

these day visits and the voluntary contributions we ask for, to help ensure they can take place are found in our charging and remissions policy on our school website. Children in year 5 and 6 will also be given the opportunity to attend a residential visit during the year. The dates are already on our website school calendar.

Parent help and volunteers

We are always very grateful for extra help from parents to hear children read, support trips and assist during many activities such as swimming in year 5. If you are interested in volunteering your time please contact Mrs. Wojcik in school so we can begin to work together. When working in classes we strongly suggest that parents support in different classrooms to their children. Parents need to have a DBS check before volunteering in school on a regular basis.

Calendar www.stjohnsbelper.co.uk/calendar/

Term dates 2025/26 are

- Thursday 4th September — Friday 24th October 2025
- Monday 3rd November — Friday 19th December 2025
- Monday 5th January—Friday 13th February 2026
- Monday 23rd February—Friday 27th March 2026
- Monday 13th April—Friday 22nd May 2026
- Monday 1st June—Thursday 23rd July 2026

Our 5 INSET days are

- Thursday 4th September 2025
- Friday 5th September 2025
- Friday 24th October 2025
- Monday 26th January 2026
- Monday 15th June 2026

Finally, We hope that this booklet helps you prepare for September 2025. If you feel we could improve it next year, please let us know what else could be included.

Thank you

Mr. Averis—Headteacher

Mrs. Carvell—Deputy Headteacher



A Christian environment for growing,
learning and fun.

Parent / Carer Handbook

This booklet is to help families prepare for
school year 2025/2026

St. John's CE Primary School and Nursery
Laund Nook, Belper, DE56 1GY
01773 822995

www.stjohnsbelper.co.uk
info@st-johnscofe.derbyshire.sch.uk

Dear Parents

This booklet is intended to help you and your child get ready for September 2025. It has important information and is also available on our school website for you to download.

The School day

The gate will be opened at 8.50 a.m every morning by a member of the Senior/Leadership team, to allow children into school. To ensure a prompt start at 9am all children are to go straight into classrooms every morning. Teachers will be in classrooms with their children from 8.50am ready to get the children settled for the 9am start to lessons.

Children must be in school by 9am for the register. If your child arrives after 9:00am please bring them through the front door as you will need to sign them in as late. We will then be able to look after them and make sure they get to class safely.

Morning sessions

8.45am - 11.45am - Nursery

9.00am - 12:00pm - Reception, with a break.

9.00am - 12.00pm Year 1 and 2 (Key Stage 1) with a break.

9.00am - 12.15pm Juniors (Key stage 2) with a break

Afternoon sessions

12-15pm - 3.15pm - Nursery

1.15pm - 3.30pm - Reception through to Y6 (with a break)

Drop off and Pick up

Infant parents can bring their children to school in the morning through the gate.

Reception and Year 2 parents are asked to wait on the playground at the end of the day where the children can be collected. Year 1 parents should wait in the enclosed green fenced area at the end of the day where the children can be collected.

We expect junior parents (Year 3 to Year 6) to drop off and pick up children at the front of the school to encourage and develop their independence.

PE kit/bag

All PE kit needs to be labelled. Children need white tops and dark shorts, jogging bottoms or skirts and sweatshirt. Children are not allowed to wear football kits for school PE lessons.

Hair needs to be tied back if long enough, and micropore tape or similar tape, brought from home, is needed for pierced ears to cover the stud, or earrings taken out on PE days. PE kits are to be brought to school at the beginning of the week and then taken home for cleaning on Fridays. Year 5 children go swimming on Tuesday mornings. More information for the year 5 parents will be in the letter sent home with these children.

Lost property

You will find lost property in the lost property box at the end of our playground. This is checked periodically and we work hard to return any named items to their rightful owners. Parents can check the lost property box at the end of any school day. Any unclaimed property is donated to the PTFA at the end of each half term.

Art Shirts

We do have and provide art aprons for infant children. Some junior children like to have an old long sleeved shirt in their PE bags to wear during some of our more messy art activities. We strongly encourage this as good practice.

St. Peter's Church

We will have several services at St. Peter's church throughout the year. The dates, times and details of which year group takes each service are on our annual school calendar. Dates are on our website at www.stjohnsbelper.co.uk/calendar Your child will also be bringing home a printed copy of our school calendar in September.

- Christmas Carol service
- Lent led by Year 5
- Easter led by Year 3 & 4
- Leavers' service led by Year 6

Visits

There will be opportunities during the year when we will organise day visits to help further develop/engage your child's learning. Details of how we fund

Stationery

All stationery is provided. Children do not need to bring pencil cases into school.

Mobile Phones, smart watches and internet devices

Children are not allowed to bring mobile phones to school or smart wear watches that can connect to the internet, send receive messages, take pictures or record videos or sound. If children need to contact home during the day, for example they have forgotten their PE kit, they are allowed to go to the office who will make the phone call on their behalf.

Children that bring their phone or a smart watch to school will have them taken away and the parent will need to come and collect them.

To help encourage fitness children are allowed to wear simple fit bits that record the number of steps they walk a day, as long as these devices do not connect to the internet during the day.

