St John's CE First School

Newsletter

Friday 11th September 2026

Love Protect Succeed

PENK VALLEY ACADEMY TRUST

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

DIARY DATES 2026–2027

11th September	Academy Photography in School
7th October	Flu vaccinations R-Y4: Details to follow
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	Saplings Katherine Allport Charity Bingo 2pm
12th November	Sikh Diwali Day
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

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

'Friendship'



Child of the Week

Well done to the following children, week ending 11th September 2026

Squirrels	Roman
Acorns	Henry
Saplings	Ralphie
	Barney
Oaks	Jonah
	Izzy

Good as Gold

Well done to the following children, week ending 11th September 2026

Acorns	Tommy
Saplings	Effie
Oaks	Sophia D.

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





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.

We are a nut free school. Please do not send nuts into school, or products containing nuts.

We are a healthy school, please do not send sweets and chocolate bars in as part of packed lunches, snacks such as kitkats and penguins are acceptable.

Please make sure all food is prepared according to your child's age. For example children in nursery should have grapes cut into quarters to avoid choking risks. Please speak with Mrs Mason for further guidance.



The Immunisation team will be in school on Wednesday 7th October with the flu vaccine, which is available to all children in reception to year 4. Details will follow shortly on how to book your child's place.

Reception to Year 4 only.

Class P.E. Schedules

Acorns

Timeout Tuesdays—Wear P.E. Kit

Saplings

Monday P.E. kit

Oaks

Friday P.E Kit

Prayer Space

With Cathy

Approximately 9.10am start

Tuesday 10th November

Oaks family invited in.





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.

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Wild back to St John's

Some of you may remember Mrs Wild from her days of working in Saplings class.

Mrs Wild has now rejoined us as a one to one TA.

Welcome back Mrs Wild!



Please can you make sure that your contact details such as, telephone numbers, address and email addresses are up to date. If you have made any changes over the summer, please let the office know.

Thank You!

Autumn Disco

Ran by our wonderful PTA

Thursday 22nd October 3.15-4.15

£3.50 payable on parent pay.

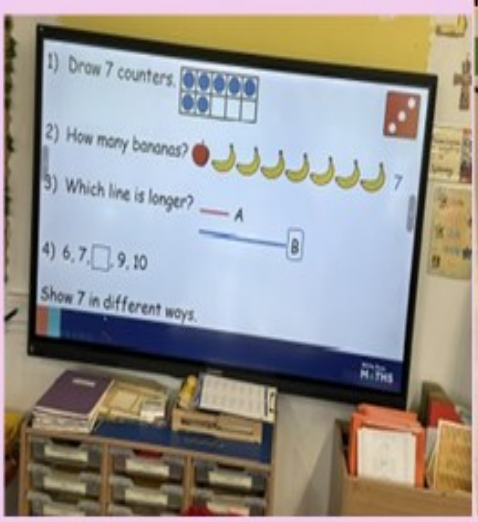
Please pay by 17th October so the PTA have numbers for catering.

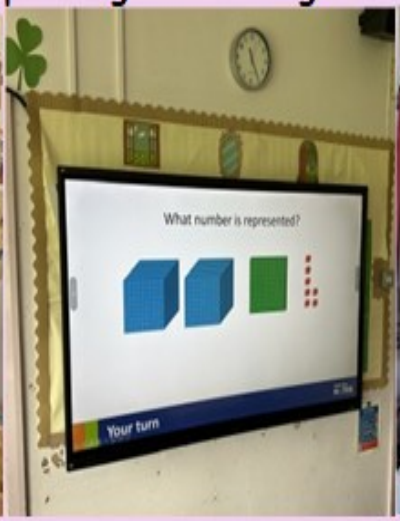
Children can wear their own clothes during the day at school.

PTA NEWS

A huge thank you to the PTA for all the fundraising efforts over the past year, if not longer.

We are very happy to announce we now have our interactive white boards installed in each of our classrooms and the staff and children are already putting them to good use.







