



St John's Newsletter

Learning, Loving and Laughing Together



Message from Chair of Governors

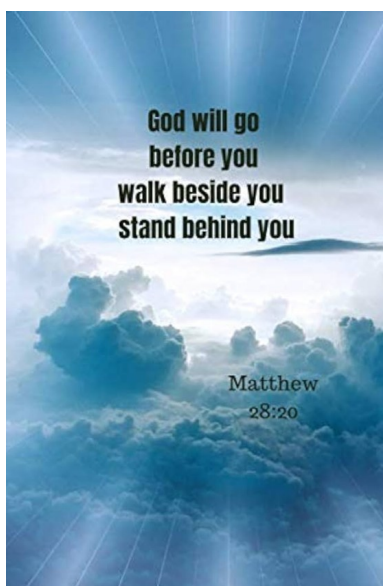
As we close the doors on another academic year, I would like to take a moment to reflect on what has been a truly remarkable period for our school. On behalf of the Governing Body, I want to extend our heartfelt thanks to Mrs Nicholls for her exceptional leadership. Leaving a legacy of excellence is no small feat, and we remain incredibly proud of the 'Outstanding' Ofsted judgement we achieved together in February 2025. This success is a direct reflection of her unwavering commitment to our children and our school community; she leaves us in an incredibly strong position, and we wish her every happiness and success in her new professional chapter at Overton Primary School.



As we look towards September, we are grateful for the continuity that Mr Tunnicliffe brings to the role. It is a joy to have a leader taking the helm who already knows and values our school family so deeply, and the Governing Body is fully confident that under their guidance, our school will continue to thrive and grow in both faith and learning.

Thank you to all our parents, staff, and volunteers for your continued partnership this year. I wish you all a restful, joyful, and refreshing summer break.

This week in worship... We have been covering the theme of moving on. We have talked about celebrating our past and thanking God for the opportunities and achievements of the last year at school. We have also reflected on how God is with us as we move on and how we can, through our prayers, ask him for help as we face new things. We thought about how we have lots to look forward to—new experiences, new adventures and new lessons to learn— and, even if we are feeling a bit nervous, we can remember that God goes with us wherever we go.



Class Certificates

Ella R-G
Jacob T
Harry R
Musa N
Andreea D
Mila E
Chloe G
Neo B
Saeed U
Esmae A
Rupert R

Number Awards:

Sapphire: Mary B, James S, Louis W

Emerald: James S, Louis W, Freddie S-L, Zachary A, Grace G, Rupert B-B, Joshua P, Olivia B M

Gold: Theo H, Nancy D

Diamond: Fred C

Mathletics:

KS1: Ivy C-W

KS2: Saeed U

Mathletes of the week: Eliana I, Ethan I, Eric I

Diary Dates

22/07/26	INSET Day (5)
23/7-31/8/26	Summer Holidays
01/09/26	INSET Day (1) 2026/27
02/09/26	Years 1-6 First Day Back

INSET Days 2026—2027

Tuesday 1st September 2026 (1)

INSET Days 2025—2026

Wednesday 22nd July (5)

Attendance



Whole school attendance is currently at 96.7%. Our whole school target for the year is 97%.

A gentle reminder that you can check your child's live attendance on the Arbor app and that good attendance is defined as 96% or above.

Please avoid booking term time holidays in the new academic year



FOSJ...

The Friends of St John's (FOSJ) committee has now stepped down, and we would like to thank them sincerely for all their hard work and commitment.

We are delighted to welcome our new Chair - Lainey and Treasurer Layla to the team. FOSJ is still looking for a Secretary, so if you're able to help, please get in touch.

Thank you to the outgoing committee for everything they have contributed to our school.

FOSJ

LETTER ALERT!

Child	Title	Response?

Tuesday 21st July 2026

This is the last day of this academic year. On this day the children will finish at the following times:

Year R & Year 1/2—1.25pm,

Year 3/4 & Year 5/6 —1.30pm.

Due to the early finish, all children will need to be collected by an adult, **this includes Year 5/6 children (there will be no After School Club). No children will be able to leave site alone until the usual finishing time.**

If your child is going to be collected by a different adult from those who usually collect, please let the school office know in writing.



Year 1/2

Thank you to all Year 1/2 parents that made a donation after the Year 1/2 performances. We managed to raise an amazing £75.70 for WWF. Thank you!



Year 5/6

Thank you to all Year 5/6 parents that made a donation after the performances this week. We managed to raise an amazing £199.04 which will be split equally between Teenage Cancer Trust and Helping Cats & Dogs Basingstoke. Thank you!



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, the outstanding balance will need to be paid by Friday 11th December 2026.



Year 4 (Current Year 3's) – Stubbington Residential 11th-13th January 2027

If you have registered your child for next year's Stubbington trip in January, the outstanding balance will need to be paid online by Friday 23rd October 2026.



Frozen Tuesday

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**FOSJ will be selling
lollies in the playground
at 13:25 on the last
day of term**

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50p each

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**please bring correct
change if possible**



A year of sport—What a year it's been! Across the school, our children have taken part in an incredible range of sporting events - from first-ever matches to national finals - each one giving them the chance to build confidence, teamwork and a genuine love of sport.

