

Friday 16th October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week has seen the first sporting events that our children have taken part in with a hockey festival, Year 5/6 girls county cup match and Key Stage 1 multiskills festival. As well as all of those, today Mrs Allen has taken a group of children to the rugby festival in Hungerford. Although I was unable to attend any of the events, I have heard very positive things about how our children showed great sportsmanship and showed enthusiasm throughout. I was particularly impressed with the Year 5/6 girls football team, who won all of their matches and are through to the next round in the competition.

Old Newtown Roadworks

Next week, significant roadworks are beginning in Old Newtown Road. These will be continuing for several weeks and are likely to have a significant impact on access to St John's School. Whilst we do not yet know which sections of road will be closed on which dates, it is really important to be aware of the disruption that this will cause. I would highly recommend all parents walking to school over the next few weeks, as I think that parking near St John's will be very difficult. If you do need to drive, please ensure that you are considerate of neighbours and do not park in any position which might be dangerous to others.

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.

Pyjama Day

On Thursday 22nd October we will be holding a pyjama day. On this day, children are encouraged to come to school in their pyjamas in exchange either for a minimum £1 cash donation or by bringing in a **new** pair of children's pyjamas, which will be donated to a local hospital. Sometimes children have to stay in hospital at short notice, perhaps due to illness or because a parent or sibling is staying in. With new pyjamas available, the hospitals are able to provide a small comfort to these children. The last time we held a pyjama day, we were overwhelmed with people's generosity and we look forward to a similar response this year.

SEN Coffee Morning

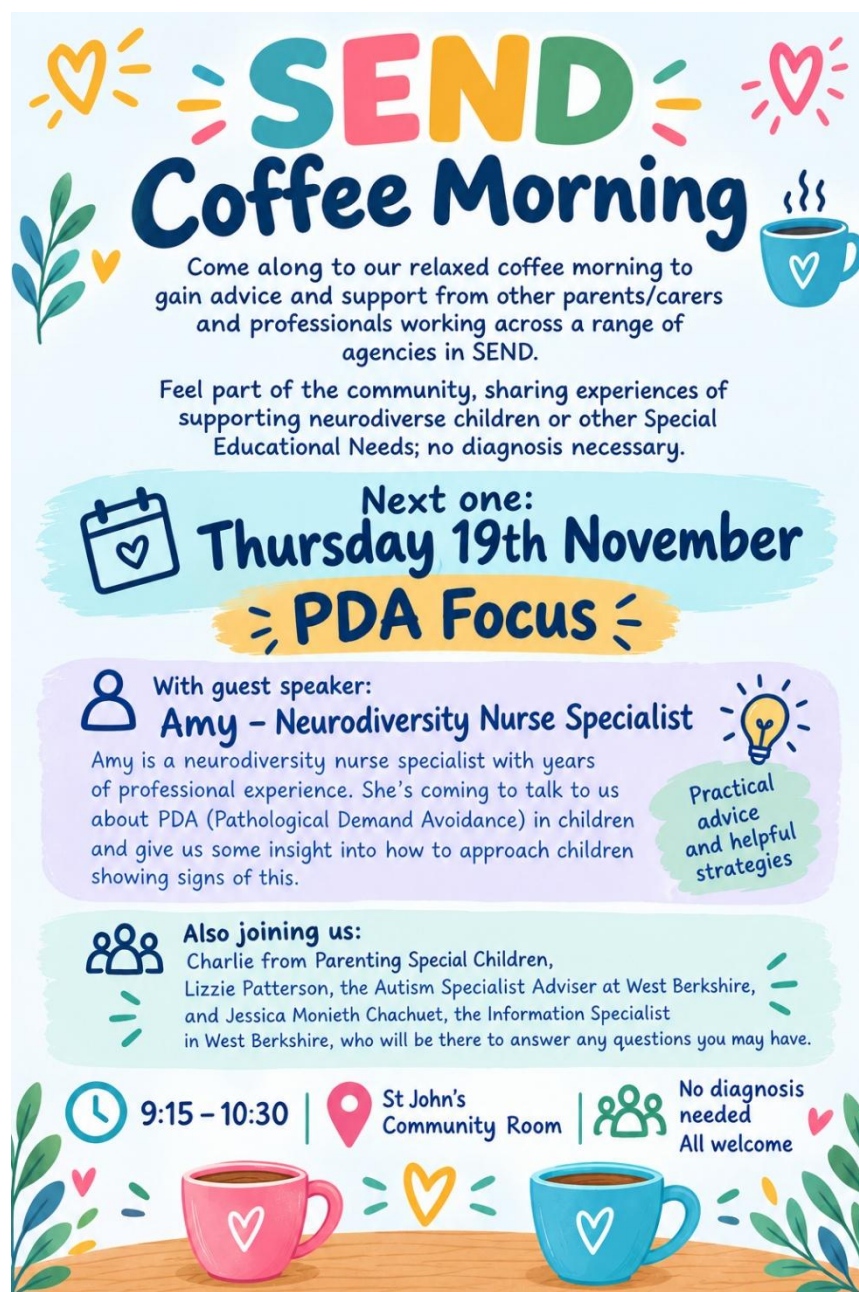
Our next SEND coffee morning is on Thursday 19th November, 9.15–10.30am, in the Community Room at St John's School.

