St. John the Baptist
Catholic Primary School

We will prepare the way by loving, living and learning with the Lord

Friday 9th October 2026



This week has provided a meaningful opportunity for our school community to reflect upon the life and legacy of St Francis of Assisi. All classes have engaged in carefully designed activities that celebrate his recent feast day, allowing our pupils to connect with his remarkable witness and spiritual significance.

The timing of these celebrations is particularly poignant, as we find ourselves within the Year of St Francis, a designation established by Pope Francis to mark the 800th anniversary of the saint's death. Whilst eight centuries have passed since his passing, the fundamental principles that guided St Francis remain profoundly relevant to our contemporary world. His unwavering commitment to peace, compassion, and stewardship of creation speak directly to the challenges we face today.

In an era characterised by division and conflict, St Francis's message of reconciliation and peaceful resolution offers invaluable guidance. Furthermore, his deep reverence for the natural world and his call to care for our planet resonate with increasing urgency as we confront environmental challenges. His teachings remind us that we share a collective responsibility to protect and nurture the Earth for future generations.

Through our celebrations this week, we have sought to instil within our pupils an appreciation of these enduring values. By studying St Francis, we encourage them to consider how his example might inform their own actions and choices as they grow and develop.

Reflection

Twenty Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

In this Sunday's gospel, Jesus tells us another parable to try and explain what the kingdom of heaven is like.

The king's son is getting married. He invites lots of people to the party, but when the day comes and the king sends out his servants to fetch the people they do not come. He tries again, but the people just aren't interested in coming.

The king sends out his servants to stand in the middle of the street and invite everyone they can find to the wedding. So they do, and the wedding hall is filled with guests. They all take part in the big feast.

The king in Jesus' story represents God and the wedding is the kingdom of heaven. We are all invited by God to enter into the kingdom of heaven. It is a place where everyone is welcome. But we have to be ready to go.

We can listen to God's word and try to follow what God asks us to do in our lives.

By answering God's invitation and being kind and generous, welcoming and fair, by loving our neighbour, we can help to reflect God's kingdom here on earth. We will help other people to see that we care for everyone, no matter who they are or where they come from, and the world will become a better, fairer place for all people to live.

Our Virtues

Compassionate and Loving



Catholic Social Teaching

Family and Community

The person is not only sacred but is a social being in relationship with other people. How we organise our societies in economics, politics, law and policy directly affects our capacity to build community. Marriage, family life and relationships are the central social institutions that must be supported and strengthened. All people have a right and a duty to participate in society, seeking the common good and well-being of all.

Our Pope's Prayer Intention

October - For mental health ministry

Let us pray that the mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses.



