



**ST JOHN'S**  
A PRIORY ACADEMY

# Newsletter

Issue 22—February 2025



Respect    Kindness    Confidence    Tolerance    Self-Discipline

## Key Dates

Tuesday 11th February

Safer Internet Day

Tuesday 11th February

Year 1 Visit—St John's Church

Friday 14th February—9.15am

Year 3 Class Assembly—Families welcome

Friday 14th February—End of Term 3

Monday 24th February

Start of Term 4

Thursday 27th February

Tractors + Lambs Visit—Early Years and Y4

Friday 28th February

Year 4 - First Aid Workshops

Monday 3rd March

Learning Showcase - 3.30pm

Thursday 6th March

Year 2 Trip—Lincoln Castle

Friday 7th March

World Book Day

Friday 14th March 9.15am

Y4 Class Assembly - Families welcome

Wednesday 19th and Thursday 20th March

Parents Evenings

Friday 21st March

Comic Relief

Friday 28th March 9.15am

Y2 Class Assembly—Families welcome

Dear St John's Families,

It has been such a busy few weeks at St John's. We've had lots of trips which have been really exciting for our pupils and brought their learning to life. Our teachers do a wonderful job in organising these in order to create memorable experiences and I'm so grateful for their dedication and hard work. You can see how much these trips were enjoyed in this newsletter.

This week is Children's Mental Health Week and our children have been learning about ways to look after their own mental health. They have identified activities to promote their own positive wellbeing as we recognise that this is different for different children. You can find more information about this in the newsletter as well as useful information and where to access resources to support with this at home.

Our Y5/6 choir members took part in "Priory Voices" this week and it was a wonderful event. Children from all of the Priory Trust primary schools took part and came together to sing and perform. I was so proud to be part of this wider community and the children all sang beautifully as one collective choir. We look forward to this becoming a regular event with the other schools in the trust.

Please take a note of key dates on the left hand side. We have our 'Learning Showcase' coming up on Monday 3rd March after school where we welcome you into school to look through the work your children have been completing so far this year. I am sure you will be very impressed at the effort and hard work all of our pupils put into their learning.

Thank you for your continued support.

*Mrs Emma Jefferson*

*Headteacher*

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**Website:**

<http://www.stjohnsprimaryacademy.co.uk/>



**Championing children; making a difference**

# Attendance and Safeguarding

**MOMENTS  
MATTER,  
ATTENDANCE  
COUNTS.**



RJR	95.7%
RAS	98%
1T	94.4%
1HC	95.4%
2ST	94.2%
2F	95.1%
30S	95.9%
3B	91.9%
4T	94.6%
4D	95.5%
5N	94%
5BT	99.4%
6B	94.4%
6M	89.3%

**Attendance for the week:**



**Attendance for the year to date:**



**Our aim is to try and be in the green for our overall attendance across the year!**

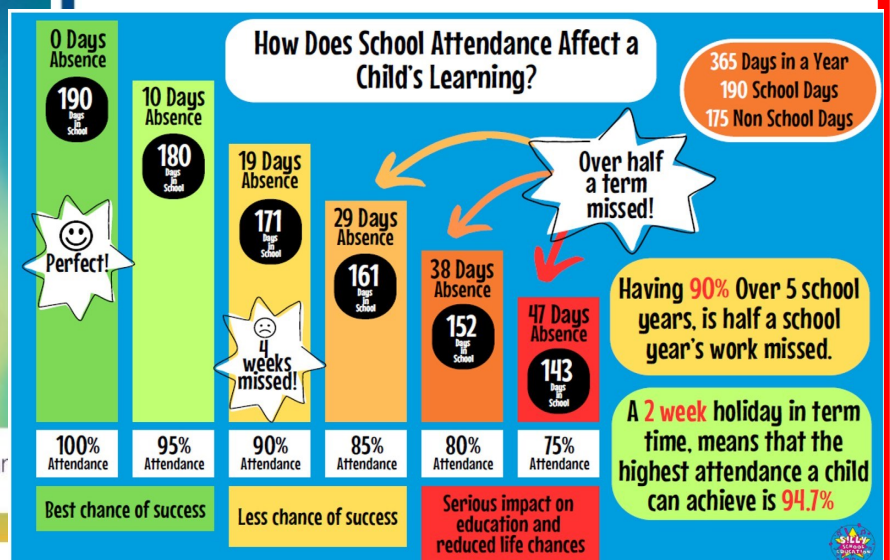
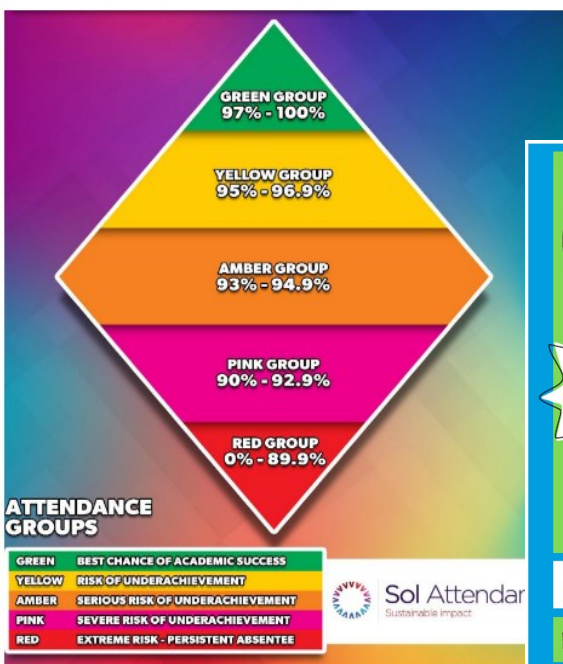
## Attendance

