

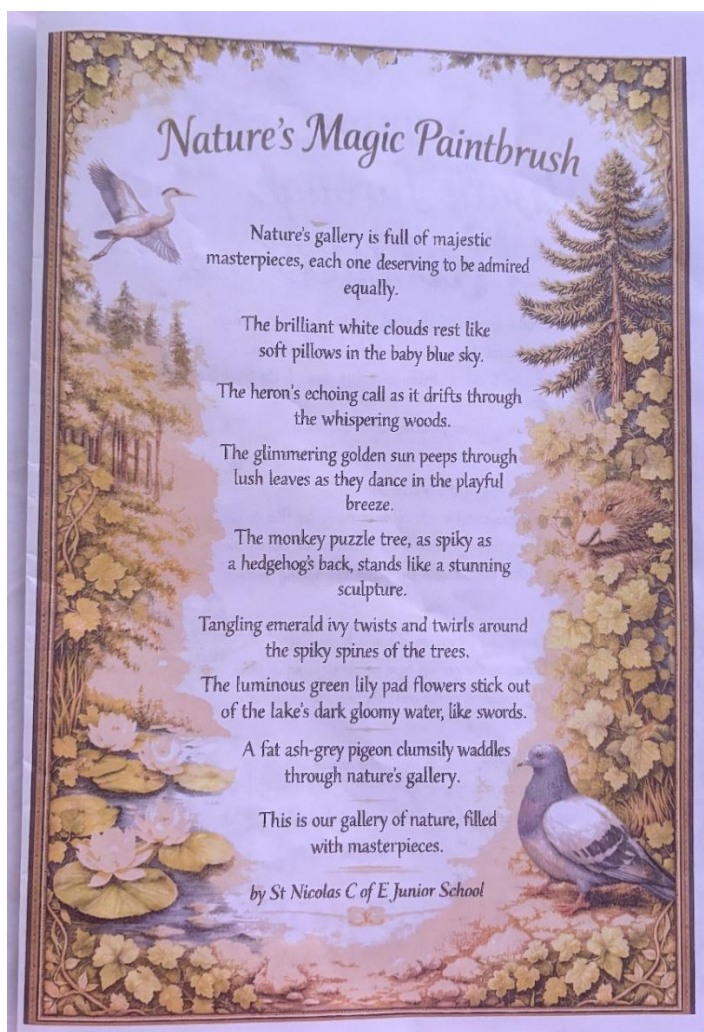
Friday 10th July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I was very privileged this week to accompany our swimming gala finalists at Northcroft pool. We took 14 children from Year 4 to 6, all of whom were hugely supportive of each other and made an excellent team. It was clear, as the events were progressing, that our team were doing well, with some very good individual and relay performances, but when the final results were announced, we were blown away with how well we had done. Firstly, we won some individual trophies: Max B (Y6) won best U12 boy and best individual medley, Bianca B (Y4) won best U10 girl and Benjamin L (Y4) won best U10 boy. In addition to this, we won the following trophies: Best relay team, best U10 girls' team; best overall girls' team and overall winners. I am sure that you will agree with me that this was an exceptional performance. Well done to all of our participants!

Poetry Day

Well done to Maisie, Jessica, Yashu, Sanvi, Gosha and Edward in Year 4, who participated in a poetry day at St Gabriel's this week. During the day, they worked together to create the poem below:



Hot Weather

I am sorry that we had to make the decision to close St John's this afternoon. It was not a decision taken lightly, but the cumulative effect of the heat this week on staff and children has been significant. Although the weather is due to remain hot next week, closures are very unlikely, as the building will have a chance to cool without people in during the weekend and I believe that temperatures are set to drop slightly towards the end of next week.

