



St. John's CE Primary School

Autumn Newsletter December 2025



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

Inset Days:	Monday 5th January Monday 1st June Monday 20th July
Tuesday 6 th January	School opens for the Spring Term.
Monday 2 nd February and Tuesday 3 rd February.	KS2 Dance Enrichments sessions.
Friday 6 th February	Class photos
Monday 9 th February	BeeActive PE Enrichment sessions
Friday 13 th February	Saltmine Theatre Company in school. Focus: Online Safety (Years 1-6 / Workshops for KS2).
Friday 13 th February	Last day of Spring 1.
Monday 23 rd February	School opens for Spring 2
Inset Day	Monday 5th January
School opens / Start of Spring Term	Tuesday 6th January

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

- 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, 2026.
- Year 6 SATs Monday 11th May – Thursday 14th May 2026.

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

School Reports / Parents' Evening: more details to follow in the Spring Term.

We are delighted to announce that St. John's is now part of the The Moorlands Primary Federation (TMF) family of schools and look forward to our new journey together.

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

Thank you to St. John's Church for another warm welcome for our Christmas service. Our pupils did us proud, as always, with their joyful singing and beautiful reading; it was an absolute pleasure to see the church full of our whole school community.

A special thank you to Miss Parish and the St. John's Choir who always add that extra little bit of magic.

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS):

We are delighted to share that our SIAMS inspection back in October was a very positive experience which recognised the caring and hard working ethos of St. John's.





"Driven by the Christian vision, this school is a loving, inclusive community."

"Pupils are inspired to 'shine like the star you are,' and they are well prepared for future learning and life."

[Click here to read the full SIAMS report.](#)

Leek Food Bank:

A huge thank you to those who made a donation over the Autumn term – it makes a big difference!

Thanks to our Year 6 pupils, St. John's continues to be an official collection point for Leek Food Bank. If you can spare something in the future, please pop it in to our reception area.



Vision and Values:

We will re-visit our school value of HOPE for the first half of the Spring Term.



After School Clubs for Spring term 2025-2026:

Spring 1 After School Clubs:	
Monday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> St. John's Choir with Miss Parish (KS2) Bee Active Sports Club 3:30pm-4:15pm (Sports Explorers). 12th Jan–9th Feb
Tuesday:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mini-Mindfulness 3:30pm-4:30pm. <p>To book a place: https://minime-mindfulness-staffs.classforkids.io/term/36</p>
Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drum Club with Mr Oxborrow. 3:30-4:30pm. Please call the school office for more details 01782 550309.



BEE ACTIVE

Improve your skills with our sports explorers sessions!

Sessions for children of all abilities!

ONLY £3.50 PER SESSION

Mondays Years 3-6 3:30-4:15pm

Book now at beeactive.co.uk

Places are limited and will be secured on a first come, first serve basis

Meet your coach Cory

Bee Active:

Our Spring 1 BeeActive after-school club 'KS2 Sports Explorers' is just £3.50 per session, focuses on agility and fitness and covers a range of sporting skills. Book now at beeactive.co.uk or call 01782 205915.

Chess Club:

Do you love playing chess or have always wanted to learn? We are hoping to set up chess club after school on a Thursday run by a chess expert! All levels welcome / £5 per session. More details to follow...

After School Club

Tuesdays 3.30-4.30pm

- GAMES
- STORIES
- CHATS
- TEAM ACTIVITIES
- MEDITATION

Build Confidence
Raise Self Awareness
Recognise Emotions
Understand Feelings
Self Regulate Responses
Reduce Stress/Anxiety
Increase Inner Calm & Happiness
Encourage Resilience & Communication
Have FUN & Make Friends

St. John's CofE Primary School



St. John's Choir



This half term has really seen our St. John's Choir SHINE. Not only did they add that extra bit of sparkle to our Christmas Service in church, they sang at our Christmas Music Evening, and to top it off, they performed at the Victoria Hall in the 2025 Entrust Music Service Staffordshire Christmas Festival.

Led by Miss Parish, the choir sang a school solo in harmony so beautifully. An amazing opportunity for the choir to show just how much they SHINE.



St. John's Sport

We've had another half term of fantastic sporting opportunities with our friends at CADSSA (Cheadle and District Sports School Association). There's been great displays of teamwork, some excellent sporting skills, ups and downs, lessons learned and lots of fun!

Our Year 5 & 6 super swimmers represented St. John's brilliantly at the CADSSA Cheadle swimming gala with the girls being placed 3rd, and St. John's finishing in a fantastic 3rd place overall.



Our Year 5/6 and Year 3/4 Sporthall Athletics teams sprinted, jumped, bounced and threw to their maximums to achieve a fantastic 4th place





for the Yr 5/6 competition and an amazing first place for the Yr 3/4 team against some very tough competitors!

There was excellent team work, great sporting resilience and huge effort on display – well done!

Thank you as always to Mr Redfern, our sports lead at St. John's, the staff who always lend a hand, and our families for your support and help with transport – you are all stars!



Chess Champions!

We could not be more proud of our chess loving champions who took part in the Staffordshire School Chess Competition. Being the only primary school who took part, they showed great strength of character and skill playing against high school pupils! Not only did they display some excellent chess playing, their fabulous personalities, behaviour and manners made them truly SHINE!



Forest School Enrichment Days

The whole school took their learning outdoors through December to complete forest school enrichment sessions with qualified forest school leader, Mrs Jukes. Everyone enjoyed exploring our Forest Garden, completing challenges, building shelters, creating nature masterpieces and, of course, toasting and eating marshmallows around the campfire.



Christmas Music Evening

We were treated to an evening of musical delights by our fabulous musicians and St. John's choir. The music lessons are certainly paying off for our violinists, guitarists, recorder players and drummers – absolute stars!



