Flourishing in FAITH (Family, All Included, Thriving & Healthy)

The John Wesley CEM Primary School

Friday 23 October 2026 Issue #4

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WHOLE SCHOOL & HEADTEACHER'S NEWS

Dear John Wesley CEM Primary School Community,

It has certainly been a very wet and blustery end to the term today! The change in weather this last fortnight has not stopped the wonderful learning and achievements taking place across our school. The last fortnight has been incredibly busy, and I am always proud of the enthusiasm, resilience and positivity shown by our children.

One of the most noticeable improvements this term has been in our children's handwriting. We have seen some fantastic progress across the school, with pupils taking great pride in the presentation of their work. Alongside this, children have been busy completing their Must Missions, demonstrating perseverance and a commitment to their learning both in and beyond the classroom.

On 13 October, our Year 6 pupils took part in an inspiring workshop, 'On Your Marks: Making the Best of Year 6' led by Tom Lewis. The session encouraged children to think positively about the opportunities and responsibilities that come with their final year of primary school.

On 14 October, Year R and Year 6 pupils also participated in the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP), which involved height and weight measurements. Thank you to parents for their support with this important national programme.

We were delighted to celebrate Global Handwriting Day on 15 October, providing another opportunity to showcase the importance of handwriting and presentation across the curriculum. On the same day, we welcomed 30 new Headteachers to our school as part of their induction programme. It was a privilege to share our school with them and to showcase the many wonderful things that happen here every day. Our children were, as always, excellent ambassadors for our school.

Some of our classes also marked Restart a Heart Day on 16 October, learning about the importance of lifesaving skills. This work will continue in Term 4 when Tom from Oodles returns to deliver First Aid training for our Year 5 pupils and refresher training for Year 6.

Finally, a huge thank you to everyone who donated items for the FRIENDS Christmas Fair. The generosity of our school community never ceases to amaze me. There has certainly been a great deal of excitement around school today as we look forward to this afternoon's Autumn Disco! My sincere thanks go to the parents and volunteers who have helped organise, set up, run and pack away the event, as well as everyone who purchased tickets. Your support helps FRIENDS raise valuable funds that directly benefit our children and enhance the opportunities we are able to offer.

As we head into the half term, thank you for your continued support of our school. Together, we make our school such a special place for children to learn, grow and thrive. We will see you again on Monday 02 November 2026 at 08:25.

Miss Harrington, Headteacher

New Menu

We are pleased to share our new school lunch menu, which will begins in Term 2 for two terms. The menu continues to offer a range of nutritious, balanced and tasty meal options each day. Alongside the menu, there is the allergen information menu, which gives detailed information about allergens contained within each meal option. This is particularly helpful for families whose children have food allergies, intolerances or dietary requirements.

Both the new menu and allergen menu have been sent out with this newsletter and can also be found on the school website at: https://www.john-wesley.org.uk/Parents/Food-More/

If you have any questions regarding school meals or specific dietary requirements, please contact the School Office who will be happy to help.

MENU OCTOBER 2026 TO FEBRUARY 2027

WEEK 1	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
02/11/2026 23/11/2026 14/12/2026 18/01/2027 08/02/2027	MEATBALLS IN TOMATO SAUCE	CHICKEN CURRY	ROAST GAMMON AND GRAVY	BBQ CHICKEN	BATTERED FISH
	MACARONI CHEESE	VEGETABLE CURRY	QUORN ROAST	BBQ QUORN	CHEESE & TOMATO QUICHE
	PASTA	RICE	ROAST POTATOES	RICE	CHIPS
	SEASONAL VEGETABLES	SEASONAL VEGETABLES	SEASONAL VEGETABLES	SEASONAL VEGETABLES	BAKED BEANS OR SWEETCORN
	JACKET POTATO WITH TUNA MAYONNAISE OR CHEESE	JACKET POTATO WITH BACON MAYONNAISE OR CHEESE	**NO JACKET POTATOES TODAY**	JACKET POTATO WITH CHICKEN MAYONNAISE OR CHEESE	JACKET POTATO WITH BAKED BEANS OR CHEESE OR BOTH
	FRUITY JELLY	CHOCOLATE SPONGE & CHOCOLATE SAUCE	FRUIT SALAD & CREAM	BISCUITS	ICE CREAM

WEEK 2	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
09/11/2026 30/11/2026 04/01/2027 25/01/2027	CREAMY CHICKEN PASTA	MINCE BEEF PIE	PORK SAUSAGES & GRAVY	CHICKEN FAJITA	FISH FINGERS
	TOMATO AND CHEESE PASTA	VEGETABLE PIE	VEGETARIAN SAUSAGES & GRAVY	VEGETABLE FAJITA	VEGETABLE FINGERS
	PASTA	MASHED POTATO	ROAST POTATOES	RICE	CHIPS
	SEASONAL VEGETABLES	SEASONAL VEGETABLES	SEASONAL VEGETABLES	SEASONAL VEGETABLES	BAKED BEANS OR SWEETCORN
	JACKET POTATO WITH TUNA MAYONNAISE OR CHEESE	JACKET POTATO WITH BACON MAYONNAISE OR CHEESE	**NO JACKET POTATOES TODAY**	JACKET POTATO WITH CHICKEN MAYONNAISE OR CHEESE	JACKET POTATO WITH BAKED BEANS OR CHEESE OR BOTH
	JELLY & CREAM	PINEAPPLE UPSIDE DOWN CAKE & CUSTARD	CHOCOLATE KRISPIE CAKE	BISCUITS	ICE CREAM

