

Friday 16th January 2026

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# St John's Church of England Primary School

## Weekly News

### Headteacher's Message:

Dear Parents/Carers

The children have made an extremely positive start to the Spring term - one which forms the engine room of their academic learning. Another steady stream of students have come to my office to share their efforts and I am delighted that they show such pride in their learning. There has also been very clear evidence that many of the children are extending their learning to the home environment as well which will support their efforts in class.

In a couple of weeks time we will be officially nearer to the end of the academic year than the beginning - discounting holiday periods. This is a frightening thought and also evidence that time flies! I have recently looked through exercise books in school and it is really pleasing to see the progress made even after a term. Particularly in the lower school, obvious improvement is clear with elements such as sentence structure and handwriting. There will be another Parent's Evening in the second half of the Spring term in which the families can see this in person. Dates will be announced soon.

A reminder to all that there is a Breakfast Club and After School Club in place if work commitments require childcare around school hours. There is a terrific atmosphere in the room with the team organising some themed evenings to ensure that the children are enjoying their free time. Movie night has become a very popular evening!

Kind regards

Olly Priestley - Headteacher

#### Certificate Winners:

Windsor - Tobias  
Attenborough - Alexis  
Mandela - Freya  
McCartney - Florence  
Simmonds - Sicily  
Hawking - Josie-Marie  
Pankhurst - Lily-Rose  
Rashford - Darnia  
Medal - Oliver (R)

#### Staying home when unwell

Knowing when your child should stay at home from school if they are poorly can help slow the spread of many winter illnesses.

- If your child is unwell and has a fever, they should stay home from school or nursery until they feel better, and the fever has resolved.
- If your child has diarrhoea and/or vomits, they should stay off school or nursery for at least 48 hours after their last episode. Adults should try to stay home when unwell too.
- Children with a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough who are otherwise well and do not have a high temperature can continue to attend school.

#### Safeguarding/Well being:

##### Parking

The weather has been extremely poor over the last few months which has seen a rise in families picking up the children by car. A reminder to all families to be considerate when parking and also to adhere to road laws. Yellow lines should not be parked on, with this causing a risk to the pedestrians leaving the school site. Please think of the safety of the children when parking.

Sharing joy and hope in the community

## Weekly House Point Winner: ST GEORGE

### World Book Day

World Book Day is on Thursday 5th March and your child is invited to come to school dressed as their favourite book character. If you need some ideas to celebrate World Book Day at home or some costume help, take a look at their website: Families - World Book Day (<https://www.worldbookday.com/families/>)

We know how fast children grow out of their costumes and as part of the Green Team's drive to reduce clothing waste, we are inviting you to drop in any old costumes that no longer fit. The Green Team will then hold a costume exchange event after half term where you can pick a costume and donate to the Green Team's garden fund in exchange. Please drop any unwanted costumes to the office, thank you.

### Community Inclusion and Activity Team-Half Term Activities

The Community Inclusion and Activity 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.

Details of half term activities can be found by following this link [Activities for families and young people](#)

#### 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:** 26<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at Albemarle Centre, Taunton, TA1 1BA, **1pm—2:45pm**

**Online (live only):** 11<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:admin@somersetparentcarerforum.org.uk)



## 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
1st April	iRock concert
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 and 2026-27 academic years are on the school website under the News and Events tab.**

**Ofsted Registered**

**PRIMARY FOREST SCHOOL & OUTDOOR EDUCATION**

**FEBRUARY HALF TERM HOLIDAY CLUBS**

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Bushcraft  
Mud Kitchens  
Nature Crafts  
Firefighting  
Campfires  
And so much more!

TUESDAY  
WEDNESDAY  
THURSDAY  
9.00 - 15.30  
8.30 - 15.30  
8.30 - 17.30  
FROM £28.60 PER DAY

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