

Friday 10th October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our harvest services for both schools went very smoothly, this week and it was great to see so many parents in attendance. The first church service of the year is always a special one and I was particularly impressed with the quality of the singing from children at both schools, as well as our Reception children's willingness to take everything new in their stride.

Breakfast Clubs

I am sure that you will have heard about the government's plans to introduce free breakfast clubs in all primary schools during this parliament. Whilst I understand the reasons for this, from a school's perspective, the logistics are potentially huge. This is particularly the case at St John's, where we would need to ensure a high level of supervision on potentially limited funding.

We have no plans to start a free breakfast club at either school in the immediate future, but would appreciate any thoughts that parents have on how many children are likely to use the provision and any thoughts that parents might have on how to manage the challenge in a way that would work for both the schools and for parents.

We have created a short survey, which we would appreciate parents completing over the next couple of weeks: <https://forms.office.com/e/A4wnCh0Utv>

St Nicolas School Breakfast Club

We have noticed a small number of children being dropped off in the St Nicolas entrance area and left without an adult before 8am. Please do not do this, as staff cannot take responsibility for children before 8am when breakfast club starts.

St Nicolas School Toilets

We are really pleased that the children's toilets at St Nicolas School will be upgraded over the next few weeks, starting with the Year 5 and 6 boys' toilets this week. This will lead to some changes of access and toilets available for the children, but will really help to make our school a more pleasant place for the children.

Nursery and Reception Parents' Evenings

Nursery and Reception Parents' Evenings are taking place next Tuesday and Wednesday. We look forward to welcoming parents into school to share how your child has settled in and how they are getting on with learning. Please bear in mind that appointments are 10 minutes for each child, to protect teacher workload.

Diwali Celebration

We will be celebrating Diwali in both schools on Tuesday 21st October. Any children that normally celebrate Diwali are welcome to come into school in traditional clothing on that date. There will be a number of Diwali related activities on the day.

St Nic's Allergy and Lunch Information

If your St Nic's child has a school dinner it is important that you log into your school grid account and make sure that the Diet & Allergens section is up to date.

There is no automatic sync between our main school system and school grid. Therefore, it is important that you add all dietary requirements and allergens to the school grid system. Once you have added the information, pre-order options that contain the child's allergens will be blocked to make ordering easier.

Please remember that the cut off time for ordering school lunches is 8.30am each day.

Healthy Snacks - St Nic's

We have noticed, this term, that some children are bringing inappropriate snacks for break time. Please do not send crisps, sweets or cakes as a break time snack for your child. We want to encourage children to eat healthier snacks, so please send them with a piece of fruit, vegetables or perhaps a healthier cereal bar for their break time snack.

Coats for Nursery and Reception children

Please can all nursery and reception children bring a coat to school every day as the children have an option to play outside and, on a Friday, they are outside all morning.

St Nicolas Church – Light Party

St Nicolas Church will be holding a Light Party, as an alternative to Hallowe'en, on Friday 31st October, 5pm to 6.30pm. All children in years 1-6 are invited for a fun evening with games, craft, food and a short talk. A flyer is attached.

Bag2School Collection

The Friends of St John's and St Nic's will be holding a Bag2School collection on Tuesday 4th November from St John's School. If you are sorting through unwanted clothes, shoes, bags etc over the half term holiday, please bag them up and drop them at St John's on either Monday 3rd November or before 9am on Tuesday 4th November to help raise funds for both schools. Further details including what items they will collect can be found at <https://www.bag2school.com/> or by contacting fosjnschools@gmail.com

Phonics Books for this Week

Reception: <https://parents.fft.org.uk/S02> Kim Cat

<https://vimeo.com/692000925/b35e9ef1d8>

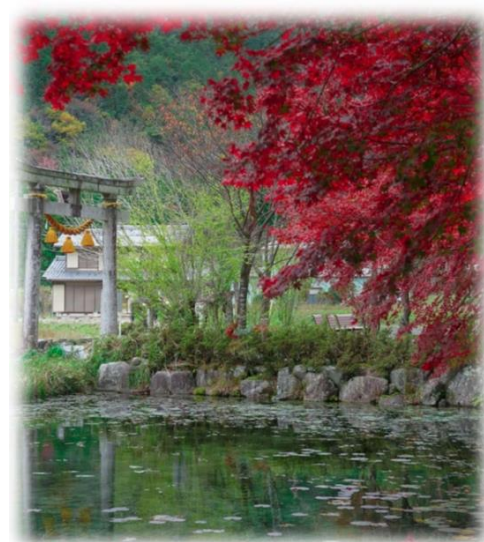
Year 1: https://parents.fft.org.uk/S37_Little_Peach

<https://vimeo.com/731075953/03a2d71865>

Year 2: https://parents.fft.org.uk/YR2_Why_Do_Stars_Twinkle

Writer of the Week

Congratulations to Evyavan in Year 3, who was this week's writer of the week. Next week's stimulus is below:



Write a haiku

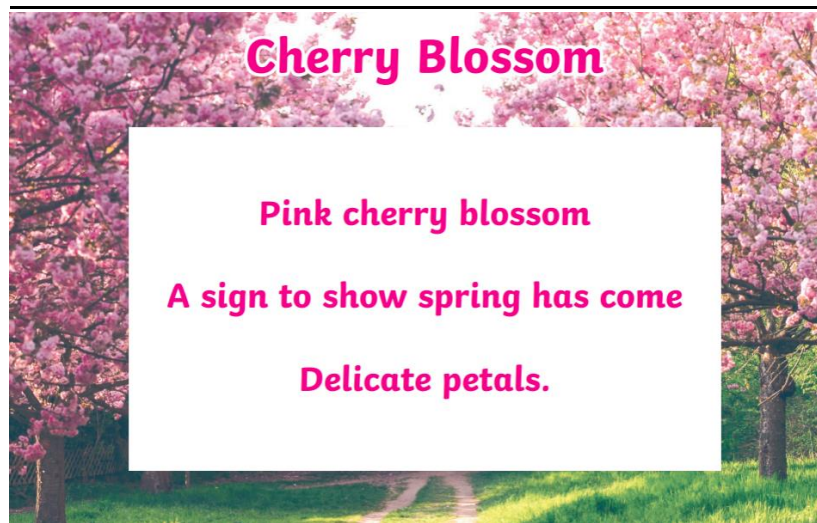
A haiku is a short poem that originates from Japan.

They are usually about nature.

Haikus always have three lines.

There can be any number of words, but there must be 5 syllables in the first line, 7 syllables in the second line and 5 syllables in the third line.

Haikus do not usually rhyme.



Cherry Blossom

Pink cherry blossom

A sign to show spring has come

Delicate petals.

Marvellous Maths and Spellings – Year 2

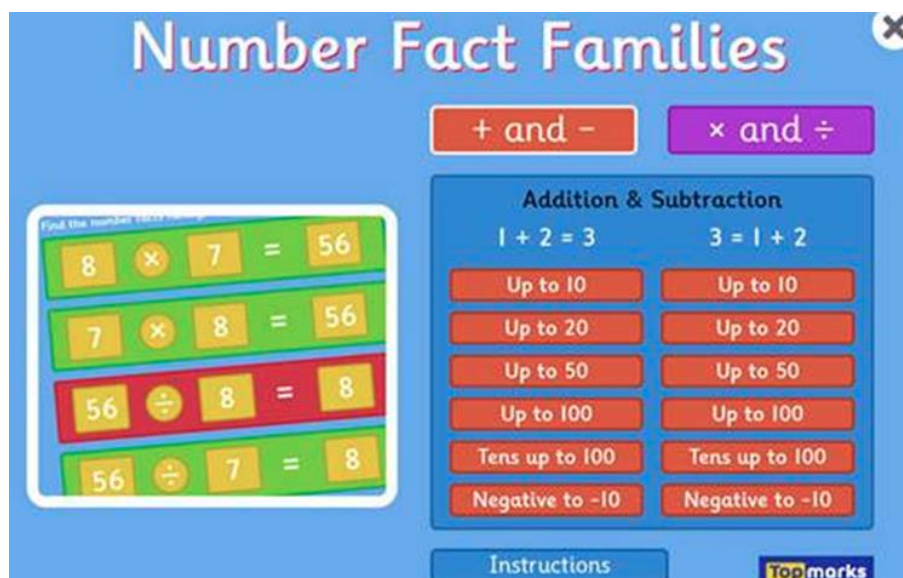
This week we have revised our number bonds to 10 and 20.

If you know that $8+2=10$ then $18+2=20$ and then related facts include $80+20=100$.

Children have been writing fact families

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JoZ3wwdye7w>

Below is a game that will consolidate this week's learning:



[Number Fact Families - Topmarks](#)

In Jungle Club this week (spellings) Year 2 have been consolidating their understanding of ow/oa/o-e/oe

The common exception spellings your child needs to spell this week are old/bold/cold/sold/gold/told

Our special skill has been to look at the contraction don't=do not.

Contractions are when we push two words together to shorten them.

Upcoming Dates

Monday 13 th October:	Year 6 visits to Newbury Town Hall
Tuesday 14 th October:	Reception and Nursery Parents' Evening
Wednesday 15 th October:	Reception and Nursery Parents' Evening
Thursday 16 th October:	Celebration worship 10.10am
Friday 17 th October:	Year 2 Great Fire of London Theatre
Tuesday 21 st October:	Diwali Celebration
Thursday 23 rd October:	End of Autumn Term 1

Yours sincerely,

Keith Harvey
Executive Headteacher