

St John's CE First School

Newsletter

Friday 15th May 2026

Love Protect Succeed



www.stjohnsbishopswood.org
Email office@stjohnsbishopswood.org

DIARY DATES 2025-26

21st May	Sports Day (weather dependent)
22nd May	Non Uniform Day—please donate a tombola prize
4th June	Prayer Space (Acorns Families Welcome)
16th June	Oaks Boscobel House Visit
1st July	Move up day for all.
7th July	Annie performances 1.30pm and 5.30pm
8th July	Annie performances 1.30pm and 5.30pm
16th July	Leavers Service 10.30 All welcome Picnic on the school field. All welcome.

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

'Do to others as you would have them do to you
Matthew 7:12



Please remember the staff car park is off limits to parents.

Please do not use it at any time.

Also please do not park on the yellow zigzag lines outside school. These are there for the safety of your children.

Academic Term Dates 2026/27

Autumn Term 2026

Inset Day (Term starts for Staff)	Tuesday 1 st September 26
Term starts for Pupils	Wednesday 2 nd September 26
Inset Day	Friday 23 rd October 26
Half Term	Monday 26 th October 26 - Friday 30 th October 26
Term Ends	Friday 18 th December 26
Christmas Holidays	Monday 21 st December 26 - Friday 1 st January 26

Spring Term 2027

Inset Day	Monday 4 th January 27
Term Starts	Tuesday 5 th January 27
Inset Day	Friday 12 th February 27 (Trust Focus Day)
Half Term	Monday 15 th February 27 - Friday 19 th February 27
Term Ends	Thursday 25 th March 27
Good Friday	Friday 26 th March 27
Easter Sunday	Sunday 28 th March 27
Easter Holiday	Monday 29 th March - Friday 9 th April 27

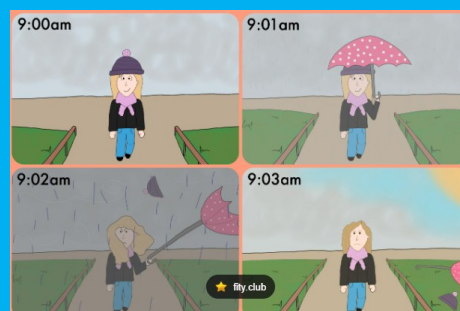
Summer Term 2027

Term Starts	Monday 12 th April 27
May Day	Monday 3 rd May 27
Half Term	Monday 31 st May 27 - Friday 4 th June 27
Term Ends	Tuesday 20 th July 27
Inset Day	Wednesday 21 st July 27
Summer Holidays	Thursday 22 nd July 27 - Wednesday 1 st September 27
Inset Day	Thursday 2 nd September 27

The deadline for ordering leavers and class photos is Tuesday 19th May. Please return any forms and monies to the office by then as they will be collected on Wednesday 20th May.



Given the good old British weather please send your child to school with coats / sun hats / sun cream if needed.





Design an Ice-cream Competition

All designs will be used to decorate the PTA'S new ice cream freezer so make sure they are fun, bright and good enough to eat.

The winner will receive a free ice cream at the summer fair.

Send your entries into the office before 29th May.



Teddy Tombola

Please donate any unwanted or unloved soft toys for this year's Teddy Tombola. Please bring to the office before 22nd May so they can have a bath before setting off on their next adventure.





My School Fund is an exciting initiative that combines the spending power of parents, guardians and carers in order to boost school and nursery budgets. By registering, individuals can link their spend to your school/nursery, meaning every time they make a purchase with participating retailers you both benefit through an innovative cashback scheme.

For every £1 spent in store, 1% will go to school/nursery and 2% will go to the individual.

Please sign up at: [Welcome to My School Fund](#)



Please can all families check their parentpay accounts and clear off any debt. We are already awaiting a significant amount. Of debt in lunches and Willows payments.



As the weather is changing, please ensure your child is still wearing safe and sensible school shoes. Open toed sandals and crocs are not safe for children who are running around, so please don't put your child in these.

Thank you!

Sports Day

Thursday 21st May

Weather Dependant

Saplings and Oaks

Drop children off at school and then set up on the field for an early start.

Early Years (Acorns and Squirrels)

Parents arrive at 1.45pm for a 2pm start.

Children should wear their PE shorts and a t shirt in their house colour.

Please ask if you don't know what house your child is in.

Please be considerate when parking in the village as we do get complaints.



