

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Spring Term 1 2024. The St Johns Team and I offer you all our very best wishes for the New Year.

Spring Term is a very short term, (Term 1 - five weeks and Term 2 - five weeks 3 days). In this short term, teaching happens and learning takes place so that pupils can make progress and build on prior knowledge. The teaching and learning continues at pace as there are fewer school days to deliver the curriculum and build enrichment opportunities so that learning can take place. The role of parents and carers is to ensure that pupils start the school day with the opportunity to be 'the best that they can be.'. Therefore, it is really important that the pupils come to school each day, on time and ready to learn.

Whole school attendance at the end of the Autumn Term (4<sup>th</sup> September to 20<sup>th</sup> December) was 95.3%. For the first week of this Spring Term, **570 minutes** of learning were lost due to pupils arriving late for school. The impact of a late arrival is that a child arriving late, can become upset and not ready to start their days learning. Staff are then tied up recording their arrival, escorting pupils to class, 1:1 settling them into the classroom or 1:1 filling learning gaps due to time missed. This is not a calm orderly start to the day for pupils nor staff. The detrimental impact of lateness applies to all year groups, Nursery to Year 6, and we ask your help in ensuring your child arrives at school ready to start their school day.

The front and side gate open at 8.35am and close at 8.45am. The School Attendance Officer is tasked by Oxford Education Authority, me as Acting Headteacher and the School Governors to challenge and investigate lateness / recurring lateness, along with absence and patterns of absence, as this is not in the best interest of our pupils.

During this term, at the start of 'Childrens Mental Health week', will see the opening of the 'New Harbour'. The building at the back of the school that has been created to enrich our Pastoral / SEND offers for all pupils and the wider school community. Our Pastoral offer helps those pupils and families that have a need for additional support to fully access Learning at St Johns School. As a school we are very excited and pleased to be able to extend the facilities available so that opportunities for the school community are enriched in a bespoke setting.

As ever, **our Christian Vision** is inclusive and aspirational for all members of our School Community. We aspire for all -children and adults- to grow as children of God, to be the best they can be. We want all to have respect for themselves and each other, along with a wonder and curiosity for God's creation. **'They will lift up their wings and soar like eagles' Isaiah 40:31** **'...embracing life in all its fullness.' John 10:10**

Our vision reflects the ambition of the school community to care for others and achieve excellence. Our school emblem is the golden eagle; we believe it is our collective responsibility to give all the children of St Johns the wings to fly and inspire them to rise and soar higher than they ever thought possible.

*M Wargent*

Kind regards,  
*Marie Wargent*  
Acting Headteacher



Newsletters are published to the school website. The easiest way to receive newsletters is to subscribe to the newsletter through the school website, <http://www.st-john.oxon.sch.uk/news/newsletters> - this way you will be notified when a new letter is uploaded. In addition, our school website has all the recent newsletters and class letters on it, as well as lots of other information such as dinner menus. Add us to your favourites: [www.st-john.oxon.sch.uk](http://www.st-john.oxon.sch.uk)

We also use a text message service to send reminders to parents and Facebook to communicate school events and notices.

Find us on Facebook



at: @stjohnsschoolcarterton

## Upcoming Events



### Year 5 – Young Voices 2024

Once again our Year 5's will be taking part in the largest children's choir concert in the World! They will join thousands of other children all performing their songs as one large choir.

This is being held at the Resorts World Arena, Birmingham on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January.

### Year 3 Visit to The Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford

On Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January, the children in year 3 will be heading to The Sheldonian Theatre in Oxford to watch an orchestra perform and learn all about their instruments.



Parent Meeting!

Parents Evenings will be taking place on:  
Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February  
Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February

Further details, including how to book, will be sent out shortly.