Feast of St. Francis

Early Years



Year 2

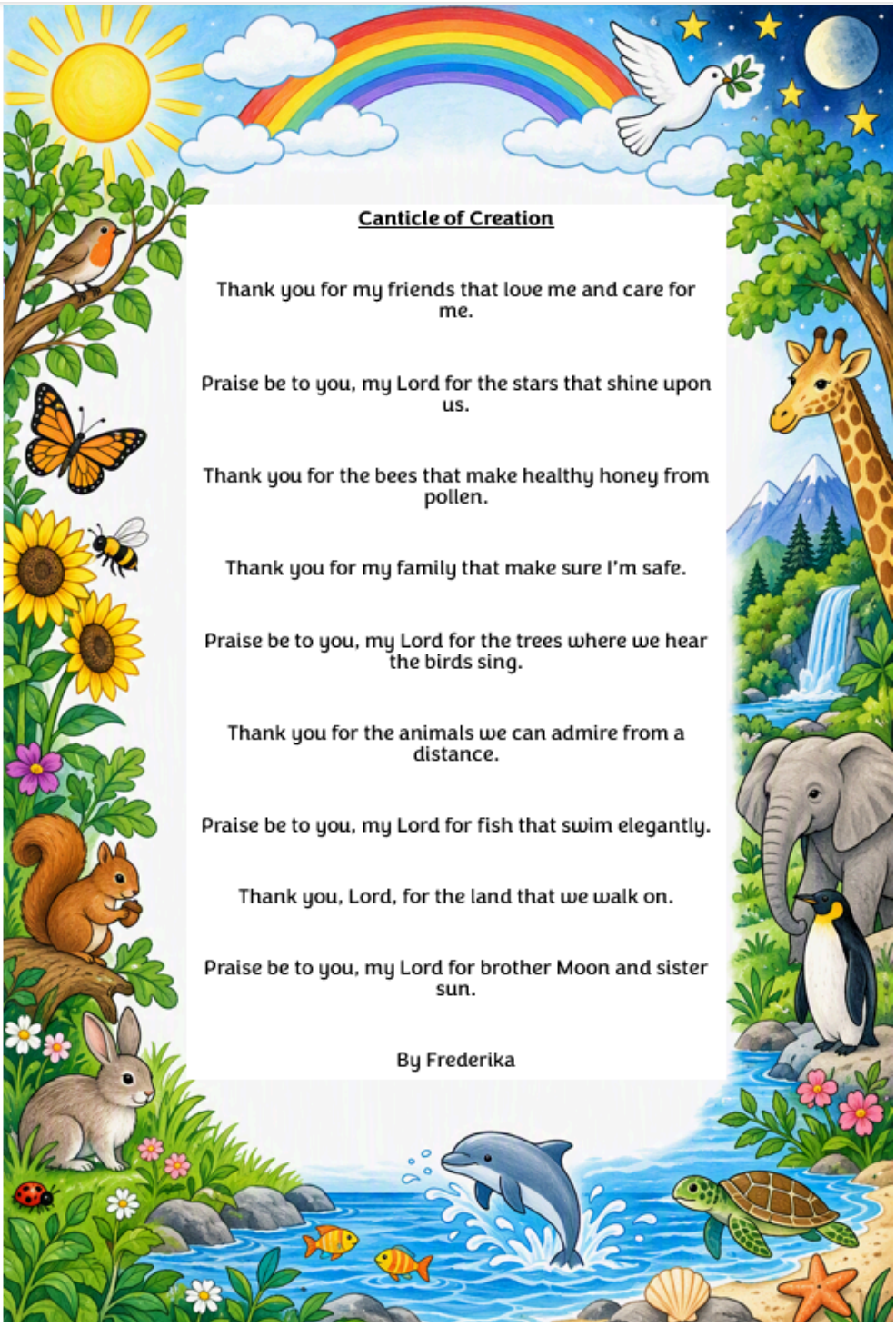


Early years chose something in God's world they would look after just like St Francis.

Year 2 children worked collaboratively in groups, asking one another questions to help recall and reinforce the key events in St Francis' life. They demonstrated excellent teamwork and communication skills while sharing their knowledge and showed a growing understanding of St Francis' love for God's creation and his example of kindness, humility, and care for others.

Feast of St. Francis

Year 3



Canticle of Creation

Thank you for my friends that love me and care for me.

Praise be to you, my Lord for the stars that shine upon us.

Thank you for the bees that make healthy honey from pollen.

Thank you for my family that make sure I'm safe.

Praise be to you, my Lord for the trees where we hear the birds sing.

Thank you for the animals we can admire from a distance.

Praise be to you, my Lord for fish that swim elegantly.

Thank you, Lord, for the land that we walk on.

Praise be to you, my Lord for brother Moon and sister sun.

By Frederika

In the style of St Francis' Canticle, Year 3 wrote their own Canticles of Creation.

