

ST JOHN THE DIVINE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

WARHAM STREET • LONDON • SE5 0SX • Tel: 0207 735 4898

Head Teacher: Mrs. C. Warland Deputy Head Teacher: Mr. Glackin-McColgan

Chair of Governors: Peter Truesdale • Parish Priest: Fr. Mark Williams

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Friday 1st May 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have all enjoyed the warmer weather this week and, to take full advantage of this our **Chief Gardeners** set to work in the kitchen garden, planting with Gardener Jason. They planted out sweetcorn, onions, garlic, cauliflowers, kale and pumpkins to grow alongside the peas and potatoes already in the ground. Now they have to ensure that they take their responsibilities seriously and remember to water the plants on a regular basis; here's hoping that they do and that we enjoy a bountiful harvest later in the year!

Joe, the Choir Master, joined us in school recently to invite children who are not yet members, to join our **choir**. Many children expressed an interest, please see below for the steps to take if your child is interested in joining:

The Children's Choirs at St John the Divine, Kennington are open to boys and girls aged 6+. Choristers receive free weekly training in singing and music theory, with opportunities to perform in churches and cathedrals across the UK, including an annual residential at St John's College, Cambridge.

No prior experience is needed, and all are welcome to join our supportive and fun environment.

The Boys' Choir rehearses on Tuesdays at 4-5:15pm, and the Girls' Choir on Wednesdays at 4-5:15pm, at St John the Divine Community Centre, 21 Frederick Crescent. For more information, contact Music Coordinator Anna Cooper at music@sjdk.org or 07518 754672.

Below is a summary of the learning that has taken place across the school this week.

Early Years

This week, we have continued learning about minibests, focusing specifically on slugs and snails and the differences between them through the story 'Norman the Slug with the Silly Shell'. The children had fun retelling the story using the Talk for Writing method in small groups, and they also explored colour mixing to design their own unique shells. In RE, we are still focusing on what is special to us, describing objects and people that are special. This is helping the children to develop their communication and language skills.

Year One

This week in Year One, the children have had a great week of learning and have been working hard across all areas. In Maths, we have been counting in groups of 2, 5 and 10, using repeated addition to help us understand the early concept of multiplication. In English, the children have been learning about story settings and how to describe a character, using interesting words to bring their ideas to life. In Science, we have been exploring the different parts of a plant and learning about what each part does, such as how roots, stems and leaves help a plant grow and survive. In RE, we have been learning about what is inside a Synagogue, and why these features are important to the Jewish community. And finally, during our Connected Curriculum lessons, the children have been learning about the flags of the countries that make up the United Kingdom, recognising and discussing their differences.

Year Two

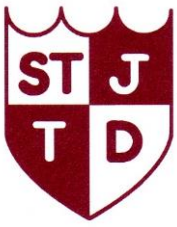
The children in Year Two have been having a very creative week. After researching our heroine, Florence Nightingale last week, the class have been writing their own stories with strong female characters. We have been carrying on with our Fractions unit in Maths and the class has been discovering that the bigger the denominator the smaller the part of a whole will be! In science have looked at George de Mestral's invention of velcro; how the materials were chosen by the inventor and how it has so many uses in our day to day life

Year Three

Year Three have had a positive and productive week of learning. In Maths, we explored unit and non-unit fractions, which has been challenging but the children worked hard and made good progress. In Science, we have learned about forces and the power of friction. We also delved deeper into our topic of Ancient Greece, and in Religious Education we compared Hindu deities. Well done, Year Three, for your continued effort!

Year Four-Five





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This week, Year Four and Five pupils have been learning about the transatlantic slave trade and have been writing a non-chronological report based on their research and class discussions. The children explored the key features of this type of writing, including the use of headings and subheadings, formal language, factual information, and organised paragraphs. The children worked hard to present their information clearly and thoughtfully, using topic-specific vocabulary and interesting facts to engage the reader.

Year Six

Another superb week from Year Six. Their effort and focus has been commendable! In Reading, they have been focusing on understanding key words in questions that indicate how to answer and practising those key skills. In Maths, they have shown great skill in arithmetic and also understanding the key words and steps to be taken in reasoning and problem solving questions. Keep up the good work!

Head Teacher awards were presented to the following children in this week's celebration assembly.

EYFS	Alda for having a great week, being focused on her learning and participating actively. Karim for beginning to use full sentences to express himself.
Year One	Jonathan for making links, for noticing that a Synagogue and a church are both meeting places for different religions. Aaleyah for showing the value of Gentleness when sharing resources with her peers.
Year Two	Hannah for showing the class her skills using a skipping rope in PE Isabella for working really hard on fractions, quartering and halving shapes
Year Three	Glory for showing great enthusiasm in all lessons and taking the time to understand others, demonstrating excellent patience. Andres for showing great improvement in his reading and demonstrating commitment by staying attentive and focused in lessons.
Year Four & Year Five	Valentino for demonstrating great participation this week, sharing thoughtful ideas and showing a positive attitude towards learning while exploring our class text Freedom (1783). Abdullah for active engagement in learning, demonstrating good effort in researching, organising notes and contributing ideas when planning his writing.
Year Six	Amarey for his wonderful efforts in class. He is staying focussed for longer and persevering with tasks so that he can achieve the best possible for himself. Adriel for being a considerate and supportive classmate. She is always happy to offer help to those who ask and demonstrates patience and kindness in her explanations.

The house point totals for this week are:

 GARRISON	26	 AUGUSTINE	21
 FRANKLIN	28	 DICKENS	25

On a final note, please be reminded that this coming Monday 4th May is a Bank Holiday and school will not be open. We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 5th May 2026.

Kind regards

Mrs Warland
Head Teacher

