



St John's News

Issue 01 - Thursday 25th September 2025

WELCOME BACK

I hope that the first few weeks of school have been full of excitement, learning and new friendships. As September comes to a close, I'd like to share some highlights and reminders to help you stay connected to our school community. I send a newsletter home about once a month, which contains lots of information and a 'dates for your diary' section. (Please keep your eyes on these dates, as things do change.)

Highlights so far:

What a wonderful start we've had from all our children in their new classes and I would like to give a special warm welcome to our new starters in Robin Class. It has been a wonderfully smooth transition with only a few tears! Well done everyone. I have visited all classes and there is certainly a 'buzz' of excitement and lots of learning going on throughout. This is so wonderful to see. All classes have settled really well, including our new Robins. We have already had a school trip out with our Year 3 children going to collect their Accrington Stanley Shirt provided by Accrington Stanley. We are planning our Year 5 & 6 trip to PGL this year and we are all super excited about this! All planning is done for the year and we will keep you up to date about any trips or visits your child's class will be attending. The auditions are over and the line up confirmed for our very special St John's Got Talent event in November! We have done so much already this month!!!

Miss Parker

School and Academy Admissions 2026/27

Do you have a child due to start Primary or Secondary School or Academy in September 2026 and living in Lancashire?

Apply for a place on line at

www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools

Applications are open NOW!

Closing dates for applications: 31st October 2025 for Secondary School
and 15th January 2026 for Primary School



Attendance

National Target for Attendance	Percentage Attendance For the Period 02.09.25 - 19.09.25	
	96%	Robins
Herons		97.3
Kestrels		99.0
Kingfishers		97.4
Falcons		95.5
Owls		98.4
SCHOOL TOTAL		97.5

For those of you who are new to St John's CE Primary School, this is how we report attendance figures on our Newsletter. You will see the National Target for attendance is 96% and we ask that you strive to send your child into school every day and ensure they are on time.

We have great incentives for good attendance such as, our monthly raffle for each child who maintains 100% attendance throughout the month. Their names go into a draw to win a prize from the Attendance Treasure Chest! Plus our weekly Bird Token award for each class with 96% attendance or above – all the tokens will go into a draw at the end of each term for a chance to win a non-uniform day and a VIP Afternoon Tea! Any class achieving 100% weekly attendance will be awarded 2 Bird Tokens, thus improving their chances of winning the VIP tea.

Remember, our school day **starts PROMPTLY at 8.55 a.m.** All children need to be in school at this time, not just arriving. It can be very disrupting for all when children come into class late. Thank you to all who do get your children in on time.

SCHOOL VALUE

This term our school value is 'Generosity'. We are encouraging children to look for ways to be kind, share with others and give their time, talents and care to others freely - just as Jesus teaches us to do so. Already we have seen so many acts of generosity around the school 😊

"A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed".
Proverbs 11:25

STAY CONNECTED WITH SCHOOL

By now, you should have received information about your child's class teacher and the learning going on in school this half term. Please do contact the teachers if you have any questions or queries, but do be mindful that they are teaching all day and will have a limited amount of time to respond, but be assured they will get back to you.



After School Club Provision

The Nest after school club is thriving! We are open every day during term time, from 3.25pm – 6.00pm – where your child can take part in lots of fun activities like painting, colouring and games in the hall, as well as lots of games outside using scooters, tennis, football – you name it they will do it! Those that attend really enjoy it and get to choose what activities they want to do too! All children are given snacks and drinks on entry and throughout the time they are there. At £8.50 per session, this is a bargain. Ask in school for a registration form and details on how to book and pay.

HEALTH & SAFETY

This is my most important message to you and unfortunately, one that I end up having to repeat all year.

I do hope this year is different. At both of the entrances for our St John's Street building, (St John's Street and Vicar Street), please do not park or stop on the yellow zig-zag lines – this is to protect all children who might be crossing the road outside school. We have had several 'near misses' in the past and I **NEVER** want to make a phone call to say that a child has been hit by a car!!! Please, please think - this could be my child – be careful when driving around the school. '20 is plenty!'

Also, Nuttall Avenue is a private, residents only road and we **should not** be driving down it to drop children off. Please park at the top of the road and walk the little way down – this will protect everyone!

Please let this be the only message like this that I have to write this year. We have regular visits from LCC parking attendants who can issue on the spot fines for people breaking these rules.

Thank you for your cooperation.

UNIFORM

I do love the start of a new year! The children come to school in their new uniforms looking super smart – please can we do our best to keep this up throughout the year?

Thank you all for the positive start we have had this year with everything – not just uniform.

WEATHER

Please ensure that you check the weather forecast for the day ahead and send the children in prepared. We do a lot of learning outdoors, (particularly the younger children), so they need wellies and appropriate coats in school. We love a splash in the puddles but hate being wet! Thank you to those children who already have these in school and those that always send them in.

FRIENDS OF ST JOHN'S

Our PTA, the Friends of St John's, are a small but mighty band of parents who organise, plan and run our school events throughout the year. New volunteers are always welcome so if you would like to join, please see Miss Parker, Mrs Newton or Miss Ellison for information, or just come along to our next meeting which will be held on Wednesday 15th October at 6.00 p.m. in the main hall. We look forward to seeing you.



Online Safety

Please keep an eye on the school Facebook page as Miss Parker shares a weekly fact sheet about keeping safe online. If you are not connected on Facebook, please do have a look – lots of information goes on the page and it is often the quickest way to see what is going on.

'Great Harwood St John's CofE Primary school' Find us on Facebook.

Quote of the day ... **'Pause before you post.'** Please remember that what you post is out there forever! What might seem ok at the time may not be later on – so pause and think before you post anything online – I have a golden rule of – if you wouldn't be writing or saying it to your class teacher or parent, then it shouldn't be written or said!

