

Friday 26th September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been my privilege this week to take prospective parents on tours of both schools and I have been overwhelmed by the excellent focus and learning that has been taking place across both schools, as well as the calm atmosphere in every classroom. All of the children seem happy to be here and it has reinforced what a special place our federation environment is for us all.

Reception, Year 3 and Year 7 Applications for Places

If you know of anyone with a child born between 01 September 2021 and 31 August 2022, please remind them that they will need to apply for a Reception Year place for September 2026 at <https://www.westberks.gov.uk/primary-school-admissions>

The closing date for applications is 15 January 2026 and further details can be found in the leaflet attached.

All parents at St John's must apply for a place in Year 3. St Nic's prioritises admissions for children from St John's, but it is essential for you to complete the form through the link above.

Finally, for children in Year 6, the deadline date for applying for a secondary school place is 31 October. Parents should use the following link to apply for a place:

<https://www.westberks.gov.uk/article/40452/Applying-for-Secondary-School-Places>

Parent Information Evenings

Thank you to everyone that attended the Year 3 and 4 and Year 5 and 6 parent information meeting this week. The PowerPoints from the presentations are [available on the federation website](#).

There will be a meeting for Year 1 and 2 parents at 6pm on Tuesday 30th September at St John's School. All Year 1 and 2 parents are welcome to attend.

Parking at St John's

Please remember to be respectful of our neighbours when parking for St John's School. We have had some complaints this week about parents blocking people's driveways when dropping off or collecting. Please ensure you do not do this.

Scooters & Bicycles

Please remember that scooters and cycles should not be ridden on the grounds at either school.

Please ensure that your child dismounts at the school gates and walks with their bike or scooter through the playground (at St Nic's) and the car park (at St John's).

Reception and Nursery Share and Celebrate

Please remember that Reception and Nursery parents are invited to join us on Wednesday **or** Friday morning next week at 8.45am for share and celebrate in the classroom – an opportunity for your children to share their learning with you. Please only come to one, not both sessions as otherwise the classrooms become too crowded.

School Census

Next Thursday 2nd October is the termly school census. Our funding for next year is based on this census and we would ask that parents please do the following to support us in ensuring we get the maximum possible funding:

- At St John's, we would like every child to have a school lunch on this day, as our school meal funding is dependent on uptake on this day.
- For both schools, we would ask that anyone that thinks their child may be eligible for free school meals, applies for this. This is really important, even if your child is at St John's, where all children get a free meal. The reason for this is that pupil premium funding (an extra funding stream for schools of £1600 per child, per year) is available to the school for all children eligible for free school meals. Eligibility criteria are below:
 - Your child may qualify for Pupil Premium funding if your household receives any of the following:
 - Income Support
 - Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
 - Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
 - Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
 - The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
 - Child Tax Credit (without Working Tax Credit, and with annual gross income below £16,199)
 - Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying)
 - Universal Credit (with annual net earned income below £7,400)
 - [If any of these apply, please complete an application using this link](#)

St John's Harvest Service

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 do need some 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

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.

Harvest Collections

We will be collecting for the West Berkshire foodbank for our harvest services. If you can, please bring an item of food to donate in the baskets at the entrances to the schools.

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**

Flu can make children very poorly, and the vaccine helps keep them safe. Even if your child had the flu vaccine last year, they need it again this year.

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.

St Nicolas School Homework

We do not set a huge amount of homework at St Nic's, but it is important for children to complete this and we hope that parents will support us with this.

All children at St Nic's are asked to read each night at home and complete weekly spellings and Doodle Maths work (Years 4 to 6). Homework is due in at school on a Monday each week.

Where children do not complete their homework at home, we will run a homework club each week to support children in completing this.

Special Educational Needs Coffee Mornings

There will be some coffee mornings taking place aimed at parents of children with ADHD and autism, supported by the Parenting Special Children, Autism Family Hub and West Berkshire's Autism Advisor. These are for pathway parents too...no diagnosis is needed.

