

# Purple Pages



Weekly Newsletter: 24th April 2026

Our School Christian Vision: 'Working together to build a firm foundation for learning and caring.'  
*Rooted in Matthew 7:24 – 25: "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock."*



## CHRISTIAN VALUE OF THE TERM: FRIENDSHIP



### Message from the Headteacher

Welcome back to Term 5! It has been wonderful to see the children return with such energy, and the glorious sunny weather has certainly provided a perfect backdrop for our first week back.

This term, our focus Christian Value is Friendship. We kicked off our assemblies by exploring what it truly means to be a good friend, using the Bible story of the paralyzed man and his dedicated friends as our inspiration. It served as a powerful reminder of how we can support one another and overcome obstacles together.

A huge thank you to everyone who participated in our parent survey during Parents' Evening. Your feedback is vital to us, and I am delighted to share that the results were incredibly positive. Notably, 100% of parents expressed satisfaction with our curriculum implementation and our approach to homework.

During the survey, some of you mentioned you were unsure what 'enrichment' actually entails in a primary school setting. In short, enrichment refers to the activities that go above and beyond the National Curriculum. This includes clubs, educational visits and residential trips, guest speakers and specialist workshops, outdoor learning and Forest School sessions, as well as community projects and leadership roles.

To give you a clearer picture of these opportunities, we will now be producing a termly enrichment overview. This will celebrate the specific activities taking place across each year group, ensuring you can see the breadth of experiences your children are enjoying.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend in the sunshine! Mrs West-Gaul

### Dates For Your Diary

April	
27th - 29th	Year Four Camp at Kilve Court
May	
4th	Bank Holiday
7th	SEND Coffee Morning at 8.45am
11th - 14th	KS2 SATs Week
22nd	PTA Non-uniform Day

**St John's  
SEND  
Coffee Morning**

**Our SEND coffee morning offers a supportive environment for parents or carers of SEND children to relax and talk with others.**

**There will be information regarding local services who may be able to offer support.**

**Thursday 7th May 2026  
at 8.45am**

# Awards and Achievements

Well done to all our pupils who have achieved an award.



	Star of the Week	Star Reader	PE Achievements of the Week
<b>Acorns</b>	Bonnie Hugo B	Reuben Codie-Leigh	-
<b>Ash</b>	Ruby H	Chester	Marley (Fantastic Focus), Edie and Fraser (Playing Fair)
<b>Birch</b>	Finley	Leo	Ronnie (Amazing Ability), Florence and Harper (Caring and Kind)
<b>Chestnut</b>	Milo	Zac	Jacob, Elsie and Ava (Really Resilient)
<b>Elm</b>	Ted	Ronan	Roman (Amazing Ability) Nilah (Independent Learner) and Niamh (Excellent Effort)
<b>Hazel</b>	Isabelle	Shontae	Harrison (Fantastic Focus) Shontae and Daisy (Calm and Confident)
<b>Holly</b>	Sofia	Harlowe	Harry and Toby (Excellent Effort) and Amelia (Amazing Ability)
<b>Maple</b>	Jennifer	Senna	Orie (Amazing Ability), Senna (Really Resilient) and Emilee (Playing Fair)
<b>Oak</b>	Kallie	Riley	Aoife (Really Resilient) and Thea (Playing Fair)
<b>Pine</b>	Charlie	Oscar	Millie (Fantastic Focus) and Caiden (Excellent Effort)
<b>Rowan</b>	Maisie	Jayden	Aoife and Thomas (Calm and Confident)
<b>Sycamore</b>	Ella	Chloe	-
<b>Willow</b>	April	Blake	Lottie and Jack D (Excellent Effort)

Top Doodle Class

**ELM**



Well done!

# Enrichment activities this term at St John's

## Enrichment Activities

### Reception:

Visit from Rainforest Bugs  
(Paid for by the PTA)

### Year 1:

Visit to the Orchid Project  
at Writhlington  
(Paid for by the PTA)

Year 2: Video Call with  
an Australian Resident  
from Midsomer Norton

Year 3:  
Trip to  
Stonehenge

### Year 5:

African  
Drumming  
Workshop

Year 4: Residential  
to Kilve Court

Year 6: Visit from the  
I Can and I Am Bus



# General Notices

## St John's Receives Ministerial Praise for Outstanding Achievement

We are incredibly proud to share that, just before the half-term break, St John's received a personal letter of commendation from Bridget Phillipson, the Secretary of State for Education. The letter congratulated our school on the excellent outcomes achieved by our disadvantaged pupils during the 2024/25 academic year, officially placing St John's among the very best schools nationally.

This prestigious recognition is a testament to the unwavering ambition of our pupils and the tireless dedication of our staff. In her letter, the Secretary of State noted that our success "demonstrates what is possible" when high expectations meet hard work. Not only were we celebrated for our results, but St John's has also been encouraged to act as a 'system leader', sharing our best practices and collaborating with other schools to help raise educational standards across the country. This is a significant milestone for our community, proving that at St John's, every child is given the best possible opportunity to succeed.

## A message from Bridget Phillipson



# General Notices

## Reminder - NO cars on site

Please be reminded that it is not permitted to drive into the school car park for collecting from after-school clubs. This includes at any time when the gates are open. Please either park at Somervale School Car Park or at a safe place elsewhere and walk to the school.

## Reducing Lost Property


As we are now starting to wear summer uniform, please ensure all items are clearly labelled with your child's name, particularly cardigans / jumpers, which are often taken off during the day, and sun hats which we encourage to be worn while outside during break times.

## Toys from home

A reminder that children are not permitted to bring toys from home into school. Unfortunately these can cause arguments and problem at break times. We have a lovely selection of suitable games and activities for children to use at break and lunch times.

