

Friday 9th January 2026

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St John's Church of England Primary School

Weekly News

Headteacher's Message:

Dear Parents/Carers

A very happy new year to all of the community. I hope that all families enjoyed the festive period and that you created some happy memories with your loved ones over the holiday period.

The new term has thrown up a few challenges already with the changeable weather making conditions difficult for all with icy temperatures followed up with monsoon conditions! A power cut on Wednesday was not ideal and all the classes, the office and the kitchen had to be creative and show great flexibility and keep the show on the road! Apologies for any inconvenience to any members of the community who were trying to contact the school during this period.

One of the most enjoyable parts of my job is when children are sent to my office to share some wonderful work that has been achieved and there has been an influx in the last week. What is even more pleasing is the amount of upper school children who are wanting to share their efforts in the classroom. There is a real pride in their work and also an understanding of how they have improved already this school year.

A note to say that Miss Eddy will continue to be off this term after recovering from an operation. She is recovering now and I'm sure you will join me in sending our collective love to her at this time. 'Big' Mr Collins as he is affectionately known, will be taking the class Monday to Thursday - 'Little' Mr Collins has taken up a post in another school that he was already committed to. Mr Heath will be with the children on a Friday due to Mr Collins teaching commitment in Year 6.

Olly Priestley - Headteacher

Certificate Winners:

Windsor - Nora
Attenborough - Lindsey
Mandela - Noah
McCartney - Ivy
Simmonds - Maisie
Hawking - Emilia
Pankhurst - Teddy
Rashford - Harriet
Medal - Martha (6)

Attendance

There are an increasing amount of children who are arriving at school late in the mornings. A reminder that if the child arrives 15 minutes after registration closes then they are officially marked as U code which means they miss out on a positive attendance code for the morning. If unauthorised absences start rising then families are at risk of fines. The children should be at school for the bell at 8:55am.

Safeguarding/Well being:

January can be a challenging month for all families with the short days and often unpleasant weather. After the luxury and extravagance of Christmas, it can often lead to financial hardship. This combination could affect mental health and we encourage anybody feeling down to speak to us if it is impacting life at home and we will see how we can help.

Sharing joy and hope in the community

Weekly House Point Winner: ST DAVID

Dates for your diary

Please find below a list of dates for the coming months. We do our best to keep this as up-to-date as possible but will let you know as soon as we can if there are any changes.

Upcoming events:

2nd-6th February	National Storytelling Week
9th-13th February	Children's Mental Health Week
16th-20th February	Half Term
5th March	World Book Day
9th-13th March	Science Week
13th March	Science Wonderdome
24th March	Wizard of Oz-performance in school
26th March 1.30	Easter Service in Church
2nd April	Last day of Spring Term
20th April	First day of Summer Term
W/b 11th May	Y6 National Tests
25th-29th May	Half Term
w/b 8th June	KS1 Phonics Screening
9th June	Sports Day
30th June/1st July	Y6 Secondary School Transition Days
1st July	Step up day
3rd July	Summer Fair
6th-8th July	Y6 Residential Visit
15th July 9.30	Y6 Leaver's Assembly in Church
17th July	Last day of Summer Term
20th-22nd July	School closed for staff training

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

FREE Parent and Carer Workshops: Talking to your children and teens about their bodies, feelings and relationships

An opportunity to attend a relaxed and informative session for parents and carers of children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) of all ages with an additional focus on teenage years.

What's This Session About?

Talking about bodies, boundaries, feelings, and relationships with your SEND child or teen can feel overwhelming—but you're not alone.

Each session will be a safe space for parents and carers to be seen, valued and heard. You only need to attend **ONE** workshop:

In person: 26th February 2026 at Albemarle Centre, Taunton, TA1 1BA, **1pm—2:45pm**
Online (live only): 11th February 2026, **7pm-9pm** (please login by 6:55pm)
Duration: 1.5 hour workshop + 30 mins Q&A

Led by **Alice Hoyle**, national Relationships and Sex Expert and SEND mum, this 1.5-hour interactive workshop will offer practical advice, tips, and signposting to help you feel more confident starting (or continuing) important conversations at home.

Learning Outcomes:

- How Relationships and Sex education can look different for SEND children and teens—and why that's okay
- Tips for talking about bodies, friendships, puberty, and safety at home
- How to use everyday moments to build understanding and confidence
- Where to go for trusted resources, books, websites and next steps

Click here to book your place: [Talking to your children and Teens about their bodies, feelings and Relationships – Fill in form](#)

For further enquiries please email: admin@somersetparentcarerforum.org.uk



WORLD WAR TWO DAY
Saturday 31st January 2026

Military vehicles
Rationing
Code breaking
Object handling
... and more!

Adults: £9.50, child: £3
Museum members: £4.75, child: £2

TIVERTON MUSEUM
of Mid Devon Life

Tuesday - Saturday, 10:00-4:00
www.tivertonmuseum.org.uk
Beck's Square, Tiverton EX16 6PJ
01884 256295
Registered charity 1181976

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