Lunchtime Controller Role

St Nicolas School is looking to appoint a lunchtime controller to join our team from September. If you are interested in this, or know someone who might be, please direct them to our website, where they will find the full details:

<https://www.stjohnandstnicolasschools.org.uk/vacancies/>

Year 2 and 6 Plays – Potential Change of Time

This Saturday, like many of you, I am sure, I will be watching the World Cup Quarter Final, between England and Norway. If England are successful in the match, the semi-final will be taking place on Wednesday 15th July at 8pm.

Therefore, if this happens, we have made contingency plans to change the timings of our school plays to accommodate people who would like to watch the match.

In this case, the Year 2 play will move to 5pm at St Nicolas School and the Year 6 play will start at 6.15pm.

Please note that these changes will only be made if England are successful on Saturday. If not, the plays will remain at 6pm and 7.15pm.

Second-hand uniform donations

As the term comes to an end the Friends of St John's and St Nic's would be grateful for any **new logo** uniform that your child has either outgrown or no longer needs. We are very low on new logo uniform in all sizes for both schools. Donations can be dropped off to either office.

What's On During the Holidays

Attached with this update is a list of activities that are available for children, including those with Special Educational Needs, during the summer break.

Attendance

Well done to Poplar class in St John's with 99.3% attendance last week and 5N at St Nic's with 98.9% attendance.

Overall attendance last week was 97.4% at St John's and 96.0% at St Nic's, which was very positive. Unfortunately, there were 41 late marks across the two schools. I cannot stress enough how important it is for children to arrive at school on time. Even 1 minute late for school will result in a

late mark, but will also mean that your child has to come into school through a different entrance and find children that are already settled. It makes a huge difference to their day.

Places for Children to Eat for Free During the Summer Holidays

PLACES KIDS EAT FREE (OR FOR £1) SUMMER HOLIDAYS 2026	
moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free	
ANGUS STEAKHOUSE Kids under 8 eat FREE daily, 12pm to 5pm	MARCO PIERRE WHITE Kids under 12 Eat FREE daily with an adult spend
ASDA Kids Eat for £1 daily, with no adult spend	MORRISONS Kids Eat FREE all day, every day with a £5 spend
ASK ITALIAN 2 Kids eat free every day until Sept 6th 2026	PAUSA CAFE @ DUNELM Kids eat FREE with every £4 spend all day
BELLA ITALIA Children eat free Sunday - Thursday	PIZZA HUT Kids Eat Free Every Day after 3pm
BEEFEATER & BREWERS FAYRE 2 Kids Eat Free Breakfast with 1 paying adult	PREMIER INN 2 kids eat for free with 1 adult breakfast
BILLS Kids Eat Free weekdays until September 1 st 2026	PRETO Kids up to age 10 eat free with 1 paying adult
BREWDOG 1 Kid eats free with 1 adult, 19th July - 31st August	PREZZO Kids up to age 12 eat for £1 during half terms
CAFE ROUGE Kids Eat FREE 12-4pm every day of the week	PUREZZA Kids under 10 get free pizza with every adult meal
CHIKITO Kids eat free during all school holidays	SA BRAINS PUBS Kids eat for £1 on Wednesdays
COCONUT TREE Kids eat free Mon 13th July - Sun 6th Sept	SIZZLING PUBS Kids eat for £1. Every Monday to Friday, 3 - 7pm
DOBBIES GARDEN CENTRES Kids eat for £1 with an adult meal purchase	TABLE TABLE 2 Kids Eat free breakfast daily with 1 paying adult
FARMHOUSE INNS 2 Kids eat FREE this summer holidays	TESCO Kids eat free every day this summer with a 65p spend
FLAMING GRILL PUBS Kids eat for 88p this summer holidays	TGI FRIDAYS Kids Eat Free until 6 th September (Via App)
FRANKIE & BENNY'S Kids eat FREE during school holidays	THE REAL GREEK Kids under 12 eat FREE Sundays with £10 spend
FRANCO MANCIA Kids eat FREE school holidays Mon-Thurs	TRAVELODGE 2 kids eat for £1 with 1 adult breakfast
FUTURE INNS Under 5s eat for free with any adult meal	TOBY CARVERY Kids eat for £1 every day until Sept 1 st 2026
GORDON RAMSEY RESTAURANTS Kids under 10 eat FREE all day, every day	TURTLE BAY Kids eat free with every £15 adult spend via app
HARVESTER Kids eat for £1 every day until Sept 1 st 2026	VILLAGE HOTELS Kids eat free 20th July - 4th Sept via the village app
HUNGRY HORSE Kids eat for 88p this summer holidays	WHITBREAD INNS 2 kids eat for FREE with 1 adult breakfast
IKEA Kids get a meal from 95p daily from 11am	YO! SUSHI Kids eat free all day (weekdays) in school holidays
LAS IGUANAS Kids under 12 eat FREE via the App	ZIZZI Kids eat free via app during school holidays