Our school attendance for the year is currently above the National Average figures. Our persistent absence (the % of children with less than 90% attendance) is lower than the National Average figures. This is something for us to really celebrate. I'd like to thank our families for recognising the impact of good attendance on children's outcomes and experiences. We can, and do, continue to offer support where children may be struggling with their attendance and work with families together on this. Attendance was an area for us to improve following the last OFSTED inspection so these positive improvements are something to really celebrate.



Our class challenge continues and at the moment, this early on in the term, it could be any class who takes the lead in this. Our 100 club has also re-started and another group of children will be selected from our wheel spinner if they've had 100% attendance in Term 3. I look forward to seeing how many children we have on our wheel—it was certainly a lot last term!

## Attendance Ladder





## Children's Mental Health Week

This week is Children's Mental Health Week. The theme this year is 'Know yourself, grow yourself.' Our children have taken part in numerous activities this week aimed to develop their own awareness of what type of activity they can do to promote positive mental health. In year groups, children had the opportunity to choose and sign up to an activity which they thought would best promote their positive wellbeing. Then the children took part in that activity. This was to encourage their own decision making and sense of responsibility for looking after and prioritising their wellbeing. It was lovely to see children taking part in very different activities but all designed to help the children feel good about themselves! There is lots of useful advice to help support young people [here](#) should families be interested. Thank you to Mrs Smallacombe for co-ordinating this across the school and making this a fantastic week for all our children.

## Recommended Reads

### Early Years / KS1



### KS2



## TIPS FOR FAMILIES

Place2Be's  
CHILDREN'S  
MENTAL HEALTH  
WEEK

### 1 Encourage journaling

Just like Riley, encourage your older children and young people to express their emotions and thoughts through journaling. It can be less confronting than speaking out loud and is a helpful way to process what is going on.

### 2 Make space for reflection

When children and young people reflect on their different emotions, it can help them better understand themselves and what they need. Go for a walk, drive, or try some mindful colouring or baking together.

### 3 Be visual

Use imagery, such as emojis or flashcards to help children and young people recognise and label their feelings.

### 4 Practice mindfulness

Try mindful activities, and quiet family time, to enjoy being in the present moment. This can help children and young people be aware of their thoughts and emotions and learn a useful new coping technique.

### 5 Communicate

Feedback is crucial for helping us see our blind spots and gain greater insight. Children and young people are no different. Creating safe and supportive ways to share your own experience with your child can help them understand themselves and their impact on the world around them.





# Learning in class



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## Year 5—Planetarium

To support with the children's Science learning about Earth and Space, the Planetarium came to our school hall! The children gathered inside the dome and learned all about the planets of our solar system, understanding their complexities and what makes them so unique. They learnt all about the space race and learned that the Russians actually sent two tortoises around the moon before the moon landing by USA in 1969. The children then had the opportunity to gaze upon the stars and learn all about the constellations we can see in the night sky. They identified Orion the Hunter, Orion's Belt, Andromeda, Aquarius, Leo and Cancer to name a few. The children had a fantastic time and learned so much alongside the knowledge they demonstrated brilliantly through our topic so far!