KS1 have had a jam-packed year of festivals, taster sessions and first competitions, each one designed to build confidence and a love of being active. 20 children travelled to QMC to take part in a multi skills festival run by the students there, trying their hand at a range of different activities in a fun, supportive environment. Others represented the school in a skipping competition at Costello, showing off the skills they'd been practising.

A gymnastics competition at the Active Life Centre gave children the chance to perform routines and spend time working alongside a gymnastics coach, picking up new skills and techniques along the way. A football festival at the Vyne offered a friendly, score-free introduction to matches, giving every child the chance to experience playing as part of a team without the pressure of a result - while a separate, more competitive fixture gave others their first taste of a match representing the school.



We hosted a KS1 cricket festival with 20 of our children taking part and 8 Year 5/6 pupils stepping up brilliantly to support the activities alongside Hampshire cricket coaches - a lovely example of our older children helping to inspire the younger ones. The Basingstoke Tennis Centre came in and ran sessions for every child in Year R, 1 and 2, giving them the chance to pick up a racket, while Team Rubicon brought balance bikes and two-wheeled scooters into school, with children learning to ride with confidence and even picking up a few tricks along the way.

The KS1 sporting year rounded off with a quad kids competition, where children took part in a run, a sprint, a jump and a throw, gaining points for their team with every event. It was a brilliant way to finish the year, and the children did themselves proud, finishing 3rd overall.

Year 3/4 have spent the year gaining valuable experience and developing their skills across a range of sports, laying down important building blocks for the years ahead. The children took part in a number of football friendlies against local schools, giving them plenty of opportunities to play competitive matches, growing in confidence with every game. Match by match, the children learned to work together as a team, communicate on the pitch and cope with the ups and downs of competitive sport.

20 children represented the school at the cross country event, testing their stamina, determination and pace over the course - a brilliant challenge that pushed them to keep going and do their personal best, whatever the conditions. 16 children travelled to the Basingstoke Indoor Tennis Centre to take part in a tennis festival, trying out their skills on court for what was, for many, a first introduction to the sport. They had the chance to practise their hitting, movement and game understanding in a fun and encouraging environment.

Every one of these experiences plays an important part in building the foundations for the years ahead. Whether it's the resilience gained from a long run, the teamwork learned on the football pitch, or the coordination developed on the tennis court, our Year 3/4 children are steadily building the skills, confidence and enthusiasm that will carry them into competitive KS2 sport.

It's been a busy year for our **Year 5/6** children with achievements across a range of competitions.

Football - Our teams took on the Hampshire Cup, with the boys narrowly knocked out in the 2nd round and the girls reaching the 3rd round of the plate. Both teams also competed in the local school league, with the boys just missing out on the semi-finals and the girls reaching the semi-finals for the first time, finishing 4th in Basingstoke. A separate group of children represented the school in the Warwick League, gaining valuable match experience along the way.

Netball - The team finished 2nd in their group and qualified for the finals which clashed with PGL, so a brand new team of Year 5 children stepped in and thoroughly enjoyed the experience, with some playing their first ever competitive match.

Table Tennis - A real highlight of the year, with 21 children taking part across the team and individual competitions. One boys' team went all the way, winning the local and county rounds before earning a place at the regionals, where they placed an excellent 3rd in the South East. The girls were runners-up locally and finished 5th at county level. In the individual events, we won the local round in the girls' competition and placed 3rd in the boys', before going on to win the county round in the girls competition and qualify for the Nationals - a fantastic experience and opportunity for those involved.

Basketball - Some very close games throughout the competition saw the team improve as they went, finishing runners-up and earning a place at the county round at Solent University - a big step up in pace and quality, with a mixed bag of results across a busy day of games. All involved enjoyed the day.

Cross Country - 20 children represented us at Down Grange, with several finishing in the top 20 and one qualifying for the county round.

Badminton - Two teams finished 2nd and 3rd respectively.

Athletics - Our Sportshall athletics team of 12 came 3rd to earn a place in the finals - again clashing with PGL, so a whole new team of Year 5s took on the challenge and had an exciting afternoon.

Hockey - Two teams were entered, with many players enjoying their first ever competitive game. They finished 2nd and 4th and went on to represent Basingstoke at the county round.

Cricket - The year finished with the girls placing 5th in the local round, while the boys went one better, finishing runners-up in Basingstoke and reaching the semi-finals at the county round held at the Utilita Bowl.

Donna and Chloe from Bounce Fit came in for a day to run sessions with KS2 classes which was a great experience for all.

A huge well done to every single child who took part in a sporting event this year - your enthusiasm, effort and sportsmanship have been fantastic to see, whatever the result.

None of this would be possible without the incredible support of our staff and parents. Whether it's staff giving up lunchtimes and after-school hours to run training sessions, coaching teams and organising fixtures, or parents making the journey to matches, competitions and festivals across the county to cheer the children on - every bit of that support makes a real difference and doesn't go unnoticed.

We're also hugely grateful to the coaches and organisations who have come into school throughout the year to work with our children, from Hampshire Cricket and Basingstoke Tennis Centre to Team Rubicon and Bounce Fit, as well as the local schools, college and venues who have hosted us for so many events.

Above all, everything we enter is about giving children a positive experience of sport - the chance to try something new, be part of a team, build confidence and, most importantly, enjoy themselves along the way. Seeing that reflected in every festival, friendly or competitive fixture this year has been wonderful, and we can't wait to take part in even more events next academic year.

