

Friday 3rd October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are really looking forward to our harvest services in both schools, next week. These are always a lovely occasion, particularly at St John's, where it is our Reception children's first occasion out of school for a service. We hope that parents will be able to join us for the services. Details are below in the main body of the update.

Harvest Donations

For our harvest services, we would like parents to make a donation of food to the West Berkshire food banks, if you are able to do so. Both schools have collection bins in the entrance areas and we have always been very proud of the large quantity of food that has been donated in the past. Any food collected is used to support families in Newbury. The following items are all urgently needed by the Food Bank:

- Cereal Bars
- Coffee
- Confectionary
- Fruit Juice
- Jam/Marmite/Honey
- Rice Pudding/Custard Pots
- Toilet Cleaner
- Fish
- Sugar
- Tinned Meat Meals

Phonics Talks for Reception Parents

There will be two opportunities next Friday 9th October for Reception parents to come in for a short phonics talk from teaching staff. These talks will provide information on how we teach phonics in school and how you can help to support this vital skill. The talks will take place in the St John's School hall at 9am (straight after drop off) and 2.30pm on Friday 9th October.

Foundation Stage Parents' Evenings

Parents' evenings for children in Nursery are taking place on Tuesday 14th October, and for children in Reception on Tuesday 14th and Wednesday 15th October. Please remember to book an appointment with your child's teacher if you haven't already done so. An email with the booking link was sent on Monday 29th September.

St John's Harvest Service Arrangements

St John's Harvest Service will be taking place on Tuesday 7th October at 9am for children in Reception, Years 1 & 2. Please could parents drop their children at normal time at St John's church instead of school. No book bags are needed on this day. Children in breakfast club will be walked to the church. Nursery will be taking place in school as normal. Parents are welcome to join us for the service, which will take between 30 and 45 minutes. **We still need some more parents to volunteer to walk back with the children after the service. Please contact the office as soon as possible if you are able to help.**

St Nic's Harvest Service Arrangements

St Nic's Harvest Service takes place on Wednesday 8th October at 2pm. The children will be walked from school to the church and again parents are welcome to attend. Please log into your Parent Pay account and answer the permission questions as soon as possible.

If you are able to help walk the children to and from the church, please let the school office know.

Flu immunisations

If you haven't already done so, please remember to complete a YES or NO consent form for your child to receive the flu vaccination in school on Thursday 9th October:

<https://www.berkshireimmunisations.co.uk/Forms/Flu>

You will need to enter the school's unique code: **St John's BK110093; St Nic's BK110013**

Please complete the form, even if you do not wish your child to receive the vaccine, as soon as possible, as this helps the immunisation team to plan their visit.

Your child will not be able to receive the vaccine unless the immunisation team have received *online consent* well in advance. They *will not* accept consent on the day, or consent by telephone, email, letter or verbally.

Nut Free Schools

Please remember that both schools are nut free environments. Please check the labels on all pre-made food items to ensure that the ingredients do not contain any nuts. This obviously applies to sandwich fillings such as peanut butter and chocolate spreads but may also include things such as pesto sauce on pasta salads. Additionally, St John's School is a sesame free environment. For both schools, this is due to children on site with severe allergies where contact with any nut products could be life threatening.

Breakfast & After School Clubs

We have the following spaces available at our Extended Day clubs, if you would like to book a place, please email finance@stjohnandstnicolasschools.org.uk