Katherine Allport CHARITY

Supporting families through childhood and beyond

Together we can make a difference

Join us for

Chocolate Prize Bingo

Coffee and Cake



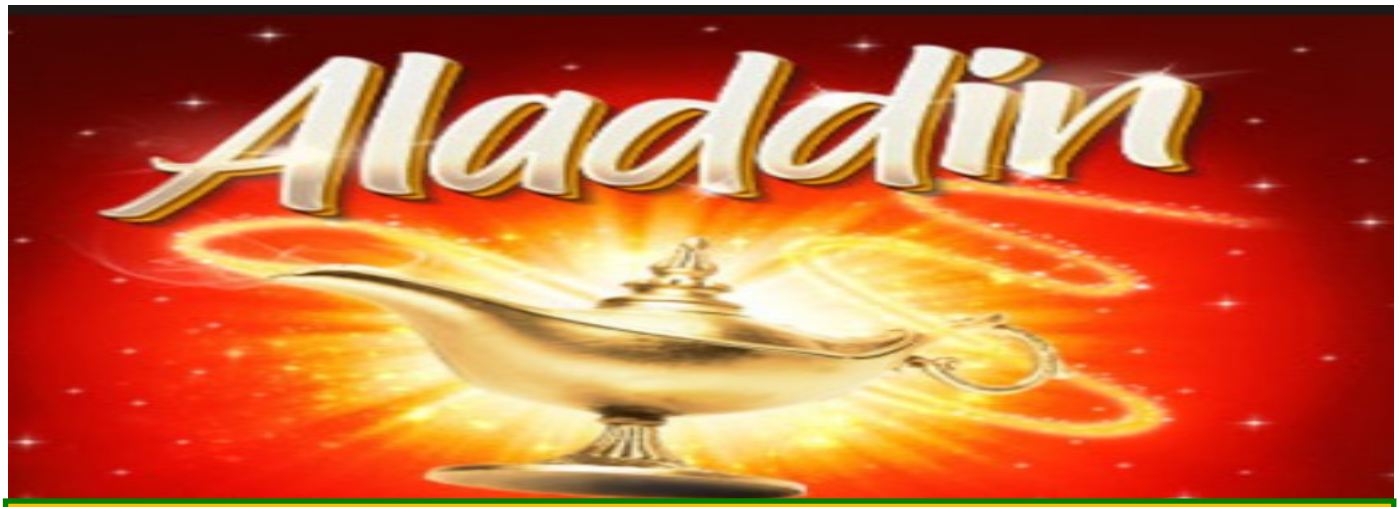
Prize Bingo Dates

Acorns Class
5th November
2pm

Saplings Class
12th November
2pm

Oaks Class
19th November
2pm

Let's raise money for this fantastic charity!



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 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



FRIENDSHIP

HOME SCHOOL VALUES

This term we will be focussing in school on the value FRIENDSHIP. We hope your family will find these ideas helpful as you explore the value and have fun together.

TALK ABOUT FRIENDSHIP TOGETHER...

Learning to be a good **friend**, someone who can be trusted and is loyal, takes a lifetime.

Talk together about how **friends** come in all shapes and sizes. Some are young, some are old. Some are always there, some we see only occasionally.

- How do we choose our **friends**?
- What makes a good **friend**?
- Are we a good **friend** to others?

THINK TOGETHER

Words of Wisdom

"A good **friend** is worth their weight in gold."

Anon

That's a lot of gold! Why do you think that this is such a popular proverb?

READ TOGETHER...

Through the roof

Jesus reached a town called Capernaum and made his way to a house near the town gate. The crowd had gathered quickly and now even more people were pushing and squeezing into the small house, wanting to see him, hear him and touch him.

The excitement was infectious and four **friends** who lived in a street nearby soon heard the news. They met together and decided that they absolutely *had* to take their **friend** Joshua to Jesus. Joshua was paralysed and couldn't walk. They'd heard that Jesus performed miracles and could heal the sick. This was a chance they couldn't miss.