## Year 6—STEM Learning at IBCC

Our Year 6 pupils had the opportunity to go to the International Bomber Command Centre to complete some STEM activities (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) The children took part in activities including a theory of flight workshop to discuss which factors would enable a plane to fly best before testing and designing their own. They also developed their Coding skills by building a lego robot and creating code on the iPads to enable the robot to perform a variety of tasks. Finally, the children learnt about some of the amazing technology used by Bomber Command during WW2. What a brilliant day for our pupils!



## Year 4—Pizza Express

Before Christmas, 4T had a visit to Pizza Express as part of their Design and Technology learning and this time it was the turn of 4D. The children learnt all about adapting recipes, trying ingredients and, of course, got to make their very own delicious pizzas!





# Learning in class



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## Year 2

Year 2 have started to explore using clay in their Art lessons. They have used the score, slip and blend technique to make joins in clay. They have then applied these skills to start creating their dragons' eyes. Next week, they will paint them and glaze them. I think they look absolutely brilliant.



## Year 3

As part of their Roman topic, Year 3 had the opportunity to explore Roman Lincoln, once known as Lindum Colonia. They walked through the upper part of the city, discovering the remains of the four Roman gates that once allowed entry into this settlement. The children also examined the defensive walls, which would have protected the Colonia from invaders. They also explored how the Roaring meg spring supplied water via an aqueduct into a reservoir and visited a Roman bathhouse, discovering its impressive underground heating system. The children were able to admire Roman architecture including the Mint Wall and the site of the colonnades. We are very lucky to live in a city so rich in History!



## In other news...



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### Congratulations!

I'd like to say a huge congratulations to Mrs Trimby, Mrs Opie-Skinner and Mrs Ballard, who have all recently passed their NPQLT (National Professional Qualification for Leading Teaching.) They have undertaken this qualification which has involved many hours of self study and research culminating in an assessment which they all passed with flying colours. We are so proud that the staff at St John's seek to continually improve and further develop and then bring this knowledge and new skills into our school to impact on our children. The culture that we are all life-long learners will hopefully inspire our pupils. It has been a lot of hard work for these teachers and we're very proud of their achievements!



### Pupil Leadership

Our school council are incredible ambassadors for our school and represent our student voice. They decided that they wanted to plan and lead an assembly all about one of our school values, 'Confidence.' They delivered this last week with such confidence of their own. I couldn't be prouder of this group of pupils and what they contribute to the life of the school. I also would like to thank Mrs Swallow who leads our school council and creates these opportunities for them. I have shared below a poem that Iris in Y5 wrote especially for the assembly. It's so brilliant and so I thought everyone should see it—well done Iris!



### Confidence Poem by Iris Y5

Us school councillors have had something to share,  
Something to say to show that we care.  
Never give up, follow your dreams,  
Being confident is not as hard as it seems.

Express your feelings, don't hide away,  
Live your life your kind of way.  
Tell us your ideas, stick up for yourself.  
But don't worry, we're here if you ever need help.

Keep on going, you'll be fine,  
Your growth mindset will expand over time.  
Believe in yourself, give new things a go,  
Have courage to be someone they want to follow.

You are brave, you are strong.  
Everyone gets some questions wrong.  
Be yourself, go with the flow,  
Your challenge is waiting so off you go!

There's an adventure ahead of you,  
A wonderful bright future too,  
Remember, don't be in the "I can't do it," set.  
The saying is "You just can't do it yet!"

Confidence is in you,  
Today is your day.  
Your mission is waiting  
So go...be on your way!





## In other news...

### Goodbye and Good Luck Mr Thornton

As the end of term quickly approaches, it means it's getting closer to us saying Goodbye to Mr Thornton who will be taking up his new role as Headteacher at Branston Junior Academy after half term. We know his last day will be full of different emotions but we hope to make it one to remember for him. Having worked at St John's for over 20 years, his presence will be hugely missed by staff, pupils and families but we will keep in contact as he is only down the road and I hope our schools get the chance to work together in the future. I'd like to thank him on behalf of our entire school community for everything that he has done during his time at St John's. I know he has made a significant impact on many. I will write to Year 5 parents next week with staffing arrangements for after half term.