St John's

Breakfast Club - Tuesday, Thursday and Friday

After School Club - Friday

St Nic's

Breakfast Club - every day - book and pay in advance in ParentPay

After School Club - every day

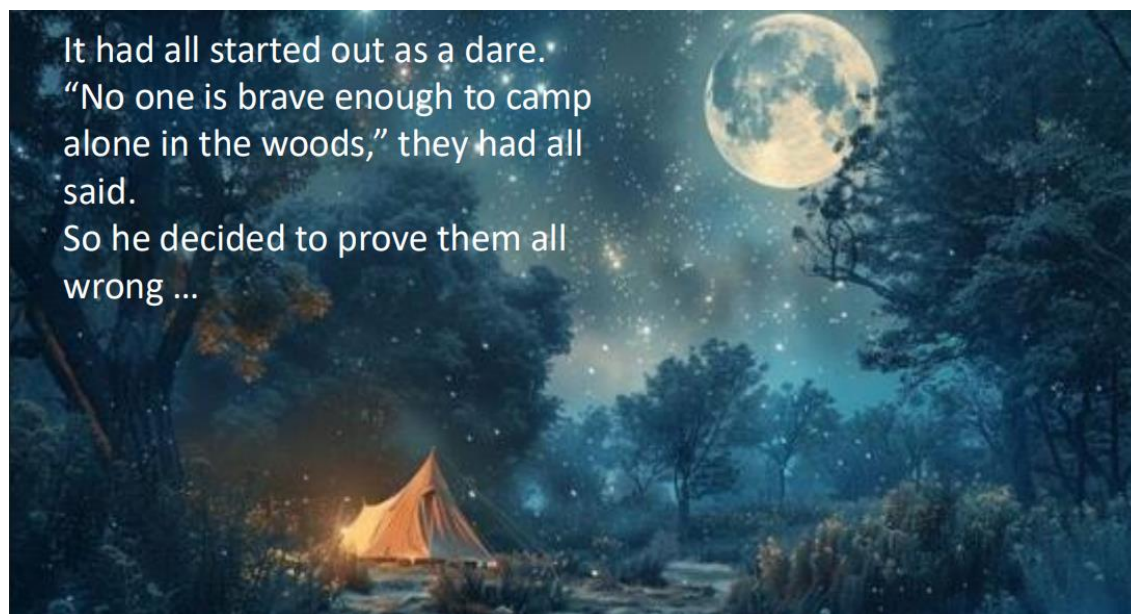
Spare clothes

If we have sent your St John's child home in spare school clothes, please could you wash and return these as soon as possible.

Also, if you have any black school shoes in good condition in sizes 8, 9, 10 or 11 that your child no longer needs, please could these be donated to the school. Crocs in the same sizes would also be appreciated.

Writer of the Week

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



It had all started out as a dare.
"No one is brave enough to camp
alone in the woods," they had all
said.
So he decided to prove them all
wrong ...

Phonics Books for this Week:

Year 1: https://parents.fft.org.uk/S36_Let-s_Sort_it_Out

<https://vimeo.com/731075786/ef9e5e1e4f>

Year 2: https://parents.fft.org.uk/YR2_Extreme_Earth

Marvellous Maths

In Year 2 this week, we have consolidated counting in 2s, 5s and 10s to 100 forwards and backwards and from different starting points. We have also introduced counting in 3s to 100.

Please spend some time whilst walking to school etc encouraging your child to count in 3s.

Below are some links to online games your child might like to play.

<https://www.mindlygames.com/game/skip-counting-by-3-taterz-quiz>

<https://www.mindlygames.com/game/skip-counting-by-3-fast-food>

<https://www.mindlygames.com/game/skip-counting-by-3-space-race>

Alternately here are some activities they might also like to complete (final sheet at bottom of update):



If I start at zero and count in 3s, I will say the number 14

Is Tiny correct?
Explain your answer.

Ben has 15 stickers.
He collects 3 more stickers each day.
How many stickers will he have after 6 days?

Mo makes 2-digit numbers using the number cards below. He can only use each card once per number.



How many 2-digit numbers can Mo make counting in 3s from 9?
List the numbers below.



I have 18 marbles.

Rob



I have five lots of 3 marbles.

Gina

Who has the most marbles and by how many?

Roman Family Fun Day at West Berkshire Museum



WEST BERKSHIRE
MUSEUM

Roman Family Fun Day

Saturday 4 October | 10am - 3pm | Drop-in | Free

Do you know who a centurion was? Find out from the historical re-enactors of Butser IX Legion. Dressed in historical costume, they will show you what life in Roman Britain was like, demonstrating skills that you can have a go at. There will be an opportunity to take part in Roman-inspired crafts as well as to complete a themed trail.

Upcoming Dates:

Sunday 5 th October:	St John's Church Harvest Festival at 10am – choir singing
Tuesday 7 th October:	St John's Harvest Service 9am
Wednesday 8 th October:	St Nic's Harvest Service 2pm
Thursday 9 th October:	Flu Immunisations
Friday 10 th October:	Phonics talks for Reception parents at 9am and 2.30pm
WB 13 th October:	Nursery and Reception Parents' Evenings
Monday 13 th October:	Year 6 visits to Town Hall
Friday 17 th October:	Year 2 Great Fire Theatre

Yours sincerely,

Keith Harvey
Executive Headteacher

Count in 3s



1 Complete the number tracks to count forwards in 3s.

a

	6		12			21			30
--	---	--	----	--	--	----	--	--	----

b

		21					36		42
--	--	----	--	--	--	--	----	--	----

c

	12		18			27			
--	----	--	----	--	--	----	--	--	--

d

		33				45		51	
--	--	----	--	--	--	----	--	----	--

e

			30		36				
--	--	--	----	--	----	--	--	--	--

2 Complete the number tracks to count backwards in 3s.

a

33						15		9	
----	--	--	--	--	--	----	--	---	--

b

		33							12
--	--	----	--	--	--	--	--	--	----

c

						27		21	
--	--	--	--	--	--	----	--	----	--

3 Complete the number square by counting in 3s.

		18		24	
30					45
	51		57		
