

Friday 23rd January 2026

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St John's Church of England Primary School

Weekly News

Headteacher's Message:

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been a very soggy week in school with the relentless rain! Unfortunately the children have had to stay inside for some breaks, although the staff are resilient and try and get outside for some fresh air. Some children are not coming with the correct coats, so please make sure they arrive with them and ensure they are warm and waterproof.

No Screens Day was a success at St John's with lots of children commenting that it has been a positive experience. Many were going to try and continue when they got home. In the press, there are increasing articles about the dangers of too much exposure to screens, especially in the form of social media. It is a balancing act, because technology is changing quickly and the children will grow into a world where this is used in many jobs. Therefore, encouraging screen breaks during the day and strict rules in the house with regards to screens will be beneficial for the children.

A reminder to all families that we have our praising assembly on a Friday. Within the assembly, there are a variety of certificates given out to the children for their success in school. As part of this, we also celebrate achievements outside of school. If the children have achieved something positive, then we would be delighted for them to share this news with the rest of the school community. Speak to the teaching teams if this is the case.

Kind regards

Olly Priestley - Headteacher

Certificate Winners:

Windsor - Nathan
Attenborough - Alfie
Mandela - Winter
McCartney - Ezze
Simmonds - Olivia
Hawking - Zeah
Pankhurst - Ben and Jayden
Rashford - Ellah

INCONSIDERATE PARKING

We have once again had a neighbour complain to us that their drive has been blocked so that they are unable to leave for work. This is obviously unacceptable and we ask yet again to be considerate when you are dropping off or collecting your child. There is no excuse for parking badly. We know that this is always a busy time but if necessary allow a little extra time, park a little further away, and make sure that you are not causing problems for anyone else.



Safeguarding/Well being:

A reminder to parents not to drop your child at school before 8.30am. The gates don't open until 8.30am and there are regularly children waiting at the gates to come in. This is a safeguarding risk as there is no adult supervision whilst the children are outside.

Sharing joy and hope in the community

Weekly House Point Winner: ST PATRICK

Free School Meals

Eligibility

Is your child entitled to free school meals? We know that circumstances can change, and free school meals are there to help you if you find yourself in a difficult financial situation. It is the responsibility of parents or carers to register their entitlement and request free school meals for their children.

Parents and carers who receive any of the following are entitled to free school meals.

- Income Support (IS)
- Employment and Support Allowance (Income Related)
- Universal Credit with an annual household income of less than £7400 after tax
- Income-based Job Seekers Allowance (IBJSA)
- Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit, with an annual taxable income (as assessed by HMRC) of less than £16,190

Only the benefits listed above qualify for free school meals. If you have recently become unemployed, but are still receiving Working Tax Credits, you may be entitled to free school meals. Please phone us on **0300 123 2224** for advice.

If you think you are eligible but do not yet receive free school meals, please apply here [Free school meals](#). If you need any further advice please come and talk to someone in the office, we will do our best to help.

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](#)

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

BRIDPORT • CHRISTCHURCH • TAUNTON • WEYMOUTH

Bushcraft
Mud Kitchens
Nature Crafts
Firelighting
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

Den Building!

Making Friends!

SCAN ME!

www.primary-forest-school.co.uk

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



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Wellington

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FEBRUARY HALF TERM

WELLINGTON

HOLIDAY CAMP

Monday 16th - Friday 20th February
8:15am - 5:15pm
Ages 5-12
6+ Activities Planned Everyday

LEARN. PLAY. SHINE

www.sportystars.co.uk | @sportystars_uk

The poster features a bright blue background with yellow stars and a yellow banner at the bottom. It includes logos for Ofsted, SportyStars, and Wellington. The main text is in large, bold, yellow and white letters. A QR code is located in the middle right section. At the bottom right, there is a photo of a man and a woman celebrating, with the man holding a trophy. The overall design is vibrant and energetic.