This session will focus on PDA (Pathological Demand Avoidance). We're delighted to welcome Amy, a Neurodiversity Nurse Specialist with many years of professional experience, who will help us understand PDA and share insights into how we can support children who show signs of it.

We'll also be joined by Charlie from Parenting Special Children, Lizzie Paterson, the Autism Specialist Adviser at West Berkshire, and Jessica Monteith-Chachuat, Information Specialist for West Berkshire. They'll be available to answer questions and offer advice and guidance.

As always, everyone is welcome, and no diagnosis is needed. It's a relaxed opportunity to meet others, share experiences and find support.

We hope to see you there!



SEND Coffee Morning

Come along to our relaxed coffee morning to gain advice and support from other parents/carers and professionals working across a range of agencies in SEND.

Feel part of the community, sharing experiences of supporting neurodiverse children or other Special Educational Needs; no diagnosis necessary.

Next one:
Thursday 19th November
PDA Focus

With guest speaker:
Amy – Neurodiversity Nurse Specialist

Amy is a neurodiversity nurse specialist with years of professional experience. She's coming to talk to us about PDA (Pathological Demand Avoidance) in children and give us some insight into how to approach children showing signs of this.

Also joining us:
Charlie from Parenting Special Children,
Lizzie Patterson, the Autism Specialist Adviser at West Berkshire,
and Jessica Monieth Chachuat, the Information Specialist in West Berkshire, who will be there to answer any questions you may have.

9:15 – 10:30 | **St John's Community Room** | **No diagnosis needed All welcome**

FOSJSN Christmas Fair Preparations

The Friends are busy planning this Year's Christmas Fair and have been asking locally for possible raffle prizes. Do any parents/carers work for companies who might be able to donate an item for a hamper or an item or voucher for our raffle? We would really like to sell lots of tickets this year to support our schools so we want to make the raffle extra special.

If you can help, please email Claire at fosjsnschools@gmail.com or speak to one of the Friends.

David's Walk Book Drive

Thank you for all your donations so far for the 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.

Our collection boxes will be available be in the reception areas at St Nic's and St John's until the end of next week (22nd October).

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.

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

The Big Future – Survey

The Children's Commissioner has asked us to push for responses to The Big Survey from our children. Please encourage your child to complete the survey below:

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture/>

Scarlett's Smiles

Scarlett's Smiles are giving over 600 free tickets for a 2 hour jump session at Atmosphere Trampoline Park in Basingstoke between now and the end this year for children who meet the following criteria:

1. Child in Care
2. Child affected by loss
3. Child affected by domestic abuse
4. Child with a parent/carer in the Armed Forces
5. Child with a parent/carer with physical disabilities/terminal illness or mental health issues

If you think your child meets the criteria, and would like to apply for tickets, please complete the form below:

<https://forms.gle/YRDJ6MktPPoe6t8X6>

Attendance

Well done to Poplar class at St John's with 97.0% attendance and 6S at St Nic's with 97.8%.