WEEK 3	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
16/11/2026 07/12/2026 11/01/2027 01/02/2027	HAM PASTA	COTTAGE PIE	ROAST CHICKEN AND GRAVY	SAUSAGE ROLL	BREADED FISH
	ROAST VEGETABLE PASTA	VEGETABLE COTTAGE PIE	QUORN FILLET & GRAVY	VEGETABLE ROLL	PEPPER & CHEESE QUICHE
	PASTA	MASHED POTATO	ROAST POTATOES	MASHED POTATO	CHIPS
	SEASONAL VEGETABLES	SEASONAL VEGETABLES	SEASONAL VEGETABLES	SEASONAL VEGETABLES	BAKED BEANS OR PEAS
	JACKET POTATO WITH TUNA MAYONNAISE OR CHEESE	JACKET POTATO WITH CHILLI OR CHEESE	**NO JACKET POTATOES TODAY**	JACKET POTATO WITH COLESLAW OR CHEESE	JACKET POTATO WITH BAKED BEANS OR CHEESE OR BOTH
	WHIP	CHOCOLATE BROWNIE & CREAM	FRUITY FLAPJACK	BISCUITS	ICE CREAM

FRESH FRUIT, SALAD, YOGHURTS AND DAIRY FREE YOGHURTS ARE AVAILABLE DAILY.
GLUTEN FREE, DAIRY FREE, VEGAN CHEESE AND HALAL MEAT ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE AS AN ALTERNATIVE.

Celebrating Success Beyond School

We know that our children achieve amazing things both in and out of school, and we would love to celebrate these successes with our school community. Whether your child has taken part in a sporting event, achieved a music or drama award, completed a challenge, represented a club or team, helped their local community, volunteered, taken part in a litter pick, raised money for charity, received a special certificate, or even written a letter that received a reply, we want to hear about it!

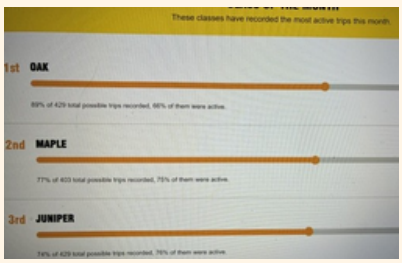
Please send photographs, certificates or a short description of your child's achievement to the school office. We will share these successes in class and display them on our Celebrating Success board near the hall. Over the years, we have been delighted to showcase some truly inspiring accomplishments, but our board is looking a little bare at the moment and we know there is so much to celebrate. Whether your child has won, achieved, helped, volunteered or simply had the confidence to take part, we would love to recognise their efforts and achievements.

Let's fill our board with the wonderful things our children are doing beyond the school gates!

Smoothwall Online Safety Hub

This fortnight's article we recommend from the Safety hub is: Do my kids need screen time rules for school breaks?
School breaks can disrupt normal screen time routines, so while a little extra screen time is often fine, having some clear boundaries can help keep a healthy balance. Rather than focusing only on the amount of time spent on screens, it's important to consider the quality of content children are engaging with. Setting simple expectations and ensuring all carers are aware of your family's rules can help make school breaks more enjoyable and stress-free for everyone.
Simply scan the QR code below or visit the website to access the Hub: https://john-wesley.onlinesafetyhub.uk/parent/articles/do-my-kids-need-screen-time-rules-for-school-breaks

WOW Walking Project Update





A big thank you to all the children who have taken part in active journeys to school this term which has helped reduce the traffic coming to school and so benefitted the environment around the school with fewer car fumes as well as making healthier life style choices. It has been lovely to see the children wearing their September badges in school to show who achieved for that month. We are nearly at the end of another month and the journeys will be tracked for who will achieve their October badge for completing at least 2 active journeys to school each week during this month. So far this month there has been a total of 2,560 active journeys. As a school we have a 44.9% participation rate.
Once again., Oak are in first place this month with 59% of the class recording active journeys. Maple are in second with 57% active journeys and Juniper in third with 56% of active journeys recorded.
As a school, nationally we are 606 / 1322 on the leaderboard. The John Wesley School compared to other local schools Great Chart has 64.9% active journeys and Godinton with 45.0%. Can we do our best and bet them in the November journeys to school?

Newspaper Club have released their first ever newspaper and we were very pleased to read it:

Updates - Interviews - Advice 20th October 2026

THE JOHN WESLEY TIMES



Meet your new John Wesley reporters! We hope to bring you epic school news and interesting sneak peeks into the lives of the students and staff at JWS. Stay tuned for fun information, some shocks and even some surprises every few weeks from the team at the John Wesley Times.

GENERAL UPDATES AT JWS

If you are wanting to know who the house and sports captains are keep on reading .

The Rochester house captains are Renae and Frankie, sports captains are Logan and Abigail . In Canterbury house the sport captains are AJ and Lily and the house captains are Lionel and Lana . The next house is Westminster house . Their sport captains are Ben and Brooklyn, the house captains are Oscar and Ella. The house captains for St Pauls are Daisy and Estella and the sports captains are AJ and Lola. Well done to the captains!

Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL)

We are here to inform you about some Opal updates . Mr Latter is getting money to build a fence around our pond. He is also rebuilding our forest school area. You may have seen Play Rangers around the school. They are not here to tidy up for you they are here to remind you to tidy up. One of our school values is service which means we all must take part in tidying. EVEN IF IT'S NOT YOUR MESS!

By Anna

SCHOOL COUNCIL UPDATE

By Kiara and Isla

Exciting news!

Choir club are going to be singing at the Environment Center. Currently, we are still choosing on which charity to vote for, between RSPCA , Cancer Research and Evelina hospital... so far, with 13 votes, the amazing Evelina hospital takes lead for now. Be back soon for another school council update, bye!

SNEAK PEEK INTO YEAR SIX

BY RENAE /MAISIE/ BELLA

On Friday, we went into Juniper class in mission time and asked them some questions, here are the questions and answers:

How do you feel about Mr Latter as your teacher?

Answer :a child said he's very funny but sometimes is a bit strict but that keeps the class behaving well.

Does your class settle in nicely?

