

Friday 3rd July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week has had many highlights for me, including the StoryQuest orchestral experience in Reading, as well as hearing about our Key Stage 2 sports days that have been taking place. However, the two strongest highlights have involved our year groups at two different ends of the school.

Firstly, on Tuesday, I was privileged to take a group of 14 Year 6 children to St Nicolas Church to take part in Friends Together. This was the first time that we have done this, with our children spending time with some older members of the community playing games. The children were amazing and really represented our school vision.

Then today was the early years sports day. This is always one of the most special occasions in the school year. It was lovely to mingle with children and parents watching the children enjoy participating in so many different activities. Well done to them all!

Hot Weather Next Week

It is very likely that the weather will be very hot again next week, although possibly not at the levels that we had last week. As things stand, our plan is for both schools to be open next week. St John's parents will be aware that we have made some adjustments to our lunch menu.

Please ensure that your child comes into school with sun cream applied, wearing a sun hat and with plenty of water.

As things stand, the maximum temperatures for next week look as though they will be in the late 20s. However, if there is any significant rise in temperatures above this, we will consider making the decision to close St John's in the afternoons, as the building gets very hot. As we are able to provide air conditioning at St Nic's if the temperature gets too high, it will remain fully open.

Air Conditioning Donations

The use of air conditioning at St Nic's will bring a significant increase in electricity costs for the school. Whilst we have no expectations on parental contribution, a parent mentioned that they would be happy to make a donation. Therefore, we have set up a donation facility for parents on ParentPay, if you would like to contribute towards the costs of the air conditioning during the hot weather.

September Fair

Unfortunately, we have been unable to find a suitable date this term for the Summer Fair to take place, particularly with the worry that it could be cancelled again if the weather gets too hot. Therefore, the plan is to hold a school fair at St Nic's in the early part of the Autumn term. We will let you know a date as soon as we can.

Apprenticeship Award

Congratulations to our Reception and Nursery staff, who have won an award this week. We have successfully won the Newbury College Early Years Apprenticeship Employer Award for 2026. Well done to Mrs Stewart and all of the staff in early years.

St Nicolas School Lunches Price Increase

From 1st September, the cost of a school lunch at St Nic's will rise from £2.80 to £2.96. Please be aware of this when making decisions about school lunches for September.

Sponsored Read

Well done to everyone that took part in the sponsored read. We raised £520 across both schools and everything raised will be spent on books for the school libraries.

The year group with the highest participation was Year 3 and because of this, they will be able to have a non-uniform day next Friday 10th July.

Change Over Day

Next Monday, 6th July, is our change over day at both schools. Information has been sent out by the offices, but children will be spending the day in their new class. Year 2 children should come to St Nicolas School. The start time at St Nic's is 9am and school finishes at 3.30pm.

The children's new teachers are really looking forward to getting to know them better.

Year 6 children that are going to St Bart's will be spending the day there.

We are aware of the World Cup match against Mexico at 1am on Sunday night/Monday morning and understand that some schools will be making changes to their start times because of this. However, because of change over day, we would like all children in school at the beginning of the day on Monday.

Parents' Evenings

Parents' Evenings are happening next week, as follows:

- Tuesday 7th July – St John's Parents' Evening
- Wednesday 8th July – St Nic's Parents' Evening
- Thursday 9th July – Parents' Evenings at both schools
- Friday 10th July – Nursery Parents' Evenings

If you have not yet booked an appointment, please do so, using the link that you will have received. The booking system will close at midnight on Monday 6th July.

Attendance

I will not provide attendance information for this week, due to the weather disruption.

However, attendance remains very important and we ask all parents to ensure that children are in, on time, every day.

Year 6 SATs Results

You may have seen a news article saying that the Year 6 SATs results will be delayed this year. This means that they will not arrive in school until Thursday 16th July. It will take some time to ensure that the information is correct and to collate the results. Therefore, our aim is to email the results to parents on Friday 17th July. If there is any change to this date, we will let you know.

SEND Coffee Morning



Sleep support for families

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 neuro diverse children or other Special Educational Needs; no diagnosis necessary.

