

Friday 9th October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Yesterday, I had my first opportunity this term to show prospective parents around St John's. This is always such an enjoyable thing to do as it allows me to experience what visitors to our schools see and to show off the many great things that are taking place. As always, I was hugely impressed with the behaviour and focus of our children across the school.

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.

St Nicolas School Gates

Can all parents please remember that only the pedestrian gate should be used for people walking into or out of the St Nicolas site at the front. I know that it can be tempting to use the car park gate if it is open, but it potentially puts people using it in danger, with cars moving in and out of the school.

St John's Car Park

Can I please remind all parents that cars should not come into the school car park, apart from registered disabled drivers, with prior permission.

Dogs are not allowed on the St John's school site, apart from therapy dogs, if previously agreed. Additionally, if you do bring a dog, please ensure that it is not tied up near the entrance to the school, as this can make some children very anxious.

For parents that are waiting to collect their children at the end of the day, can we please ask you to wait away from the main school entrance and Beech class windows, as seeing parents outside can make it hard for our children to focus.

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 and to bring 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.

Book Fair

Please remember that the last day that parents can use the book fair is Monday 12th October. The Book Fair will be open after school in both schools and the schools will get a percentage of all books sold and this money will be used to buy further books for the schools.

SEND Coffee Morning Next Week



The poster is for a 'SEND COFFEE MORNING' organized by BRIYM (Building Resilience in Young Minds). It features a yellow and pink color scheme. At the top, there is a BRIYM logo and a circular portrait of a woman. The main title 'SEND COFFEE MORNING' is in large, bold, pink letters, with the tagline 'Support • Share • Connect' below it. A heart icon is centered under the tagline. The text 'Join Charlie and Leigh-Anne from BRIYM at our next SEND coffee morning.' is followed by a description: 'A relaxed and friendly session to help you understand, share experiences, ask questions and find practical support — because you're not alone.' Below this, a section titled 'We'll explore:' lists four bullet points about child resilience and confidence. A yellow box contains a quote about resilience. The 'About BRIYM' section describes the organization's work with schools. The event details are listed at the bottom: Thursday 15th October, 9.15-10.30am, at St John's School, Community Room. A final yellow box encourages attendance without booking, accompanied by a coffee cup icon.

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SEND COFFEE MORNING

Support • Share • Connect

Join Charlie and Leigh-Anne from BRIYM at our next SEND coffee morning.

A relaxed and friendly session to help you understand, share experiences, ask questions and find practical support — because you're not alone.

We'll explore:

- Why little brains can become overwhelmed and what is happening when a child feels worried, cross, upset or unable to cope.
- Simple ways to help children regulate using calm, connection, language and practical techniques you can use at home.
- How resilience grows by helping children face manageable challenges, recover from setbacks and learn 'I can do hard things'.
- How confidence is built through experience, encouragement and giving the brain a blueprint for coping and succeeding.

Resilience isn't about always being able to do something. It's about what happens when we find something hard, trying, adapting and keeping going.

About BRIYM

BRIYM, Building Resilience in Young Minds, works with schools to support children, parents and staff. Our team combines therapeutic knowledge with real experience of education, helping families understand the brain and use practical strategies that make a difference in everyday life.

Come along, grab a coffee and join the conversation.

Everyone is welcome. There will be plenty of practical ideas to take away and try at home.

DATE Thursday 15th October

TIME 9.15–10.30am

WHERE St John's School, Community Room

Join us! No need to book.