CANCER
RESEARCH UK
RACE FOR LIFE



A huge thank you to everyone who supported us in our Pretty Muddy Challenge. We are delighted to say we have raised **£620** for Cancer Research! Still time to donate if you would like to!



Viral Trend Risks Causing Severe Burns to Children

Microwaving NEEDOH Toys and Squishies

Parents and Carers Guide

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

A viral trend is encouraging children to microwave squishy silicone toys, known as NEEDOH toys or squishies, among other names (Jelly Cubes, Nice Cubes) in order to make them softer and more pliable. Often, the packaging warns against this, but children are ignoring it because online videos and trends on TikTok, Instagram and YouTube encourage them to do the opposite. The toy feels cool to the touch after microwaving, but bursts when squeezed, spraying boiling material on hands, neck and face. A child in Bristol was seriously hurt on 4th May 2026 and children in America have experienced significant burns and injuries. This has happened to children as young as seven.

Please note - Your child does not need to have searched for this. The algorithm shows it to children based on other content they have watched.



IF YOUR CHILD HAS ONE OF THESE TOYS

It is natural to feel concerned, but the most important thing is to remain calm. Children are far more likely to talk to you, now and in the future, if they know they will be met with a steady response rather than alarm.

This is also a valuable opportunity. What your child sees online, from friends or from trends, does not always show the full picture or the consequences. Safety conversations are not about restricting their fun, they are about making sure they understand how to protect themselves and others.



STARTING THE CONVERSATION

You do not need to be an expert. A relaxed, open and honest conversation is enough. A few things that can help:

- Use the toy as a natural conversation point rather than sitting them down for a formal talk.
- Tell them simply that children their age have been seriously hurt following this trend. Reality carries more weight than a rule.
- Avoid taking the toy away without explaining why as providing a reason builds trust. Removing it without understanding may lead a child to hide things from you.
- If the toy feels too firm, the manufacturer's recommendation to soften it is to knead it with your hands for a few minutes. Encourage them, or help them, to do this instead.
- If they have already seen the videos, remain calm. The algorithm does its job quietly. What matters is the conversation that follows.



Gingerbread

Are you a single parent?

A Gingerbread group for single-parent families meets regularly near you!

- * Run by single parents for single parents
- * A chance for a cuppa and chat with others who know what it's like being a single parent
- * Meet local single parents in a fun and informal environment
- * Groups are child-friendly
- * It is free to join



"It's a safe place where you can say how you really feel. It is also very social, friendly and informative. I am so grateful for this group."
- Gingerbread group member

Join us today!



Scan the QR code or find us at

www.gingerbread.org.uk/your-community

Gingerbread, the charity for single parent families, is registered in England and Wales as a company limited by guarantee, no.

KEY POINTS TO DISCUSS...

You do not need to be an expert. A relaxed, open and honest conversation is enough. A few things that can help:

- The toy looks and feels completely normal after microwaving, the outside stays cool to the touch. But inside, it has reached temperatures as hot as boiling water so when squeezed, it bursts and dangerous hot liquid can explode.
- The injuries include severe burns, potential scarring and in some cases, a risk to eyesight. Some children have been hospitalised because of the trend.
- Remind them it could hurt anyone nearby - a friend, a sibling, whoever is in the room when it bursts.
- Online videos are designed to look like helpful tips, sometimes to get more followers. They do not always show what happens afterwards.
- If a friend suggests trying it, knowing and explaining the real danger makes it much easier for them to say no.
- If they have already tried it, or something has worried them, they are not in trouble. What matters is that they are safe.



If your child is worried or needs help, make sure they know they can always come to you first or an adult they trust. They can also:

- Talk to a trusted adult at school – their teacher, a youth worker or the school Safeguarding Lead or Child Protection Co-ordinator.
- Contact Childline, free, confidential and available any time
- If they have been hurt, seek medical attention straight away - call 999 immediately. Burns from this can continue to cause damage after the initial contact.

Please do not search for this on TikTok or Instagram yourself. Every search feeds the algorithm and makes this content more visible to others. For news coverage, use the links below and share this and our alert with friends and family to raise awareness.

For verified news coverage: [BBC News](#) | [The Independent](#)

If your child has seen these videos or even tried this trend, do not react with panic or anger. That is the response most likely to close the conversation down. Staying calm keeps the door open, and an open door to conversations with adults they can trust is what makes children safer.