



Friday 19th December 2025

Weekly Newsletter

Chocolate Raffle

We are delighted to share that the raffle raised an amazing £796. Thank you so much for your generous chocolate donations and for buying tickets over the last week or so- it is greatly appreciated!

This money will go towards providing wonderful experiences for your children in the near future!
Thanks again!

This year's winners are listed below.

Orlando Y5
Zara Y5
Matthew Rec
Melina Rec
Daisy Y3
Heidi Y6
Flynn Y4
Louie Y3
Evie-Rose Y1
Marny Y1
Oliver Y6
Forrest Y3
Sam P Y5
Alfie Y2
Zakk Rec
Jasmine Y4
Joshua Y4
Matilda Y3
Corey & Rose Y6&3
Lily Y3
Dalton Y2
Bonnie Y2
Lily Y5
Adam Y5
Elsie-Mae Y2
Frankie Y3
Olivia Y1
Lincoln & Lara Y4&5
Lorenzo Rec

Merry Christmas

What an exciting and successful first term we have enjoyed at St John's. Over the past months, it has been wonderful to see our children grow in confidence, learning and friendship, and to witness the strong sense of community that makes our school such a special place.

As we approach the Christmas break, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our dedicated staff, supportive parents and, most importantly, our amazing children for their hard work, enthusiasm and commitment throughout the term.

On behalf of Team LSJP, I wish you all a joyful and peaceful Christmas. May God bless you and your families during this holy season of Advent and Christmas, keep you safe and well over the holidays, and guide us as we look forward with hope and excitement to the year ahead.

Elfridges

On Monday we kicked off our final week of 2025 with our inaugural 'Elfridges' event. It was such a wonderful experience seeing the children head to the hall to spend their elf jingles on gifts for their loved ones.

The children were so excited as they selected their gifts and got them wrapped by our elf helpers. Thank you to all of those who were able to give up their timer to help make this event even more magical.

We would also like to thank all parents and carers for their support with donations and by purchasing elf jingles for their child to spend- this has helped raise funds that can be spent on making the children's school experience even more engaging and exciting. ❤️

💛 Reception Start 2026 💛

We would like to take this opportunity to remind any parents, who have children due to start school in September 2026, that applications are open and need to be completed by January 15th. Any applications after this date will be classed as late.

Please be aware that all children wanting to join us in September 2026 need to complete an application- siblings do not automatically receive a place. To apply, please use the following link:

<https://www.wigan.gov.uk/resident/education/schools/school-admissions/primary-schools.aspx>

! Reminder !

We would like to ask parents and carers to avoid parking on any double yellow lines around school during drop-off and pick-up times including those who are using our AFA & HAF clubs.

Thanks, LSJP Team

🎄 Thought of the Week 🎄



Thank You

We would like to thank our cleaning contractors, NJ Cleaning, for their Christmas gifts of selection boxes for the children this year.

!! School Return Reminder !!

School will reopen for all pupils on **Tuesday 6th January at 8:45am**. We look forward to hearing all about what you've been up to when we return after Christmas.

🎄 Christmas Support Available 🎄

Wigan Council would like to share they are aware that the festive period can be a challenging time for many families. Wigan has developed a network of Family Hubs that offer a range of pre-bookable and drop-in sessions to offer whole family support.

Please note that they will be offering support for families at the following venues between Christmas and New Year.

- The Family hub at The Meadows, 100-116 Ridyard Street, Wigan, WN5 9RQ

- The Start Well Family Centre at the Chappel, Westleigh Lane, Westleigh, WN7 5NJ

Both centres will offer reduced opening times between 9am and 4pm on the 27th December, 30th December, and the 31st December. Normal opening times across all our network will resume on the 2nd January 2026.

⚠️ Holidays - not allowed in term time ⚠️

We are continuing to receive notifications from families regarding taking holidays in term time. We politely remind parents and carers that holidays should not be taken in school time. Holidays are unauthorised absences and may result in penalty fines as shared in the updated warning notice on attached. Holidays in term time also have a detrimental effect on children's emotional well-being as often when they return to school, particularly after a 2-week absence, friendship groups have often moved on/shifted.

To help with scheduling holidays for the next school year, attached is the holiday list for the **2026-2027** academic year. Thank you for your co-operation.

DIARY DATES

DATE	Event
Each Sunday	St Mary's Church Sunday Service @ 10am with Sunday School. Junior Park 2K Run @ Leigh Sports Village (free for 4-11yr. Old's) 9am
Friday 19 th December	School Closes for Christmas Break
Monday 5 th January	School closed- INSET DAY
Tuesday 6 th January	School reopens for all pupils for @ 8:45am
Monday 12 th January	LIFE Education Visit for Year 4, 5 & 6
Monday 19 th January	Year 5 & 6 Dodgeball Tournament @ Fred Longworth High School