Answer :a TA said that they settle in very nicely and that each child is like 'a pocket of sunshine' when it comes to settling in.

What are you doing in PE?

Answer :a child said dodgeball.

The main subject they are learning is all about WW2, they said they are enjoying it but some parts are quite dark.

MEET THE TEACHER

Every edition we will choose a new member of staff to find out a bit more about! This time it's... Miss MacDonell! Here is a couple of questions that she answered. How is your class? she said they're doing exellent and had really neat handwriting. The second question we asked her was : what are your favourite hobbies?, which she answered : swimming ,walking her dog and running . The last question we asked was : When did she start teaching/ to which she answered 17 years ago!!! Thank you Miss MacDonell!

ADVICE WITH ERIN

It's perfectly normal to feel stressed at the start of the year, just as long as you deal with your stress positively. There are a few ways you can do this. If you're in key stage one, you could ask your teacher if you could go to the safe space in your classroom. If you are in year 3 , you can go to the sensory curcuits. If you're in year 4, 5 or 6, you can go to the unicorn staircase (with a teacher's permission). If you want to get rid of your stress while getting your steps in, you can ask if you could have a walk around for two minutes.



By Harper





By Liandre

TIME FOR A COMIC!

News from the classes...

EYFS – Willow Class & Magnolia Class:

Reception have had a fantastic first term, making new friends, settling into school life and becoming familiar with our new routines. We are so proud of how well the children have settled in and how they have taken everything in their stride!
Over the past couple of weeks in Phonics, we have been recapping all the sounds and tricky words we have learnt throughout the term. The children have been working hard to recognise and produce their sounds using cued articulation, as well as applying their phonics knowledge to support their early reading and writing.
In English, we have been finishing our focus book, The Gingerbread Man. The children have been using their knowledge of the story, alongside the BSL signs we have learnt, to identify and talk about who is in the story, what they are doing and what. They have loved revisiting the familiar characters and events and developing their communication and storytelling skills.
In Maths, we have been exploring different amounts and developing our understanding of more and fewer. The children have been comparing groups of objects, identifying which group has more and which has fewer, and using practical resources to help explain their thinking.
Well done, Reception, for a fantastic first term! We are incredibly proud of how much the children have grown in confidence, independence and enthusiasm for learning. Our next book focus will be I'm Going to Eat That Ant! We can't wait to see what the children discover as we begin our next learning adventure!
Thank you for your continued support, The EYFS Team

Year 1 – Hazel Class & Sycamore Class:

What a term it's been! Week 8 ended with a lovely class reward of watching a film and then a wonderful barn dance disco on Friday! In English, we read a new book 'Be Brave Little Penguin' which is about a little penguin who is afraid of the water. He soon learns to be brave and absolutely loves the ocean after overcoming his fear and diving in. The children have written sentences about how Pip-Pip is feeling at different parts of the story, described the different penguins and designed a rubber ring to help him. They also wrote descriptive sentences about their designs. In Maths we have been learning our number bonds to 10 and then moved on to subtracting numbers within 10 using part-whole models, manipulatives and First, Then, Now stories. In Science we have finished our unit on the five senses and completed a stand alone lesson all about the life cycle of a penguin. This leads us very nicely into next term's unit about animals. In Geography we have looked at the local area of Ashford on a satellite map and located different areas of interest such as the outlet, our school and Victoria park. The children then worked in groups to make their own messy maps. In History we have learned about different Black British athletes who are not only very inspirational, but have also helped the community. This was part of Black History Month and the athletes we learned about were Bukayo Saka, Ian Wright, Katarina Johnson-Thompson and Marcus Rashford. We also studied the amazing life and achievements of Mae Jemison who was the first Black female to go into space. The children were on awe of all their achievements. In RE we have now answered our big question of 'What do Christians believe God is like?' and the children drew some lovely pictures to explain their learning.
We hope you have a lovely, restful half term and will see you for Term 2 on Monday 2nd November.
Thank you for your continued support,
The Year One Team.

Year 2 – Maple Class & Cherry Class:

Year two have had a very busy few weeks. A Troll invaded Maple Classroom, made a huge mess and scared some of the staff. In English, we have had a brilliant time writing a newspaper report all about the incident using the time order words 'first, next, then and finally'. In maths we are well underway with addition and subtraction and are using our number bond knowledge to help us add and subtract larger numbers. In RE we have finished our Creation topic 'Who made the world' and are able to explain the story of creation. In Science we have been learning all about hygiene and are finishing our topic with a quiz. In connected learning during Black History Month we have learnt all about Rosa Parks and Marcus Rashford and the effect they had on changing peoples lives for the better. The children made posters and fact sheets and really enjoyed this topic. In Music we looked at Beethoven and listened to some of his famous classical pieces, the children thought the music was calming and peaceful. On that note, we wish you a calm and peaceful half term. Thank you for all your continued support with reading and homework. We look forward to welcoming the children back in November.
Thank you for your continued support, Year Two team

SRP – Aspen Class & Birch Class:

SRP Birch (Younger): Over the last two weeks, we have been focussing on 'when' words. We have been thinking about the language of 'first', 'next' and 'last'. Last week, we started by sequencing two pictures, using the words first and next to place them in the right order. We then moved onto sequencing three pictures and, finally, we finished the week by sequencing four pictures. The children were able to talk about the events using the language and explaining what happened at each step. This week, we started the week by following instructions to create our very own little pigs. The children had to listen carefully to the when word to know the correct order of the steps. We then used our little pigs to help us order our own instructions, focussing on the when words at the beginning of each step. In Maths, we have been further exploring numbers to 8. Last week, we focussed on the composition of 8 and thought about it as 5 and 3 more. The children used different resources to represent 8 in different ways and secure their understanding of how we make it. This week, we have been thinking about ordering numbers to 8 and counting different amounts to 8. The children have also been practising their number formation of the numbers to 8.

