



Newsletter 8

23rd October 2026

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

1 John 4:7



Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for purchasing the Christmas cards, gift labels, magnets and keyrings with your child's design on. We have raised £84.50 for our school through this project.

Congratulations to Annie in Snow Leopards, who was selected as a winner in the Planet Wimborne Green Festival Poster Competition! This year's competition invited pupils to design posters centred on the theme "Be in Nature; Be Creative; Be Well," celebrating creativity in nature and how connecting with the outdoors makes us feel.

We are thrilled to announce that our school has won £500 worth of Amazon vouchers in the *Daily Echo* token collect competition! Thank you to all parents, carers, staff and members of our school community who collected and brought in *Daily Echo* tokens. Every single token counted and your brilliant efforts made all the difference. Our School Council will now be working closely with all the children across the school to gather ideas and decide how we can best spend the £500 vouchers to benefit everyone. We look forward to sharing their ideas with you soon!

You can read the full article on the *Daily Echo* website here:

<https://www.bournemouthecho.co.uk/news/26657220.dorset-pupils-delight-echo-competition-winners-revealed/>

Last Friday, we welcomed a very special visit from "Sovereign Nature," a striking 4 metre tall giant created by the storytelling company Spoken World. Brought to us as part of Planet Wimborne's Green Festival and Wimborne Town of Culture, the event featured an interactive promenade performance around the school alongside storytelling sessions focused on nature, wildlife, ecology and the environment. The children were captivated by the giant and loved learning more about protecting our natural world!



Year 4 Snow Leopards had a fantastic time at the Ancient Technology Centre becoming Roman settlers in Britannia for the day! Welcomed by a roaring fire, the children experienced life in Roman times through blacksmithing in a working forge, cutting wood to be used for fence building and fires and taking part in Roman army training, including testing out the famous *testudo* (tortoise) formation. The children were excellent ambassadors for our school, showing they were willing to try new things and show off their history knowledge from the classroom. The staff at the centre commented that they had never welcomed such a joyful class! A huge thank you to our four parent and grandparent helpers. School trips simply wouldn't be possible without your support, and we are incredibly grateful for the time you give to help make these experiences so memorable for the children.



To support your child's literacy journey, St John's is delighted to introduce Sparx Reader for our Year 3 and Year 4 pupils. This engaging platform helps children build a daily reading habit by pairing them with physical books carefully tailored to their individual reading level. After reading, pupils answer quick online check-ins on a device to confirm their understanding, earning stickers and unlocking achievements as they celebrate their progress. Thank you for your continued partnership in helping your child grow into a confident, enthusiastic reader.

Year 4 have begun earning their new Times Tables Badges, awarded for achieving 25/25 on MathsFrame, answering each question within six seconds. Some children have already received their badges for the 2, 5 and 10 times tables, which they will wear proudly on their book bags. Children will have opportunities throughout the week to earn more. After the half term break, the initiative will be introduced to Year 3, before rolling out to Year 2 in the summer term.

I hope you enjoy a lovely half term break and we will see you back at school on **Tuesday 3rd November**.

Best wishes
Miss Michelle Prince
Headteacher

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

Elephants: Anastasia and Hugo

Giraffes: Aysna and Millie

Dolphins: Archie and Bradley

Pandas: Albert and Josh

Snow Leopards: Albert and Dylan



Half Term Value - Thankfulness

This half term, we have been focusing on the Christian value of Thankfulness. Through our collective worship, pupils have explored how being thankful is a conscious choice, learning to slow down, notice the positive things around us and express appreciation for the people who help us every day, whether in big ways or small.

What is one small thing or one special person you noticed and felt truly thankful for this week? How can we express our gratitude to them?



Staffing Update

We say a fond farewell to Mrs Randall today, who is leaving her role as Midday Supervisor. Mrs Randall has been a valued member of our St John's team, showing fantastic care and support for the children during lunchtimes. We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to her for all of her hard work and dedication. Please join us in wishing her all the very best for the future.



BBC 500 Words Competition

Do you have a little storyteller at home with a big imagination? The BBC 500 Words competition is a wonderful opportunity for children to let their creativity run wild and bring their own stories to life! Whether it's a magical adventure, a fantastical creature or a tale full of unexpected twists, we'd love to encourage our young writers to get involved. Entries are optional and can be submitted by parents/carers directly via the [BBC 500 Words website](#). We can't wait to see where their imaginations take them!