Summer Reading Challenge

Get ready for this year's Summer Reading Challenge for children aged 4-11 years!

Once again, West Berkshire Libraries are challenging primary-aged children to read six library books between 1 July and 15 September and collect FREE incentives for their achievements as they read, with medals and certificates for everyone who completes the Challenge. Developed by national charity The Reading Agency, the theme of this year's Challenge is 'Read to the Beat', which is all about music and rhythm. It aims to inspire children to explore the connection between stories and songs and discover how reading and music can ignite imagination and creativity.

There is no need to wait until the school holidays begin – drop in to your local library to find out more and sign up from 1 July. There is also a mini challenge for children under 4, and something for teenagers and adults too. Get the whole family reading this summer!

www.westberks.gov.uk/libraries



Phonics Books for the Week

Reception:

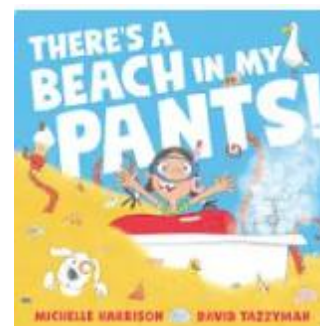
https://parents.fft.org.uk/viewer/?pdf=S32_What_Can_I_Do_in_the_Summer&d=What%20Can%20I%20Do%20in%20the%20Summer?
<https://vimeo.com/692013009/d9c0bd596b>

Year 1: https://parents.fft.org.uk/viewer/?pdf=S68_Carnival&d=Carnival!
<https://vimeo.com/731076731/733455e272>

Year 2: https://parents.fft.org.uk/viewer/?pdf=It_Came_From_Outer_Space&d=Fox%20and%20Hen

Drawing Club

Drawing Club is a way of igniting joy and a love of stories with the early years and follows Greg Bottrell's beliefs and passions. Your child will be using their imagination to create new characters, settings, and events for this story. They will be adding marks, codes, labels, and messages to their work and realising that they are writers! Each week we will choose a different story or an animation, this week our story is There's a Beach in my Pants



They will also be learning some exciting new vocabulary with actions. This week's vocabulary list is:

Shoreline; Cove; Surge; Wade; Snorkel; Scavenge; Glistening; Humorous

See if they can teach you the actions!

Upcoming Dates

Monday 13 th July:	Year 2 play rehearsal at St Nic's – Year 2 children should be dropped at St Nic's main entrance at 9am.
Tuesday 14 th July:	Reception dance performance
Wednesday 15 th July:	Year 2 and 6 plays – please see note above for timings
Thursday 16 th July:	Final celebration worship 10.10am
Thursday 16 th July:	Year 2 and 6 plays
Friday 17 th July:	Year 2 trip to Snelsmore
Monday 20 th July:	St John's Leavers' Service 9am
Monday 20 th July:	St Nic's Leavers' Service 2pm
Tuesday 21 st July:	Last day of term – St John's finishes 1.30pm; St Nic's 1.45pm (After School Clubs finish at 4.15pm at both schools)
Thursday 2 nd September:	Start of new school year

Yours sincerely,

Keith Harvey
Executive Headteacher