School uniform—Please name everything!

www.stjohnsbelper.co.uk/uniform-starting-st-johns/

Children need to wear bottle green sweatshirts or cardigans, with white shirts and grey or black trousers, shorts, skirts or pinafores. In the summer, some children choose to wear green summer gingham dresses. Clothing with the school logo embroidered on is available at Loopwear in Ilkeston. Our PTFA also have preloved uniforms available at events throughout the year.

All children need to wear dark footwear to school. Brightly coloured shoes/sports trainers are not allowed to be worn. Children with pierced ears should wear stud earrings only. Colouring hair and nails for non uniform, fancy dress days is allowed but for the rest of the year hair colour and nails should be natural colours.

It is very important that all school clothing is named, with your child's full name. We may have more than one 'Sarah' at our school. You are reminded to rewrite your child's name on uniform regularly as the ink does fade when washed.

We would suggest clothing that is easily removed e.g. polo shirts rather than button-up shirts.

Staff at St. John's www.stjohnsbelper.co.uk/staff-list-who-is-who/

There are over 60 staff at St. John's. A complete staff list is available on our website using the link above. Some staff you may come into more frequent contact are:

Mr. Averis - Headteacher

Mrs. Carvell - Deputy Headteacher,

Designated Safeguarding Lead and Teaching & Learning lead

Mrs. Astell - Assistant Headteacher, Pupil Premium and Year 5 lead

Mrs. Kerr - Senior Teacher, Infant (Year 1 & 2) lead and SENDCO

Mrs. Heer - Senior Teacher, LKS2 (Year 3 & 4) and English lead

Mrs. Newton - Senior Teacher, Maths and Year 6 lead

Mrs. Richardson - Senior Teacher, Looked after Children and EYFS lead

Mrs. Millington - School Business Manager

Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Howis and Mrs. Wragg - Office staff

Mrs. Cooper - Medical & Welfare Assistant

Contacting teachers and school

Teachers will be in classrooms with their children from 8.50am and therefore are only be able to speak to parents at the end of the day.

If you would like to arrange a meeting with a teacher or need the teacher to be aware of something please contact the school office directly by phone/email, and not the teacher directly, so we can arrange an appointment or share any important messages with the member of staff at an appropriate time.

School office

We have four members of staff working in the office - Mrs. Millington, our school business manager, Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Howis and Mrs. Wragg in our reception office. Please use this reception office as your first point of contact for any questions you have or any information you need to share.

The school office opens at 8.00am every morning and closes at 4.45pm (Mon – Wed)/4:30pm (Thurs/Fri).

Email to parents service

We strongly recommend that families subscribe to our email service. Parents need to register and then manage their subscription preferences as we cannot do this for you. To sign up you need to go to <http://eepurl.com/dayojz>, terms and conditions are available by going to <https://mailchimp.com/legal/>. A weekly email is sent every Friday afternoon to all parents who have subscribed. This service is free and confidential.

Correspondence/Letters

Our school website www.stjohnsbelper.co.uk is regularly updated. You will find, amongst other useful information all our letters, policies, class pages and a weekly headteacher blog that will help you keep up to date with life at St. John's.

Throughout the year a variety of letters and notes are sent home in your child's book bag. These may relate to reading, phonics, special events including Special Days, Christmas performances and school trips. Please check your child's book bag daily.

Curriculum—www.stjohnsbelper.co.uk/curriculum/

All children follow the National Curriculum. We deliver daily English and Maths lessons and weekly RE, PSHE, Music and Spanish lessons. Over the year, our Curriculum will be delivered through Knowledge Rich Projects (KRPs) with 3 'driver' projects that are geography/history based and their companion projects that are Science, Art and D & T based.

Assessment—www.stjohnsbelper.co.uk/assessment-1/

Your child's teacher will observe, record and assess how your child is working against their age related expectations. These results will be entered into our tracking system and shared with parents at parents' evenings and in the annual school report. This data will help us to monitor your child's progress.

Homework—www.stjohnsbelper.co.uk/policies/

Details of what homework your child will have can be found in our homework policy and will be clarified in a letter from your new class teacher as

different amounts of homework are encouraged for different aged children. Our homework policy is on our website

Book bags and reading books

Your child will need their reading book, reading record, spelling book and homework book with them at school every day. Please bring this to school in a book bag, **not a rucksack or over the shoulder bag.**

Water bottles:

Your child is encouraged to bring a water bottle into the classroom for use during the school day, but this must contain water only. We request that the bottle is clearly labelled with their name and has a pull-up cap to avoid spillages. **Do not send water bottles with screw caps** that need to be undone to get drink out.

We recommend that you do not put this in your child's book bag so that water soaked books and reading records can be avoided if the bottle leaks.

Break time snacks:

Children are allowed to bring a snack from home to eat at playtime. The school council made the decision that only healthy snacks should be brought into school on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. On these days only send your child with fruit or vegetables. Treat snacks are allowed on Mondays and Fridays, and therefore children are allowed to bring in small cakes, sweets, crisps or chocolate bars on these two days, but please consider the effect that sweets full of colourings and additives will have on your child's behaviour and learning.

Break Time Fruit for infants

All infant children are entitled to free school fruit, which is available in their classroom everyday, 5 days a week. You can also register and pay for your infant child to have milk to drink if you wish. Please see www.coolmilk.com for more details.

Toys

Children can bring in a small pocket sized toy to play with at playtimes. Please make sure that these toys do not have any high monetary value, use batteries or electricity or have a sentimental value as they do sometimes get lost.