

Friday 12th September 2025

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St John's Church of England Primary School

Weekly News

Headteacher's Message:

Dear Parents/Carers

The first full week back for the children has been extremely positive and I've thanked the children for their efforts. Throughout the school, the children have engaged with learning and demonstrated the values brilliantly. It has been a challenging week for the teachers identifying the pupils to win certificates because there have been so many candidates to be praised!

Within school there have been a number of technological complications due to the increase in hardware and also changes that we are making to the infrastructure to improve the learning experience. In this situation we have been reliant on external services and this has made quick progress problematic. We are aware that there have been issues surrounding SCOPAY and so apologise for any inconvenience at this time - we are hoping that all families should be able to access this now. If there are further problems then please contact the school office.

With the weather changes recently with the rain, there has been an increase in the number of children arriving at school in cars. A reminder that families need to be considerate with parking and adhere to rules such as yellow lines. There are children crossing the road independently and some parking is blocking sight for the pupils to cross safely. Please also be considerate to the resident living opposite the school and the residential home—there has once again been a case where one of the residents missed a doctor's appointment because the road was blocked at the drop off time, which is unacceptable.

Wishing you all a good weekend with your families.

Kind Regards

Olly Priestley - Headteacher

Certificate Winners:

Attenborough - Nathaniel

Mandela - Ayva

McCartney - Terrence

Simmonds - Rayan

Hawking - Sam

Pankhurst – Divine

Rashford - Levi

Medal - Evie-May (1)

Attendance

The Education Secretary has warned parents of the dangers of poor attendance at the start of the school year.

It comes as data reveals more than half of pupils who missed some of the first week went on to become persistently absent in 2024, compared with just 14% of pupils who fully attended.

Bridget Phillipson said schools and parents should "double down" to get children into classrooms at the start of the 2025 term. "What we know is if children miss a day or two in the first couple of weeks of term, they're more likely to go on to be persistently absent."

Phillipson said parents should pull together with schools and government to get their children "off to a good start".

Safeguarding/Well being:

There has been reports that some children over the holiday were encouraged to leave safe spaces with older children, without the knowledge of their parents and carers. The children seemed clear that they should be careful talking and interacting with strangers—but we reminded them that this applies to new children they are meeting in public. It was reinforced that children should always follow the plans parents have put in place so that trusted adults know where they are.

Sharing joy and hope in the community

Weekly House Point Winner: ST PATRICK

Secondary School Admissions September 2026

If your child is due to transfer to secondary school next September please be aware that places in Taunton and Wellington are limited due to a high birth rate. It is really important that you apply on time (deadline 31st October 2025) and choose 3 preferences of school. We also **strongly recommend** you include your catchment school as one of your preferences.

If you do not include your catchment school among your preferences and are refused your preferred schools, we cannot guarantee your child a place in the local area. Your child may then be offered a place at a school further away with no entitlement to travel assistance.

Applications will go online on 15th September and can be accessed [here](#)

[Citizen Portal - Sign in](#)

The advice is:

- a. apply on time
- b. use all 3 preferences (especially relevant to Taunton parents)
- c. include your catchment school

There is an open evening at Courtfields on Wednesday 17th September from 5.30-8.00pm. There are also open morning tours on 18th, 19th, 22nd and 23rd September starting at 9.30am, please contact Courtfields to arrange your visit.

Reception starters for September 2026

If you are considering joining reception at St John's next September and would like a tour of the school, please contact the school office on 01823 662541 to arrange a suitable time.

Upcoming events:

15th October	School photos
23rd October 1.30	Harvest Festival Service in Church
27th-31st October	Half Term
10th December	Christmas Lunch
18th December 1.30	Christmas Service in Church
19th December	Last day of Autumn Term
5th January	First day of Spring Term
16th-20th February	Half Term
26th March 1.30	Easter Service in Church
2nd April	Last day of Spring Term
20th April	First day of Summer Term
25th-29th May	Half Term
9th June	Sports Day
15th July 9.30	Y6 Leaver's Assembly in Church
17th July	Last day of Summer Day
20th-22nd July	School closed for staff training

Term dates and INSET days for the 2025-26 academic year are now on the school website under the News and Events tab.