



St. John's CE Primary School

Summer Newsletter July 2025



Diary Dates: [Click here for the school calendar](#)

2025-2026 Inset Days	Monday 1st September 2025 Tuesday 2nd September 2025 Monday 5th January 2026 Monday 1st June 2026 Monday 20th July 2026
School opens to pupils	Wed 3rd September 2025
Harvest festival at St. John's Church Families welcome to join us. Donations for Stoke Foodbank greatly appreciated.	Wednesday 1st October KS1: 9:30am KS2: 11am
Academy photos (individuals / siblings).	Thursday 2nd October
Parents' Evening	Tuesday 21st October Thursday 23rd October
Half Term holiday	Mon 27th Oct 2025 – Fri 31st October
School opens to pupils	Monday 3rd November
Flu jabs for pupils	Friday 28th November
Christmas Service at St. John's Church Families welcome to join us.	Monday 15th December KS1: 9:30am KS2: 11am
End of term disco	Thursday 18th December EY / KS1: 3:15-4:15pm KS2: 4:30-5:30pm
Term ends	Fri 19th Dec 2025

2025-2026 Statutory Assessments / SATs (Standard Assessment Tests):

- Reception baseline: completed during the first 6 weeks in Reception class.
- KS1 SATs: June 2026
- Year 6 SATs: Week commencing Monday 11th May 2026
- Year 1 / Year 2 (resit) Phonics Screen: Week commencing Monday 8th June 2026
- Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check: the 2-week period from Monday 1st June.

Internal School Assessments: Assessment weeks for all years / second half of each half term.

After School Clubs for Autumn term 2025-2026:

More club information will be confirmed in September.

Summer After School Clubs:	
Monday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Choir with Miss Parish (KS2). 3:30-4:15pm• Bee Active Sports Club
Wednesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drum Club with Mr. Oxborrow (KS2). 3:30-4:30pm
Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• MiniMe Mindfulness (Starting Thursday 11th September). 3:30-4:30pm

We are delighted to be continuing with our pupils' favourite clubs in September. More details for how to book places will be sent in September.

Use the link to book on the wonderful 'MiniMe Mindfulness' sessions:

<https://minime-mindfulness-staffs.classforkids.io/term/33>



Mr Oxborrow will also be offering music lessons for the recorder, guitar, ukelele and drums.

Reading at St. John's

The Summer Reading Challenge has started! [Click here to get involved.](#)



Join in NOW!

Take on the Summer Reading Challenge!

Welcome to the Story Garden... where magical creatures, wild tales, and the wonders of nature come to life.

Discover fantastic new books, unlock rewards along the way, and achieve something amazing this summer.

Create your profile

THE READING AGENCY

Summer Reading Challenge

Story Garden

Story Garden illustrations by Dapo Adeola, illustrations and logo © The Reading Agency 2025

St. John's Church / School Vision and Values:

Our focus over the Summer Term has been our school value of 'Excel', and an introduction to 'spirituality' – the 'connection' we feel to ourselves, others, and the world from doing the things we love and from those special moments. The things which makes our star shine brighter.

For Christians, spirituality results in a closer connection to God.

During our spirituality afternoon, pupils explored the different ways in which we can feel a spiritual connection and talked about their preferences.

What makes you feel spiritual?



Safeguarding / Online Safety

Building Children's Resilience whilst online:

Continuing the theme of building knowledge of emotions and resilience, take a look at the ['Where Will it End?' website](#).



This teaches children how to manage their emotions whilst online and helps them learn when to turn off.

Click on the image to explore the website.

<https://violencereductionalliance.co.uk/young-people/>



#WAKE UP WEDNESDAY:

This is a national campaign to help you understand the latest apps and downloads that your children may be using. Sign up is free and you will have access to hundreds of one page fact sheets that cover all the major internet sites that your children might use. It tells you how to understand them, set controls and what the dangers might be. Sign up [here](#)



St. John's Sport

Congratulations to everyone at St John's who gets involved in sport. Also, a huge thank you to Mr. Redfern for organising everything sporty that goes on at school, and for achieving the 'School Games Gold Award' for the second year running - next stop 'Platinum'!



