



St John's Newsletter

Learning, Loving and Laughing Together



This week in worship... In worship this week, the children explored Jesus' words: *"Love one another as I have loved you"* (John 13:34). We talked about how Jesus showed love to everyone, including those who were often left out, crossing social and cultural boundaries to care for others. We also marked **Neurodiversity Celebration Week** and **World Autism Day**, linking these to our theme of justice and fairness. The children discussed how everyone is made differently, has different strengths and needs, and deserves to be treated with kindness, understanding, and respect. The children reflected on times when they have experienced unfairness, such as being left out or treated unkindly, and talked about the feelings this can bring, including sadness or anger. We explored how following Jesus means showing love, fairness, and inclusion in our everyday actions. You might like to talk together at home about how your child can help others feel valued and included this week.



Class Certificates

Ethan B
Haniya V
Zoraya-Zel T
Blossom E
Evan G
Nancy D
Peter L
Isabel F
Florence S
Jonathan F
Raya S

Summer Term Reminders: Warm Weather and Sun Safety

As we move into the Summer term and the weather begins to warm up (*fingers crossed*), we would like to remind families of a few important routines to help keep children comfortable and safe at school. Please ensure your child brings a **named water bottle** into school everyday, as we have noticed that many are being forgotten. Regular access to water is especially important as temperatures rise. We also ask that children bring a **sun hat** for playtimes and lunchtimes. In the height of summer, children will not be allowed outside without a hat on. Again, please name all hats. Before coming to school, please apply **sun cream** to your child in the morning. Children may also bring in a 'stick' sun cream to top up during the day if needed; however, all suncream used **must not contain any form of nut extract**. Thank you for your support in helping us keep everyone safe, hydrated, and ready to enjoy the Summer term.



Number Awards:

Gold: Daisy M

Shooting Star



Attendance

Whole school attendance is currently at 96.9%. Our whole school target for the year is 97%.

Ticks - With the dry and warm weather, the children have

been back in the woodlands this week. Unfortunately, we have had several reports of children picking up ticks. Please can we strongly encourage you to check your children's legs and arms at the end of the day just in case one has crawled onto them as they have been playing. A really helpful guide on what ticks are and how they can be removed can be found at this [NHS Scotland website](https://www.nhs.uk).



Mathletics:

KS1: Eliana I
KS2: Saeeb U
Mathletes of the week: Heaven-Rose T

Diary Dates

28/04/26	FOSJ Planning Meeting—Holiday Inn @ 7pm
04/05/26	Bank Holiday
05-08/05/26	FOSJ Penny Battle—details further down in newsletter
06/05/26	Year R Visit to the Watercress Line
06/05/26	Year 6 Height and Weight Measurements
18/05/26	Year 5/6 Visit to Rushall Farm
20/05/26	Year 1/2 Visit to Queen Elizabeth Country Park
22/05/26	Sports Day—more details to follow
25-29/05/26	Half Term
15/06/26	INSET Day (4)
16/06/26	Year 3/4 Visit to Butser Farm
26/06/26	FOSJ Circus

INSET Days 2025—2026

Monday 15th June 2026 (4)

Wednesday 22nd July (5)

INSET Days 2026—2027

Tuesday 1st September 2026 (1)

Happys Circus

Tickets now on sale for the Circus event on Friday 26 June. [Click here](#) to find out more and buy tickets. Money raised by FOSJ from this event will go towards funding new school laptops for the kids. Please help us promote the event by sharing the link with family and friends. There are a limited number of tickets so be sure to buy yours ASAP.

Year 6 (Current Year 5's) – PGL Liddington Residential 8th-12th March 2027

If you have registered your child for next year's PGL trip in March 2027, **an interim payment (£125) needs to be paid online by Monday 8th June** and the outstanding balance will need to be paid by Friday 11th December 2026. You can start to pay this online in instalments if you prefer.



LETTER ALERT!

Child	Title	Response?

Summer Uniform

Now that we are in the Summer term and there are glimmers of sunshine and signs of warm weather, I thought it would be useful to remind everyone of the expectations around Summer uniform.

During the warmer months, children may wear dark grey shorts or a light blue checked Summer dress. The light blue checked shorts are also acceptable as are the all in one checked blue play suits that are available from the supermarkets. Children may also choose to wear sandals. These must not be slip on and should be held securely on their feet by a strap. They must also be worn with socks. I would also encourage you to consider the suitability of sandals in light of potential accidents involving chair legs and also that the children will be playing in the woodlands during break and lunchtimes.



