

February



Hello from Mrs Gray

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you for the warm welcome back to St John's. The children have been an absolute joy, and it truly feels like coming home. We already have a busy calendar of events planned over the coming weeks and months, and I look forward to meeting you all and celebrating the children's achievements together.

As we move into the summer term, we will begin reflecting on the progress we have made as a school this year and identifying our priorities for the year ahead. I hope you will work with me in this important process so that, together, we can continue to provide the very best experience for our school community.

Pupil Support Parents' Evening

Thank you to all families who attended our additional Parents' Night on 4th February. This event provided a valuable opportunity for parents and staff to work together and discuss the targets and supports in place for children who benefit from additional help with their learning or wellbeing.

Parents were able to meet with class teachers, nurture staff, EAL and pupil support teachers, as well as our Principal Teacher of Pupil Support and our Educational Psychologist. We hope these conversations helped you gain a clearer understanding of how your child is progressing, the supports they are receiving in school, and ways you can help at home.

Thank you again for your time, engagement and partnership.

Lights, Camera, Action!

Primary 4-7 have been working very hard over the past few weeks on their school show, 'Lights, Camera, Action!' featuring The Little Mermaid, Sister Act, Tangled and Abba Mania. With just a few weeks left, we would like to remind parents and carers that costumes should be in school before Friday 13th March - a letter has gone home with more details about costume requirements, but should you have any questions then please don't hesitate to get in touch. We would also really appreciate any raffle donations ahead of the show should you have anything suitable to contribute. The pupils and staff look forward to welcoming you at St Margaret's Cathedral on the 24th and 25th of March for our showstopping performance!

Infant Shared Learning

Our Primary 1-4 classes were buzzing with excitement as the children welcomed parents and carers into their classrooms for an afternoon of Shared Learning. They enjoyed showcasing some of the activities that support their learning in Literacy, Numeracy and Health & Wellbeing every day, and it was wonderful to see how confidently they explained their learning. Our parents were impressed by the range of active learning taking place across the department. We were pleased with the fantastic turnout, and we want to extend a huge thank-you to everyone who joined us. We look forward to building on this success in the future.

Upper Shared Learning

A huge thank you to everyone who attended our P5 and P6 Shared Learning afternoon. It was a wonderful opportunity for parents and carers to be invited into the classroom to experience a variety of ways in which children engage in their learning. Parents and carers enjoyed exploring the different resources and approaches used across the curriculum, gaining a clearer understanding of how we support learning every day. As always, our pupils shone with confidence, taking the lead as they guided their families through each task and activity.

Parent Council Valentine's Disco

Our Parent Council hosted their annual Valentine's Disco on Friday 14th February at St Margaret's Cathedral. This event is a favourite amongst the pupils with messages being written for the Valentine's postbox and lots of excitement in the build-up. The event was a huge success and extremely well attended. Children enjoyed dancing, participating in games and having lots of fun with their friends across the school. Thank you to our Parent Council for organising this and remember that all funds raised by them, go back to the pupils so please continue to support in any way you can.



Lent 2026 at St John's

Our pupils have been preparing for Easter by taking part in a range of meaningful Lenten activities. Classes have created Lent promises, pathways, and class goals, and some classes have been learning to communicate their promises using Makaton. In our assemblies, we have explored the importance of Lent and why we use this time to reflect and grow personally and as a school community. Our P6 pupils have also begun their Community Projects as part of the Pope Francis Faith Award, as they put the Gifts of the Holy Spirit into action. As we continue our Lenten journey, we look forward to growing together through the three pillars of Lent: prayer, fasting and almsgiving.



Rite of Enrolment

The children were presented at the Rite of Enrolment at St Margaret's Cathedral last weekend, and our P4 pupils are now taking the final steps in their Sacramental Journey. Families are looking forward to celebrating First Holy Communion on Saturday 30th of May, and we know it will be a truly special day for everyone.



South Ayrshire Equalities Conference 2026

Our pupils did a fantastic job leading their workshop at this month's Equalities Conference, which welcomed over 200 young people from across the Authority. They were wonderful examples of what equality truly means, proudly sharing their cultures, faiths and traditions with confidence and respect. They represented our school beautifully, and we are still receiving positive feedback from those who attended. Well done to all involved!



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Collaboration Improvement Visit (CIV)

We are delighted to share the very positive report we received from the Authority following our recent Collaboration Improvement Visit. Thank you to all parents, carers, staff and pupils for your contributions and continued support. This success reflects our whole school community, and we look forward to building on our strengths together. (See page below)





St John's Primary School
Collaborative School Visit - December 2025

"All staff at St John's Primary School contribute effectively to a nurturing, caring and inclusive ethos which permeates across the school. The school is calm, and children are courteous and mannerly. The school values of care, ambition, respect and equality (CARE), together with Children's Rights and gospel values, are integral to this approach and recognise the diverse population within the school. Children, staff and parents feel there is a strong commitment to inclusivity and that diversity is celebrated. Parents feel welcomed and valued in school. There is a clear commitment within the school to create opportunities for children's voices to be heard and actioned. Groups such as Faith in Action, Health, Digital Technologies, and Attendance all contribute to this. Children and parents speak very positively about the opportunities to inform next steps within the school with clear procedures in place to support this at all levels. The school community is very proud to have received Gold Accreditation within the Rights Respecting Schools programme for the third time."