9:15am to 10.30am Thursday 9th July

Community Room
St John Evangelist Infant & Nursery School

Sleep Support With Helen Catamore
a sleep practitioner from Parenting Special Children

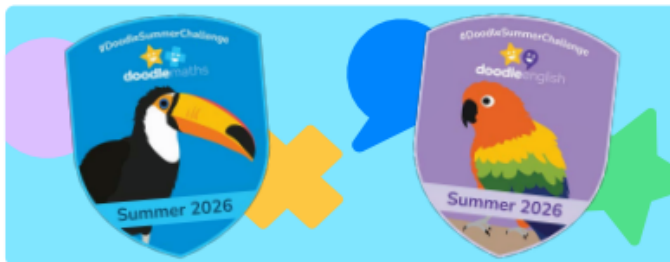
PARENTING SPECIAL CHILDREN
A charity for all families with children with Special Educational Needs

The Doodle Summer Challenge

1st of July - 31st of August 2026

Earn a pin badge and certificate!

Between the **1st of July - 31st of August**, Doodle are running two exciting Summer Challenges — the DoodleMaths Challenge and the DoodleEnglish Challenge!



Both Challenges are designed to encourage a few minutes of daily Doodling, keeping your child engaged in their learning and boosting their skills. Plus, they can **earn exclusive rewards** by taking part!

How to take part

1 Create or link your account

If you haven't already, create and/or link a parent account to your child's school account. To find out how to do this, see the reverse of this flyer or visit help.doodlelearning.com and search '[how to link account](#)'.

2 Register for the Challenge

From the **1st of July**, visit parents.doodlelearning.com and press **Register** next to your child's name for one or both Challenges.* **The last day to register for and begin the Challenge is the 18th of August.**

3 Doodle 'little and often'

Once you've registered, encourage your child to **earn 750 stars** (or 600 if they were born after August 2018) **and use DoodleMaths and/or DoodleEnglish for 14 days*** between the **1st of July – 31st of August**.

*These 14 days don't need to be in a row. A day of use is defined as completing at least one exercise between 00:01 and 23:59.

4 Receive a pin badge and certificate!

Once they've reached their target, we'll send a **pin badge to their school**. This will arrive after the Challenge comes to an end. You can also claim a **personalised certificate** for them by visiting parents.doodlelearning.com and pressing **Download certificate**. The last chance to do this is midnight on the 25th of September.



Tag us and use the hashtag
#DoodleSummerChallenge

For more information,
please visit doodlelearning.com/challenge.

Any questions? Visit help.doodlelearning.com and press on the green circle icon to chat to our team.

City Arts

City Arts have several sessions of Friday Art for children, which are wellbeing workshops running in the summer and also October half term. These have to be booked online and are suitable for children aged 8+, and are donation only.

You can find more details about these sessions here:

<https://cityartsnewbury.org/2026/04/15/children-friday-art-the-art-hub-2026/>

Phonics Books for the Week

Reception: https://parents.fft.org.uk/viewer/?pdf=S31_Jill-s_Peppers&d=Jill%E2%80%99s%20Peppers
<https://vimeo.com/692012985/cbcb041b70>

Year 1: https://parents.fft.org.uk/viewer/?pdf=S67_Meet_the_Pilgrims&d=Meet%20the%20Pilgrims
<https://vimeo.com/731076706/f7d599faef>

Year 2: https://parents.fft.org.uk/viewer/?pdf=Beas_Pumpkin&d=Bea%E2%80%99s%20Pumpkin

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 animation is Button Moon.



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

Lunar; Gelato; Chilled; Booster; Popsicle; Ladle; Squirt; Sherbet

Upcoming Dates

Monday 6 th July:	Change Over Day
Monday 6 th July:	Cake sale at St Nic's (after school)
Tuesday 7 th July:	St John's Parents' Evening
Wednesday 8 th July:	Swimming gala finals
Wednesday 8 th July:	St Nic's Parents' Evening
Thursday 9 th July:	Celebration worship 10.10am
Thursday 9 th July:	Parents' Evenings at both schools
Friday 10 th July:	Nursery Parents' Evening

Yours sincerely,

Keith Harvey
Executive Headteacher