St John's CE First School

Newsletter

Friday 9th October 2026

Love Protect Succeed

PENK VALLEY ACADEMY TRUST

www.st-johns-bishopswood.staffs.sch.uk
Email office@stjohnsbishopswood.org

DIARY DATES 2026–2027

9th October	Mental Health Awareness day—wear yellow
12th October	Harvest Festival 10am St John's Church, All Welcome (Nursery to stay at school)
15th October	Parents evening (look out for sign up on class dojo)
23rd October	INSET DAY
26th—30th October	Half term
5th November	Acorns and Squirrels Katherine Allport Charity Bingo 2pm
10th November	Prayer Space Oaks Families Invited
11th November	Sikh Diwali Day
12th November	Saplings Katherine Allport Charity Bingo 2pm
13th November	Children In Need
16th November	Odd Socks Day
19th November	Oaks Katherine Allport Charity Bingo 2pm
27th November	Bishopswood Light Switch On. Children to perform TBC
8th December	Saplings Nativity 1.30pm and 5.30pm performances
9th December	Panto trip AM
16th December	Squirrels and Acorns Crafts and Singing, 1.30pm
17th December	Oaks Carol Concert in Church, 6pm
18th December	Christmas Party and School Fair

St John's First School Christian value for this half term is: 'Friendship'

'Encourage one another and build each other up'



Child of the Week

Well done to the following children, week ending 1st October 2026

Squirrels	Archie
Acorns	Daisy
Saplings	Deliah
	Esme L.H.
Oaks	Mia
	Eddie

Good as Gold

Well done to the following children, week ending 1st October 2026

Acorns	Eva
Saplings	Ruby
Oaks	Eva

Child of the Week

Well done to the following children, week ending 8th October 2026

Squirrels	Haris
Acorns	Musi
Saplings	Alfie
	Dougie
Oaks	Isabella
	George

Good as gold

Well done to the following children, week ending 8th October 2026

Acorns	Henry
Saplings	Esme S.
Oaks	Reuben

Attendance

Well done to the following classes for the week ending 2nd October 2026

Acorns	97%
Year 1	90%
Year 2	91%
Year 3	99%
Year 4	98%

WS Year to date

94%

Target 96%

Attendance

Well done to the following classes for the week ending 8th October 2026

Acorns	98%
Year 1	95%
Year 2	93%
0Year 3	98%
Year 4	97%

WS Year to date

96%

Target 96%



If your child is absent from school you need to contact us each day by 9am.
If you do not contact us we will be contacting the Education Welfare Officer who will make a home visit.
We have a duty of care to ensure your child is safe.
As per NHS guidance if your child has a sickness or stomach bug they must remain off school, until they have been 48 hours clear.

If your child uses an inhaler please supply school with one, in a box with a named
prescription label on the box.

We can only issue children under six years old. with prescribed Medication. Children over six can be given medicines such as Piriton or Calpol, but it must be provided by the parent.
All medication must be handed in at the office, where you will be required to fill in a
consent form.

Please update the school office via email
regarding any changes in telephone numbers or addresses.
Including any changes to emergency contact numbers such as grandparents etc.

We also need to know any changes in medical issues such as asthma or allergies.
Please be reminded it is the responsibility of parents to check the use by dates on inhalers and that they still contain medication. Please drop by the office to check periodically.

Prayer Space

With Cathy

Approximately 9.10am start

Tuesday 10th November

Oaks family invited in.



Please name all your children's clothes.
Its hard to identify them when there are potentially 70
identical ones floating around school without names.
Also please send coats into school as the weather is very unpredictable!



12th October
Harvest Festival
St John's Church 10am
All welcome!

Please send donations of tinned and dry food into school from
1st October.
Which will be donated to the Good Shepherd Food Bank.



Christmas Fair

Friday 18th December 1.30pm Onwards.

We have a Santa's grotto, a cake stall from Cakes and Bakes by Rachael, and Mrs Howdin's Wax Melts and Candles.
Oaks will be running their very popular games like last year. If anyone else would like a stall please get in touch.
The PTA would love some parent volunteers, if you can help on the day please let us know!



Friday 13th November
The children have decided they would like to raise money for Children in Need this year by coming to school dressed as their favourite bear.
Please don't go out and buy costumes we don't want you to spend extra money.
Be creative and use what you have at home, we love a homemade, inventive costume!

They would also like to have a cake sale, please donate shop bought cakes to sell at playtime.
Fundraising links to follow.



Celebrating 25 Wonderful Years at St John's

We are delighted to celebrate a very special milestone: Mrs Byrne has been part of the St John's family for an incredible 25 years!

Throughout her many years at our school, Mrs Byrne has made a lasting difference to the lives of countless children. With her care, dedication and encouragement, she has helped generations of pupils learn, grow and become the best versions of themselves. Her warmth and commitment have also made her a highly valued colleague and an important part of our school community.

Twenty-five years of service is a remarkable achievement, and we feel extremely fortunate to have Mrs Byrne at St John's. Her contribution has helped shape our school into the happy and supportive place it is today.

Please join us in congratulating Mrs Byrne and thanking her for everything she has given to St John's over the past 25 years. What an amazing achievement - here's to many more happy memories!

In line with the new release of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026, St John's will now be a mobile phone free environment.