**Children's Mental Health Week will take place from 5-11 February 2024. The theme this year is 'My Voice Matters'.**

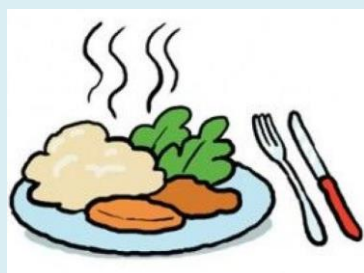
**My Voice Matters** is about empowering children and young people by providing them with the tools they need to express themselves.

When we feel empowered, there's a positive impact on our wellbeing. Children who feel that their voices are heard and can make a difference have a greater sense of community and self-esteem. This year, we want children of all ages, backgrounds and abilities to be empowered to work together to create a positive change for their mental health and wellbeing.

During Children's Mental Health Week, we want all children and young people to be able to say – and believe – "My Voice Matters."



## General Reminders and Information



Please kindly ensure you pre-order your child's dinner, even if they are universal infant free school meals. This allows the kitchen to order and prepare the right number of dinners.

Reminder to please cancel any pre-ordered lunches if your child is not attending school that day.

# Starting School



## Nursery Places for Post Easter Entry:

Please kindly note that decisions regarding allocation of nursery places for the term following Easter Holidays will not be made prior to the first week of March. Parents will be informed after this.

## Considerate Parking Please



The school neighbours and businesses have politely requested that we raise with our school community the need for considerate parking at drop off and collection.

Please remember that the disabled spaces, in Marigold Square, are required not only for local residents and business users, but for parents of pupils who carry a disabled badge and are entitled to use the spaces.

Can I thank you in advance for your action in addressing this.

Mrs Wargent

### **Morning drop-off:**

The school gates will be open from 8.35am, with leaders welcoming the children at the gates.

**The register will be taken at 8.45am and all children will be expected to be settled in class by this time. Lessons will start promptly at 8.50am.**

Year 1, 2, 3 and 6 children enter via the side gate (opposite the play park) Nursery, Reception, Year 4 and Year 5 children enter via the front gate.

Reception parents will be invited to drop the children off at the classroom door via the reception garden.

### **After-school pick-up:**

The school day will end at 3.15pm and parents are asked to pick children up from the outside classroom doors.

### **Beach Club After-school Childcare Provision:**

The after-school Beach Club provision will operate from 3.15pm to 5.15pm from September 2023.

### **Family Holidays in Term Time**

**Attendance regulations make clear that Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.**

We do not authorise family holidays in term time, long weekends, or special visits/trips/half days for example. At the end of the school year we have blocked INSET days to support families in booking holidays before other schools across the country break up.

Changes to national regulations (from September 2022) has meant that the county council will issue penalty notices (fines) where unauthorised absences or holidays are taken in term time.

### **Safeguarding Children**

We take seriously our responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children; to work together with other agencies to ensure adequate arrangements exist within our setting to identify and support those children who are suffering harm or are likely to suffer harm.

Find out more about our safeguarding procedures at:

<https://www.st-john.oxon.sch.uk/parents/safeguarding>

# Library News



## Brand New Books

47 brand new books have arrived for the library this week ranging from books on the topic of football, picture books, graphic novels, adventure books etc. Many of the books have been requested by the children.

## Donated Books

Thank you to all parents/carers who have donated books to the library recently. It is much appreciated. Please only donate books which are current and are in very good condition. Please do not donate books from supermarkets or Disney. Please do not donate any toys or games.

## Oxfordshire Book Awards 2024

We are very fortunate again to be invited to take part in the Oxfordshire Book Awards. All children in reception to Year 6 classes will be invited to choose their favourite book, whether it is a picture book or a junior novel.

This will be commencing next Monday. The books shortlisted for the OBA this year are:

### For EYFS and KS1

#### Best Picture Book

Holey Moley  
The Torch  
Wolves in Helicopters  
The Bear with Nothing to Wear

### For KS2 Years 3/4/5/6

#### Best Junior Novel

Boy Who Made Monsters  
Lost on Gibbon Island  
Spellstone  
Super Ghost  
Digging for Victory

## Overdue and water damaged books

We have 150 overdue books. Weekly reminders are sent to classrooms and letters sent home. Please help your child to return their books on time. Unfortunately we have had a number of water damaged books returned and had to be destroyed. Please do not put water bottles in your child's book bag. Thank you.

