5pm	LK BEAUTY	43B Regnum Drive, Shaw
19th	4pm	COMMUNITY CORNER (SGP)	Parsons Close
20th	6pm	SCRUFFALUFF	East Side Monkey Bridge
21st	6pm	FIONA	46 Clifton Road
22nd	6pm	UGLY DUCKLING	2 Bartholomew Street
23rd	4:30pm	JUDITH	106 Craven Road
24th	5pm	MAGDALEN	33 Gloucester Road

Find us on Facebook:



Support us HERE:



Writer of the Week

Congratulations to Toby and Aarna, who were this week's writers of the week. The stimulus for next week is below:

Emma loved spaghetti more than any other food. Her mother often warned her that if she ate too much, she might turn into spaghetti.

One day, as Emma looked in the mirror, she noticed something strange. Her hair was transforming into long, thin strands of spaghetti!



Year 2 Homework

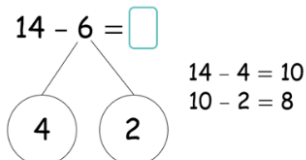
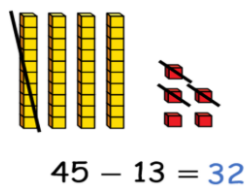
Marvellous Maths

Over the next two weeks we will be learning to subtract using different methods:

Step 1:
Children will build the first number in the calculation.

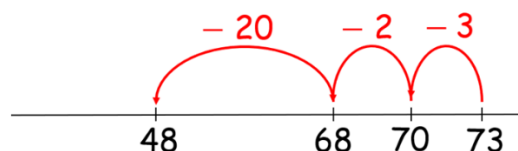
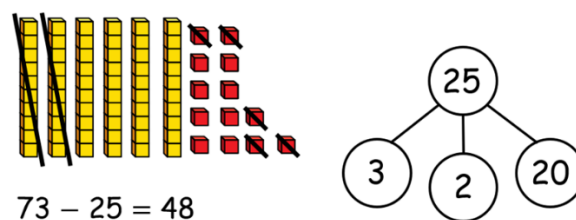
Step 2:
Children will take away the correct number of ones followed by the correct number of tens to reveal the answer.

Use base 10 to calculate $45 - 13$



I can partition 6 into 4 and 2

Use base 10 to calculate $73 - 25$



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mQah016RqWE>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bwrVhg5v1jc>

Can you solve these subtraction sums using some of the above methods?

$36 - 9 =$

44-12=

56-38=

Spelling

Spellings for Year 2 can be found on the school website on our class pages.

Term 2	Review from Year 1	New Skills	CEWs Year 2	Special Skill
Week 1	/ph/ /wh/	Words beginning /wr/	who, whole, Mr, Mrs	Homophones: right/write

Phonics Books for this Week

Reception: [https://parents.fft.org.uk/S05 Big Red Bus](https://parents.fft.org.uk/S05_Big_Red_Bus)
<https://vimeo.com/692001895/2583af3f3e>

Year 1: [https://parents.fft.org.uk/S40 Highland Summer](https://parents.fft.org.uk/S40_Highland_Summer)
<https://vimeo.com/731075997/f80fb78a4b>

Year 2: [https://parents.fft.org.uk/viewer/?pdf=The Great Escape&d=The%20Great%20Escape](https://parents.fft.org.uk/viewer/?pdf=The_Great_Escape&d=The%20Great%20Escape)

Upcoming Dates

WB 10th November:

Monday 10th November:

Monday 10th November:

Tuesday 11th November:

Thursday 13th November:

Thursday 13th November:

Thursday 13th November:

Saturday 15th November:

Year 6 Mock SATs

8.45am Reception and Nursery share and celebrate

St Nic's dentist visit

Remembrance Assemblies

Non-School uniform day; please bring a donation for the Christmas Fair

No celebration worship today!

8.45am Reception and Nursery share and celebrate

Newbury Christmas Light Switch On