St John's CE First School

Newsletter

Thursday 22nd October 2026

Love Protect Succeed

PENK VALLEY ACADEMY TRUST

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

DIARY DATES 2026–2027

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 15th October 2026

Squirrels	Iona
Acorns	Hugo
Saplings	Michelle
	Hunter
Oaks	Fin
	Harry M

Good as Gold

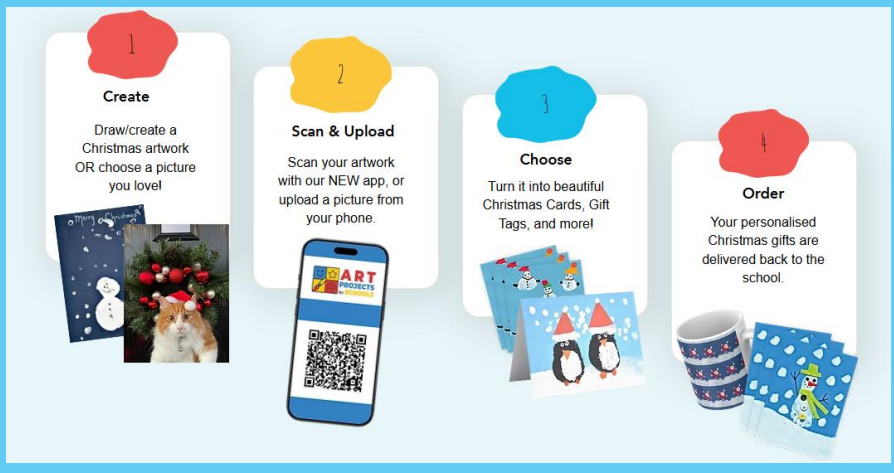
Well done to the following children, week ending 15th October 2026

Acorns	Phoebe M
Saplings	Freddie F
Oaks	Izzy

ART PROJECTS for SCHOOLS

This week your child/ren will be bringing home a sheet of A4 card which they have transformed into a Christmas card design. They will also bring home an Art Projects for Schools (APFS) leaflet with instructions on how you can upload this image and have it transformed into an array of Christmas goodies, including cards, gift wrap, tote bags and mugs.

This helps us raise funds for school as we get 20% of each order total.





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!

Attendance

Well done to the following classes for the week ending 16th October 2026

Acorns	83 %
Year 1	100%
Year 2	98%
Year 3	95%
Year 4	98%

WS Year to date 96.13%



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.

A huge big thank you to everyone who donated food for our harvest festival.
They were so delighted with all the donations when we delivered them to the Good Shepherd.
Special mention to Dougie who made a beautiful hamper with donations and decorated it himself!



HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AND FOOD

HAF fun this half term

Holiday Activities and Food is funded for children and young people aged 5-16 who get targeted free school meals.
Paid places also available.

SCAN ME!

Bookings open on Monday 5 October at 4pm

staffordshire.gov.uk/haf

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



St Johns First School

Supporting families through childhood and beyond

Together we can make a difference

Join us for

Chocolate Prize Bingo

Coffee and Cake



Prize Bingo Dates

Squirrels and Acorns Class
5th November
2pm

Saplings Class
12th November
2pm

Oaks Class
19th November
2pm

Please donate cakes

Let's raise money for this fantastic charity!

Katherine Allport CHARITY

Supporting families through childhood and beyond

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

In 2027, Stafford Borough Hall (now known as the Gatehouse Theatre) will be 150 years old.

It was built in 1877 and has been used as a library, a museum, Civic Offices and, of course, a theatre!

It is one of the most important and historic buildings in the town and we are planning a number of events to celebrate this anniversary.

One of our ideas is to display artwork by local schoolchildren throughout the year, rotated with different schools on a monthly basis.

We're inviting pupils to either colour in the attached sheet - or draw their own version of the Gatehouse. (We've attached the original photograph as a guide.)

