



St James and St John Church of England Primary School

NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 1
2025



A message from Mrs Woods

Wow, where have the last few weeks gone? As we reach the end of our first half-term, it's been wonderful to reflect on everything that's happened here at St James and St John School!

The children have settled back into school life so brilliantly. A special welcome goes to our new Foundation class, who have made a fantastic start to their learning journey with us. Watching them settle in with such confidence and excitement has been truly inspiring. Their energy and enthusiasm are contagious, and I'm so proud of every child across the school.

This half-term has been full of exciting experiences. From the first round of the KS2 Cooking Competition to enjoying the magic of Mrs Taylor's orchestra in Chackmore, the children have embraced every opportunity to learn something new. Our Year 1 pupils enjoyed bulb planting at the churchyard, meanwhile Year 2 have thoroughly enjoyed getting muddy every Thursday!

Our Harvest Assemblies were a great success, thank you to the hard work of all the children and staff. I couldn't be prouder of each and every one of them.

Looking ahead, there's much to be excited about next half-term, with Christmas events (I wonder if the Elves will return), Manor Adventure, Parent's Evening, and so much more.

What a brilliant and eventful first half-term it has been! It's been an absolute pleasure welcoming back all our children, and we're looking forward to the exciting times ahead next half term.

Have a wonderful, restful break.

Warm wishes,

Louise Woods

Head teacher



Safeguarding

Safeguarding is everyone's business.

If you have concerns about a child at our school it is paramount you voice this to a member of our safeguarding team:



Mrs Louise Woods

Headteacher,
Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Rebecca Bailey

Year 3 Teacher, KS2 Lead,
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead

Mr James Peppiatt
Safeguarding Governor

School reopens on:



Monday 3rd
November
2025.



Social Media

If you haven't already, please do support us by following our social media pages! We would also be extremely grateful to receive more Facebook reviews if you have a spare few minutes.



[Click here for Instagram!](#)



[Click here for Facebook!](#)

Friendly reminders

School Dinners

If you would like to order meals for Autumn term 2, please log into your online account to submit your choices. Remember to order before 10am on the Thursday before the following week.

School timings

Please can we remind parents of the timings of the school day. We do appreciate it is difficult when you have siblings at both school sites to be at school drop-off and pick-up on time. Being late does have a knock on effect for everyone and can cause disruption. Please also remember our playground is open from 8:30am at Chackmore so you can drop your children off.

Akeley Site: start of day 8.40am – finish 3.10pm. **Chackmore:** start of day 8.45am – finish 3.15pm.

The image on the left illustrates the total amount of time lost over the year due to consistent lateness.

PE Days



Monday: Year 5 and Year 6

Tuesday: Year 4 and Year 3

Wednesday: Year 1 and Year 2

Thursday: Year 5 and Year 6, EYFS Forest School

Friday: EYFS, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4

Lost Minutes = Lost Learning

Bee On Time



Sounds of the season

Our children are thrilled to be contributing to this year's county-wide Christmas project at Waddesdon Manor! Alongside thousands of pupils from across Buckinghamshire, they'll be helping to create a spectacular festive display. We can't wait to see their work shining bright at Waddesdon this Christmas!



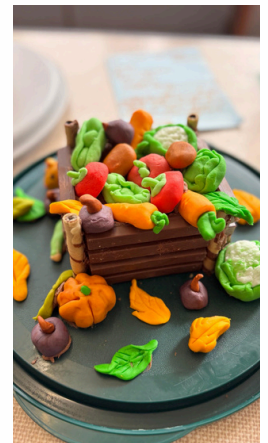
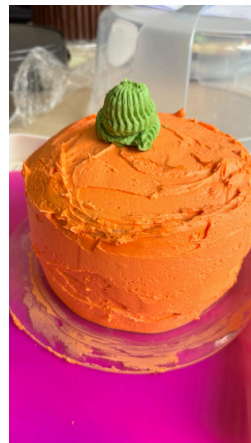
Great Horwood Brass Band

KS2 enjoyed a wonderful afternoon with the Great Horwood Brass Band. The talented Mrs Taylor performed with her band playing some well known tunes such as ABBA and James Bond. The children really enjoyed it. We also had a debut performance from one of our Year 4's, Fawn! Years 5 & 6 then had an opportunity to try playing some of the instruments.



KS2 Cooking Competition

Wow KS2! We have some mini Mary Berrys on our hands! We were SO impressed with all the fabulous, delicious cakes you made for the KS2 cooking competition. Well done to you all! Roll on round 2 in Spring 2026!



