

Friday 19th September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

The term is now firmly underway and I feel really privileged to have been able to spend time in classrooms across both schools. The children are very settled across the federation and I have seen lots of productive work and excellent concentration. I particularly enjoyed seeing the Year 3 children's enthusiasm with their rock workshop yesterday – lots of curiosity shown in some excellent science work.

Friends of St John's and St Nic's

Thank you to everyone that joined us at the committee meeting on Monday. It was good to see so many people there. Friends of St John's and St Nic's are looking for a new treasurer. This is not an onerous role and would suit someone mathematically minded. If you are interested, please do ask at one of the offices.

Several events for the coming term were arranged at the meetings, so please do add the following to your calendars:

Thursday 13th November: Non-school uniform day for the Christmas Fair

Friday 5th December: Christmas Fair at St John's School – 5 to 7pm

Monday 15th December: Disco for children in Years 3 to 6

Newbury Show

If you're attending the Newbury Show this weekend, please come along to the education marquee, where St Nic's will have a stand displaying the children's work from Art week.

Scrapheap Challenge Request

Year 4 are undertaking a scrapheap challenge next week and so will need lots of recyclable materials to help them to build. If you have any useful, clean materials that could be brought in, we would be very grateful. In particular, we would like clean yoghurt pots or similar containers and cardboard rolls (kitchen roll or foil inners – not toilet rolls). The scrapheap challenge is taking place on Thursday, so Year 4 would appreciate any donations of materials in the first half of the week.

Parent Information Meetings Next Week

There will be two parent information meetings next week, both taking place at St Nicolas School at 6pm. On Tuesday 23rd September, there is a meeting for Year 3 and 4 parents and on Wednesday 24th for Year 5 and 6 parents. These meetings will be focused on key skills in English and Maths that we want our children to develop and will include ideas on how to support children at home. All parents are welcome. If you have children in more than one year group, we would recommend choosing one of the meetings, as there will be some repetition across both.

Nut Free School

Please remember that both schools are nut free environments. This includes all food items and things such as peanut butter or chocolate spread in sandwiches. Additionally, St John's School is a sesame free environment. For both schools, this is due to children on site with severe allergies.

Toys in School

Please remember that children are not allowed to bring their toys into school – this includes things like Pokemon cards and BeyBlades.

Visits to St John's School

If you know of any parents, who are looking for a primary school place for September 2026, please encourage them to come and look around St John's. For the next few weeks, there will be visits to the school for prospective parents, on Thursday mornings at 9.15am. Prospective parents should contact the office for further details and/or to book a place.

Please note that we also currently have spaces in some year groups in both schools. If you know of anyone that is looking for a school place, please encourage them to contact the offices.

Pyjama Day

On Tuesday 23rd September, we will be supporting the Children's Hospital Pyjama Charity with a special non-uniform day. Children are invited to come into school wearing pyjamas, onesies, or relaxed clothes for the day, in exchange for either a cash donation or some brand new pyjamas! Further details can be found in the letter sent earlier this week.

Lee Dillon Christmas Card Competition



LEE DILLON MP's Christmas Card Competition

Are you in primary school? Love drawing and Christmas?
Your artwork could be featured on Lee Dillon's official MP Christmas card!

How to Enter:
Hand-draw your festive design on an A4 piece of paper (no glitter or glued-on items) with name, age, and school on the back.

Deadline: Friday 31 October 2025

Email a scan/photo to lee.dillon.mp@parliament.uk **OR post/drop** to
Park Street Offices, Newbury RG14 1EA


Lee Dillon

WORKING HARD FOR NEWBURY & WEST BERKSHIRE
WWW.LEEDILLON.CO.UK

LEE DILLON MP, NEWBURY

Family Day at The Base



La Jolie Ronde – Spanish Lessons

La Jolie Ronde run Spanish lessons before school at St John's on Mondays and at St Nic's on Wednesdays, starting next week. Please see further details attached.

Doodle Maths

All children in years 4,5 and 6 should now have access to Doodle Maths and have received their logins. Each week, the class who has used Doodle the most times will receive a trophy in assembly and the class who has won it the most times throughout the term will earn themselves a non-uniform day. Individual recognition will also be given throughout the term for children who are consistently using Doodle. Please encourage the children to use Doodle at home as much as possible.

Year 2 Marvellous Maths

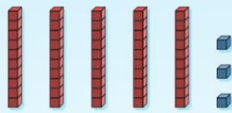
In maths this week we have moved onto flexible partitioning. If children know that 27 is made up of 2 bundles of 10 straws and 7 more straws, then by physically unbundling 1 group of 10 straws they see that 27 could also be made up of 1 bundle of 10 straws and 17 more straws. While there are numerous ways to partition numbers flexibly, the focus here is on “unbundling” 10s rather than more unusual partitions.

For example:

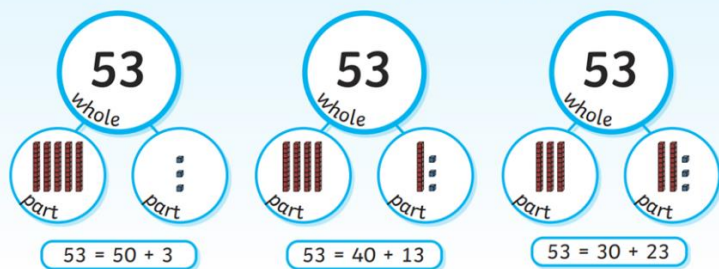
Mia has represented a 2-digit number using base ten.



I have made the number 53.
It has 5 tens and 3 ones.



Mia arranges the base ten to show three different ways of partitioning 53.



This week for homework can your child choose 3 two digit numbers and have a go at flexibly partitioning them . You may wish to make your own tens and ones by using strips of paper to represent the tens and small squares to represent the ones. You could alternatively use lollypop sticks/twigs /sweets and even stones!

Alternatively, your child might like to complete the questions below.

Partitioning 2-Digit Numbers in Different Ways

2) 86 has tens and ones.

86 = +

3) 61 has tens and ones.

61 = +

4) 45 has tens and ones.

45 = +

Phonics Books for this Week

Year 1: https://parents.fft.org.uk/S34_Thank_you_Sam
<https://vimeo.com/731074984/57428969db>

Year 2: https://parents.fft.org.uk/YR2_The_Tale_of_Chicken_Little

Upcoming Dates

Tuesday 23rd September:
 Tuesday 23rd September:
 Wednesday 24th September:
 Thursday 25th September:
 Tuesday 30th September:

Pyjama Day in both schools – please send a donation
 Year 3 and 4 parent meeting 6pm
 Year 5 and 6 parent meeting
 Year 4 scrapheap challenge
 Year 1 and 2 Parent information meeting 6pm

Wednesday 1st October:

Friday 3rd October:

Sunday 5th October:

8.45am Reception and Nursery share and celebrate

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St John's Church Harvest festival service

Yours sincerely,

Keith Harvey

Executive Headteacher