Stikins

Your child will have brought home a leaflet for 'Stikins' in their book bag this week. These are excellent sticky name labels for labelling clothes, shoes, bags, water bottles and everything else. If you quote our number **19988** when ordering, Friends of St John's gets a 30% commission so we can raise money for school with no additional cost to you!

Calling all dentists and dental nurses!

As part of Year 4's science learning on teeth, we are looking for anyone in our school community who is a dentist, dental nurse or dental health professional and would be willing to come into school to talk to our children about the importance of looking after their teeth.

We would love to give the children the opportunity to learn more about oral hygiene, healthy teeth and gums and how to keep their smiles bright!

If you, or someone you know, would be interested in coming in to share your knowledge and expertise with the children, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please get in touch with the school office.

Thank you for your support! Mrs Fowler

Winter Illness

Nationally, illness is the largest cause of school absence, with more than 50 million school days lost in 2025/26 - almost half of all absence. We understand that seasonal bugs start doing the rounds at this time of year, but children with minor illnesses like a mild cold can usually still come to school and participate in their day. The

following links offer attendance advice for parents. The NHS's [Is my child too ill for school?](#) guidance and this [DfE animation](#) are useful resources.

Attendance



Well done Snow Leopards!



Class Weekly Attendance

for Week beginning 12th October 2026

Elephants	95%
Giraffes	94.3%
Dolphins	96.9%
Pandas	93.1%
Snow Leopards	99.3%
Whole School	95.8%

****New Dates Added****

Dates for your diary

What's on this week

Friday 23rd October

Cake Sale after school

Monday 26th - Friday 30th October

Half Term Holiday

Monday 2nd November

INSET Day (No children in School)

Tuesday 3rd November

YR and Y1 - Dear Zoo at The Tivoli Theatre

Tuesday 3rd November

Y2 Library Visit

Tuesday 10th November

Y4 Allenbourn Middle School Visit

Tuesday 10th November

Y1 Library Visit

Friday 13th November

Children in Need

Five Loaves Bakery

Monday 16th November

Wear Odd Socks in support of Anti Bullying week

Tuesday 17th November

Y4 Library Visit

Wednesday 18th November

Positive Noticing Day

Friday 20th November

Disco

YR and Y1 3:15pm - 4:00pm

Y2, Y3 and Y4 4:05pm - 4:50pm (Change of time)

Monday 23rd November

Road Safety Workshops (Funded by Friends)

Tuesday 24th November

Y3 Library Visit

Tuesday 1st December

Flu Immunisations (for invited children)

YR Library Visit

Friday 4th December

Decoration Morning and Christmas Jumper Day

Wednesday 9th December

Christmas Show 9:30 - 10:30am

Thursday 10th December

Christmas Show 9:30 - 10:30am

Friday 11th December

Christmas Show 1:45 - 2:45pm

Five Loaves Bakery

Wednesday 16th December

Christmas Party Day

Friday 18th December

Christingle Service at St John's Church 1:45pm

Nicholas Humphreys

SALES & LETTINGS

Proud to support
our local community ♥

We're delighted to sponsor

St John's CE VC First School, Wimborne

We are proud to have made a donation to enable pupils from Reception and Year 1 to visit The Tivoli Theatre in Wimborne to see

Dear Zoo!

This special trip will give the children the chance to enjoy a much-loved children's story brought to life through puppets, music and audience interaction.

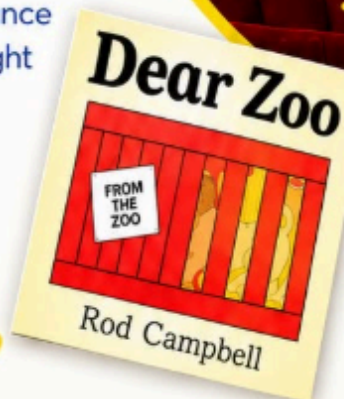


3rd November 2026



Together we're helping to inspire
a love of reading in young children ♥

Small trips...
big memories ♥



Nicholas Humphreys Wimborne
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☎ **01202 889 088**