SRP – Aspen Class & Birch Class:

SRP Aspen (Older): Last week, we started our learning by creating peg dolls so that we could have toys that mirrored those from the period of history in our story. The children had to follow two-step instructions to create their own dolls that were in the style of London Guards. The children then used their knowledge of time connectives and imperative verbs to write their own instructions for each step. Later in the week, we moved along the timeline to the 1940s. In the story, the toys experience the Blitz and World War 2. We used a sensory grid to consider what the toys may have seen, heard, smelt, thought and felt. We then used these grids to help us create a plan for our diary entries, which we wrote this week. In Maths, we worked hard to consolidate our knowledge of dividing by 4 last week. The children were able to use both grouping and sharing methods to answer different division questions from the 4- times table. This week, we have started to explore counting in 8s to prepare us for our next step - the 8- times table!

Year 3 – Cedar Class & Hawthorn Class:

Year 3 have moved away from the sea and seals in our English and instead have been focussing on the colours, tastes and smells that make Autumn so uniquely beautiful. We have been using our senses to gather exciting vocabulary and using Language through Colour to change our word order to sound more poetic. This has enabled us to create Autumn poems both as a class and individually.

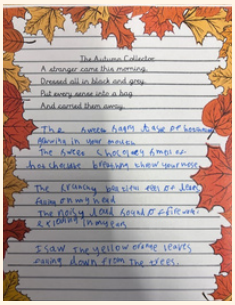
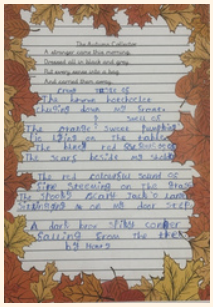
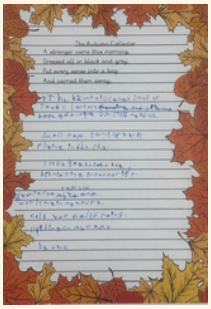
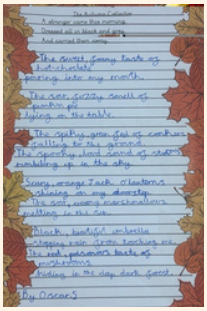
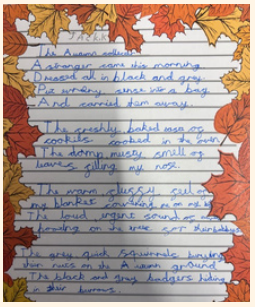
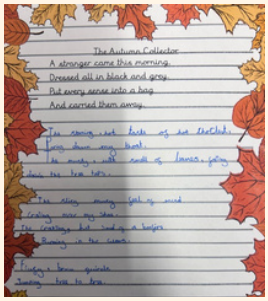
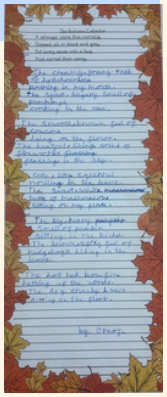
We have stayed amongst the waves with our Art though and after learning different mark making techniques with charcoal and pastels, we have created our own original wave themed pieces of art.

Our Maths has become far more complicated as we have not only had to start setting calculations out in columns but have then found the digits in each column have not been enough to solve the addition and subtraction problems. We have been working very hard to understand and apply the exchanging principle of carry over into the tens and hundreds when we have too much in addition problems. In subtraction we have needed to work in the opposite direction to borrow or exchange with the column on the left so we have enough to solve the column calculation. The staff have been very impressed with how determined and focussed both classes have been in trying to master this complicated process.

The weather is very changeable at the moment so we want to encourage everyone to bring in a coat everyday, or to keep a rain coat in their locker for emergencies. Also the field is getting muddy, so make sure your wellies are always at school if you like to play on the grass.

Ms Berry is overjoyed to be back in class and has been very impressed with all the learning. Mrs Payne is missing Cedar already, but she is looking forward to having Hawthorn for Forest school at the start of Term 2 and then Cedar for the rest of the term.

Thank you for your continued support, Year Three team

Year 4 – Jacaranda Class & Tamarisk Class:

What a busy, hardworking (and long!) term it has been in Year 4! The children have achieved so much, and we are incredibly proud of all their efforts. In English, we are coming to the end of our story Counting on Katherine. The children have learnt about the amazing achievements of Katherine Johnson and are now putting their knowledge to good use by writing non-chronological reports about her life. They have been working hard to include the expanded noun phrases and fronted adverbials we have been learning about. In maths, we are finishing our addition and subtraction topic, focusing on using estimation to help solve calculations and using the inverse operation to check our answers. The children have been working hard to develop their confidence and accuracy. In our wider curriculum, the children have nearly completed their missions, creating their very own biomes in a bottle. They have also been drawing gorillas using Draw with Rob, practising their shading skills by shading leaves, and learning the names of different animals in French. In RE, we explored the parable of the Lost Son and discussed what it means to live and behave like a Christian. In PE, the children have been developing their balancing, jumping and travelling skills. They have particularly enjoyed using the apparatus in the hall and have impressed us with their fantastic jumps into forward rolls, straddle jumps and, for some, even front handsprings! Our trumpet lessons have continued to impress us, too! Having mastered Hot Cross Buns, the children have now moved on to playing Mary Had a Little Lamb. We are so impressed with how much progress they have made and how confidently they are developing their musical skills. We are incredibly proud of everything the children have accomplished this term. They have worked so hard across all areas of the curriculum and thoroughly deserve a restful half term. We hope you all enjoy a well-earned break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back for another busy and exciting term!

