

Friday 25th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you so much to everyone that came along to our September Fun Day last Saturday. It was a really enjoyable occasion and lovely to see so many families from both schools in attendance. Friends of St John's and St Nic's are a valued part of our community and I would like to thank everyone that volunteered to organise the event and run stalls.

Census this Thursday

This coming Thursday 1st October is the school census. This census provides the data, which our school funding is based on. Therefore, it is really important that as many children as possible take a school dinner on this day. We would encourage all children, particularly at St John's School to take a meal on this day, as it can make a significant difference to the funding that we receive.

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.

Roads Outside St Nicolas School

I have received two emails this week regarding dangerous behaviour on the roads near St Nicolas School.

Firstly, it has been pointed out to me that some parents have been parking on the double yellow lines outside the school. This is a particularly dangerous place to park as it means that the corner between Station Road and Link Road becomes blind for anyone trying to cross. In the past, we have had some very close near misses with children and would urge everyone to find somewhere else to park.

I have also had an email regarding children riding dangerously on scooters in the area around Fair Close House between Link Road and Newtown Road

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 still looking for parents to volunteer to walk back to school with the children. If you are able to help with this, please email St John's office.

Book Fair

There will be a Travelling Book Fair in both schools from 6th October 2026 to 13th October 2026. The Book Fair will be open each evening after school in both schools and is an ideal opportunity for parents to purchase books for Christmas, as well as for current reading. The schools will get a percentage of all books sold and this money will be used to buy further books for the schools.

West Berkshire Foodbank

For our harvest services, we are collecting for the West Berkshire Foodbank. Please remember to bring a donation in. There are baskets for donations in the reception areas of both schools. Below is a list of items that are currently being requested:



Please donate an item or two from the list to help local people left without enough money to live on.

Shopping list

Tinned veg
Pasta sauce
UHT Milk
Coffee
Cereal
Tinned Tomatoes
Sugar
Sponge Puddings
Toilet roll
Shower gel

Writer of the Week

Congratulations to Aadita in Year 5 for being writer of the week for last week. Also, a big well done to Stella, Joseph and Maddie in Year 4 for achieving their bronze reading badges. Next week's writer of the week inspiration is below:



Write a
fairy tale
with a
twist.

Attendance

Well done to Daisy class at St John's with 97.9% attendance and 3N at St Nic's with 98.5%.

31 children have been late across both schools this week. This is an increase on the week before and is a worrying trend. 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: 94.9%
- St Nic's: 96.2%

Phonics Books for the Week

Year 1:

[https://parents.fft.org.uk/viewer/?pdf=S35 An Outing to the Woods&d=An%20Outing%20to%20he%20Woods](https://parents.fft.org.uk/viewer/?pdf=S35%20An%20Outing%20to%20the%20Woods&d=An%20Outing%20to%20the%20Woods)

<https://vimeo.com/731075565/d585827224>

Year 2:

[https://parents.fft.org.uk/viewer/?pdf=Chicken Little&d=The%20Tale%20of%20Chicken%20Little](https://parents.fft.org.uk/viewer/?pdf=Chicken%20Little&d=The%20Tale%20of%20Chicken%20Little)

Upcoming Dates

Monday 28th September 2026:

St John's Individual Photos

Wednesday 30th September 2026:

St Nic's Individual Photos

Wednesday 30th September 2026:

St John's Harvest Service – 9am at St John's Church

Thursday 1st October 2026:

Celebration Worship 10.10am

Tuesday 6th October 2026:

Book Fair at both schools

Yours sincerely,

Keith Harvey
Executive Headteacher