Our **Sports Fest** was an amazing day for all. We had lots of fun and competitive activities to keep the children entertained which resulted in lots of smiles – and stickers! Thank you to our friends at BeeActive who helped create a fabulous day.



Pupils from Years 1-6 have all had the exciting opportunity to visit Uttoxeter Gymnastics Club over the summer term to experience something new, or refine their skills. Feedback from pupils was 100% positive with many saying they saw gymnastics in a new light after their session at this amazing venue.

Pupils have had a great experience learning to play hockey with Dan from 'Jolt Hockey' hockey club.



done to all. You represented St John's amazingly and were absolute stars.



Our Year 4s competed in a cricket tournament at Oakamoor Cricket Club. After 4 games, they were crowned winners of the group and went into the final. Some fantastic batting and fielding skills were on display and they went on to WIN overall! A huge well



Our brilliant Y3/4 Girls Football team entered into the first ever CADSSA Y3/4 Girls' Football Tournament and they were all amazing!

It was a real pleasure to see how they all grew in confidence and improved with each game. Results wise, the team came second in their first group and then came top of their second group! A great afternoon...in truly terrible weather! It didn't stop our team (or their parents) from giving their all!



Ten of our Y5 and Y6 footballers made their way to Moorside High School to play in the School Games 5v5 Football Event. We entered two St John's teams into the event and they all did themselves proud by showing determination, passion, self-belief, respect and honesty - all key values of the School Games! Well done guys!



Our Year 4 superstar cricket team travelled to Ford Houses Cricket Club to play in the County Finals after placing first in their group matches.

The team achieved 3rd overall in their group playing 3 games followed by 2 friendlies with amazing batting, fantastic bowling and super fielding!



The competition at Northwood was fierce but our St John's athletes pushed themselves and performed brilliantly! We're so proud of them all.

Our Y3/4 boys team came 1st, our Y3/4 girls team came 3rd and combined they achieved a fabulous, combined 1st place overall for Y3/4!

Our Y5/6 athletes also put in 100% effort with our boys coming in 4th place and our girls achieving an amazing 1st place! Combined, their points tally was enough to earn them a well-deserved 3rd place in the Y5/6 category! A super achievement.



Music at St John's.

On the 3rd July, parents and staff were treated to a musical extravaganza from some of our very talented musicians. Years 4 and 5, who have been learning to play the ukelele since September, demonstrated their musical skills and progress. The children have also developed fantastic singing skills.

Ukelele lessons will continue next year with our fantastic music teacher, Mr Oxborrow.

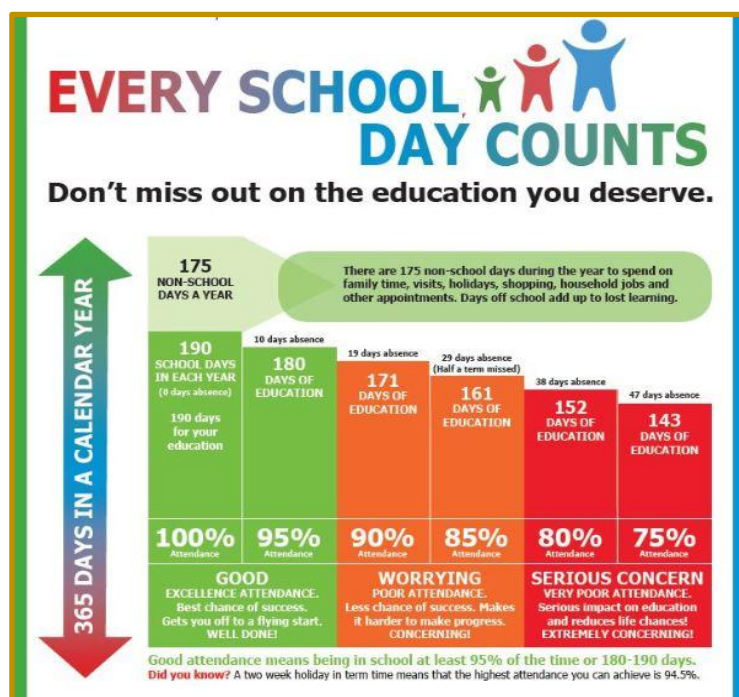


In the evening, the children who have small group or individual lessons, showcased their talents for parents and staff to enjoy. Well done everyone - both performances were excellent!