'**Mobile phone policy**

170. All schools should be mobile phone-free environments by default; anything other than this should be by exception only.'

Please make sure your phone is put away when on school property

Not only does this mean we are compliant with the update, but it also means your child will be greeted with the attention they need at the beginning/end of a school day



Autumn Disco

Ran by our wonderful PTA

Thursday 22nd October 3.15-4.15

£3.50 payable on parent pay.

Please pay by 17th October so the PTA have numbers for catering.

Children can wear their own clothes during the day at school.

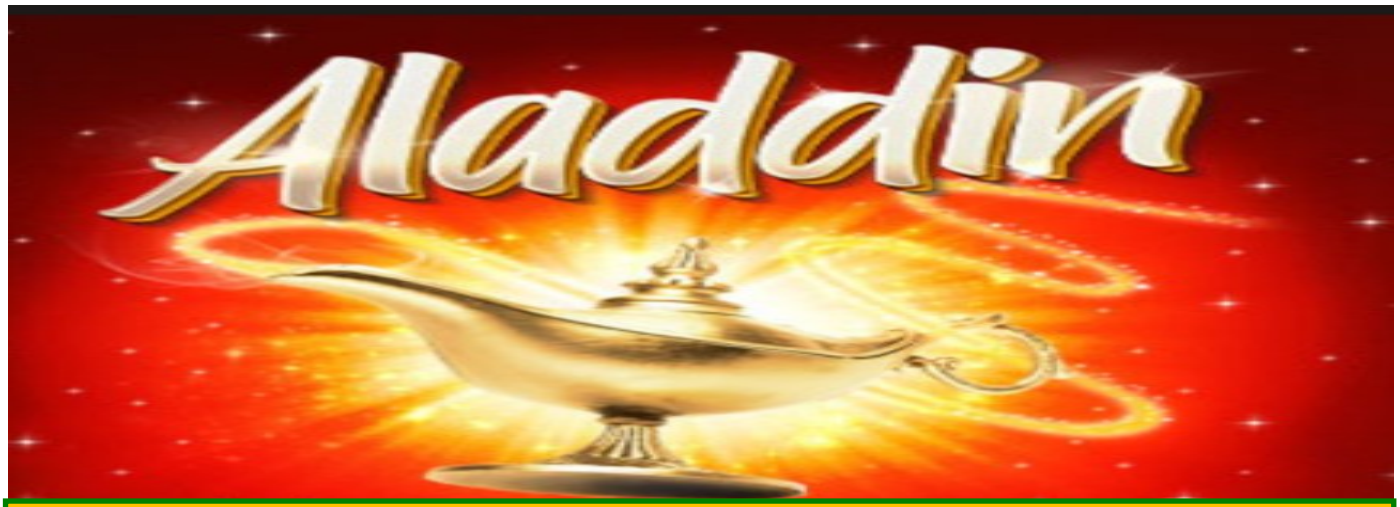


Chocolate Bingo

Join us for a fun-filled **Chocolate Bingo** event as we raise money for the fabulous **Katherine Allport Charity**!

- **Bingo cards:** £1 donation
- **Tea, Coffee and Squash available.**
- **Cakes** for a small donation
- **All are welcome** and there is **no need to book**

We would be very grateful for donations of cakes on the morning of the bingo to help make the event a success. Please bring your pennies as we can only accept cash on the day. Thank you!



We are delighted to announce that this year's pantomime visit for reception to year4 will be **Aladdin** at the **Gatehouse Theatre** on **Wednesday 9th December**.

Children will be leaving school at approximately **9:00am** and will return shortly after lunchtime.

To keep costs down the PTA has kindly agreed to cover the cost of the coaches we will provide details shortly.

Please contribute via ParentPay the cost of £15 as soon as possible.

Please note that **there will be no hot school meals available on this day**.

- **Reception to Year 2** children will automatically be provided with a **grab bag lunch** in their classrooms.
- **Years 3 and 4** children should bring a **packed lunch** from home. Alternatively, parents/carers may request a grab bag lunch by contacting the school office.

Grab bag sandwich options are:

- Ham
- Egg
- Tuna
- Cheese



SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS & GPs

NHS

CAMHS

CRISIS & INTENSIVE SUPPORT TEAM

Support • Advice • Guidance



AVAILABLE 7 DAYS A WEEK | **9:00am – 10:00pm**

CALL NHS 111 → OPTION 2

Before directing any child or young person under 18 to A&E

STOP & CALL FIRST

If you are concerned about the mental health of a child or young person under 18, please contact our CAMHS Crisis & Intensive Support Team to speak to a CAMHS Practitioner **before** directing them to hospital.



OUR AIM

To reduce avoidable attendances at local A&E departments and ensure children and young people receive the **right support**, in the **right place**, at the **right time**.

HOW WE CAN HELP

- Mental health advice and guidance
- Risk assessment support
- Clinical support and intervention
- Assistance in determining whether an A&E attendance is appropriate

AFTER 10PM

Calls will be answered by a call handler who will ensure CAMHS receives the information for appropriate follow-up the next morning.

NHS 111 – OPTION 2

CONTACT CAMHS BEFORE REFERRING UNDER 18s TO A&E

We are MPFT

NHS Midlands Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust

Together we are making life better for our communities