

St John's CE First School

Newsletter

Friday 26th September 2025

Love Protect Succeed



www.st-johns-bishopswood.staffs.sch.uk
Email office@stjohnsbishopswood.org

DIARY DATES 2025-26

29th September

Deadline for returning photo order forms. Must be at the office by 9am.

3rd October

Nursery and Acorns Farm Visit

6th October

Harvest Festival St John's Church 2pm

7th October

Open Evening at Brewood Middle School 5-7pm

9th October

Prayer Space 9.10am Oaks Family invited in.

15th October

Open Morning at Brewood Middle School 10am-12pm

16th October

Parents Evening

24th October

Autumn Disco afterschool 3.15-4.15pm

Mon 27th -Friday 31st October Half Term

24th November

Flu Immunisation Reception to Year 4

28th November

Bishopswood Village Christmas Lights Switch On

School to perform 6.30pm Village Hall

Christingle 2pm Church. ****

8th December

Reception—Year 4 Panto Trip

9th December

Acorns Craft and Singing Session 1.30pm

10th December

Parents welcome

11th December

Saplings Nativity 2pm and 6pm performances

12th December

Christmas Jumper Day

18th December

Oaks carol concert in church 6pm all welcome

19th December

Christmas Party at 1.30pm Non Uniform Day

St John's First School
Christian value
for this half term is:

'Friendship'



Child of the Week

Well done to the following children, week ending 19th September 2025

Acorn	Ottilia
	Dougie
Saplings	Michelle
	Ralphie
Oaks	Eddie
	George

Well done to the following children, week ending 26th September 2025

Acorn	Aubrey
	Blossom
Saplings	Josh
	Sebby
Oaks	Isabella
	Oliver

Good as Gold

Well done to the following children, week ending 19th September 2025

Acorns	Bertie W.
Saplings	Flossie
Oaks	Ralph

Well done to the following children, week ending 26th September 2025

Acorn	Ralphie
Saplings	Theo
Oaks	Sophie

Good Shepherd awarded to Adeline Bibb for September

Attendance

Well done to the following classes for the week ending 19th September 25

Acorns	90.37%
Year 1	97.22%
Year 2	100%
Year 3	100%
Year 4	99.26%

Whole School Year to date
96.76%
Target 96%

Attendance

Well done to the following classes for the week ending 26th September 25

Squirrels	100%
Acorns	92%
Year 1	93%
Year 2	100%
Year 3	99%
Year 4	97%

Whole School Year to date
93.82 %
Target 96%



If your child is absent from school you need to contact us each day by 9am. If you do not contact us we will be contacting the Education Welfare Officer who will make a home visit.

We have a duty of care to ensure your child is safe.

As per NHS guidance if your child has a sickness or stomach bug they must remain off school, until they have been 48 hours clear.

If your child uses an inhaler please supply school with one, in a box with a named prescription label on the box.

We can only issue children under six years old, with prescribed Medication. Children over six can be given medicines such as Piriton or Calpol, but it must be provided by the parent.

All medication must be handed in at the office, where you will be required to fill in a consent form.

We are a nut free school. Please do not send nuts into school, or products containing nuts.

We are a healthy school, please do not send sweets and chocolate bars in as part of packed lunches, snacks such as kitkats and penguins are acceptable.

Please make sure all food is prepared according to your child's age. For example children in nursery should have grapes cut into quarters to avoid choking risks. Please speak with Mrs Mason for further guidance.

Join the
flu fight!



The Immunisation team will be in school on Monday 24th November with the flu vaccine, which is available to all children in reception to year 4. Details will follow shortly on how to book your child's place.

Reception to Year 4 only.

Prayer Space

With Cathy

Approximately 9.10am start

Thursday 9th October

Oaks family invited in.



6th October
Harvest Festival
St John's Church 2pm
All welcome!

Children may be taken home from Church if parents are attending, or walked back to school.

Please send donations of tinned and dry food into school from 1st October. Which will be donated to the Good Shepherd Food Bank.



Please return any school photo orders by
Monday 29th September by 9AM to
the office.

Open Events at Brewood Middle School

For prospective children and families.