Thank you for your continued support, Year 4 Team

Year 5 – Oak Class & Elm Class:

In Year 5 we have been discussing record breaking feats, and in English we have focused on daredevil Phillipe Petit's high wire walk as inspiration for our own suspense writing using a 'DASH?' paragraph. The children have included some great description using expanded noun phrases and fronted adverbials, amongst lots of other figurative writing techniques. In Maths, we have completed our addition and subtraction unit and are now moving on to multiplication and division where we will explore multiples, factors, square, cube and prime numbers! Our missions are developing well, with lots of us having built and in the process of evaluating our freefall landing / safety devices, discussing what went well and what we would change next time. Lots of children have chosen to write motivational speeches about how to become a record breaker, used oil pastels to create artwork of Niagara Falls inspired by Joseph Remond, compared human and physical features of a North American state to where we live in the Southeast, and many other great pieces of work. Year 5 had an excellent time last week creating their own pizzas that they had designed in DT, and we have spent time in school evaluating their final products.

Thank you for your continued support, Year Five Team





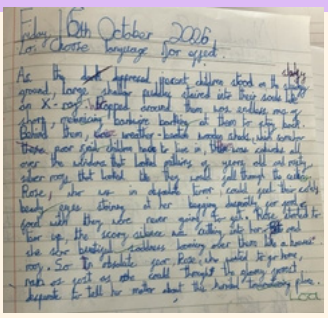


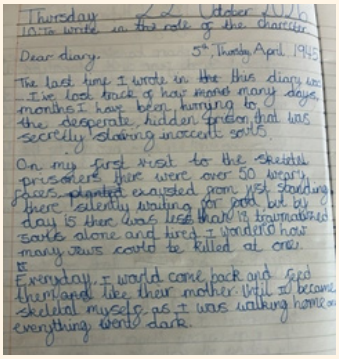
Year 6 – Cypress Class & Juniper Class:

In English, we have been using the book Rose Blanche by Christophe Gallaz which is a story that tells the story of war and the holocaust from a German child's point of view. Children made some excellent predictions about the story using the title and images from the book while also using their knowledge gained from history lessons. They have also practiced using expanded nouns, figurative language, relative clauses, a range of sentence openers and choice of language to create an atmosphere. The completed the unit by writing a diary entry of Rose's experiences based on ideas from the story. In maths we have been learning how to complete long division and practiced solving word multi-step problems. We have also been thinking about when to complete calculations mentally and when a written method is needed. In RE the children have looked at the different ways Christians celebrate God and how they show their appreciation of Him as a creator. They then shared their ideas on the big question 'Creation and Science conflicting or complemenatry' children shared their own beliefs and opinions and used what they had learnt in the unit to answer the question. Children have been completing their missions such as painting pictures of the Blitz inspired by the artwork of Lowery, sharing information about evacuation in Britain during the war, producing PowerPoints on the Battle of Britain and creating a periscope then explaining how it worked.

Thank you for your conitnued support, Year Six Team





Worship & Spirituality Update...

Last week in worship we were looking at resilience. Together we looked at what the word resilience meant and discuss ideas such as keeping going even when we encounter difficulties. Ideas were shared about how having resilience is not always easy, but it makes a huge difference especially if we develop it together. It's also something we can learn to get better at! We can develop resilience in our hearts and minds through practice. It used the Bible story Luke 18: 1 - 5 the parable of the persistent widow. Children shared ideas about how she might have felt having to keep going back to the judge and asking for justice. It linked to the idea that Jesus told this story to encourage his followers to keep trying – if things didn't work out straightaway, they shouldn't give up. The Bible reminds us that it is not unusual to go through hard times but that they help us to grow and give us hope.

This week we have looked at the idea of being kind together, this linked in with our OPAL play and thinking how to be kind the others we play with and also to the school environment and equipment we have to play with. Children shared ideas about when some may have done something unexpectedly kind to them. They also shared ideas about how it feels to be kind of have an act of kindness done to you and how they can help spread kindness to the community. It used the parable told by Jesus in Matthew 25 which talks about helping all those in need regardless of who they are and whether you know them because that is how you serve Jesus himself.

In Picture News worship last week the story was about AI and how Meta had designed a small devise that could hang from a keyring or fit in a pocket, called Muse charm. This devise could be used for people to talk to, ask questions or show them what is going on around them. It is deigned for adults over the age of 18. The big question being talked about was 'Do we need AI wherever we go?' Children discussed ideas about how AI can be helpful but also how it can give false information. It linked to the Christian value of being wise. Children shared ideas about being wise means having knowledge and skills and doing the right things with them. It did not mean having all the knowledge or answers. It linked to the bible story of Solomon asking god for wisdom so he could make the right choices not riches or power. It also linked to the British value of individual liberty as people can choose what technology to use, when and how to use it.

This week the big question was 'Should age decide what we are allowed to do?' it linked to the story of an eleven year old, Bodhana Sivanandan from London who has become the youngest ever player to earn of the woman grandmaster title in chess. Children shared ideas about what young people can be good at, why sometimes people say that young people can not do something because of their age and how young people do have ideas that are important for others to listen to. The Bible teaches people that people of all ages are important and have value and something important to contribute, this was shared linked to the story of Samuel. It linked to the British value of mutual respect and tolerance as we should appreciate people of all ages and value their ideas and abilities.

If you would like to discuss the ideas further then please use the take home sheets with your children.

Mrs Bennett, Worship & Spirituality Leader





Forest School Update...

Mrs Payne will be back teaching Forest School after half term. The class that has already started Forest School last term, will have two more woodland sessions, followed by the class due to take part in Term 2, who will receive four sessions. As a result, all classes will have taken part in four Forest School sessions in the woods by the end of Term 2.

A Woolly Request!
As we continue our outdoor learning activities, we would be very grateful for donations of balls of wool. These can be used for a variety of creative and practical activities, including weaving, den building, natural art and collaborative projects. If you have any spare wool at home that you would be be willing to donate, please send it into school via your child's class teacher. Thank you for your support!

Mrs Payne, Teazle and Mabel

School Council Update

Exciting News! The School Council have organised a visit to the Environment Centre for our School Choir on 3rd December 2026 at 1.15pm.