Margaret Hewitt  
Librarian

# Pastoral Team News

Parents are very welcome to contact Alaina directly via email at [atabern@st-john.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:atabern@st-john.oxon.sch.uk) or her work mobile 07715 144381. Mrs Stainer can be contacted via the school office ([office.2613@st-john.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.2613@st-john.oxon.sch.uk), 01993 843124).

Over the course of the last school year, the Pastoral Team put together a series of videos detailing many of the topics covered in the Family Links Nurturing Programme. Those videos can be found via the following links:



Overview of topics - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DkxfgxbWt6w&t=2s>  
 Praise is Magic - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kvgVCJVPhYq>  
 Creating Boundaries - <https://youtu.be/HGs1VVqZXGo>  
 Time to Calm Down - <https://youtu.be/8vPEf0XUydw>  
 Using Rewards - <https://youtu.be/-iphIEq4HXU>  
 Listening: <https://youtu.be/kWy7DYqvInM>  
 Choices: <https://youtu.be/wADKfAbIBn0>  
 Understanding Feelings: [https://youtu.be/Fk88KH\\_cM3c](https://youtu.be/Fk88KH_cM3c)  
 Understanding the Feelings and Behaviour of Children - [https://youtu.be/Z0lIyaK\\_QVY](https://youtu.be/Z0lIyaK_QVY)  
 Taking Time for Ourselves - <https://youtu.be/0zpa8Ncrm6o>  
 The Power of Play - <https://youtu.be/-VezCWn7wvo>  
 Diversion and Distraction - [https://youtu.be/FrMQ8\\_aNGDs](https://youtu.be/FrMQ8_aNGDs)

## Attendance and Punctuality

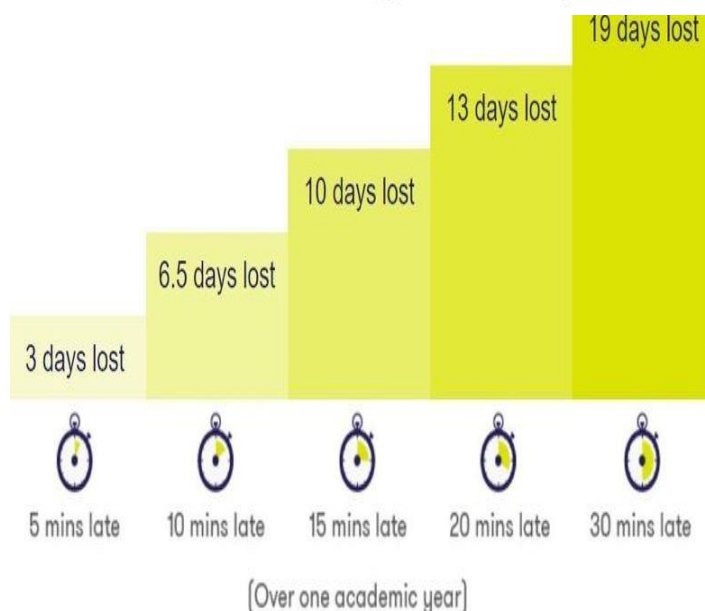
Each week we promote and celebrate good attendance across the school. Research shows that poor attendance limits pupils' life chances, impacts on their academic success but more worryingly adversely affects children socially and emotionally. We understand that children are unwell from time to time and would not want a child to be at school if they really shouldn't be. We would also like to remind parents that a child should be kept off school for 48 hours after a case of sickness or diarrhoea. If you are ever unsure whether to send your child to school or not, call and talk to Aliana at the school.

The following is the attendance by class for the last two weeks.