If you are worried about something please don't hesitate to talk to your class teacher or Miss Parker.

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>

St John's Got Talent

This has become quite a regular Friends of St John's event and WOW! - St John's certainly does have talent. A whopping 42 children from Kingfisher, Falcon and Owl classes auditioned to take part this year, (I think that might be a record!) Sadly, not everyone can get through as although our auditionees were all very talented, we just wouldn't have time on the night for everyone to perform. We have prioritised the older children as this will be their last chance to shine, so younger children who didn't get through, please don't be too disappointed, your time will come. 21 children have been selected, (solos and groups), and parents will be notified by letter. There will be an after school club starting next week, where the children can practice their performance. Well done and we can't wait to showcase your talents later this year!!!

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Dinner Money & Breakfast Club Fees: Dinner Money is now £2.90 per day / £14.50 per week payable in advance either via ParentPay, (ask Mrs. Vooght for details), or in cash at the school office. Breakfast Club is open from 7.30 a.m. and costs £2.50 per session, payable in cash on the day or in advance please.

IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT PACKED LUNCHES

I really must remind you that we are a 'nut free' school. This means no Nutella, (or any other hazelnut/chocolate spread) in sandwiches as well as no products containing nuts of any kind.

This is vital as we do have children in the school with nut allergies.

Also, please be as healthy as possible when packing your child's lunch boxes.





DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Fri 26th Sept:** Y3 children attending Traditional Sports Day event at Heyes Sports Complex, Oswaldtwistle.
- Mon 29th Sept:** Police safety talk to Y5 & Y6 children re "stranger danger".
- Wed 1st Oct:** Heron Class going for a walk around the local area.
- Wed 1st Oct:** Girls Football event at Accrington Academy - selected pupils.
- Fri 3rd Oct:** Wellbeing Warriors launch - two selected pupils.
- Mon 6th Oct:** Cross Country event at Ribblesdale - selected pupils.
- Tues 7th Oct:** Robin Class balance bike training.
- Wed 8th - Fri 10th Oct:** Y5 & Y6 PGL Residential Visit to Winmarleigh Hall.
- Wed 15th Oct:** Friends of St John's Meeting at 6.00 p.m. in the hall.
- Tues 21st Oct:** Friends of St John's Infant and Junior Disco's (info to follow).
- Thurs 23rd Oct:** 'This Girl Can' event at Roefield, Clitheroe - selected pupils.
- Thurs 23rd Oct:** School closes for half term.
- Fri 24th Oct:** INSET
- Mon 3rd Nov:** School re-opens.
- Fri 7th Nov:** Robins first whole school Worship - drop off at the main building in the morning please.
- Fri 7th Nov:** Flu Vaccines/Nasal Spray.
- Mon 10th Nov:** Robins attending Worship - drop off at the main building each Monday and Friday in the morning please, (unless informed otherwise).
- Thurs 13th Nov:** St John's Got Talent performance.
- Fri 14th Nov:** Robins, Herons & Kestrels to Vue Cinema, Accrington.
- Fri 21st Nov:** Non-Uniform Day in exchange for bottles for Christmas Fair Tombola.
- Wed 26th Nov:** Fire Service safety talks for Y2 and Y6 pupils.
- Fri 28th Nov:** Non-Uniform Day in exchange for chocolate for Christmas Fair Tombola.
- Fri 5th Dec:** Friends of St John's Christmas Fair.
- Thurs 11th Dec:** Panto for our Junior Classes (info to follow).
- PLUS MANY MORE CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES/EVENTS TO BE ADDED IN.**
- Thurs 18th Dec:** School closes for End of Term.
- Mon 5th Jan:** School re-opens.

Please keep an eye on these dates as they are added to and changed sometimes at short notice. We do our best to keep you informed so please make sure your mobile number is up to date on our records so that we can text you.

MESSAGE FROM LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL RE SCHOOL TRANSPORT

Dear Parents and Kinship Carers of Current Year 6 Pupils

We are writing to provide important guidance regarding your child's upcoming secondary school application, with particular emphasis on home-to-school transport considerations.

Before submitting your application, it is essential to carefully consider how your child will travel to and from your preferred secondary schools. Free travel assistance is only available to pupils who meet the criteria outlined in Lancashire County Council's **Home to School Transport Policy**.

When selecting your school preferences, please ensure you have read and understood the information available on the Lancashire County Council website regarding **school admissions and travel assistance**.

Please note:

- For transport purposes, the *nearest suitable school* is defined as the school closest to the family home. In some cases, this may be a school located within another local authority area.
- If you choose a school that is not considered the nearest suitable school, there is **no entitlement** to free transport. In such cases, you will need to make your own travel arrangements.
- Most children will attend their local school, which is typically within a reasonable walking distance when accompanied by a parent or carer.

If transport costs are a concern, we strongly encourage you to contact your **Area Education Office** before submitting your application.

NORTH AREA

Lancaster, Morecambe, Wyre and Fylde
(01524) 581148

SOUTH AREA

Preston, South Ribble, West Lancashire and Chorley
(01772) 532109

EAST AREA

Hyndburn, Ribble Valley, Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale
(01254) 220747

If your child is not eligible for free travel assistance but you would like your child to travel to school by bus, you may be able to buy a season travel pass from us.

The County Council will not provide extra services for non-statutory pupils and you will need to [plan how your child will get to school](#) if space on the bus is not available.

Please call 0300-123-6738 or visit [School bus season tickets - Lancashire County Council](#) to make an application.

It is important to plan ahead. Please make sure that appropriate transport is available, should a place be allocated at your preferred school.