

Friday 18th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week, my focus has been largely on the SIAMS inspection at St Nicolas School. I was hugely impressed throughout the day, with our children across the school and the positive comments that they made about their school experience. As always, it made me immensely proud of our community.

September Fun Day

Don't forget that tomorrow is the September Fun Day at St Nic's School from 2-4pm. We are really looking forward to seeing as many families as possible to help us to raise funds for Friends of St John's and St Nic's.

Sponsorship



This newsletter is proudly supported by Ken Dowling Property, a boutique estate agency based in Newbury. If you or someone you know is thinking about moving home, Ken Dowling Property would be delighted to help. For every property sale completed following an introduction through the school newsletter, £1,000 will be donated directly to the school to support its pupils and future projects.

SIAMS Inspection

Thank you to everyone for your support with our SIAMS inspection at St Nic's this week. The inspection went well and we will be able to share the report with parents in around 3 weeks' time, when we receive it.

St John's Harvest Service

The St John's harvest service will be taking place at 9am on Wednesday 30th September. On that day, children should be dropped at **St John the Evangelist Church at 8.45am**. Children in breakfast club will be walked to the church. Parents are welcome to attend the service. We are currently looking for parents to volunteer to walk back to school with the children after the service. If you are happy to help with this, please email the school office.

West Berkshire Foodbank

Please remember to try to make a donation of items to the West Berkshire Foodbank. There are baskets for donations in the reception areas of both schools. Please see the list of items that are currently being requested:



David's Walk Book Drive

We are supporting David's Walk Book Drive, a community initiative collecting new and good-quality pre-loved books for children and young people aged 5–18 in Zimbabwe.

If you have any books at home that your children have outgrown and would like to give them a second life, we would be very grateful for your donations. Books should be in good condition and suitable for children or young people aged 5–18.

Collection boxes will be in the reception areas at St Nic's and St John's from Monday for two weeks.

All donated books will be sent to Zimbabwe later in the year to support children and young people with their reading and education.

Thank you for your support.

What is ELSA?

Join us for...

What is ELSA?

Supporting children's emotional wellbeing

The two Elsas at school (Emotional Literacy Support Assistants) will be coming to give us a session all about what they do.

- They will explain what they do in their sessions...
- ...and show some of the techniques they use.
- We'll also look at some useful strategies that you can use at home.

A great opportunity to learn some simple, practical tools to support your child's emotional wellbeing.

Tuesday 29th September
9:15 – 10:15

St John's Community Room

Please let me know if you would like to join us by:
Email: eclinch@stjohnandstnicolasschools.org.uk
Text: 07788 23 55 86

♥ We'd love to see you there! ♥

Money Coaching

- *Take control of your finances*
- *Create your own personal budget*
- *Learn how to live to your budget*
- *Transform your financial well-being*
- *Free course with on-site parking*

Newbury Baptist Church
Wednesdays 10am – 12pm
October 7th, 14th and 21st

Register via QR code, or call
David Clark on 07803 838917



Don't miss money coaching

capuk.org/trymoneycoaching

Highclere Castle Literary Festival

Saturday 3rd & Sunday 4th October 2026

This October, as part of the National Year of Reading we are proud to announce our first ever Literary Festival.

The weekend is a perfect family day out, featuring entertaining and interactive workshops from well-loved children's authors including Hugh Bonneville, Robert Tregoney, Anna James, Katie & Kevin Tsang. Children 15 and under are welcome free of charge but please come prepared to tell us all about their favourite books!

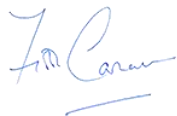
And for parents, have a go at our creative writing workshops, be inspired by bestselling authors like Santa Montefiore and Joanna Cannon or sit back and watch Charles Dickens' great, great grandson bring his wonderful Doctor Marigold to life.

Find your path by getting lost in our brilliant Garden Story Trail and finish the day going down the rabbit hole into This is My Theatre's Alice in Wonderland (suitable for all ages).

Visitors also have the chance to explore the beautiful Castle and the fascinating Egyptian Exhibition (ticket depending).

For more information on the different ticket options available, please click [HERE](#)

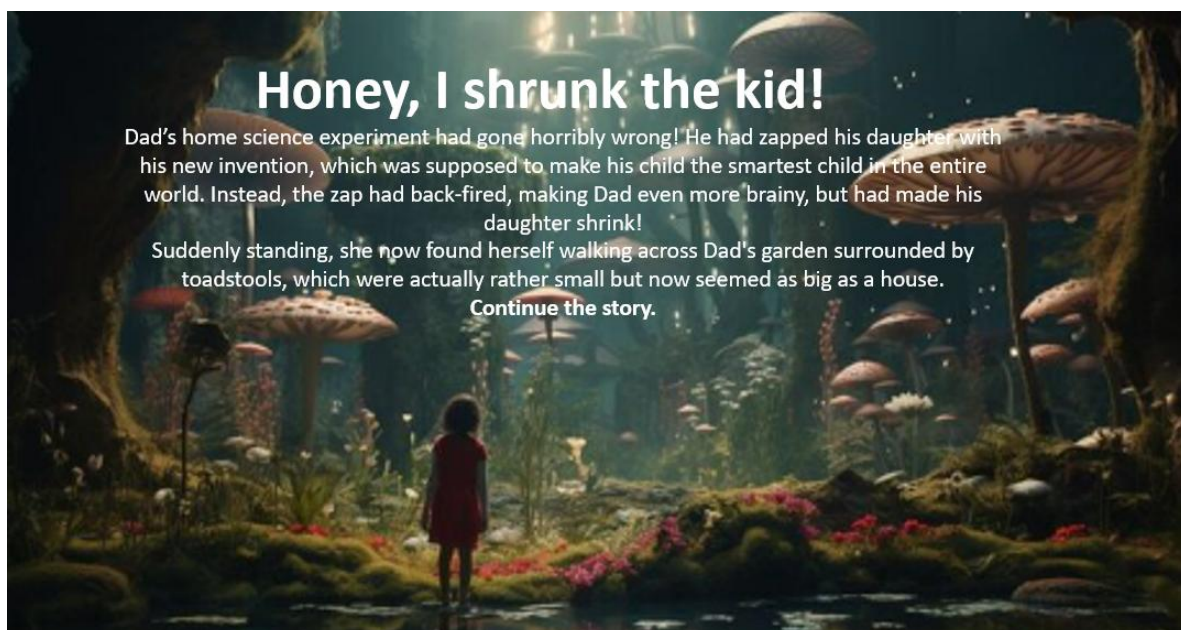
Best wishes



The Countess of Carnarvon

Writer of the Week

Congratulations to Sai Aarush in Year 3 and Yalini in Year 5 for being writers of the week for last week. Next week's inspiration is below:



Attendance

Well done to Rose class at St John's with 100% attendance and 4S at St Nic's with 98.7%.

20 children have been late across both schools this week. Please ensure that your child arrives in school on time, each day.

Overall attendance for each school for last week was as follows:

- St John's: 97.5%
- St Nic's: 96.0%

This is really positive and we look forward to continuing this pattern!

Phonics Books for the Week

Year 1: https://parents.fft.org.uk/viewer/?pdf=S34_Thank_you_Sam&d=Thank%20you,%20Sam
<https://vimeo.com/731074984/57428969db>

Year 2:
https://parents.fft.org.uk/viewer/?pdf=Chicken_Little&d=The%20Tale%20of%20Chicken%20Little

Upcoming Dates:

Saturday 19th September:

September fun day

Thursday 24th September:

Celebration Worship 10.10am

Yours sincerely,

Keith Harvey
Executive Headteacher