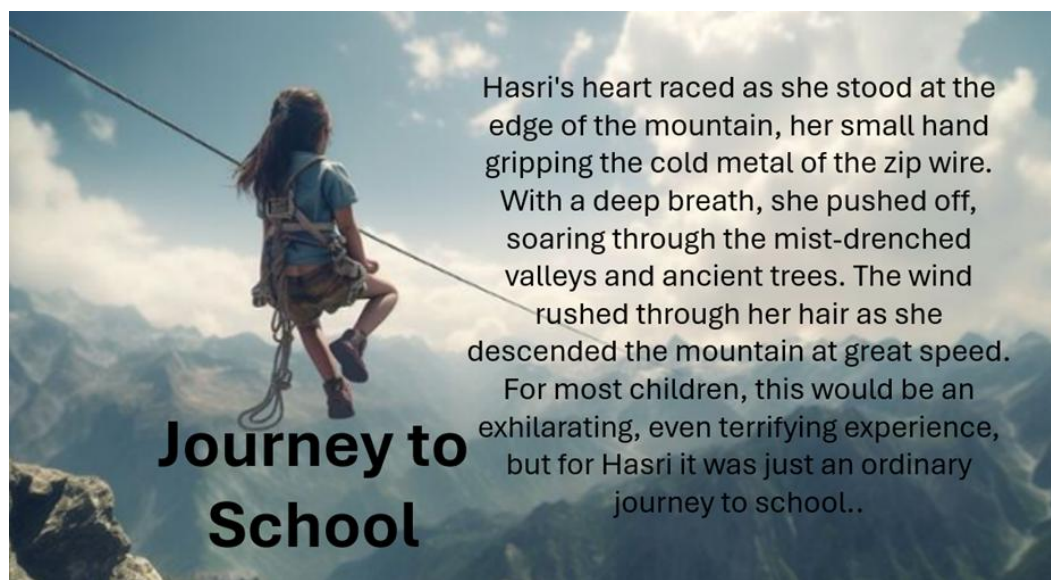
Friends of St John's and St Nic's Book Swap

The FOSJSN would like to welcome everyone to their free book swap on Thursday 15th October. This will be the first of their monthly book swaps which will take place on the third Thursday of each month. Please bring up to 5 good condition books which you can swap for up to 5 different books. They will be based in St John's Community Room from 3pm so please do join them.

Whilst this is a free book swap there will also be a donation bucket available, and any funds raised will go directly to new reading books for the schools.

Writer of the Week

Congratulations to Clemmie in Year 6 who has been selected as Writers of the Week for her story, this week. Also, congratulations to Benjamin in Year 5 for achieving his bronze reading certificate. Next week's inspiration is below:



Attendance

Well done to Oak and Daisy classes at St John's with 96.9% attendance and 4N at St Nic's with 98.9%.

There were 32 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: 94.8%
- St Nic's: 98.0%

Phonics Books for the Week

Reception: https://parents.fft.org.uk/viewer/?pdf=S02_Kim_Cat&d=Kim%20Cat
<https://vimeo.com/692000925/b35e9ef1d8>

Year 1: https://parents.fft.org.uk/viewer/?pdf=S37_Little_Peach&d=Little%20Peach
<https://vimeo.com/731075953/03a2d71865>

Children's October Half Term Activities at City Arts

City Arts will be running a range of children's workshops over the half term holiday and details can be found on the link below:

<https://cityartsnewbury.org/childrens-october-half-term-2026-at-city-arts/>

World Singing Day



COME AND SING WITH US!

at West Berkshire Music Centre

Come and experience the joy of singing and join our World Singing Day celebration. Free entry, everyone is welcome!

Saturday 17 October, 10.00am - 3.00pm
Kennet School, Stoney Lane, Thatcham RG19 4LL



Activities will include:

- Young Singers Workshop**
 - Suitable for KS2 children
 - 10.40 - 11.20am
- Children's Singing Workshop**
 - Suitable for Early Years and KS1 children
 - 11.30am - 12.00pm
- Adult Singing Workshop**
 - 11.30 - 12.30pm
- Join the World Singing Day BIG SING!**
 - 12.00 - 12.15pm

CLICK HERE OR SCAN TO BOOK



BERKSHIRE MUSIC TRUST
Making music for everyone

Upcoming Dates

Tuesday 13th October 2026:

Flu vaccines at St John's

Tuesday 13th October 2026:

Reception and Nursery Parents' Evening

Wednesday 14th October 2026:

Reception Parents' Evening

Thursday 15th October 2026:

Celebration worship 10.10am

Yours sincerely,

Keith Harvey

Executive Headteacher