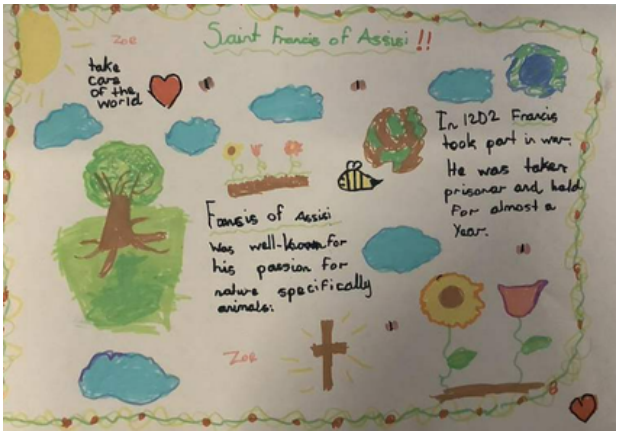
Feast of St. Francis

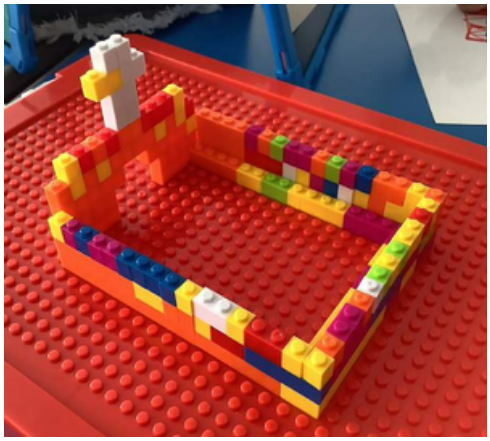
Year 4













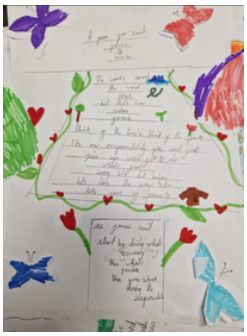
Year 4 have been celebrating St. Francis this week. We listened to the story of St. Francis' life and spent time reflecting on how his actions served others. We created chirches to represent him rebuilding the church in his villiage and made pictures showing the different elements of nature he cared for.

Feast of St Francis

Year 5

Year Five wrote some beautiful prayers to St Francis.







Year 6





Year Six worked together to make a giant collage of the image of St Francis of Assisi. His halo is surrounded by many drawing of the animals that live on our beautiful Earth.

Years 3 & 4

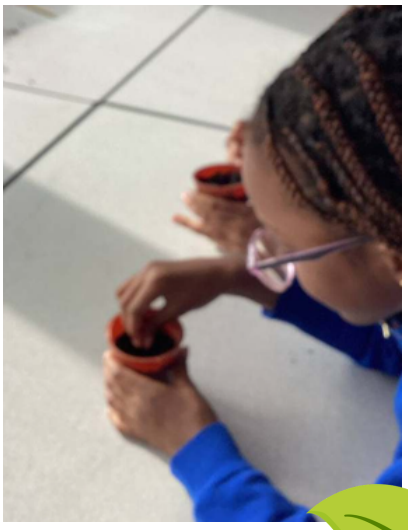
Year 3

Year 3 have been looking at differnt materials that can be recycled to help limit wasting the Earth's resources.



Year 4





This week Year 4 have been working hard! After creating some instructions on how to plant seeds we used our gifts from 'The Secret Gardener' to put them to the test.

Awards

Star of the Week

Our Star of the Week for Early Years and Key Stage One is Ellie- Rose T



Our Star of the Week for Key Stage Two is Ilayda A- F







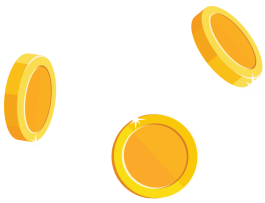
Mission Awards



Emerald B	For having a kind heart
Nathaniel O	For having a kind heart
Evie- May L	For having a kind heart
Dexter C	For having a thirst for knowledge
Ivan W	For having a kind heart
Anna K- D	For being a Christ centred pilgrim of hope.

Star Readers





Gracie- Leigh A	Maura M
Jasper B	Noah W
Luca M	Jax R
Mia D	Yaseer A-S

Celebrations

Birthdays





Ava D - Year 5

Lennon K - Year 3

We wish you a very happy birthday from everyone at St. John's!

Ready to Learn

Our most punctual classes, this week, who were in everyday, on time and ready to learn are...

Years 6,4,R & N



Attendance

The class with the highest attendance this week is...

