



## Newsletter 15

9th January 2026

'Let us love one another, for love comes from God'

1 John 4:7



### Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to school! This week we have introduced our new school values. During the last two terms, we have been through the process of reviewing the vision and values with children, parents, staff and the local school committee. We have collected all of the feedback and are pleased to announce that our core values will now be **Friendship, Courage and Respect**. We will be keeping the same vision statement '**Let us love one another, for love comes from God**' **1 John 4:7**. We will be using the story of **The Good Samaritan** to help us understand the vision and values further. We look forward to sharing more about this with you soon.

This week, the children participated in Life Education workshops. A big thank you to those who attended the parents' meeting. The sessions focused on healthy lifestyles, empowering the children with the knowledge, skills, and self-confidence to make positive decisions and stay safe. The highlight for many was meeting the mascot, Harold the Giraffe, whom they absolutely loved.



You may remember that Pandas and Snow Leopards took part in art workshops with Walford Mill last term. The exhibition is now open and they have been able to display all of the children's work. It's a colourful explosion to brighten up these gloomy wet days we've been having. There are two free drop-in workshops over the next couple of weekends as well as the opening event this Sunday. Please see the flyer at the end of the newsletter for more details.

Application forms for School Council and Worship Team are now available for children in Year 1 - Year 4. If your child is interested in applying to be on either of these pupil voice groups for the spring term, please ensure they complete an application form and return this to school by Tuesday 13th January.

Year 3 have started their samba sessions with Dorset Music Service. The children enjoyed learning the names of the different samba instruments they will be exploring over the next few weeks. Everyone had the opportunity to practise how to hold and play some of the instruments. Pandas were extremely excited and can't wait to continue developing their skills as a samba band!

Best wishes

Miss Michelle Prince

Headteacher



Congratulations to these children who have gone above and beyond and **sparkled** this week:

Elephants: Teddy and Kainan

Giraffes: Reuben and Mason

Dolphins: Lottie and Alexander

Pandas: Dylan and Presley

Snow Leopards: Sienna K and Sienna L



### Half Term Value - Courage

The Good Samaritan needed courage. The Samaritan might have been scared that the robbers were still hiding nearby but his love for the hurt man was bigger than his fear of the robbers. That is courage. It takes courage to be the only one doing the good thing. The Samaritan was brave enough to stop when everyone else walked past.



#### **Congratulations!**

Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Ford on the birth of their baby boy!  
Brody Daniel Ford was born on 28th December.



### Staffing Update

Welcome to Miss Richards, who will be teaching Year 4 during Mrs Ford's maternity leave. Parents of children in Snow Leopards (Year 4) are invited into school to meet Miss Richards on Thursday 15th January at 3:00pm.



We have also welcomed Mrs Lilly to our team of lunchtime supervisors. The children have enjoyed welcoming her to St John's and getting to know her this week.

### Cricket Coaching Sessions

We're excited to announce that this half term, Dorset Cricket will be joining us every Wednesday to deliver coaching sessions to every class! The children will receive a fantastic introduction to the sport, working directly with the Dorset Cricket coach to develop their fundamental movements and game awareness. We've already completed our first sessions this week, and the energy from the children was incredible. It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces as the children tried out their new skills. Please make sure your child has their PE kit in school every Wednesday, so they can participate safely and comfortably.

### Reading Event - For parents/carers of children in Reception

We would love you to join us for the Elephants' Reading Event. During the session, you will have the opportunity to watch part of a phonics lesson and enjoy some reading time with your child.

The event will take place on Thursday 22nd January at 2:45pm.

We'd be grateful if you indicated whether you will be attending by completing [this form](#). We look forward to seeing you there.

Miss Beckett

## Friends of St John's


Friends of St John's would like to say a big thank you to everybody who donated items for the hampers and bought raffle tickets at last term's Christmas performances. An incredible total of £450 was raised for the school!



### Attendance



Well done Giraffes!

 <b>Class Weekly Attendance</b> for Week beginning 5th January 2026	
Elephants	88.4%
Giraffes	98.3%
Dolphins	95.4%
Pandas	92%
Snow Leopards	93.5%
Whole School	93.7%

### Dates for your diary

#### [What's on this week](#)

#### Friday 9th January 2026

Five Loaves Bakery

#### Monday 12th January

Elephants start forest school

#### Tuesday 13th January

Year R Library Trip

#### Thursday 15th January 3:00pm

Y4 Meet the Teacher - Miss Richards

#### Thursday 22nd January 2:45pm

Elephants' Reading Event

#### Monday 16th February - Friday 20th February

Half Term Holiday

#### Monday 23rd February

INSET Day - no children in school

#### Tuesday 24th February

Children return to school

#### Friday 27th March

Last day of term

#### Monday 30th March - Friday 10th April

Easter Holiday

#### Monday 13th April

INSET Day - no children in school

#### Tuesday 14th April

Children return to school

#### Monday 4th May

Bank Holiday

#### Monday 25th May - Friday 29th May

Half Term Holiday

#### Monday 1st June

Children return to school

#### Tuesday 14th and Wednesday 15th July

Year 4 Leeson House Residential Trip

#### Wednesday 22nd July

Last Day of Term

Year 4 Leavers' Service in St John's Church

Privacy Notice Initio Learning Trust is committed to protecting the privacy and security of personal information. The privacy notice describes how we collect and use personal information about pupils, in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), section 537A of the Education Act 1996 and section 83 of the Children Act 1989. Please find the document [here](#) on the school website.



**Join us to celebrate the opening of the exhibition  
on Sunday 11 January from 1-3pm**

FREE Drop in painting workshops for ages 4+ must be accompanied  
10 January 1-4pm and 18 January 12.30-3.30pm

# A Splash of Colour

7 January to 25 January 2026

Walford Mill Crafts, Stone Lane,  
Wimborne BH21 1NL

Kicking off the year with  
vibrant artwork from  
Witchampton and St John's  
First Schools

[WWW.WALFORDMILLCRAFTS.CO.UK](http://WWW.WALFORDMILLCRAFTS.CO.UK)

WEDNESDAY TO SATURDAY 10-5PM,  
SUNDAY 11-4PM