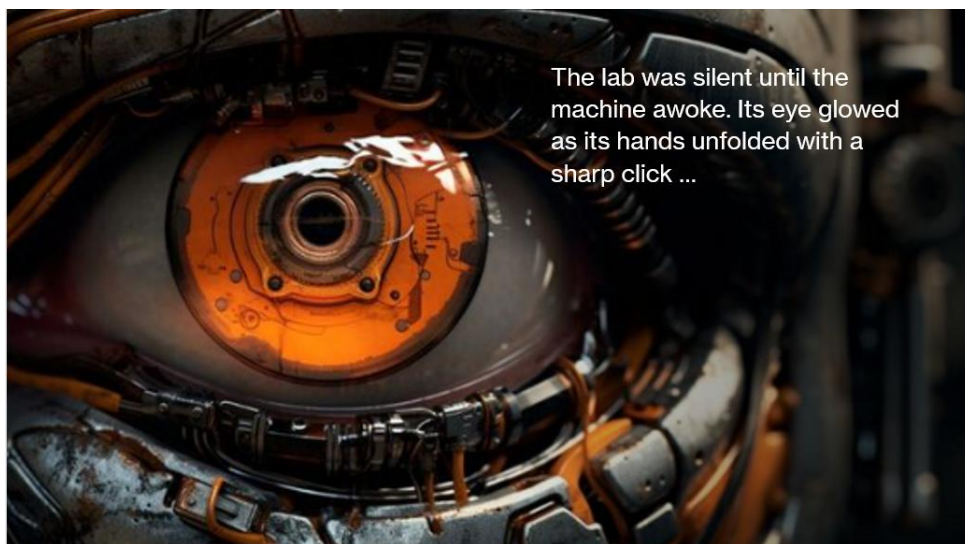
There were 31 late marks across both schools this week. Please ensure that your child arrives in school on time, each day.

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

- St John's: 93.7%
- St Nic's: 96.0%

Writer of the Week

Congratulations to Yashu in Year 5 who has been selected as Writer of the Week for her story, this week. Next week's inspiration is below:



Phonics Books for the Week

Reception: [https://parents.fft.org.uk/viewer/?pdf=S03 Sam and Ted&d=Sam%20and%20Ted](https://parents.fft.org.uk/viewer/?pdf=S03_Sam_and_Ted&d=Sam%20and%20Ted)
<https://vimeo.com/692001345/f7ebd06900>

Year 1: [https://parents.fft.org.uk/viewer/?pdf=S38 Oysters Ahoy&d=Oysters%20Ahoy!](https://parents.fft.org.uk/viewer/?pdf=S38_Oysters_Ahoy&d=Oysters%20Ahoy!)
<https://vimeo.com/731075979/e48f7a136d>

Year 2:
[https://parents.fft.org.uk/viewer/?pdf=Why Do Stars Twinkle&d=Why%20Do%20Stars%20Twinkle](https://parents.fft.org.uk/viewer/?pdf=Why_Do_Stars_Twinkle&d=Why%20Do%20Stars%20Twinkle)

Upcoming Dates

Tuesday 20 th October:	Year 5/6 U11 Football at Fir Tree School 4pm
Wednesday 21 st October:	Year 3 Stone Age Day
Wednesday 21 st October:	Reception and Nursery Share and Celebrate
Thursday 22 nd October:	Pyjama Day
Thursday 22 nd October:	Reception and Nursery Share and Celebrate
Thursday 22 nd October:	Celebration worship 10.10am
Thursday 22 nd October:	Year 2 Great Fire of London Workshop
Thursday 22 nd October:	End of Autumn Term 1 (Schools & ASCs close at normal time)
Monday 3 rd November:	Start of Autumn Term 2

Yours sincerely,

Keith Harvey
Executive Headteacher