Year 6

99.1%



Park and Stride



We are promoting the carpark at the Sports and Social club on Mull Croft as alternative parking away from school and are displaying railing banners showing the location of the alternative parking and suggested routes. Leaflets have been handed out to parents/ carers this week and more are available in school if needed. Thank you to those who have already shared that they are supporting this initiative as away of improving safety for our children.

Christmas Card Competition

CHRISTMAS ARTWORK COMPETITION 2026

(Divine Mercy Partnership)

Divine Mercy Partnership of churches: St. Anne's, St. John the Baptist's and St. Anthony's invites all respective primary school children from year 4, 5 and 6 to an artwork competition where there are 2 separate prizes to be won!

Divine Mercy Partnership Christmas Card Competition (Open to children from Divine Mercy Partnership Schools)

This winner will have their artwork printed as the front cover of our 2026 fundraiser Christmas Card! These will be printed and sold through our piety stalls.

The winner will go home with a fantastic art kit worth £50!

Cluster Christmas Services Card Competition (Open to Children from all schools in the cluster)

This winner will have their artwork printed as the front cover of the joint Christmas Services card for our local cluster of churches (St Annes (Chelmsley Wood), St Anthony's (Kingshurst), St John the Baptist (Smith's Wood), Mother of God and Guardian Angels (Shard End), Our Lady's (Kitt's Green), Sacred Heart (Coleshill). This card will inform people of all the Mass times, and additional activities such as Christmas Carol services that will be happening across the parishes in the cluster during Advent and Christmastide. 5000 of these will be printed and distributed across all the parishes and schools in our cluster.

The winner will go home with a fantastic art kit worth £50!

Criteria for teachers

- All artwork must span, as much as possible, a full A4 sheet of paper, in order that it can be reproduced onto an A5 card, full bleed.
- The image must be of a religious nature, such as the Nativity scene.
- First name and initial of surname need to go on the back of the artwork. But do not put class names nor school names on the back of the artwork, so as to preserve some level of anonymity during the judging.
- The judging panel will be formed of the Christmas Bazar leadership team, who will not know which school the entry has come from.





- We will contact the school when the winner has been chosen.
- The first name and initial of surname of the winners will be announced on the Divine Mercy Partnership newsletter and may be included in other cluster newsletters.

Please encourage the children to use bold colours so that the image will appear clearly when reproduced to print. Colouring pencils generally produce very feint lines and do not reproduce as well. The clearer, the better.

Note: Submissions from schools within the Divine Mercy Partnership will automatically be entered into both competitions, meaning there is an opportunity to win two prizes. It also means that these schools may receive communication from both the parish directly, and the cluster parishes lead. The other schools within the cluster will only have the opportunity to win one prize.

SUBMISSIONS

All entries must be received at St. Anne's RC Church by Friday 30th October 2026. Please address your envelopes with the entries to:
Mission & Formation Coordinator, St. Anne's RC Church, 281 Bosworth Drive, Chelmsley Wood, B37 5DP.

Please enclose a cover sheet with the following information:

- Name of the school
- Name of each child who has made a submission
- Class they are in
- Who in the school to contact if one of the children on the list wins.

The coordinator of the competition is the Mission and Formation Coordinator of the Divine Mercy Partnership who can answer schools' questions on:
mf.divinemercypartnership@rcaob.org.uk

We hope you decide to take part and look forward to the entries!

Breaktime Snacks

Please ensure that, if you choose to send your child with a morning breaktime snack, it is healthy, and inline with our Healthy Eating Policy.

We have seen a large increase in children bringing packets of crisps and chocolate bars for their snack.

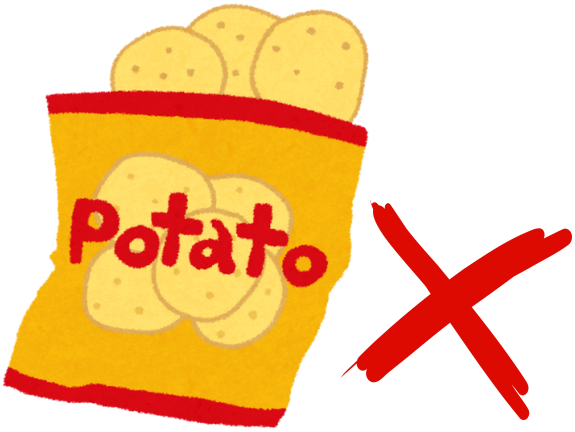
This is not permitted.