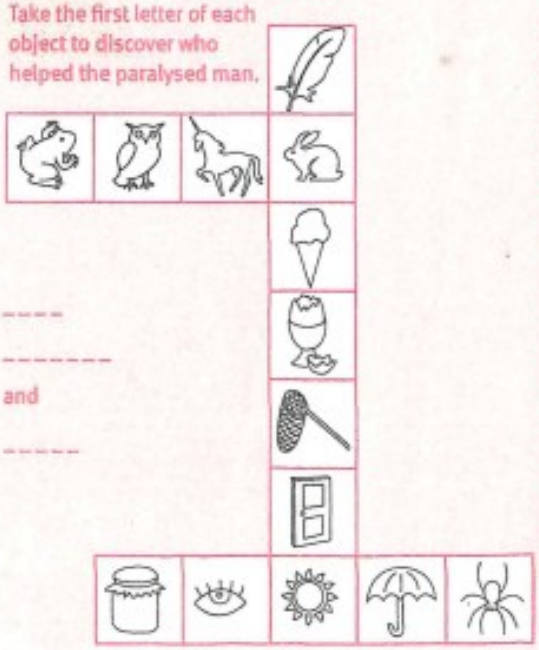
Wasting no time they carried their **friend** on his bed mat to the house, but jostling crowds blocked the doorway. They couldn't give up now. Their **friend** *must* meet Jesus. There was only one way. They carried him on to the flat roof of the house and carefully removed part of the roof to make a large hole.

Knotting ropes to the corners of the bed mat they gently lowered Joshua down right in front of Jesus. Imagine the surprise of all the people looking on. But Jesus smiled kindly at Joshua. "Take up your bed, and walk" he said. Slowly, falteringly and hardly daring to believe it was happening, Joshua stood and took a step forward. He could walk. He could actually walk! Thanks to Jesus and his **friends**, Joshua's life was changed forever!

Bible story based on Mark 2:1-12

QUIZ Picture puzzle

Take the first letter of each object to discover who helped the paralysed man.



_____

_____

and

_____

FAMILY FOCUS

Friends of the Family

This term's family challenge is to make a card or present for someone who is a **friend** to your whole family. You could add a gift tag saying...

Our family has been thinking about friendship. This is a thank you gift for being a special friend to all of us.

FASCINATING FACTS

Friendship Bands

Friendship bracelets are usually handmade and given to a special **friend**. According to American tradition you must wear the bracelet until the cords break and it falls off naturally. In this way you honour the love and hard work your **friend** put in to making it.



Raksha Bandhan

One special type of **friendship** bracelet is a Rakhi. Each year, normally in August, many Hindus mark Raksha Bandhan. The festival is a celebration of family life and in particular the relationship between brothers and sisters. They remember and talk about special times together, and think about loyalty, closeness, trust and their everlasting **friendship**.

- Traditionally sisters tie a sacred thread, a Rakhi, on to their brothers' wrists.
- In response the brothers give their sisters a gift promising to help them whenever the need arises and to always protect them.
- Celebrations continue throughout the day with gifts of sweets and special food as families enjoy the time they share together.

HOME-SCHOOL CHALLENGE

Use your imagination to make the best **friendship** bracelet ever – using knotting, threading beads, twisting ribbon, whatever you can think of. The more original the better!

or, if you prefer...

make your own large version of the picture puzzle (over the page), joining 5 or 6 words about **friendship**. Either draw pictures or cut them out of magazines.

HALL OF FAME



A dog is a man's best Friend

Near the village of Beddgelert in North Wales is a beautiful sculpture of a very special **friend**.
According to legend, the monument marks the resting place of the faithful dog, Gelert, who once belonged to the medieval Welsh Prince, Llewelyn the Great. A tombstone tells the story of a fateful day when Llewelyn went out hunting leaving the faithful hound, Gelert, to guard his young son. On his return Gelert sprang to greet his master, but Llewelyn noticed some blood on his fur. He rushed inside his house. To his horror the first thing he saw was his son's cot. It was empty!

The frantic father turned on the dog, thinking he must have harmed the boy. He killed Gelert there and then with his sword. At that moment a child's cry rang out through the house. Llewelyn searched and discovered his boy unharmed, but nearby lay the body of a mighty wolf which Gelert had killed before it attacked the small child.

Prince Llewelyn is said never to have smiled again and with tears of sadness he buried Gelert in this place, which became known as "the grave of Gelert", or in Welsh, Beddgelert.



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