7th October
15th October

Open Evening at Brewood Middle School 5-7pm
Open Morning at Brewood Middle School 10am-12pm

Autumn Disco

Ran by our wonderful PTA

Friday 24th October 3.15-4.15

£4.50 payable on parent pay.

Please pay by 17th October so the PTA have numbers for catering.

Children can wear their own clothes during the day at school.

Childcare
Choices



UK Government

The Government provide tax free childcare, which means you can pay for out of school clubs such as Willows or sports clubs that may be running before you are taxed on your wages. For further details or to apply please see: <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare>

You can also apply for nursery funding using the same web page.

Thursday 2nd October

Menu Change

All day breakfast or vegetarian all day breakfast

Followed by

Chocolate ice cream

Census day. Please encourage your child to have a school dinner.

WORLD'S BIGGEST
COFFEE
MORNING **MACMILLAN**
CANCER SUPPORT



As of 10.15am we have raised a whopping £238.90
With more promised to come in.
Thank you to everyone who supported this great cause.



OPERATION
ENCOMPASS

We are an Operation Encompass School

For further information, please come and see us.



OPERATION
ENCOMPASS

In every force. In every school. For every child.



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE



FRIENDSHIP

HOME SCHOOL VALUES

This term we will be focussing in school on the value FRIENDSHIP. We hope your family will find these ideas helpful as you explore the value and have fun together.

TALK ABOUT FRIENDSHIP TOGETHER...

Learning to be a good friend, someone who can be trusted and is loyal, takes a lifetime.

Talk together about how friends come in all shapes and sizes. Some are young, some are old. Some are always there, some we see only occasionally.

- How do we choose our friends?
- What makes a good friend?
- Are we a good friend to others?

THINK TOGETHER Words of Wisdom

"A good friend is worth their weight in gold."

Anon

That's a lot of gold!
Why do you think that this is such a popular proverb?



FAMILY FOCUS

Friends of the Family

This term's family challenge is to make a card or present for someone who is a friend to your whole family. You could add a gift tag saying...

Our family has been thinking about friendship. This is a thank you gift for being a special friend to all of us.



READ TOGETHER...

Through the roof

Jesus reached a town called Capernaum and made his way to a house near the town gate. The crowd had gathered quickly and now even more people were pushing and squeezing into the small house, wanting to see him, hear him and touch him.

The excitement was infectious and four friends who lived in a street nearby soon heard the news. They met together and decided that they absolutely had to take their friend Joshua to Jesus. Joshua was paralysed and couldn't walk. They'd heard that Jesus performed miracles and could heal the sick. This was a chance they couldn't miss.

Wasting no time they carried their friend on his bed mat to the house, but jostling crowds blocked the doorway. They couldn't give up now. Their friend must meet Jesus. There was only one way. They carried him on to the flat roof of the house and carefully removed part of the roof to make a large hole.

Knotting ropes to the corners of the bed mat they gently lowered Joshua down right in front of Jesus. Imagine the surprise of all the people looking on. But Jesus smiled kindly at Joshua. "Take up your bed, and walk" he said. Slowly, falteringly and hardly daring to believe it was happening, Joshua stood and took a step forward. He could walk. He could actually walk! Thanks to Jesus and his friends, Joshua's life was changed forever!

Bible story based on Mark 2:1-12



QUIZ Picture puzzle

Take the first letter of each object to discover who helped the paralysed man.





FASCINATING FACTS

Friendship Bands

Friendship bracelets are usually handmade and given to a special friend. According to American tradition you must wear the bracelet until the cords break and it falls off naturally. In this way you honour the love and hard work your friend put in to making it.



Raksha Bandhan

One special type of friendship bracelet is a Rakhi. Each year, normally in August, many Hindus mark Raksha Bandhan. The festival is a celebration of family life and in particular the relationship between brothers and sisters. They remember and talk about special times together, and think about loyalty, closeness, trust and their everlasting friendship.

- Traditionally sisters tie a sacred thread, a Rakhi, on to their brothers' wrists.
- In response the brothers give their sisters a gift promising to help them whenever the need arises and to always protect them.
- Celebrations continue throughout the day with gifts of sweets and special food as families enjoy the time they share together.