Roald Dahl competition

Year 3 had a very exciting opportunity to create their own Roald Dahl character as part of a competition. HUGE congratulations to our Darby on his winning entry. As a well-done, Darby was presented with a goody bag during Collective Worship!



Simon

Bikeability

Some of our Years 4 and 5 accepted the challenge of completing the first two levels of Bikeability. Year 4 completed the one day Level 1 course, whilst Year 5 took on the 4 day Level 2 course. Becky was running the course and said that everyone was amazing and so well behaved. She is very much looking forward to seeing us next year. Dates are already in the diary!



Planting

Year 1 had great fun planting bulbs in Akeley churchyard with two of our school governors, Mr Hockley and Mr Mortimer. They certainly had little green fingers and were brilliant at planting. They are looking forward to going back to the churchyard in the spring to see their bulbs blossomed into beautiful daffodils!



Forest School

Our Year 2 children have really enjoyed their adventures during Forest School this half term. From making their own fires, to enjoying some tasty 'forest mud' (hot chocolate with mini marshmallows!) they have had a wonderful time getting muddy every Thursday with Jack our Forest School leader.



Harvest Assemblies

Wow! What fantastic Harvest Assemblies this week! The children worked so hard in preparation and we are so proud of them. Thank you to all the families who joined us, PTFA for hosting the refreshments and to everyone's generous donations which will be sent to the local food bank.



Honey Bear

The newest member of our team has settled in beautifully at St James and St John! Honey, name chosen by our KS1 pupils, has taken up residence in the school office in Akeley with Miss Budimir, where she spreads joy in all sorts of bear-y special ways! A huge thank you to our amazing PTFA Chair, Lyndsey, for knitting her stylish little jumper...we absolutely love it!



Vision & values

We unite together to enable **all** to prosper in every aspect of their life.

Our friendly, nurturing school achieves the vision through creative, stimulating and challenging learning opportunities.



*“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord.
“Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to
give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11*

Collective worship



The children and staff participate in Collective Worship everyday. The children have been learning all about British Values the last few weeks. We also thoroughly enjoy our Tuesdays when the Church ladies lead the Collective Worship with a link to the Bible.



My Happy Mind

Our new PSHE program, myHappymind, has been very popular with all pupils across the school! MyHappymind is all based around helping children to understand how their brain works and to support them in developing positive skills and habits to be their very best selves.

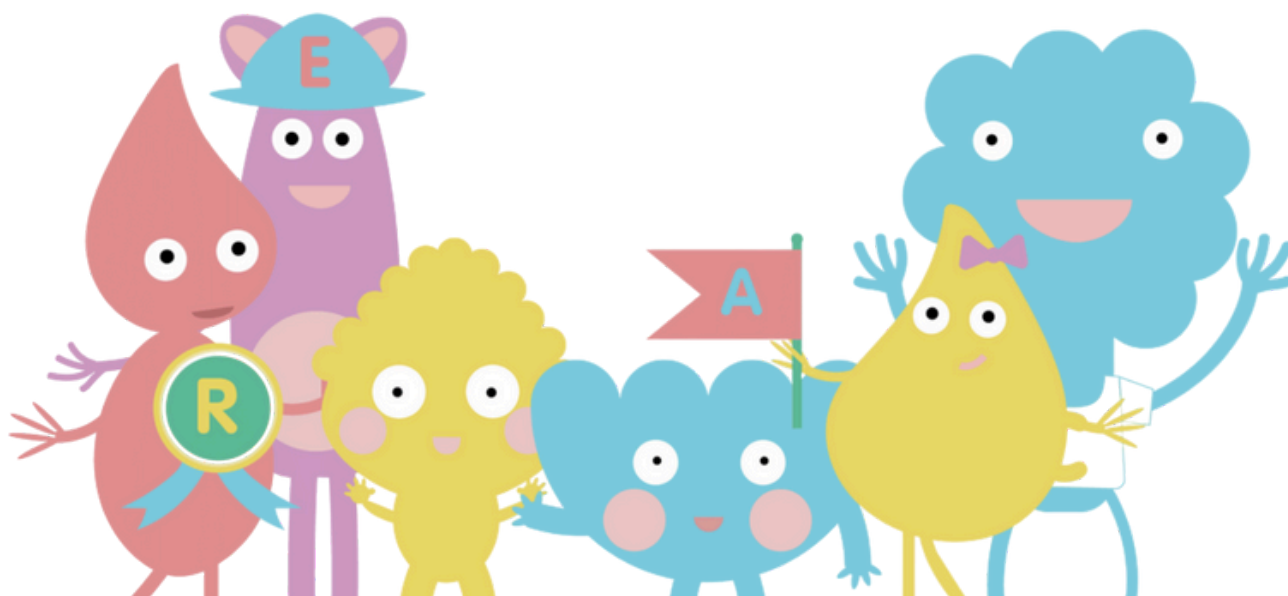
Remember to sign up for the Parent App! The Parent App will support you as a parent in understanding what your child is learning, activities for you to do together at home and also a Kids Zone featuring myHappymind Games plus much more!