For each school taking part, we will choose a drawing/colouring entry to receive a Family Ticket to next year's Gatehouse pantomime.

There is no limit on the number of entries a school can submit and we will display as many as we can in our Front of House areas so that the public can admire your pupils' artwork.

Please bring your pictures to the office after half term.


Aladdin
4 DEC - 3 JAN
gatehouse theatre

Raising Funds for Dementia













This week we welcomed Manny Singh in to school. He is an ambassador for Dementia UK. Everyone braved the rain and we did our sponsored walk. Everyone was inspired by Manny's motivational talk. Massive thanks goes to Mrs Byrne and Finley for organising such a informative and fun day.

The below link shows an age-appropriate video, from Dementia UK, showing how to explain and talk to young people about Dementia.

Let's Talk About Dementia - with subtitles

MTS

MINDSET THROUGH SPORT

STRONGER MINDS. STRONGER TEAMS.

PLAY
LEARN
GROW
BELONG

MORE THAN A CAMP... REAL SKILLS FOR LIFE.

OCTOBER HALF-TERM CAMPS

FOOTBALL • CRICKET
MINDSET CHALLENGES

FUN DAYS. BRIGHTER MINDS.

SAME SKILLS. BRIGHTER FUTURES.

MONDAY 26 OCT	TUESDAY 27 OCT
AGES 6–9	AGES 10–13
20 PLACES AVAILABLE	16 PLACES AVAILABLE
BOOK & PAY ONLINE	BOOK & PAY ONLINE

9:30AM – 3:00PM | £25 PER CHILD | WHEATON ASTON SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

- FOOTBALL SKILLS & GAMES
- CRICKET SKILLS & GAMES
- MINDSET CHALLENGES
- TEAMWORK & FRIENDSHIPS
- FUN, SAFE ENVIRONMENT

TODAY BRAVER. TOMORROW STRONGER.

LIMITED PLACES
BOOK NOW!

- BUILD CONFIDENCE
- DEVELOP LIFE SKILLS
- MAKE NEW FRIENDS

MTS

MINDSET THROUGH SPORT

STRONGER MINDS. STRONGER TEAMS.

MORE THAN SPORT.

WHAT WE OFFER

Helping children grow in confidence, **manage emotions**, build friendships and develop skills for life – through sport.

STRONGER MINDS

BRIGHTER FUTURES

KINDER COMMUNITIES

HOLIDAY CAMPS

FUN. ACTIVE. MEANINGFUL.

- Football, cricket and mindset challenges
- Open to all abilities
- Make friends and build confidence



MINI MTS (AGES 3–5)

PLAY. MOVE. BELONG.

- Fun, play-based sessions
- Build confidence and social skills
- A great introduction to sport



1–2–1 COACHING

PERSONALISED SUPPORT.

- Tailored to your child's needs
- Build confidence, resilience and key life skills
- Support on and off the pitch



SMALL GROUP SESSIONS

LEARN TOGETHER. GO FURTHER.

- Focused, age-appropriate groups (2–6)
- Build social skills and confidence
- Fun and engaging activities



SCHOOLS & COMMUNITY

POSITIVE CHANGE TOGETHER.

- Programmes, workshops and assemblies
- Support for schools, clubs and community groups
- Promoting wellbeing, confidence and inclusion



> "Through small wins, children build big futures."

CONFIDENCE | RESILIENCE | BELONGING | LIFE SKILLS

GET IN TOUCH

07581 490 587

mts@mindsetthroughsport.com

mindset-through-sport.lovable.app

@mindsetthroughsport

SCAN HERE

FIND THE RIGHT MTS SESSION FOR YOUR CHILD

- MORE CONFIDENCE
- BETTER WELLBEING
- NEW FRIENDSHIPS
- LIFELONG SKILLS

SAFEGUARDING LEAD: JESSICA JENKINS

STRONGER MINDS. STRONGER TEAMS.