Morning snacks should ideally be fresh fruit, or dried fruit or fruit based bars. Any children with crisps or chocolate will be asked to return the item to their bag to take home.

Please be reminded that we offer bagels and free fresh fruit to our children, each day, so there are always alternatives.

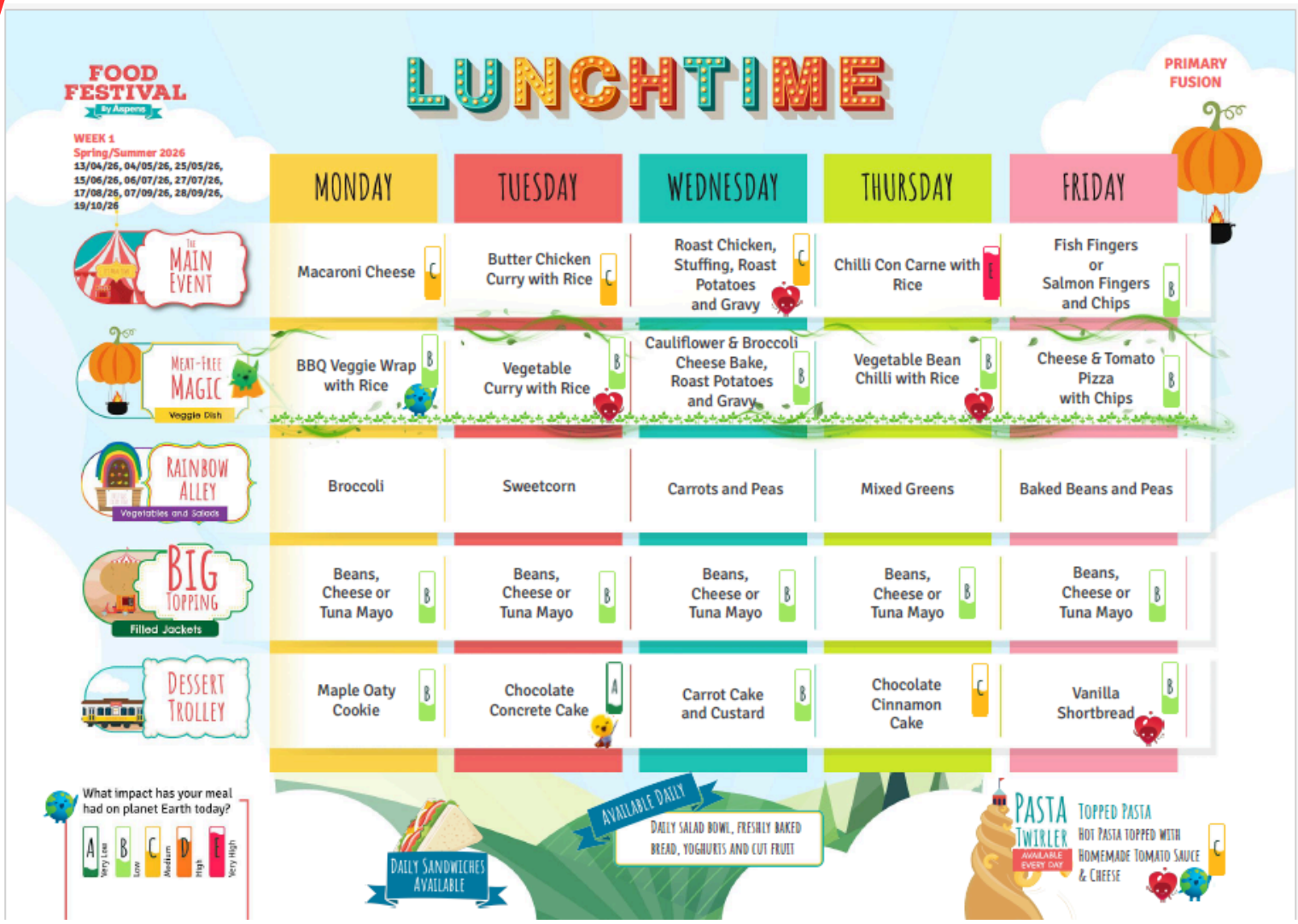
Another problem which has resulted in the increase in unhealthy snacks, is an increase in litter on our school site. Where possible, we ask that snack choices avoid items that are contained in plastic bags or wrappers.

