

Friday 19th December 2025

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St John's Church of England Primary School

Weekly News

Headteacher's Message:

Dear Parents/Carers

I would like to thank all the families that joined us for the end of year Nativity Service, which was an absolutely joyous occasion. At the end of the celebration the children sang 'Sing up it's Christmas' with such great enthusiasm and gusto; it was a heart warming moment which filled me with a mixture of pride and happiness. All the readers delivered their lines clearly to the full church and the Windsor Class produced a wonderful Nativity tableau; I've run out of superlatives with regards to the choir!

In assembly, we reflected with everything the children have achieved across the curriculum and their growth. It has been a wonderful term with too many highlights to mention. I would like to thank my staff for their efforts this year to provide meaningful and rich experiences for the children. This term we have had significant staff absence due to illness, but my team always pull together and ensure the children do not miss out. I will also mention the fabulous group of volunteers that have given up their time for the children of the school - this includes our governors.

I hope all the St John's community have a brilliant Christmas and enjoy time with their families. Everybody needs a good rest as well so the children are ready to hit 2026 in style!

Merry Christmas

Olly Priestley - Headteacher

Certificate Winners:

Windsor - Jaxxon & Class
Attenborough - Tobias
Mandela - Seli
McCartney - Gracie
Simmonds - Esjay
Hawking - Luca
Pankhurst - Cohen
Rashford - Alister
Medal - Isla (5)

Attendance

Being on time is vital. Arriving late at school can be very disruptive for your child, their teacher and the other children in the class. It is important that children understand the importance of time keeping and being organised. There may be times when parents are finding it difficult to ensure that their child attends school regularly. If this is the case, it is important to talk to school as soon as possible.

Being late for school reduces learning time. If your child is 5 minutes late every day they will miss three days of learning each year. If they are 15 minutes late every day they will miss 2 weeks of learning each year. As a snapshot, on Wednesday we had 6 KS2 children arrive after 9.15am, with the latest arriving at 9.40am.

Safeguarding/Well being:

Safeguarding during the holiday

If you have a concern about a child outside of school, or are having difficulty in managing your own child, you can ring Somerset Direct on:

0300 123 2224

Sharing joy and hope in the community

Weekly House Point Winner: ST PATRICK

CHOIR EVENTS

Singing at Wells Cathedral

35 members of the choir attended a once in a lifetime opportunity at Wells Cathedral. The children were invited by Somerset Music to attend the annual Christmas Celebration Concert alongside 400 students from Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 5.

There was a huge variety of traditional and modern Christmas songs sung individually by schools and as one massed choir, youth orchestras and ukulele bands played, as well as pop up choirs and youth ensembles.

The choir had a wonderful day, sharing their songs with the other schools as well as rehearsing the massed songs together with a large orchestra playing in the beautiful cathedral. The atmosphere was absolutely wonderful, and the children were in awe of the cathedral having never performed in such a large building.

The day was a rather long one but worth every minute and once again the children were fantastic ambassadors of the school and made us all very proud.

"The choir sounded incredible and I'm very proud to say that they were the only primary school choir to sing in two parts during their song, showing their wonderful talent as singers. The confidence they showed performing in front of so many other choirs as well as the packed audience is outstanding. They really are a fantastic choir and continue to share joy and hope to so many in our widening community. We are so thankful to Kirsten Wordley who leads our school choir, along with the staff who have supported this event and made it all possible for our children to attend and hopefully future choir members will have this opportunity again in future years" commented Mr Priestley. More photos are on the website.

St John's Church

We were so proud of our fantastic choir who performed with the Wellington Silver Band at John's Church last week.



Care Homes

The Choir have been visiting local care homes spreading Christmas joy to the older generation.



iRock concert

The iRockers performed a concert in front of their families and the whole school this week. The show was superb and thoroughly enjoyed by all. Our thanks to Rhys who has taught the children not only to play but also to enjoy and appreciate music.



Special Visitor

We were very excited to welcome a special visitor to school this morning. It is a very busy time of year for him but he wanted to visit St John's as he knows he will always receive a wonderful welcome.

Upcoming events:

19th December	Last day of Autumn Term-finish at 2pm. No after school club.
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
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.

WINDSOR NATIVITY

Windsor Class proudly performed the annual St John's Nativity at St John the Baptist Church, a much-loved tradition and always a truly special day for our school community.

This year's performance was a joy to behold, with the children shining from beginning to end. The nativity opened beautifully as Mary and Joseph were guided to the front of the church by a kind and caring innkeeper, while the congregation joined together to sing Little Donkey. Year Six then delivered a clear and confident reading of the nativity story, setting the scene perfectly.

Next, the church was filled with wonder as shining stars descended, led by the Angel Gabriel, guiding the angels to the much-loved school favourite It Was on a Starry Night. The children gathered at the front before the shepherds and their flock arrived during a heartfelt rendition of Away in a Manger. The performance concluded with the arrival of the kings, who presented their precious gifts, bringing the story to a meaningful close.

Throughout the nativity, smiles were infectious, and there were more than a few teary eyes among proud parents, carers, teachers and members of the congregation.

A special thank you goes to Mr Mitchell for the wonderful music, Mrs Cook and Mrs Strange for guiding the children so calmly and confidently, and Mrs Sellick for her hard work and dedication in keeping this cherished St John's tradition alive.

"As their teacher, this was one of my favourite memories made - a moment that perfectly captured the spirit of Christmas and the heart of St John's" said Miss Colmar.





find *real* support in your local group...

SATURDAYS

7:30AM & 9:00AM

JUST POP ALONG OR IF YOU'D LIKE FURTHER INFO

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If you're taking weight loss drugs we're here to help you build *healthy habits!*

*When you commit to 6 or 12 weeks of group support between 17th August and 20th September 2025. Terms and conditions apply, visit slimmingworld.co.uk/offers for more information.

Slimming World at St John's Primary School
on Saturday mornings.

Community Inclusion Events

The Community Inclusion and Activity Team – formerly the Short Breaks Team – supports children and young people from 0 to 17 who have a disability or additional need. They have a particular focus on helping them and their families try out new things, have fun and access their local community. They grant fund providers to deliver activities across Somerset, this includes holiday activities and regular clubs. Please find here a link to their Christmas Activity Calendar. [Chat | M365 Copilot](#)

DEC In the mix project **WELLINGTON WINTER HAPPY HEALTHY HOLIDAY PROGRAMME 2025**

EACH SESSION WILL INCLUDE: Meal and Snacks | Activities | Access to a Youth Worker | Sports and Games

WELLINGTON - KINGS ARMS COMMUNITY HUB MONDAY 29TH DEC BAKE AND CREATE DAY BAKE SOME SWEET TREATS, WITH CHRISTMAS CRAFTS **10:00AM-3:00PM

WELLINGTON - KINGS ARMS COMMUNITY HUB TUESDAY 30TH DEC COOKING AND CALM CLUB TAKE PART IN FOOD ACTIVITIES AND FUN & GAMES FOR ALL. HOT CHOCOS AND MORE **10:00AM-3:00PM

TO BOOK A NON FUNDED PLACE, EMAIL EMMA AS BELOW

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT: EMMA.POPPEL@INTHEMIXPROJECT.ORG.UK | 01984 629510
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