Attendance:

MINUTES LATE	IMPACT ON YOUR ATTENDANCE IN A YEAR
5 MINUTES A DAY =	3.4 days 98.4% attendance
10 MINUTES A DAY =	6.9 days 97.6% attendance
15 MINUTES A DAY =	10.3 days 94.6% attendance
20 MINUTES A DAY =	13.8 days 92.9% attendance
30 MINUTES A DAY =	20.7 days 89.2% attendance



Absence due to illness: If your child is unwell, please refer to the following guidance:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

If your child is going to be absent, please leave a message on our absence phone line before 9:15am (01782 550309).



Are you Eligible for Free School Meals?

Parents claiming some benefits can claim free school meals for any of their children who are registered at a Staffordshire school and who would normally be at school at lunch time. School meals are a good way to ensure that your child eats well at lunchtime and you can save yourself time and money. Even if you don't want your children to have the meals, claiming them helps their school. The more eligible parents who claim meals, the more funding the school receives. *Click [here](#) to see if you are eligible.*



In Staffordshire, HAF (Holiday Activities and Food) funding is available for children and young people aged 5-16 who meet specific criteria. Primarily, this includes those who receive benefits-related free school meals. Additionally, children under care order at home, young carers, fostered children, and children on a placement order, as determined by [Staffordshire County Council](#), may also be eligible.

FREE Summer
HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AND FOOD
STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

ACTIVITY SESSIONS FOR 7-15 YEARS

come and have some fun !
Join us for an action-packed summer of fun, fitness, and friendship! Whether you're into football, dodgeball, or Arts & crafts — there's something for everyone !

JULY 22 - AUGUST 12, 2025
TUESDAYS | 1 PM - 5 PM

Highlights:

- Skill-building sessions
- Mini Tournaments
- Team Challenges
- Daily Warm-ups & Motivation
- Camp Certificates

Haregate Community Centre
46 Queens Dr, Leek
ST13 6DJ

Limited Places Available!
Reserve your spot now!

07411136757

FREE WARM MEAL PROVIDED
if you are in receipt of FSM

To find out what each class is learning every half term, see our year group Curriculum

Maps: available on the 'Curriculum' section of the website.

Curriculum maps detail what each class will cover over the half term for each subject.

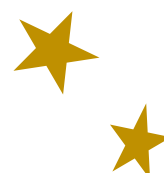
A taste of what we've been up to over the final half term:

EYFS

Early years had a great time learning about superheroes. Laurie the nurse came in to talk about her role and Lynn the post lady discussed her role within the community. We also had a visit from a real policeman who



showed us how to take fingerprints!





Reception Class children took part in a sunflower growing competition organised by **Leek Rotary Club**. Each child planted a sunflower seed then took it home and nurtured it for a few months and the children were amazed to see how the different conditions had affected how the plants grew. With many of the sunflowers growing taller than the children, Charlotte's was the runner up and Ezra's was the winning sunflower measuring 178cm tall. Well done all!



Year 1:

As part of their science topic on plants, Year 1 planted some sunflower seeds and closely observed how they grew.

The children were thrilled to receive a very special letter—from none other than Jack, from Jack and the Beanstalk! Jack asked the children for advice on what to do with his magic beans. Using everything they had learned about how plants grow and writing instructions in English, the children worked together to write clear, helpful instructions for Jack to follow. Jack was so grateful for their expert advice that he followed their instructions exactly.

Year 1 have been learning how to find a quarter of different objects and shapes in Maths. Taking their learning outside, the children used chalk to draw a variety of shapes and discovered lots of creative ways to split them into quarters. They had a fantastic time learning in the fresh air and showed great understanding—everyone was able to find a quarter!



Year 2

Year 2 visited Whitfield Valley Nature Reserve to investigate microhabitats. The children enjoyed finding minibeasts in the pond and grassland habitats as well as making journey sticks to take home as a reminder of the day.