The coffee mornings will take place in the community room at St John's from 9.15 until 10.45am on the following dates:

- 25th September
- 23rd October (additional speaker) 9am - 12pm
- 27th November
- 18th December

Writer of the Week

Congratulations to Alice in Year 5 for her fantastic story last week. This week's story inspiration is below:

If you could
travel back in
time, when
would you travel
back to and
why?

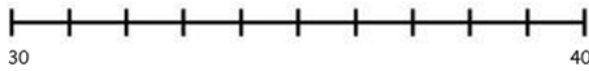
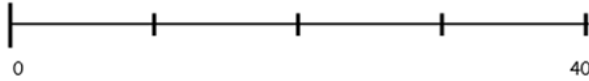
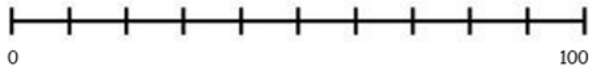


Marvellous Maths – Year 2

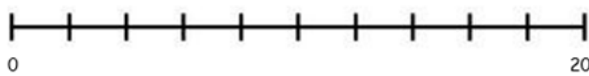
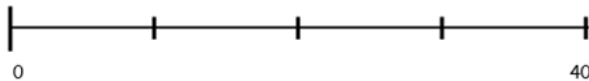
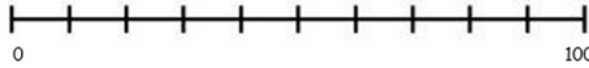
This week we have been estimating where a number goes on a number line and comparing numbers and deciding which number is greater or less than. The children have used their knowledge of how many tens and ones each number has to compare them. Below are a few online games your child might like to play to consolidate this week's learning. Alternatively, there are a couple of activities they might like to try:

- [comparing numbers game](#)
- [compare numbers](#)
- [compare numbers on a numberline](#)

Place **36** on all the number lines.



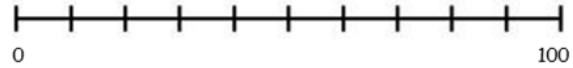
Place **14** on all the number lines.



Place **20** on the number line.



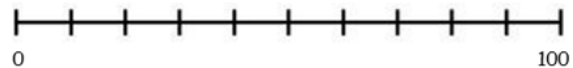
Place **30** on the number line.



Place **10** on the number line.



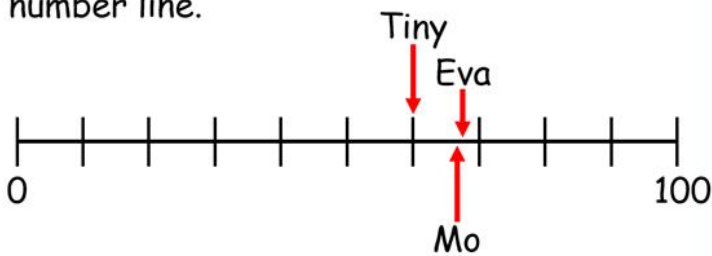
Place **45** on the number line.



Place **25** on the number line.



Tiny, Mo and Eva are labelling 67 on a number line.



Who do you think is correct? Explain why.

Can more than one child
to be correct? Why?

Have a think



Phonics Books for this Week

Year 1: <https://parents.fft.org.uk/S35> An Outing to the Woods
<https://vimeo.com/731075565/d585827224>

Year 2: <https://parents.fft.org.uk/YR2> Extreme Earth

Upcoming Dates

Tuesday 30th September:
Wednesday 1st October:
Thursday 2nd October:

Key Stage 1 Parent Information Meeting 6pm – St John's
Reception and Nursery Share and Celebrate
10.10am Celebration worship

Friday 3rd October:

Tuesday 7th October:

Wednesday 8th October:

Thursday 9th October:

Reception and Nursery Share and Celebrate

St John's Harvest Service 9am

St Nic's Harvest Service 2pm

Flu immunisations

Yours sincerely,

Keith Harvey

Executive Headteacher