As cardigans and jumpers are more likely to be removed during the warmer months, please can I strongly encourage you to check that name labels are still clearly visible and, if second hand, have the name of the previous owner removed. At the end of last term, we had well over 50 cardigans and jumpers discarded in our lost property. Many of them either had no name or had the name of a pupil who had long left due to coming from the FOSJ second hand store. More details on our uniform can be found at www.st-johnscofe.hants.sch.uk/school-uniform/



Earth Day at St John's – Wednesday 22nd April

On **Wednesday 22nd April**, the children across the school took part in a special **Earth Day – Project Earth** curriculum day, focused on caring for our planet and understanding our responsibility as good stewards of God's creation. Throughout the day, children learned about **Project Earth**, climate change, and some of the challenges facing our world today. They explored why **plants, trees, and forests are so important**, from supporting wildlife to helping protect our environment. Classes used stories, videos, discussion, and reflection to help bring these ideas to life. Across the school, children took part in a range of **practical and creative activities**, including **planting seeds**, creating **artwork inspired by nature**, building **bug hotels**, exploring our **woodland environment**, and spending time reading and learning outdoors. Older children also looked more closely at woodland ecosystems and the impact of deforestation and climate change. The day ended with reflection on how even small actions can make a positive difference, both at school and at home. It was a meaningful day, which deepened the children's understanding of our world and encouraged children to care for the world around them and live out our values of responsibility, respect, and hope.



KS1 Sports Opportunities

It has been a fantastic week of sport for our younger pupils, with exciting opportunities to try out new skills in both cricket and tennis.

On Monday, we were delighted to host a KS1 Cricket Skills Festival, led by Vik and Ben from Hampshire Cricket. The event was supported brilliantly by 12 of our Year 5/6 pupils, who helped to run a range of fun and engaging activity stations.

We welcomed 20 of our KS1 children, alongside pupils from six local schools, creating a lively and energetic atmosphere throughout the afternoon. The children rotated around different activities, developing key cricket skills such as throwing, catching and striking the ball, all while having lots of fun.

It was wonderful to see our older children taking on leadership roles, supporting and encouraging the younger children with confidence and enthusiasm.

The afternoon was full of smiles, teamwork and new experiences, and it was clear that everyone involved thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

For families interested in continuing cricket outside of school, there is a local opportunity to join the All Stars Cricket programme for children aged 5–8:

<https://ecb.clubspark.uk/AllStars/bnhcc/Course/292953b9-96c5-4c5a-93c5-10f4ea2f50b6>

On Tuesday, we welcomed two coaches from Basingstoke Indoor Tennis Centre, based at the War Memorial Park, who delivered tennis taster sessions for children in Year R, 1 and 2.

The sessions introduced pupils to basic tennis skills in a fun and engaging way, helping them to develop coordination, control and confidence while enjoying the game. The children showed great enthusiasm and were eager to get involved, making the most of this exciting opportunity.

The tennis centre will also be hosting an **open day this Saturday**, which is open to children who would like to get involved. Please note that sessions will need to be **pre-booked in advance**.

🎾 **Free Tennis Open Day Taster Sessions – Saturday 25th April 14.00-15.00 or 15.30-16.30** 🎾

Following this week's tennis sessions in school, your child has been invited to attend a FREE 60-minute tennis taster session at Basingstoke Indoor Tennis Centre.

These fun sessions include games, mini challenges, teamwork activities and plenty of tennis action. They are perfect for complete beginners, and all equipment is provided.

Children just need comfortable trainers and a water bottle. ★ Everyone who attends will also receive an exclusive on-the-day offer. Spaces are limited, so please book in advance.

Book your session here:

<https://bitc.basingstoketennis.org.uk/EventsV2/Summary/2d360244-8ae9-4ed5-a98d-49714d1ec38f>

Need more information?


Email: hello@nationaltennis.org.uk

Location:

Basingstoke Indoor Tennis Centre
War Memorial Park
Crossborough Hill
BASINGSTOKE
Hampshire & Isle of Wight
RG21 4AG

FILL THOSE JARS — MAKE THEM RATTLE!

 FRIENDS OF ST. JOHN'S (FOSJ) PENNY BATTLE 

 **Tuesday 5th May – Friday 8th May 2026**

HOW IT WORKS

- Each class has their own jar
- Add money to your class jar to **gain points**
- Add certain coins to other classes' jars to **subtract points**

+ GAIN POINTS

(YOUR CLASS)

Money Added	Points
1p	+1
2p	+2
£5	+500
£10	+1000
£20	+2000

- SUBTRACT POINTS

(OTHER CLASSES)

Money Added	Points
5p	-5
10p	-10
20p	-20
50p	-50
£1	-100
£2	-200

EXAMPLE

Put a £1 coin in another class jar = **-100 points for them!**

The class with the **MOST** points wins a:

 **CLASS PRIZE** 

Let the battle begin — good luck everyone!

SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL

FOSJ is fundraising to purchase new laptops so students can fully participate in computing lessons. Proceeds from the Penny Battle will go towards this important cause.