Year 2 have been working hard with Miss Richardson making pouches for their Design and Technology. They used templates to carefully cut the material, then they used running stitch to join their fabric, creating a pouch. Finally they added their decorations.

Their resilience, perseverance and independence certainly paid off as the pouches they created look amazing!
Well done Year 2!

Year 3

Year 3 created some fantastic Egyptian collars during their Design and Technology lessons. They designed their collars and then used running stitch, cross stitch and

appliqué to complete some fabulous collars.

The help from all the parents and grandparents who gave up their time to help the children in Year 3 was greatly appreciated.



Year 4

Year 4 had a brilliant time at their end of topic Carnival! They showed off their brilliant Samba dancing and even got their parents involved too! Thank you to all the parents who were able to come and celebrate with us on their learning journey.



Year 5

What a fantastic day Year 5 had at Newcastle College exploring all things Lego and coding.

They all did brilliantly and were a real asset to St John's.

Year 5 had a fantastic day at Stanley Head for their transition day. Mr Redfern said that they were amazing and real ambassadors for St John's. By the look on their faces, they had an amazing day.





Year 6

Y6 have worked hard during their 'Bold Colour' art unit. Inspired by the work of pop artist Roy Lichtenstein and their current work on the KS2 production of 'The Amazing Adventures of Superstan', they drew their own poptastic designs and then created them. They thought about materials, contrasts and had a great time producing a fantastic display of art. Great work Year 6! These art skills will be put to great use when you go on to Moorside.

Led by Year 6, our KS2 worked hard to produce the most spectacular end of year show 'The Amazing Adventures of SuperStan'. They sung, danced, acted their hearts out to see the year out in real style.



Talent Show

We finished the year off with the most amazing talent show with singing, dancing, juggling, gymnastics, a magic show, football skills, and jokes. Well done to all those who entered for your courage and super skills - you thoroughly entertained us all!

BeeActive Colour Run

Finally, the whole school (including the staff) had great fun with the BeeActive Colour Run!





Pupils shining outside of school...

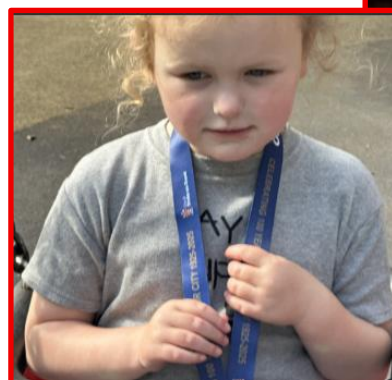
We love to hear about the achievements and success of pupils outside of school, so if you have anything for our next edition, please get in touch: headteacher@st-johns-wetleyrocks.staffs.sch.uk



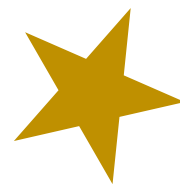
One of our talented Year 2 pupils has shared some photos from his training experience with Manchester City through his football club DNA. Wow a super star in the making!



We have a family of runners here at St. John's - a Year 6 sport lover and his superstar sister have completed the Park Run. Well done!



Huge well done to our Yr 5 musician who was recognised for 'musical development and attainment' by her orchestra. A fabulous achievement!



A big shout out to our Year 1 fund raising duo who took part in the Race for Life 5K mud run raising an amazing £1300 for Cancer Research. Excellent job ladies!



Keep up to date with our news and what's been going on with our school Facebook page:

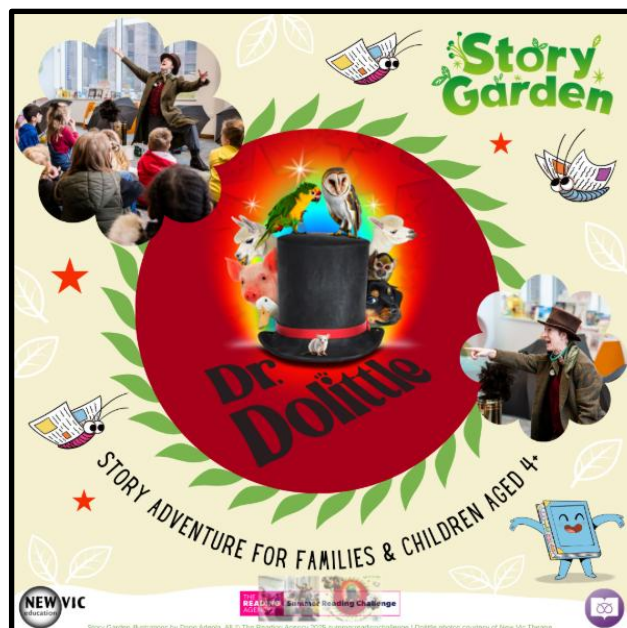
<https://www.facebook.com/Stjohnswetleyrocks>

Activities to keep you entertained over the summer holidays:

Dr. Dolittle is coming to Staffordshire Libraries this summer to bring young imaginations to life!

Staffordshire Libraries are delighted to be working with New Vic Theatre Education Team to tour their interactive story performance, Dr Dolittle, this summer for the Summer Reading Challenge theme, 'Story Garden'.

Families are invited to step into the world of the wild and set sail with Dolittle, Dab Dab, Chee-Chee, and a very special crew on an exciting 35-minute interactive performance. Join the adventure with the world's most famous animal doctor as they explore new lands, help animals in need—and maybe even talk to them too! Packed with playful puppets, fun characters, and plenty of chances for the audience to join in, this one-person show invites young explorers to discover the wonders of nature and the importance of kindness and friendship. It's a wild adventure full of laughs, learning, and a whole lot of heart!



Perfect for children aged 4+ and their families, running time approx. 35 minutes.

Fri 8 August

10.30am Biddulph Library, 2pm Leek Library

Free to attend, but please book in advance at the relevant library –

www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Libraries/branchlibraries



[Click here for the 'What's on Staffordshire' guide.](#)

Jolt Hockey in partnership with Leek Hockey Club

SUMMER HOCKEY CAMP

DATES AND TIMES

10.00am - 3.30pm

Wednesday 30th July
Thursday 31st July
Wednesday 6th August
Thursday 7th August
Wednesday 20th August
Thursday 21st August
Wednesday 27th August
Thursday 28th August

Where: Leek High School
Who: School years 3 - 8
Open to non-members of Leek HC

Join us for a high-energy day of coaching and development. Expect plenty of game play, advanced skills, tactical challenges, fitness, and matches.

- ⚡ Qualified coach with full DBS clearance.
- ⚡ All abilities welcome
- ⚡ Bring a packed lunch and plenty of water.
- ⚡ Wear suitable clothing for the weather.
- ⚡ Gumshield and shin pads essential.

£27.00 per session (sibling discount available)
Offer: £180 for all 8 sessions

For more information email: dan@talentjolt.co.uk
✓ For bookings go to: ✓
www.bookwhen.com/jolthockey or follow the QR code

Do you have a little one who is due to start school?

Free resources to support skills for starting school:

- [BBC CBeebies Parenting / Tiny Happy People](#), a service from the BBC, has a wealth of content for families to support the skills children need to start school.
- The '[Skills for Starting School](#)' collection page is full of free content to share with families, from introducing the potty and toilet independence to language learning.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people/topics/cr4rez0de6vt>

Staffordshire Space Scheme is a positive activity programme for young people aged 8 -17 years and runs during the school summer holidays.

Many of the activities are free of charge, including sports, arts and crafts, dance, family fun days and tournaments, DJing, swimming and gym sessions. Activities are currently being uploaded to the website and will go live early July. To subscribe for an update bulletin as soon as the activities go live and for more information, subscribe on the www.staffordshirespace.uk homepage.



A huge thank you to everyone in our school community for another fantastic year.

Whether it's helping your child academically, giving lifts, mystery readers, supporting at events, or even just a hello in the morning, we couldn't do it without out you.

We look forward to seeing you Wednesday 3rd September 2025 for the start of a brand new school year.



Very best wishes. Mrs Stone and the St. John's team.

SHINE like the star you are.

