Friday 16th October 2026

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St John's Church of England Primary School

Weekly News

Headteacher's Message:

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week, our current and former Pupil Chaplains enjoyed a wonderful visit to St James' Church in Taunton for the Pupil Chaplain Gathering. They represented our school exceptionally well and took part in a range of activities alongside pupils from other schools. We are very proud of them. A reminder that our new Pupil Chaplains will be formally commissioned during our Harvest Festival service on Thursday. We look forward to celebrating this important occasion with them.

Many of you have asked about Mrs Nicholls. She is continuing to recover well following her operation and is hopeful of returning to school in November. She has asked us to pass on her sincere thanks for the many kind messages and support she has received from families.

Thank you to all families who are supporting home learning. Regular reading, practising spellings, learning number bonds and recalling times tables all make a significant difference to children's progress. Working together helps build confidence and strengthens the skills needed for success in the classroom. If you would like any advice on supporting letter formation at home, please speak to your child's teaching team, who will be happy to help.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind Regards

Olly Priestley - Headteacher

Certificate Winners:

Windsor - Lucas

Attenborough - Ethan-James

Mandela - Eli

McCartney - Merry

Pankhurst - Leo

Simmonds - Thea

Rashford - Harvey

Medal- Cassidy (5)

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:

- Pasta sauces
- Tinned fruit
- Tinned meals (meat and vegetarian)
- Cup-a-Soup
- Savoury snacks

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

Safeguarding/Well being:

We have received reports from some families regarding swearing on the school site during drop-off and collection times. In addition, a person has been seen lighting a cigarette on the school grounds.

We would like to remind all visitors that St John's is a non-smoking site and that smoking or vaping is not permitted anywhere on school premises. We also ask that everyone uses appropriate language while on site, as children are present and deserve a positive, respectful environment.

Thank you for your support in helping us maintain a safe, welcoming and family-friendly atmosphere for all members of the community.

Sharing joy and hope in the community

Weekly House Point Winner: ST DAVID

Charity for the Year

This year the School Council have chosen to support YoungMinds, the UKs leading charity dedicated to improving the mental health and emotional wellbeing of children and young people.

To launch our fundraising efforts, the School Council has requested an all-school **non-uniform day** with a **"Wear Something Yellow"** theme. Children are invited to come to school in non-uniform and wear something yellow to show their support for YoungMinds. If you would like to make a donation, this can be done via the **SCOPAY** app under **Products**, using the item titled **"YoungMinds (Non-Uniform)"**.

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

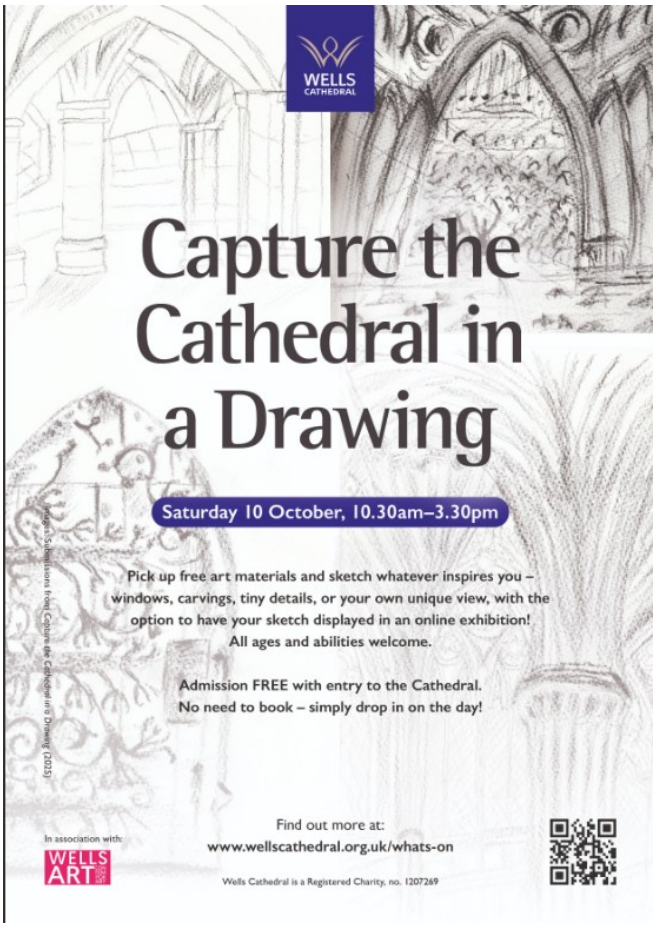
The Citizen Portal will open on MONDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER for children who are starting school for the first time in September 2027, or are transferring to a junior or middle school in September 2027.
The closing date for on time applications is 15 January 2027.
Please note: We always recommend you include 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
Friday 23rd October	Wear Something Yellow
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
Tuesday 15th December	Wear a Christmas Jumper Day
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.









Looking for a creative opportunity for your child?

Nurture their creativity at Guildhall Young Artists (GYA) Taunton, a performing arts centre based at Wellington School.

Part of Guildhall School, ranked no. 3 in the world for Performing Arts (QS World University Rankings 2026), GYA Taunton offers high-quality creative training in a friendly and supportive environment.

Whether they love music, singing, drama and performance, or simply want to try something new, GYA Taunton's inspiring Saturday classes give young people the opportunity to develop their skills, grow in confidence and make new friends.

Young people can:

- *Learn from expert tutors*
- *Take part in exciting performance opportunities*
- *Access individual tuition*
- *Join without audition*
- *Access bursary support*

Find out more at gsmd.ac.uk/taunton.