To access these materials just go to <https://myhappymind.org/parent-resources> to create your free account. You will need to enter your name, email, and authentication code.

Your authentication code is 110410



Or simply scan this QR code to sign up.
The QR code is also stuck in your child's reading record.





Keeping your children safe online

Online safety is really important to us, and we know it's something parents think about too. Did you know most social media apps have age limits? These age guidelines are there to help keep children safe from content and interactions that aren't right for their age. It's worth taking a few minutes to check your child's apps and chat with them about why those limits exist. Small conversations can make a big difference.

13+

X (formerly Twitter), Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat, WhatsApp, Pinterest, YouTube, Reddit, BeReal, Messenger, Discord, Twitch, Yubo,

16+

Nintendo Online Account,
Tumblr, Vimeo, Halo
Infinite, Battlefield 2042,
Marvel's Avengers,
Marvel's Spider-Man

18+

Xbox Live Account, PSN
Online Account, Call of
Duty: Warzone, Grand
Theft Auto V, Far Cry 3
Blood Dragon



NSPCC

The NSPCC website have lots of really helpful articles and information about keeping children safe online. [Click here to go to their website.](#)



News FROM THE PTFA

Hi everyone,

It's been a great start to the new academic year. The AGM has happened and we have retained the same trustees: Chair - Lyndsey Jeffs; Treasurer - Bev Hill; Secretary - Stacey Kendall; and Vice Chair - Cara George. It's good to know there is dedication in keeping the PTFA going and we were also lucky to have some new faces becoming involved, which will help build on our offering.

We tried a different DJ for the October Disco and have heard that the kids loved the playlist. There is a lot happening for us and school in the run up to Christmas - Wreath-making (Tickets on sale now, limited places), Winter Raffle & Stall, Elfridges, refreshments at all the events and festive lunch cover. We hope you are as excited as we are about the festive period.

And after all that fun and excitement we are planning a lovely relaxing day for the kids when they are back with Comfy Day on 9 January 2026!

As always thanks to all our volunteers and your support with the events.



PTFA Team

Follow us on Facebook:

us <https://www.facebook.com/groups/615102610716677>

DIARY DATES



For next half term

We have so much to look forward to next half term with exciting school tips, Christmas and parents evening!

WHOLE SCHOOL

- Monday 3rd November** - First Day of the Autumn Term 2
- Tuesday 18th November** - Parents' Evening
- Thursday 20th November** - Parents' Evening
- Tuesday 2nd December** - Flu Vaccinations
- Wednesday 10th December** - Whole School Pantomime trip to MK theatre
- Thursday 11th December** - Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day
- Thursday 11th December** - Christmas Dinner Day!
- Thursday 18th December** - Festive Packed Lunch Day!
- Friday 19th December** - Last Day of the Autumn Term
- Saturday 20th December 2024 - Sunday 4th January 2025** - Christmas Holidays
- Monday 5th January 2025** - First Day of the Spring Term 1.

AKELEY

- Wednesday 12th November** - Years 1 & 2 Multi-skills Tournament
- Tuesday 25th November** - Year 1 Trip to Milton Keynes Museum
- Friday 12th December** - EYFS and KS1 Nativity for Grandparents and local community, 2pm, Akeley Village Hall
- Monday 15th December** - EYFS and KS1 Nativity, 2pm, Akeley Village Hall
- Wednesday 17th December** - EYFS and KS1 Nativity, 2pm, Akeley Village Hall

CHACKMORE

- Monday 3rd - Friday 7th November** - Year 6 Manor Adventure Residential
- Monday 10th November** - KS2 Remembrance Service, 2pm
- Thursday 13th November** - Year 3 Stone Age Day
- Thursday 27th November** - Year 5 trip to Space Centre
- Friday 28th November** - Swim Gala for Selected Year 4 and 5 pupils
- Tuesday 2nd December** - Years 5 and 6 Football Festival
- Friday 5th December** - KS2 Christingle Service at 2pm
- Monday 8th December** - Year 4 Christmas Unwrapped
- Friday 19th December** - KS2 Carol Concert, 2pm