Spotlight on Mental Health

Parenting advice from child mental health experts.

[Click here](#) to check out the 'Place2Be' site for lots of great practical tips to support children's wellbeing and behaviour.



Spotlight on Safeguarding

Free online safety online workshop from the NSPCC

The Keeping Children Safe Online workshop provides parents and carers with information about how to support their child in their online world. The 40 minute pre-recorded presentation covers topics such as online bullying, mental health, and social media, as well as signposting to resources for help and support.



Reading Stars at St. John's:

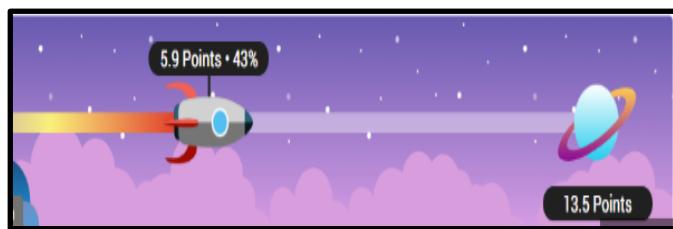
Reading is a vital skill because it helps children build language skills, learn new ideas, and grow their imaginations. Practice makes progress!

Our **Accelerated Reader** reading targets to help your child make good reading progress:

Years 3 and 4: 20 minutes reading each day.

Years 5 and 6: 25 minutes reading each day.

Quiz pass rate of 85% or above.



Curriculum Maps:

To see what children are learning each half term, please see our 'Year Group Curriculum Maps' on the 'Curriculum' section of the website.

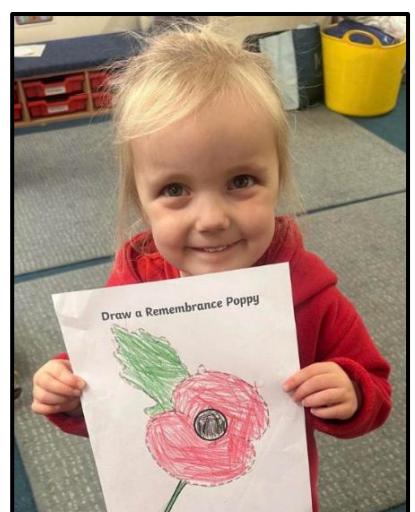
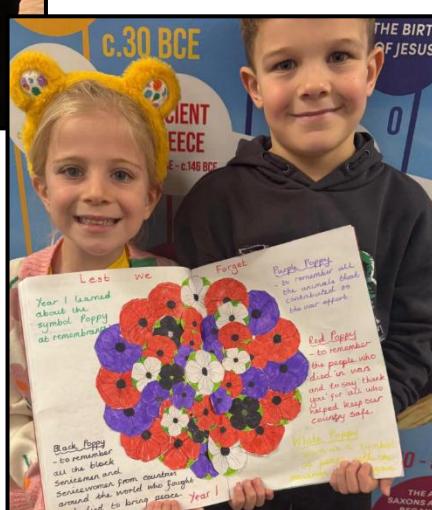


A little taste of what we've been up to over this half term:

We kicked off the half term with Year 1 visiting the Brampton Museum as part of their history topic on toys.



We celebrated 'Anti-Bullying' awareness with 'odd socks day', commemorated and learned about war with our WW1 soldier visit for Remembrance Day.





Year 3 have been putting their culinary skills to the test designing and testing their own recipes; we celebrated World Kindness Day and Year 2 made and shared their own beautiful 'acts of kindness tree'; we've learned about celebrations from other cultures and religions; had great fun exploring and sharing books together; and Years 5 and 6 had a tremendous time exploring all things science at 'Think Tank Birmingham Science Museum'.



We've had a visit to Stanley Head for a Stone Age themed day; had fun designing and building DT projects; a fabulous ukelele concert for parents; training for being in space in Year 5; and visits to Amerton Farm and the New Victoria Theatre for Christmas fun.





An action packed half term full of hard work and fun, rounded off with Christmas dinners, celebrations, and the most magical Early Years and Key Stage 1 Nativities.





Attendance:

Good school attendance significantly boosts academic performance, social-emotional growth, and future success by ensuring consistent learning, building friendships, developing self-regulation, and establishing crucial habits of responsibility and punctuality, directly leading to better outcomes and readiness for later education and life.

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).



Spotlight on Finance

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 great 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.

Household Support Fund

Are you having financial struggles? The Household Support Fund may be able to help. Click the link to read more, or get in touch if you'd like to discuss this.

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

Music Star!

Eve, one of our very musical Year 6 pupils, took part in a concert at All Saints Church in Leek with the Young Phoenix Choir. Young Phoenix were retelling the nativity story through time and Eve had the main part narrating the story. She also played first violin for Congleton Youth Orchestra Intermediates. What an excellent job – well done Eve!



Fund Raising Stars

Two of our fabulous Year 4 footballing ladies completed a sponsored fun run to raise money for their football team, Leek Town. They ran several laps around raising a fantastic £195! One of them added to the amount with a fundraising raffle to achieve a total of £305 – super work ladies!

AND to top it off, she was selected for parents' player award after their team won with an incredible score of 11-1!





Another fundraising star in Year 6 who (with his brother) collected an amazing 66kgs of food to help families at Christmas. He also raised money by holding a Christmas raffle donating the money to the foodbank and 4th Leek Scouts.

He went to the foodbank with the Beavers and they helped making packs up for people and labelling. The superstar brothers have been invited back in the holidays to help out as they love their attitude towards the use of the foodbank. What an inspirational and caring thing to do! Well done!



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

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

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



Wishing you all a very happy New Year and a happy and healthy 2026!

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

SHINE like the star you are.