## Donations of Board Games

Our Breakfast Club is still seeking donations of suitable board games. If anyone has any they would be kind enough to donate, please bring these to the school office. Thank you.



**MY NAME TAGS**

**REDUCING YOUR CHILD'S LOST PROPERTY IN SCHOOLS/PTAS**

EMMA 01753 771 171

24% of every order will be donated to our PTA/School! Just use our school ID on the checkout.

School ID: **31825**

[www.MyNameTags.com](http://www.MyNameTags.com)

# Out of School Achievements



Well done to Jake (Maple Class) for achieving his Little Puma Blackbelt in Taekwondo.



Well done to Jesse for achieving his Purple belt.



Well done to Harry (Rowan Class) who took part in Swindon's Gymnastics competition at the weekend, with Writhlington Boys development group. He was awarded Silver for vault, Bronze for floor and trampette, with Bronze overall.

# Reading in Year Four

It's been an electric start to the term in Year 4 as our young readers dive into their new class text, *The Wild Robot* by Peter Brown. The students have been completely captivated by the journey of Roz, a robot who finds herself shipwrecked on a remote, wild island. From exploring themes of survival to discussing Roz's first interactions with the island's animal inhabitants, the children are showing fantastic enthusiasm for her adventures. We can't wait to see where this mechanical tale takes them next!

All our friends at St John's School  
are invited to our next

## Family Service



10am Sunday 3rd May,  
St John the Baptist Church,  
Midsomer Norton.

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**





# ignite sport

## after school sports clubs term 5

### St John's C of E Primary School

Best Seller!



**Years R – 3**  
Football  
Monday

NEW!



**All Years**  
Gymnastics  
Monday



**Years 1 – 6**  
Nerf, Dodgeball  
& Archery  
Tuesday



**Years 2 – 6**  
Summer Sports  
Wednesday

**BOOK  
ONLINE  
HERE!**



## why join...?

- **Inclusive for all Abilities** – activities are adapted so every child can join in and shine!
- **Safe, Supervised, and Structured** – every session is led by qualified coaches with years of experience!
- **Smiles every Session** – children leave buzzing with energy and stories to tell!
- **Fun Guaranteed** – fun, games based sessions with plenty of action!



For more information  
**check our website**

[www.ignite-sport.co.uk](http://www.ignite-sport.co.uk)



# Thought of the Week

## Thought of the Week

**“Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”**

**(John 15:13 NIV)**



'Project Hail Mary', written by Andy Weir in 2021, is now a massive box-office hit at the cinema and is one of the highest-grossing films of the year. It made over \$573 million worldwide in its first five weeks and people are still going to see it. Sales of the original book have also increased significantly since the release of the film. Why is this?

Well, first and foremost it is a great story. The film follows the life of an unassuming school teacher whose life is turned upside down when he is recruited to save the world from the dying sun. Ryland Grace wakes aboard the spaceship 'Hail Mary' not knowing who he is and why he is there. Over time he remembers and we learn that although a modest man, Grace is an expert microbiologist. And with the help of the leader of the Petrova Task Force, Eva Stratt, he is pushed into greatness because of his unconventional beliefs that water may not be essential to life.

Whilst on his mission to save the world, Grace encounters an alien species. Both travellers are initially alone and through diligence and patience, they are able to communicate with each other and form a genuine bond, endeavouring to work together to save both of their planets.

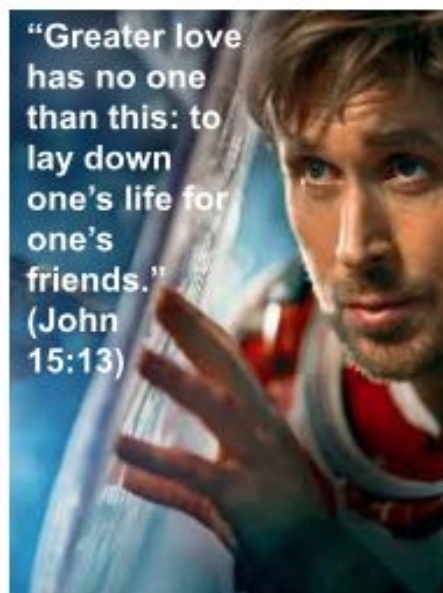
A second reason I believe this story is so popular is because of the friendship forged between these two characters. There is no real villain and in fact the "alien" who would have evoked fear actually brings comfort, and gives Grace the courage he needs to fulfill his mission - "anyone can be brave, by finding someone to be brave for!" The film reminds us that there is an opportunity for connection everywhere - in unlikely, scary places, perhaps even with those whose lives are very different from our own. Our souls and our stories are often not so different after all.

But one of the reasons I also think this film is so popular is due to the message of sacrifice. Regardless of your belief and background, we are drawn to stories of sacrifice, where people willingly lay down their lives for others. In the film, Grace is an unwilling hero and when he finally remembers everything, we see that he was petrified about the mission and outrightly refuses to board the Hail Mary. Although sent out unwillingly, later on he chooses to sacrifice his own life to save his friend. Grace's fear, cowardice and frailty disintegrate in the presence of love when, suddenly he has something worth dying for.

Whether it was deliberate or not, I think it is quite poignant that the film was released over the Easter period. With the messages of love, courage and sacrifice reverberating through every moment, I believe that it clearly reminds us of Jesus' ultimate sacrifice on the cross. As the verse reminds us...

"Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."

**“Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”  
(John 15:13)**



# Community Notices



Tickets can be booked at:

[https://tickets.bath-racecourse.co.uk/shop/cart.pl?myaction=choose\\_package&event\\_id=9999000090754282&voucher\\_name=BOUNCE](https://tickets.bath-racecourse.co.uk/shop/cart.pl?myaction=choose_package&event_id=9999000090754282&voucher_name=BOUNCE)