GOODBYE

### Safer Internet Day



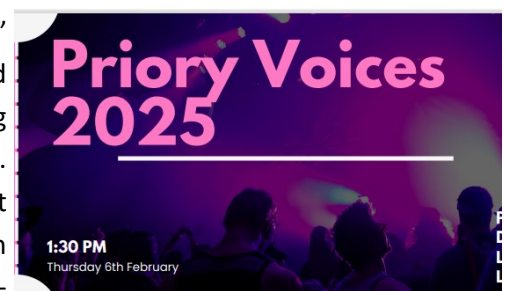
Safer  
Internet  
Day

Next week on Tuesday 11th February, it is Safer Internet Day. The theme this year is 'Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online.' We know that we live in a digital world where it can be easy to fall for scams online and that usually if something looks too good to be true then it usually is. We will be sharing tips with the children

about staying safe online and about what information they should not be sharing online. We will look at how easy it can be to think something is legitimate and to pass over details and then what scammers can do with this information. Parents / carers can access some top tips [here](#) for protecting their families from online scams. There's also some fantastic resources [here](#) for children to access at an age-appropriate level. We will be accessing some of these as part of our lessons on this day.

### Priory Voices

This week, our Y5/6 Singing Group took part in the "Priory Voices" concert. This was the first time this event has happened and it included all of the singing groups from the Priory Trust Primary schools coming together to perform in front of a packed audience of families and staff. The schools sang together as well as individually and it was a great experience for all of the children. It was lovely to see the children collaborate with peers from other schools and share the stage together. St John's did a rousing rendition of "supercalifragilisticexpialidocious" which got a great reaction from the audience. Thank you so much to Mrs Ballard for preparing the children for this concert and to Mr Drury and Mr Wright for accompanying the children. I was fortunate enough to have a great seat in the audience and I was beyond proud at how confident our children were. We are looking forward to this becoming an annual event with the other trust schools.



# Friends of the School



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## FOS

### Asda Cashpot

Friends  
of  
School

St. John's Primary Academy

A huge thank you to families and the wider community for supporting St John's Academy with the ASDA Cashpot for Schools. From this scheme, we raised an incredible £458.30. This is such a fantastic amount and will go back to providing resources and experiences for all of our pupils.



### Upcoming FoS Events

Our Easter discos will be taking place on Friday 28th March. You will remember reading in our communication earlier in the year that we will be trialing some earlier times for our discos. Years 1,2 and 3 will be from 3.30-4.30pm and Years 4,5 and 6 will be from 4.45-5.45pm. We will send out full details nearer the time, especially with arrangements for the younger pupils in terms of bringing disco clothes to school to get changed into.



Please look out for details coming soon about the Easter Colouring competition which will be launched on 17th March.

Also, in March, we will be running a competition to design a new logo for FoS. It will be great to see what ideas the children have for that!

### Volunteering / Joining FoS

As always, any help volunteering at events is greatly appreciated. We are always looking out for new members to join our committee to ensure we can continue to support the school. It would be lovely if we had some new members, particularly parents and carers of the Early Years and KS1 children to ensure FoS can continue into the future and carry on with their fundraising for the school.

If you are interested in getting involved or would like more information, please come along to a meeting or contact the school office who will put you in touch with someone from FoS. Thank you!





# In the community..



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## Thank you!

North Kesteven District Council very kindly donated 10 fruit trees to the school which we planted last week. Thank you to Mr Pogson from Pogson's Garden and Landscaping for helping our pupils plant these with Mr Drury, our Chair of Governors. We look forward to watching them grow!



**MOTHERING SUNDAY**  
**SUNDAY 30th March 2025**  
**WE'D LOVE YOU TO JOIN US**  
**THIS MOTHERING SUNDAY**  
**AT 10 AM**  
**ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST**  
**CHURCH BRACEBRIDGE**  
**HEATH.**  
**WE WELCOME ONCE AGAIN**  
**THE CHILDREN FROM ST**  
**JOHNS ACADEMY SIGNING**  
**CHOIR.**

## What's on in January and February

- January - Around the World in 80 Books - pick up a list to tick off your reads!
- Wednesday 8th January 11am Storytime - The World - Listen to a wonderful story
- Saturday 25th January 10-12 Chess Challenge - come and play, learn and enjoy - for everyone
- Thursday 30th January 6-7.30pm Knit and Natter - come and join others to share your love of knitting, no experience needed
- Wednesday 5th February 11am - Teddy bear's Picnic - come and join the picnic, bring your teddy and listen to stories
- Thursday 6th February - 6.00 to 7.30pm Book Chatter - come and chat about books
- Saturday 22nd February - Games morning - come and play chess and other games - for everyone

At Bracebridge Heath Library

Wishing you months filled with fresh starts, new opportunities, and positive vibes.

## Messy Easter

Join us at 10.30 am on  
**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April**  
at  
**St. John's Church**  
Grantham Road Bracebridge Heath  
(next to the School opposite Tesco)

Fun activities

Stories Food