HOME-SCHOOL CHALLENGE

Use your imagination to make the best friendship bracelet ever – using knotting, threading beads, twisting ribbon, whatever you can think of. The more original the better!

or, if you prefer...

make your own large version of the picture puzzle (over the page), joining 5 or 6 words about friendship. Either draw pictures or cut them out of magazines.



HALL OF FAME



A dog is a man's best friend

Near the village of Beddgelert in North Wales is a beautiful sculpture of a very special friend.

According to legend, the monument marks the resting place of the faithful dog, Gelert, who once belonged to the medieval Welsh Prince, Llewelyn the Great. A tombstone tells the story of a fateful day when Llewelyn went out hunting leaving the faithful hound, Gelert, to guard his young son. On his return Gelert sprang to greet his master, but Llewelyn noticed some blood on his fur. He rushed inside his house. To his horror the first thing he saw was his son's cot. It was empty!

The frantic father turned on the dog, thinking he must have harmed the boy. He killed Gelert there and then with his sword. At that moment a child's cry rang out through the house. Llewelyn searched and discovered his boy unharmed, but nearby lay the body of a mighty wolf which Gelert had killed before it attacked the small child.

Prince Llewelyn is said never to have smiled again and with tears of sadness he buried Gelert in this place, which became known as "the grave of Gelert", or in Welsh, Beddgelert.



SNAP STREAK

97

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

With over 900 million active monthly users and billions of 'Snaps' sent each month, Snapchat is a popular messaging app among children and young people. It allows users to share fun, spontaneous pictures and videos with friends and family while using playful filters. One of Snapchat's unique features is that pictures, videos and messages are only viewable for a short period of time.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Snapchat's use of artificial intelligence (AI) includes features like the 'My AI' chatbot and AI-powered filters, offering interactive experiences that can be fun but also pose risks. These tools may show unfiltered or inaccurate responses, promote unrealistic beauty standards, and collect personal data. Advanced filters and deepfake-style lenses can distort reality, potentially leading to manipulation, impersonation, or inappropriate content.

SCREEN ADDICTION

Snapchat boosts user engagement and daily use with features like streaks (daily Snapchat exchanges between you and a friend). When a streak's been going for a few days, users will see a 🍌 emoji. The number alongside it shows the number of days, but if users miss a day and break the streak, the only way to restore it is to pay. This encourages daily use habits, and frequent notifications can keep users returning to the app even more often.

SEXTORTION

Because Snapchat's disappearing messages feature may foster a sense of safety, users may become targets of sextortion. For example, a predator may pressure someone into sending nude images, then somehow capture those images to threaten and intimidate the victim. This might involve claiming they will share the images with friends or family unless money is paid.

SNAPCHAT+

Snapchat+ is the platform's premium subscription service, offering early access to new and exclusive features. In June 2023, Snapchat introduced a new tier called Lens+, giving subscribers access to hundreds of lenses and AR experiences for playing, creating, and sharing Snaps. These paid features may encourage young users to spend money to access exclusive content, increasing the risk of overspending or feeling pressured to make in-app purchases.

ACCESSIBILITY

Snapchat is now accessible from a web browser, meaning children can use it on a laptop or tablet without downloading the app. This can make activity harder to monitor, reduce the effectiveness of parental controls, and increase the risk of unsupervised communication or exposure to inappropriate content.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's disappearing messages feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ACCESS THE SNAPCHAT FAMILY SAFETY HUB

Created with guidance from Common Sense Media, Snapchat has developed a Family Safety Hub that explains how the app works and how to use its in-app protections for teens. It's recommended that you review this guidance before allowing a child to download Snapchat. Remember, the app is only intended for children aged 13 and over.

BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger connects with a child on Snapchat and makes them feel uncomfortable by pressuring them to send or receive unwanted or inappropriate images, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile to report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user, with a tailored reporting section under the 'Nudity and Sexual Content' category. In this category, there's the option to report somebody for threatening to leak sexually explicit images, or 'nudes'.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

USE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Sit down with the children in your care and explore Snapchat's privacy settings as a shared activity. You can help them adjust who can contact them, view their stories, or see their location on Snap Map. It's a good opportunity to explain why some settings are safer than others, reinforcing their understanding of online boundaries. Encourage them to regularly review these settings, especially after app updates or changes in their friendship groups.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/snapchat>

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