Friday 9th October 2026

Telephone: 01823 662541

Email: office@stjohnsprimary.uk

Website: http://www.stjohnscofeprimary.co.uk

St John's Church of England Primary School

Weekly News

Headteacher's Message:

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week, our School Council met for a very positive discussion focused on keeping safe in school. I was delighted that every member unanimously agreed that they feel safe at St John's. The children spoke confidently about the many ways staff help to keep them safe, including regular fire drills, allergy procedures, security fobs, clear school rules and the safe design of different areas of the school site. It was wonderful to hear pupils recognise and appreciate the measures in place to support their wellbeing.

Our Wellbeing Champions have also met recently to discuss ideas for improving life for all children in school. Their thoughtful suggestions highlighted how much they care about supporting the happiness and wellbeing of their peers.

Tomorrow is World Mental Health Day, and I am pleased to share that a member of the School Council suggested that we support YoungMinds through a charitable collection this year. The council felt this was an excellent idea, and we have agreed to go ahead with it. The school choir have already supported this charity and will be performing in an event to raise awareness of mental health in Exeter Cathedral tomorrow. The School Council are also keen to organise a Positive Mental Health Day later in the school year. They hope this event will raise awareness of mental health, celebrate positive wellbeing and raise additional funds for YoungMinds. We look forward to working with them to develop their ideas.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind Regards

Olly Priestley - Headteacher

Certificate Winners:

Windsor - Charlie

Attenborough - Ky'ren

Mandela - Alexis

McCartney - Jasmine

Pankhurst - Alice

Simmonds - Flo

Rashford - Harriet

Medal- Sofia (4)

Harvest Festival-22nd October 1.30pm

We are looking forward to our Harvest Festival celebration in St John's Church at 1.30pm on Thursday 22nd October. We will once again be collecting for the Taunton Foodbank.

Each complete foodbank box contains items which are designed to fit together to provide 3 days nutritionally balanced meals. They are particularly in need of: tinned curry/stew, jam, tinned or jars of vegetarian food, UHT long life milk, coffee, hot chocolate, rice pudding, and biscuits. Other items will also be gratefully received.

Please ensure donated items are unused and in date, thank you.

Safeguarding/Well being:

A polite reminder that children remain the responsibility of their parent or carer until the school bell rings at 8:45am. We have noticed that a number of pupils are arriving considerably earlier than this and, in some cases, are not being supervised. To help keep all children safe, please ensure your child is appropriately monitored until staff are on duty and ready to welcome pupils into school. We greatly appreciate your support in maintaining a safe and positive start to the day for everyone. On a positive note, we are very pleased with attendance so far this half term and thank families for their continued support in ensuring children attend school regularly and arrive on time.

Sharing joy and hope in the community

Weekly House Point Winner: ST GEORGE

Poetry Day

On Thursday 1st October, our whole school celebrated National Poetry Day with an immersive day of poetry inspired by this year's theme of 'Wonder'. The children enjoyed reading well-known favourite poems, writing their own creative pieces, exploring poetry across a range of cross-curricular subjects and some classes joined a live poetry assembly. We rounded off the day with a special assembly, where representatives from each class proudly shared their poems and creative work. Our youngest learners delighted us with a wonderful performance of *Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star*, combining singing with Makaton signing. It was a fantastic day celebrating imagination, creativity and a love of language across the school.

Secondary School Admissions-Advice from Somerset Council

The online portal for applications for children to start secondary school in September 2027, is now OPEN. The closing date is 31 October 2026.

The Secondary School Admissions Guide is now live on the website Secondary admissions guide (somerset.gov.uk) We strongly encourage you to read this before making your application.

We recommend you always include your catchment school as one of your preferences. If you don't and it becomes oversubscribed, we can't guarantee your child a place there and if you don't get offered one of the schools you have chosen, your child might be offered a school further away with no travel assistance.

A few tips before you start;

1. If you previously applied for a child starting or transferring school in 2017 or earlier you will need to re-register on the portal as a new system was introduced at this time.
2. If you do not receive your registration or forgotten password email please check your junk mail. If you still do not received an email please contact schooladmissions@somerset.gov.uk

As with any IT system there is always the potential for unforeseen issues so if you experience any problems, please let us know and we'll look into it as quickly as we can.

Starting at a secondary or upper school in September

Reception Admission September 2027

The Citizen Portal will open on MONDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER for children who are starting school for the first time in September 2027, or are transferring to a junior or middle school in September 2027.

The closing date for on time applications is 15 January 2027.