They will be singing a Christmas medley and leading carols as well as collecting donations for Evelina Children's Hospital, our school charity. Further information will be sent to the choir soon.

Please spread the news and put this date in your diary so you can come and watch our choir sing.

Mrs Nash, School Council Faciliator & JWS School Council

Play Update...





This last week, play times have changed slightly. To ensure all children are safe but appropriately challenged, we have moved much of the loose part resources to the field side of the school. This ensures that we still have our entire play offer available for children but also so they can be seen and supervised by staff.

This has led to some incredible creations on the den building area, some fantastic imaginative play in the small world area and the creation of our very first fast-food drive through in the wheels area. (They are serving grass and woodchips). In addition, we now have the netball court open, where children can play different ball games and use the bouncy hoppers. We are also now able to offer a calm creative zone on the yard playground where we encourage children to go to feel calm or get creative with water colour paints and pastels. All zones are still being developed to encourage the best play that we can. If you are able to offer time, expertise or equipment in making our play better, please don't hesitate to contact us!

We have been very lucky to be able to use our field for a long time over the spring and summer. However, due to the recent wet weather, we are now instructing children to wear wellies or hiking boots on the field when they are playing. This means that their lovely school shoes (and the carpets!) stay dry and clean.

Although we encourage children to have their own pair of wellies, we do also have a whole library of wellies of varying sizes that we are able to give to children should they not have a pair. This is also the case for coats - we have a good selection of coats but we still encourage you to bring your own if you are able. Donations of both always accepted.

As the weather turns wintery, we would like to remind you that outdoor play remains a priority for our school. This means that, unless there is very severe rain or similar weather, we are likely to be outside! Please consider this when providing clothes for your children throughout the winter. Most importantly, please label your child's clothes! There are over 400 children in our school and reuniting a lost glove with an owner is much easier if they are labelled!

Have a playful half term

Mr Latter, Play Leader

OPAL Donations Needed!

To continue developing exciting play opportunities for our children, we are looking for donations of woodchip, logs, branches, PVC piping for water play, and sit-on wheeled toys. The children particularly enjoy riding wheeled toys around the playground and down the hills!

If you have any suitable items to donate, please bring them to the school office or speak to Mr Latter or Mrs Johnson.

Thank you for your support.





Composer of the Term

Thls Term 2, our featured composer is Anna Meredith, a contemporary Scottish composer, musician and producer. Unlike many of the composers we have explored in the past, Anna's music blends classical, electronic, pop and rock influences to create pieces that are energetic, imaginative and often full of surprises!

One of her most famous works for young musicians, Connect It, uses clapping, stamping and body percussion to create music, showing that you don't need a room full of instruments to put on a fantastic performance.

We thought it would be inspiring for the children to learn about a living female composer who is pushing the boundaries of what classical music can be. Anna's work demonstrates that composing is not just something people did hundreds of years ago; it is a vibrant and evolving art form today. Her music certainly challenges expectations and encourages creative thinking!

If you'd like to hear some of Anna's music at home, take a look at these examples:

- Connect It – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SLtBkqRsGLY
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6_9pQCfbZSQ
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_BcdnUZlv1M

We wonder whether some of Anna's inventive ideas might even inspire a few musical missions of our own!

FRIENDS Update...

A little hello from your FRIENDS - What a fantastic fortnight we've had!

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our Barn Dance Disco and Non-Uniform Day on Friday 23rd October. Whether you donated towards the Christmas Fair, purchased disco tickets or refreshments, volunteered your time to help set up or pack away, or simply came along and joined in the fun, we are incredibly grateful for your support.

A special thank you goes to Mr Broughton for once again providing the music and helping to make the disco such an enjoyable event for all the children.

As we begin to look ahead to the festive season, we'd also like to thank everyone who donated items for our Christmas Fair. Your generosity makes a huge difference and helps us create a wonderful event for our school community.

Don't forget that tickets for our Autumn Trail are available via the FRIENDS page on the school website. We hope lots of families will take part over the half-term break and enjoy hunting for our character scarecrows around the village. Happy scarecrow spotting, and good luck finding them all!

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Every event you attend, ticket you buy and hour you volunteer helps us create memorable experiences for the children at John Wesley. We can't wait to share more exciting events with you soon! You will find all our upcoming events, links to buy tickets for these events and much more information on our page on the school website site: https://www.john-wesley.org.uk/FRIENDS-PTA/

Thank you for your continued support,

Sylvia and the FRIENDS team





NHS
Kent and Medway
Mental Health
NHS Trust

Parent Workshop

Me & My Child: Understanding Resilience

08/10/2026 10:30am —12:30pm

Me & My Child: Understanding Resilience | Join meeting in Teams | Microsoft Teams

Understanding Your Child's Behaviour

12/10/2026 10:30am —12:30pm

Understanding Your Child's Behaviour | Join meeting in Teams | Microsoft Teams

Supporting Your Child with Worries & Fears

18/11/2026 12:30pm —14:30pm

Supporting Your Child with Worries & Fears | Join meeting in Teams | Microsoft Teams

Me & My Child: Understanding Resilience

30/11/2026 12:30pm —14:30pm

Me & My Child: Understanding Resilience | Join meeting in Teams | Microsoft Teams

Understanding Neurodiversity

07/12/2026 12:30pm —14:30pm

Understanding Neurodiversity (Primary) | Join meeting in Teams | Microsoft Teams

Emotional Wellbeing team Kent
Emotional Support team Medway

Please call for more information 0300 300 1955

kae Family Learning
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Online Courses November 2026