Class	w/b: 11/12	w/b: 8/1
Oak	88.0%	90.3%
Beech	93.7%	94.3%
Elm	95.4%	95.5%
H Chestnut	93.3%	97.3%
Ash	90.0%	99.3%
Hazel	93.8%	93.8%
Cedar	98.3%	100%
Rowan	90.0%	93.7%
Holly	97.2%	98.0%
Silver Birch	99.0%	99.3%
Sycamore	96.7%	95.9%
Maple	96.7%	94.7%
Walnut	93.3%	99.3%
Willow	98.0%	97.7%
<b>% Attendance Whole School</b>	<b>95.1%</b>	<b>96.4%</b>

## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

every school day counts.



## Term Dates

### Term Dates 2023 - 2024

#### Term 1

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September to Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2023

#### Term 2

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October to Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023

## Diary Dates:

School starts back: Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January  
 Thurs 25<sup>th</sup> January: Year 5 Young Voices  
 Thurs 18<sup>th</sup> January: Year 4 start swimming lessons  
 Thurs 25<sup>th</sup> January: Year 5 Young Voices  
 Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January: Year 3 visit to Sheldonian Theatre  
 Tues 6<sup>th</sup> February: Parents Evening  
 Thurs 8<sup>th</sup> February: Year 3 Multi-Skills event  
 Thurs 8<sup>th</sup> February: Parents Evening

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January to Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February to Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June to Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2024

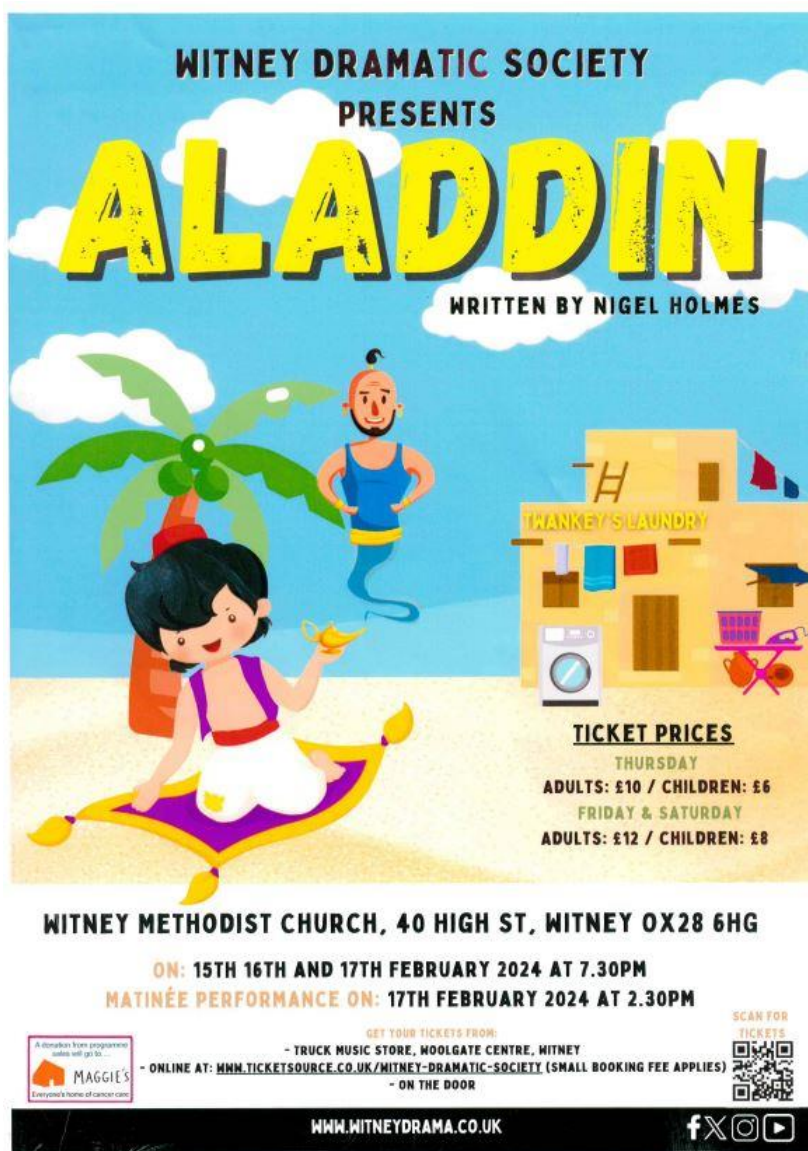
**INSET Days:** Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023, Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023, Monday 22<sup>nd</sup>, Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> & Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2024