Please note: We always recommend you include your catchment school as one of your preferences. If you don't and it becomes oversubscribed, we can't guarantee your child a place there and if you don't get offered one of the schools you have chosen, your child might be offered a school further away with no travel assistance.

https://www.somerset.gov.uk/children.../applying-for-school/

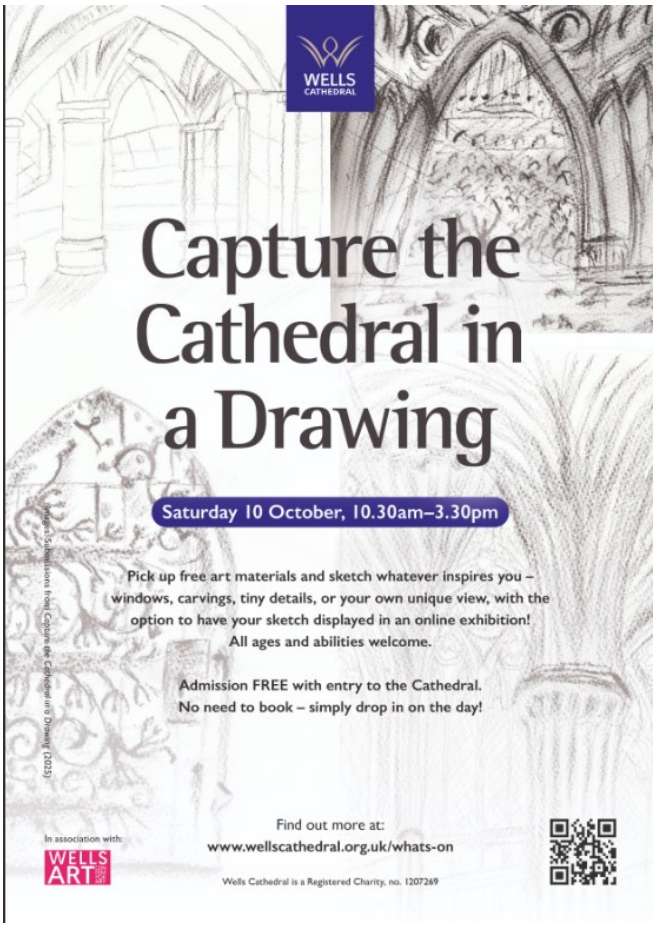
Please help by sharing this post with family, friends, nurseries, pre-schools and childminders who may have children due to start school in September 2027.

Upcoming events:

Tuesday 20th October	Revised Flu Vaccination Visit
Thursday 22nd October	School Photos
Thursday 22nd October 1.30	Harvest Festival in Church
26th-30th October	Half Term
9th-11th November	Parent consultations-information to follow
16th/17th November	Bikeability (selected Rashford class pupils)
Friday 20th November	Children in Need
Monday 30th November	School closed for staff training
Tuesday 15th December	Christmas Lunch
Thursday 17th December 1.30	Christmas service in Church
Friday 18th December	Last day of Autumn Term
Monday 4th January	School closed for staff training
Tuesday 5th January	First day of Spring Term
15th-19th February	Half Term
Thursday 4th March	World Book Day
8th-10th March	Parent consultations-information to follow
Thursday 18th March 1.30	Easter Service in Church
Thursday 25th March	Last day of Spring Term
Monday 12th April	First day of Summer Term
26th/27th April	Year 3 and 4 Residential Visit
Monday 3rd May	Bank Holiday
31st May-4th June	Half term
Week beginning 10th May	Y6 National Tests
Tuesday 8th June	Sports Day
30th June/1st July	Y6 Transition day to Courtfields
Thursday 1st July	Move up day
Friday 2nd July	School closed for staff training
5th-7th July	Y5 and 6 Residential Visit
Friday 23rd July	Last day of Summer Term

Term dates and INSET days for the 2026-27 academic year are now on the school website under the News and Events tab.




WELLS CATHEDRAL
Capture the Cathedral in a Drawing
Saturday 10 October, 10.30am–3.30pm
Pick up free art materials and sketch whatever inspires you – windows, carvings, tiny details, or your own unique view, with the option to have your sketch displayed in an online exhibition! All ages and abilities welcome.
Admission FREE with entry to the Cathedral.
No need to book – simply drop in on the day!
Find out more at:
www.wellscathedral.org.uk/whats-on
In association with:
WELLS ART
Wells Cathedral is a Registered Charity, no. 1207269


WELLS CATHEDRAL
Half-Term Holiday Activities: Taking Time
27–29 October, 10.30am–3.30pm
Have fun exploring the time-themed installations from Wells Art Contemporary, and join us to fashion your own creations!
Discover optical illusions, learn about the Cathedral's incredible Astronomical Clock, and make your own spinning seasons wheel. Suitable for children and families.
Admission included with entry to Wells Cathedral.
No need to book – simply drop in on the day! More info at:
wellscathedral.org.uk/whats-on