Course Code	Course Title	Start	End	Day	Start Time	End Time
155536	Strategies to Support your Autistic Child Webinar	03/11/26	03/11/26	Tuesday	19:00	20:00
155893	Supporting your Child with Language (ESOL)	03/11/26	24/11/26	Tuesday	10:30	12:30
155898	Understanding your Teenager	09/11/26	30/11/26	Monday	19:00	21:00
154967	Supporting Your Teenager with their Mental Health	10/11/26	10/11/26	Tuesday	19:00	21:00
155531	Strategies To Support your Teen's Positive Friendships Webinar	11/11/26	11/11/26	Wednesday	19:00	20:00
155755	Self-Harm Awareness Webinar	11/11/26	11/11/26	Wednesday	19:00	20:00
155896	Family First Aid	11/11/26	11/11/26	Wednesday	10:00	12:00
155897	Strategies to Support your Child with English (7-11 years) - Webinar	20/11/26	20/11/26	Friday	11:00	12:00
155905	Fathers Matter	25/11/26	25/11/26	Wednesday	19:00	21:00
155894	Calm together - Emotional Regulation You and Your Child	25/11/26	25/11/26	Wednesday	12:30	14:30
155900	Self-Harm Awareness Webinar	26/11/26	26/11/26	Thursday	19:00	20:00
155903	Strategies to Support your Autistic Child Webinar	26/11/26	26/11/26	Thursday	19:00	20:00

To help us provide the best possible experience for you, please let us know if you or your child have any disabilities or particular support needs.

To book your place on one of these FREE courses, scan the QR code or go to www.kentadulteducation.co.uk

and enter the course code into the search box.

For further information call 03000 41 22 22

kentadulteducation.co.uk

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Kent Adult Education is part of Community Learning and Skills

kae Family Learning
kent adult education

Online Courses December 2026

Course Code	Course Title	Start	End	Day	Start Time	End Time
ONL/155895/R/PF	Supporting your child with Phonics	03/12/26	03/12/26	Thursday	12:30	14:30
ONL/155899/R/PF	Strategies to Support Your Child with Maths (7-11 yrs) - Webinar	09/12/26	09/12/26	Wednesday	11:00	12:00
ONL/155902/R/PF	Strategies to Support Your ADHD Child - Webinar	07/12/26	07/12/26	Monday	19:00	20:00
ONL/155989/R/PF	Family First Aid	08/12/26	08/12/26	Tuesday	10:00	12:00
ONL/155806/R/PF	Supporting Your Teenager with their Mental Health	01/12/26	01/12/26	Tuesday	12:45	14:45
ONL/155901/R/PF	Supporting Your Child's Anxiety	09/12/26	09/12/26	Wednesday	10:00	12:00
ONL/155904/R/PF	Navigating the Perimenopause & Menopause Workshop	09/12/26	09/12/26	Wednesday	19:00	21:00
ONL/155907/R/PF	Supporting your Neuro-Diverse Child to eat Healthily	17/12/26	17/12/26	Thursday	09:30	11:30

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Uniform Reminder...

At The John Wesley CEM Primary School, our school uniform helps to create a strong sense of belonging and pride in our school community. We are incredibly proud of how smart our pupils look in our uniform and would like to thank families for their continued support in maintaining our uniform standards.

As a reminder, children should wear the correct school uniform each day, including appropriate school shoes and a waterproof coat. Full details can be found in our School Uniform page or Policy on the school website: https://www.john-wesley.org.uk/Parents/School-Uniform/

Please note that leggings are part of our PE kit and should only be worn on PE days. On non-PE days, children should wear grey trousers, shorts, skirts or pinafores in line with our uniform policy.

With the wetter and muddier weather now upon us, we also ask that children bring: A named pair of wellington boots, waterproof trousers and a waterproof coat. These items are essential for playtimes, OPAL activities, Forest School and outdoor learning, ensuring children can continue to enjoy being outside whatever the weather.

We understand that children grow quickly and uniform can be expensive. If your child requires any uniform items, coats or wellies, please do speak to our friendly Office Team. We have a range of pre-loved uniform avalaible. We also have a Welly Library and Coat Library available to support families. Whilst children are welcome to borrow items from the school library, it is always easier if they have their own named boots and waterproofs available each day so please do pop into the Office if you need to to see what we have.

Please ensure that all uniform, PE kit, coats, waterproofs, wellies, lunch boxes and water bottles are clearly named. Each year we accumulate a significant amount of lost property, and naming items helps us return them quickly to their owners.

Thank you for helping us ensure that all children are dressed appropriately, safely and comfortably for both learning and outdoor play.