May Day Bank Holiday (school closed): Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> to Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February: Half Term Holiday

Mon 19<sup>th</sup> February: Return to school  
Weds 21<sup>st</sup> February: Book Fair arrives

**Caring for Others † Achieving Excellence**





# CARTERTON FAMILY CENTRE

AT THE ALLANDALE

Weekly Timetable 8th January - 9th February 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>11am - 12pm</b> <b>Creative Play</b> Themed crafts to get creative with your little ones. For ages 0-5	<b>9am - 12pm</b> <b>Childminder session</b> Self-serve session for childminders. £5 per childminder	<b>9am - 11.30am</b> <b>Stay &amp; Play Drop-in</b> Lots of toys and activities for you and your little one to enjoy. For ages 0 - 5	<b>9am - 11.30am</b> <b>Stay &amp; Play Drop-in</b> Lots of toys and activities for you and your little one to enjoy. For ages 0 - 5	<b>10.45 - 11.30am</b> <b>Storytime</b> Interactive story time for you and your little one For ages 0 - 5
<b>1pm - 2pm</b> <b>Stay &amp; Play</b> Lots of toys and activities for you and your little one to enjoy. For ages 0 - 5	<b>1pm - 2pm</b> <b>Baby Movers</b> Lots of fun for you and baby with music, singing and play activities from birth to 1 years	<b>11.30am-12.45pm</b> <b>Lunch Club</b> Bring a packed lunch and pop in for a chat and a cuppa	<b>11.30am-12.30pm</b> <b>Lunch Club</b> Bring a packed lunch and pop in for a chat and a cuppa	<b>3.30 - 5.30pm</b> <b>Dotty's LGBTQ+ youth support group</b>
<b>Airplay</b> Ben Club (Age 5 - Year 2) 4 - 5.30pm Juniors (Year 3 - 5) 5.30 - 7pm	<b>3.30pm-5.30pm</b> <b>Tea Time Club</b> For all single parent families or families with a parent working away. Come and join us for dinner. Please book via The Tea Time Club Facebook page. £2.50 per adult, £1 per child suggested donation.	<b>12.45-1.45pm</b> <b>Rhyme Time</b> For ages 0 - 5 Sing and dance to all your favourite nursery rhymes	<b>12.30pm-2pm</b> <b>Bumps to Babies</b> Support group for parents of new babies. Enjoy a cuppa in the company of other new parents.	<b>Last Saturday of the month</b> <b>9.30am - 11am</b> <b>Breakfast Club</b> For all single parent families or those with a parent working away. £1.50 per adult, 50p per child suggested donation.
		<b>12.45-1.45pm</b> <b>Airplay</b> Inters (Year 6 & 7) 6 - 8pm		

**Cost** - Suggested donation per group is £2. Unless advertised otherwise.

**Airplay** is Carterton's youth club, open to all young people in the town. For more information please contact Ayleila: [ayleila.parry@oneymca.org](mailto:ayleila.parry@oneymca.org)

**Hall Hire:** Our hall is available for hire, please email [info@cartertonfamilycentre.com](mailto:info@cartertonfamilycentre.com) for more information.

WEB: [www.cartertonfamilycentre.com](http://www.cartertonfamilycentre.com)  
 EMAIL: [info@cartertonfamilycentre.com](mailto:info@cartertonfamilycentre.com)

Carterton Family Centre is a charitable organisation registered with the charity commission in England and Wales  
 Reg. Charity No. 1175596