Thank you for your support in this matter.





Lunch Menu


FOOD FESTIVAL
By Aspens
LUNCHTIME
PRIMARY FUSION
WEEK 1
Spring/Summer 2026
13/04/26, 04/05/26, 25/05/26, 15/06/26, 06/07/26, 27/07/26, 17/08/26, 07/09/26, 28/09/26, 19/10/26
MONDAY
TUESDAY
WEDNESDAY
THURSDAY
FRIDAY
THE MAIN EVENT
Macaroni Cheese C
Butter Chicken Curry with Rice C
Roast Chicken, Stuffing, Roast Potatoes and Gravy C
Chilli Con Carne with Rice E
Fish Fingers or Salmon Fingers and Chips B
MEAT-FREE MAGIC
Veggie Dish
BBQ Veggie Wrap with Rice B
Vegetable Curry with Rice B
Cauliflower & Broccoli Cheese Bake, Roast Potatoes and Gravy B
Vegetable Bean Chilli with Rice B
Cheese & Tomato Pizza with Chips B
RAINBOW ALLEY
Vegetables and Salads
Broccoli
Sweetcorn
Carrots and Peas
Mixed Greens
Baked Beans and Peas
BIG TOPPING
Filled Jackets
Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo B
Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo B
Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo B
Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo B
Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo B
DESSERT TROLLEY
Maple Oaty Cookie B
Chocolate Concrete Cake A
Carrot Cake and Custard B
Chocolate Cinnamon Cake C
Vanilla Shortbread B
What impact has your meal had on planet Earth today?
A Very Low
B Low
C Medium
D High
E Very High
DAILY SANDWICHES AVAILABLE
AVAILABLE DAILY
DAILY SALAD BOWL, FRESHLY BAKED BREAD, YOGHURTS AND CUT FRUIT
PASTA TWIRLER
AVAILABLE EVERY DAY
TOPPED PASTA
HOT PASTA TOPPED WITH HOMEMADE TOMATO SAUCE & CHEESE C

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST SCHOOL

www.sjb.solihull.sch.uk





SEPTEMBER 2026 NURSERY PLACES AVAILABLE

WHERE LEARNING COMES TO LIFE!

- We offer a high quality education for all children.
- We provide a nurturing, safe and vibrant learning environment.
- Our children feel loved, safe and happy.
- We provide fun, hands-on learning indoors and outdoors.
- We provide rich, meaningful first hand experiences in which children are encouraged to be curious, creative and active learners.

We have a newly developed outdoor provision. Please arrange to come and have a look at our amazing provision.

Scan the QR code to see our wonderful provision.

For more details or to arrange a visit contact the school office on 0121 770 1892 or email office@sjb.solihull.sch.uk

15 & 30 HOUR PLACES AVAILABLE FOR 3 & 4 YEAR OLDS

Online Safety



Term Dates

2026 - 2027

Autumn Term

Term begins: Tuesday 1st September

Half term: 26th - 30th October

Term ends: Friday 18th December

Spring Term

Term begins: Monday 4th January

Half term: 15th - 19th February

Term ends: Thursday 25th March

Summer Term

Term begins: Monday 12th April

Half term: 31st May - 4th June

Term ends: Wednesday 21st July

Inset Days 2026/ 2027

Tuesday 1st September

Wednesday 2nd September

Monday 2nd November

Monday 18th January

Friday 12th February

Monday 21st June

Diary Dates

Wednesday 21st October - Parent/ carer consultation evening