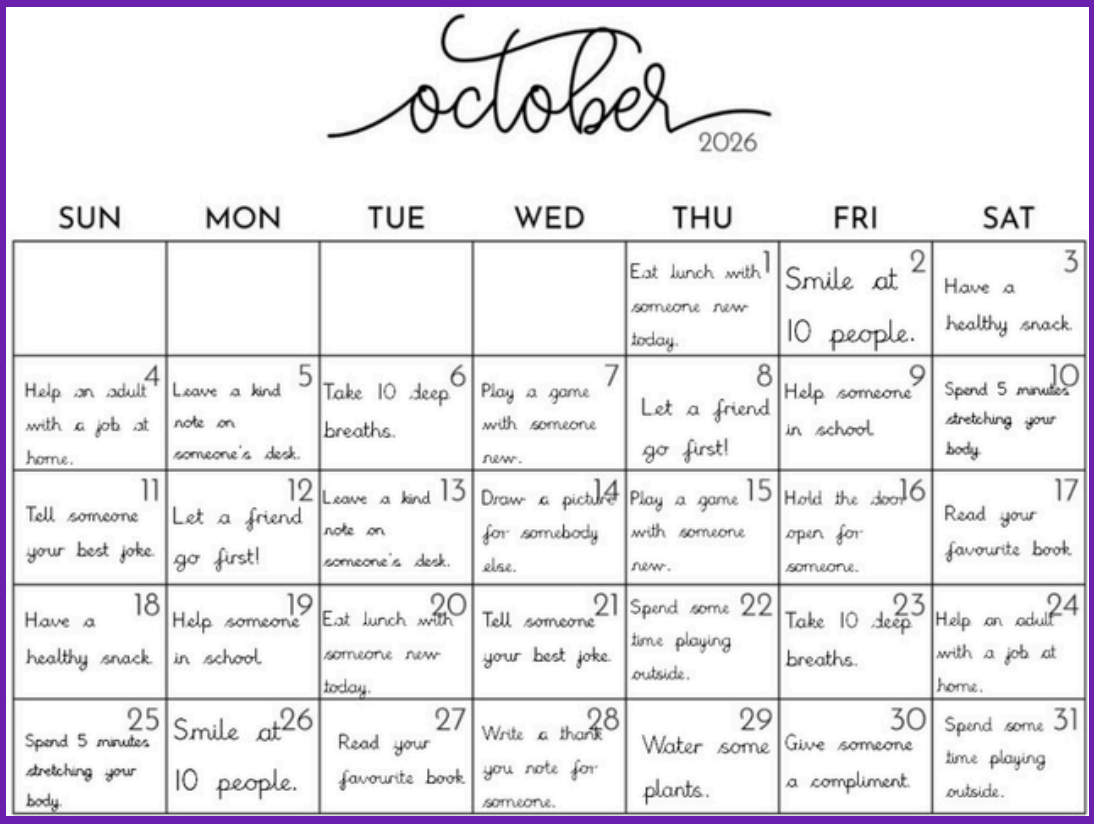
Dates for your Calendar – Term 1 & 2

We know how helpful it is to plan ahead, so we've mapped out as much of the school calendar for 2026- 2027 as possible in advance. This was sent to you on 28th August 2026. If you have not received, please let Mrs Johnson know.
That said, schools are busy places and sometimes additional events or opportunities come up during the year. Please do check the calendar regularly for any updates or new additions. We will endeavour to give you as much notice as possible.
These dates can all be found on the school calendar on the school website: https://www.john-wesley.org.uk/Diary/ Thank you for your continued support!

Term 2 2026		
Monday 02 November 2026		Start of Term 2
Tuesday 03 November 2026	09:00 – 11:30	EYFS Open Morning 1
Thursday 05 November 2026		Guy Fawkes School Flu Jabs all day
Friday 06 November 2026	14:00	Jacaranda Class Celebration Worship – Jacaranda Parents welcome
Sunday 08 November 2026		Diwali Remembrance Sunday
Wednesday 11 November 2026	10:45 15:30 – 18:00	KS2 Remembrance Worship/ 2 mins silence @ Hall EYFS/KS1 Class Worship & Silence in classroom Parent Teacher Consultations
Thursday 12 November 2026	09:00 – 11:30 17:00 – 19:30	EYFS Open Morning 2 Parent Teacher Consultations
Friday 13 November 2026		Children in Need Non-Uniform & Fundraising Day
Week 3: Maths Week UK; Anti-Bullying Week; Road Safety Week		
Monday 16 November 2026	13:00 – 14:30	Odd Sock Day EYFS Open Afternoon 3
Friday 20 November 2026	14:00	Number Non-Uniform Day/World Children's day Cedar Class Celebration Worship – Cedar Parents welcome
Tuesday 24 November 2026		Year 5 Anglo-Saxons Living History @ Olive Branch/Hall
Wednesday 25 November 2026	09:00 – 11:30	EYFS Open Morning 4
Friday 27 November 2026		FRIENDS Non-Uniform Day in exchange for items needed - See poster nearer the time.
Tuesday 01 December 2026	1:00 – 14:30	EYFS Open Afternoon 5
Thursday 03 December 2026		Make a Gift Day
Friday 04 December 2026	14:00	Cherry Class Celebration Worship- Cherry Parents welcome
Saturday 05 December 2026	11:00 -14:00	FRIENDs Christmas Fair/The sound of Christmas –SAVE DATE
Week 6: Last Week of Staff Led Clubs		
Monday 07 December 2026	13:30	Letter Writing Day EYFS Nativity Dress Rehearsal to school
Tuesday 08 December 2026	09:00 & 14:00 10:30	EYFS Nativity Performance to parents Year 1 Nativity Dress Rehearsal to school
Wednesday 09 December 2026	09:00 & 14:00 10:30	Year 1 Nativity Performance to parents Year 2 Nativity Dress Rehearsal to school
Thursday 10 December 2026	09:00 & 14:00	Year 2 Nativity Performance to parents
Friday 11 December 2026	08:45 13:00 – 14:00	Possibly Year 4 Trumpets & Other Musicians Worship? BIG PLAY

Monday 14 December 2026	10:30	House Worship
Wednesday 16 December 2026	11:30-13:00	Festive Non-Uniform School Christmas Lunch
Thursday 17 December 2026	13:30 – 15:00	Winning House Activity
Friday 18 December 2026	08:45	Christmas Giving Tree ad Christmas Carol Service @Playground– All Pare FRIENDS selling hot drinks before service & End of Term 2 at 14:30

Kindness Calendar...



Healthy Snacks & Water Bottles...

We are committed to promoting healthy habits and supporting children to stay focused and ready to learn throughout the day.

Children in EYFS and Key Stage 1 are provided with a free piece of fruit or vegetable each day for their morning snack. If children in any year group wish to bring an additional snack for breaktime, we kindly ask that this is fruit only. Please do not send crisps, sweets, chocolate, cereal bars or other packaged snacks for playtime.

All children should bring a named water bottle to school every day, filled with water only. Water bottles can be refilled throughout the day, helping children to stay hydrated and ready for learning. Please ensure bottles are clearly labelled with your child's name so they can be easily returned if misplaced.

Thank you for supporting our healthy school approach and helping us encourage positive habits for all children.