Identified Key Strengths	Agreed Priorities
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Highly inclusive practice, which is recognised by all stakeholders.• All staff know children well.• Consistency of approaches to literacy, numeracy and wellbeing.• Effective systems of tracking and monitoring which ensure resource is appropriately allocated.• A clear and robust assessment pathway which gathers assessment information from across the curriculum for all children.• Follow your own Friday approaches supporting children leading learning and ensuring meaningful pupil voice.• Stakeholders feel valued and feel their voices are heard within the school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Build on current good practice to ensure consistency of approaches to teaching and learning to enable all children to engage in learning.• Continue to develop approaches to target setting to ensure children understand their next steps in learning.• Explore further opportunities to involve children in planning learning experiences beyond Follow Your Own Friday.• Continue to monitor approaches to formative assessment.

Advanced Diary Dates

March 2026		
Tuesday 3 rd March	P4-7 Netball Club	3-3.45pm in School
Thursday 5 th March	Allan's Magic Road Safety (P1-P3/4)	In School
Thursday 5 th March	Dance Club	3-4.30pm in School
Monday 9 th March	P5 Swimming	The Citadel
Tuesday 10 th March	P4-7 Netball Club	3-3.45pm in School
Thursday 12 th March	Stations of the Cross	11.15am in St Margaret's
Thursday 12 th March	Dance Club	3-4.30pm in School
Monday 16 th March	P5 Swimming	The Citadel
Tuesday 17 th March	P1-4 Childsmile 2 nd Fluoride Varnishing	In School
Tuesday 17 th March	P4-7 Netball Club	3-3.45pm in School
Thursday 19 th March	Dance Club	3-4.30pm in School
Monday 23 rd March	P5 Swimming (Last session)	The Citadel
Monday 23 rd March	Lenten Penitential Service P3 Reconciliation	7pm in St Margaret's
Tuesday 24 th March	Euro Quiz	TBC
Tuesday 24 th March	School Show	6.30pm in St Margaret's
Wednesday 25 th March	School Show	10.30am & 6.30pm in St Margaret's
Tuesday 31 st March	Lent / End of Term Mass	10am in St Margaret's
April 2026		
Thursday 2 nd April	School closes for Easter Holidays	
Monday 20 th April	PUPILS RETURN	School Open
May 2026		
Monday 4 th May	SCHOOL CLOSED	MAY DAY HOLIDAY
Tuesday 5 th May	PUPILS RETURN	School Open
Wednesday 6 th May	Technical KNEX Challenge	QMA
Thursday 7 th May	SCHOOL CLOSED	IN-SERVICE DAY

Friday 8th May	PUPILS RETURN	School Open
Wednesday 13 th May	P4 Spring Festival of Farming @ Dumfries House	During the school day
Thursday 14th May	P7 Careers Fayre	Ayr Town Hall
Thursday 14th May	QMA Cluster Cup (Transition)	QMA
Monday 25th May	SCHOOL CLOSED	LOCAL HOLIDAY
Tuesday 26th May	PUPILS RETURN	School Open
Tuesday 26th May	Dolphin House Instructor / Parent Information Visit	3-4pm in School
Saturday 30th May	First Holy Communion	10am in St Margaret's
June 2026		
Wednesday 3rd June	P2/3 School Show	10am in St Margaret's
Thursday 4th June	Sports Day	Riverside Arena
Thursday 4th June	P6/7 Sports Transition Festival	QMA
Friday 5th June	Summer Fayre	3-5pm in School
Monday 8th June	P7 Retreat at QMA	During School Day
Tues 9th & Wed 10th June	P7 Bump Up Days	QMA
Wednesday 10th June	P7 Transition Disco & Parent Carer Info Evening	7pm at QMA
Thurs 11th & Fri 12th June	P7 Dolphin House Residential Trip (Group 1)	Culzean Castle Estate
Thurs 18th & Fri 19th June	P7 Dolphin House Residential Trip (Group 2)	Culzean Castle Estate
Tuesday 23rd June	Valedictory Mass	10am in St Margaret's
Tuesday 30th June	School closes for Summer Holidays	
August 2026		
Tuesday 18th August	SCHOOL CLOSED	IN-SERVICE DAY
Wednesday 19th August	SCHOOL CLOSED	IN-SERVICE DAY
Thursday 20 th August	PUPILS RETURN	School Open