HOLIDAY LIST 2026-2027



Autumn Term Begins	School re-opens: Wednesday 2nd September 2026 School closed: Tuesday 1st September 2026 (INSET)
Half Term Break	School closes: Friday 23 rd October 2026 School re-opens: Monday 2 nd November 2026
Christmas Holiday	School closes: Friday 18 th December 2026 School re-opens: Wednesday 6 th January 2027 School closed: Tuesday 5th January 2027 (INSET)
Half Term Break	School closes: Friday 12 th February 2027 School re-opens: Tuesday 23 rd February 2027 School closed: Monday 22nd February 2027 (INSET)
Easter Holiday	School closes: Wednesday 24 th March 2027 School re-opens: Monday 12 th April 2027
Bank Holiday	School closed: Monday 3rd May 2027 (BANK HOLIDAY)
Polling Day	Potential one day closure early May – to be confirmed
Half Term Break	School closes: Friday 28 th May 2027 School re-opens: Monday 7 th June 2027
Summer Holiday	School closes: Wednesday 21 st July 2027

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SETTING UP APPS, GAMES AND SOFTWARE

Millions of new phones, tablets, laptops and games consoles will be nestling under Christmas trees this year. However, even if parents and carers have gone to the trouble of setting up these new devices and enabling the safety features, there are still potential hazards in the apps, games and software that children will want to install and use. Knowing what to look for and discussing those risks with your child may help avoid any nasty surprises this Christmas. Here are our top tips for ensuring that unwrapping this year's presents doesn't unleash any unexpected dangers.

TAKE NOTE OF AGE RATINGS

Back when most games were bought in shops, checking the age rating was easy: it was on the front of the box. Now that most games are downloaded, it's tougher – but not impossible. All reputable download stores show a game's age rating at the point of purchase, and you can check the suitability of a specific title your child wants to play at videostandards.org.uk/ratingboard/games.

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'FREE' ISN'T ALWAYS FREE

The games market has changed radically in recent years. Many titles are free to download, but then tempt players to pay for cosmetic items (as in Fortnite) or to unlock additional content. There can be huge peer pressure for children to pay for these items. Agree a budget for in-game purchases before the game is downloaded, and make sure children can't authorise in-game purchases by themselves.

DISABLE IN-APP PURCHASING

It's not wise to leave children with devices that can make in-app purchases without your permission. Ideally, set up computers, consoles and phones so child accounts need an adult's authorisation to buy anything. On shared devices (like iPads, which don't allow user accounts), check the settings to ensure that in-app purchasing requires the account holder's password, fingerprint or face ID.

APPS ARE AGE RATED, TOO

Like games, apps in the major stores have age ratings, too – so you can see in advance whether an app's appropriate for your child. Additionally, phones' parental control settings allow you to set age limits, preventing young ones from downloading unsuitable apps themselves. These ratings aren't infallible, however: we've seen TV apps featuring adult shows with an age rating of 3, for example.

LEGAL APPS THAT BREAK THE LAW

There are many apps that are perfectly legal but enable illegal activity – streaming apps which let people watch football matches, say, without paying for Sky or BT Sport. Prosecution for using such apps is rare, but they can lead to risky behaviour like viewing rogue streams on sites teeming with malicious links. Watch for children installing unusual apps with 'TV', 'stream' or 'sport' in the name.

CONSIDER STORAGE

Most apps and games will tell you in the online store how much space they need on a device. Check this carefully – especially with games, which can run into hundreds of megabytes and beyond. If you don't have enough free storage on a device to run the game or app, you won't get a refund from the store. You can normally check a device's available storage space through the settings menu.

IN-APP REGISTRATION

It's common for apps and games to ask users to register: entering personal details like email address, date of birth and other information you might not want your child to divulge. Ask them to get your permission before giving any personal info to an app – and consider using your details rather than the child's, so they're not targeted by marketing spam or put at risk of having their data stolen.

CHECK THE SPECS

To avoid let-downs, check a game's specs before buying – especially for PC or Mac, where games often need a particular graphics chip or processor to work. Sites like systemrequirementslab.com can scan your computer to see if it will run certain games properly. On consoles, make sure you're buying the right version: some newer Xbox or PlayStation games won't play on older consoles.

MONITOR IN-GAME COMMS

Voice chat with friends is part of the fun of modern gaming – but danger lurks here too. Many titles have open chat systems, meaning that children could speak to strangers or hear adult language and verbal abuse when games get particularly competitive. Using a shared family area (as opposed to alone in bedrooms) for online gaming is a good way to keep an occasional ear on what's being said.

BE WARY OF GIFTS

Titles like Roblox, Minecraft and Fortnite have in-game currencies, which can be earned through progress in the game – but can also be bought with real money. A common scam is for a young player to be offered currency if they click a link, visit a certain site or contact another user directly. Warn your child about such offers: they should show you if they're in any doubt over an in-game gift.

WATCH OUT FOR IMITATORS

Even in the official stores, untrustworthy rogue apps can slip through the net. Common tricks are apps or games that have a slightly different name to the genuine article (Fortnite rather than Fortnite, for instance) or use logos which deliberately look very similar to the official app. To avoid downloading these imitations, read the app's description and check who the publisher is listed as.

STAY UPDATED

Most games and apps are subject to regular updates, which not only offer new content and features but also provide critical security improvements. Children tend to ignore such updates – usually because they don't understand why they're important, or they simply want to get straight on with gaming. Check your child's devices periodically to make sure these updates are being installed.

Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as the *Sunday Times*, *Which?*, *PC Pro* and *Computeractive*. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on *Newsnight*, *Radio 5 Live* and *ITV News at Ten*. He has two children and has writes regularly about internet safety issues.



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