



# St John's School Newsletter

## 9th May 2025

### Values of this half term

#### Dignity and Respect

'Treat others as you would like to be treated yourself.'

Matthew 7:12



### Fete

An email was sent out this week thanking everyone for their tremendous effort in the lead up to and on the day of our fete. The weather was not great but everyone's efforts and contributions were! Many, many thanks! It was a fantastic event bringing the community together for an afternoon of fun and entertainment.

### Lucky dip bags

Thank you to all our children and families for creating over 500 lucky dip bags! Amazing effort! The number of bags made by each house has been added up with the winning house being .....**Cowper** whose total was 208 bags!!!

Thank you to everyone!



### SATS

Next week our year 6 children will be sitting their SATs tests. They will be taking place each morning from Monday 12th May until Thursday 15th May. The children have been working hard and the Sandpipers class team have been working away preparing them for the tests. We wish them all the very best!

SATs top tips - sleep well, come into school for breakfast and a chat with your friends, read the questions carefully, be positive! You have got this year 6 - we are very proud of you!

### Beacon Pupils

**Robins - Eva** has been working hard in Robin Class this week. She performed brilliantly at the fete on Monday, both in her enthusiastic singing and signing as well as the country dancing. Her reading and spelling work this week has been impressive and she worked especially hard in her speech and language session. We love her joy and happy attitude to all we do in class and we look forward to finding out what she can do next. Keep it up Eva.

**Starlings - Gracie** for her hard working attitude in class. This week she has shown a great work ethic in class. She has been able to share her knowledge about plants and has helped her group plant seeds. On the trip yesterday she was an excellent role model listening carefully to the group leader and learning what plants needed to grow. Gracie is always a kind and caring friend and a fantastic learning partner.

**Kingfisher - Hallelujah** has shared her imagination and creativity in many ways this week : writing a description of the rainforest using fantastic, varied vocabulary, creating an abstract artwork in the style of Kandinsky, and in character descriptions in English. She was a fantastic role model on our trip to Kew Gardens, and as always has been a really positive member of our class. Well done Hallelujah.

**Sandpiper - Jenson** is a really valued member of our class who has hugely impressed us with his learning and positive attitude this year. He has a great sense of humour and is a lovely friend to all in the class. We have been so pleased to see him working hard across all of his learning, showing great determination to succeed and fantastic resilience when faced with challenges. He has shown a brilliant understanding of angles, position and direction this week and joined our class learning well. Jenson is growing in confidence each day and we are so pleased that he is part of our class!

"I came that they may have life, life in all its fullness."

John 10:10

## Top Tips and Word of the Week

### Encourage Number Skills

Encourage your child to help measure ingredients for a recipe you are making.

This week's word for younger children:

Word	Definition	Challenge
ancient	Really old.	If a building was <b>ancient</b> what would it look like?



This week's word for older children:

Word	Definition	Challenge
aloof	Someone who is not very friendly and does not like spending time with other people.	Sometimes people are <b>aloof</b> and sometimes they are shy. What's the difference?



### TT Rockstars Day - Tuesday 20th May

We are planning a Times Tables Rockstars Day to encourage the children to have fun with their learning in Maths. The day will include Maths activities in their house teams, outdoor activities and Maths challenges. We would love the children to dress up as rock stars.

We will share more details nearer the time.

### Sports Day - **CHANGE of DATE**

We have had to reschedule our date for Sports Day later this term. It will now be on the afternoon of Friday 27th June (this had previously been our reserve date.) The new reserve date will be Friday 4th July.

### School Kitchen

We are currently experiencing a problem with the boiler in our main kitchen, therefore our Cook Manager will be preparing food for us at another school and transporting it to our children.

If your child is going to be late in, please ensure the office know their meal choice **before** 9.10am.

### Summer Census - 15th May

An email has been sent home to all Year 1-6 parents about meal choice on Census Day.

### House Names Competition

We would like to change the names of the school house teams which are presently Brock- et, Cowper, Melbourne and Palmerston. We are challenging the children to come up with new names. Maybe local links or something that compliments the names of our classes? We look forward to hearing the children's suggestions

More ideas would be welcome!

### Food donations

We would like to begin Food Bank donations once again, after half term. Non-perishable items would be appreciated including tinned food and toiletries. The donation dates for the classes are:

Friday 6th June Robins class  
Friday 13th June Starlings class  
Friday 20th June Kingfishers class  
Friday 27th June Sandpipers class

### VE Day

The classes have been learning about VE Day this week. Activities have included Robins learning about the importance of the day and making their own medals for bravery and Kingfishers creating their own designs for coins to commemorate this important event in our history.

# This week at St John's



## Sports at Gosling

Very well done to the children from Kingfishers class who participated in the sport event at Gosling today. They took part in a range of events including archery, tug of war, dodge ball, javelin and ling jump. Many thanks to parents for helping to transport the children to the event and to Mrs Meola for looking after them.

## Trip to Kew Gardens

Kingfishers had a great time exploring Kew Gardens yesterday, building on their knowledge of rainforests by seeing real rainforest plants growing and finding out about their uses (from mustard plant toothbrushes to peppercorns used to treat tooth pain!) They were super at sharing ideas and asking questions, and tackled the treetop walk with lots of confidence!



Starlings enjoyed the trip to Kew Gardens. They had an interesting talk about how plants grow and how insects help plants to pollinate. The children saw some interesting plants in the green house and enjoyed walking among the tree canopy on the tree top walk.

### Attendance

As you know good attendance at school is vitally important for children's' development - social, emotional as well as academic. Good attendance is viewed nationally as being 95% or above.

We appreciate that this is the time of year when there are all kinds of illnesses going around but at present we have many children whose attendance is considerably lower than 95%

Our aim is to work with families to support them to ensure good regular attendance for their children. The following link is a blog on the subject of attendance produced by the DfE.

[DfE external document template](#)

### Building work at St John's

To support us with vital projects we would like parents to consider making donations to our Governors' Fund. We held parent consultations about this last summer term and would now like to proceed with it, with the support of parents.

Here is a link to the school website which also explains the reasons and process further.

[governor-fund.pdf](#)

Many thanks for your support with this, once you have read the information, please to contact us if you have any queries. We are delighted to say that our bid to update the children's toilet areas has been successful.

### Sickness Reporting

A reminder to please ensure you ring the office each day your child is absent by **9.10am**

You can find our Attendance Policy on our website.

### Breaktime snack

A reminder that breaktime snacks should only be a piece of fruit/vegetable or plain biscuit. Chocolate or crisps are no allowed.

### Payments / Balances

#### Trips/Events/Workshops/Swimming/ Meals & Milk

Please check your account(s) and clear any unpaid invoice.

If you have difficulty making payment, and have not already contacted Mrs Boylan, please do so.

### Nut Free School

Children are still bringing nuts into school. As we are a nut free environment, packed lunches and snacks must not contain nuts. Pesto is often overlooked but not allowed.

### Parking

The safety of our children is paramount. Parents are **not** permitted to use the staff car park between 8.30 and 3.30 to turn around, drop off or collect your child.

Staff, deliveries and emergency vehicles must be able to access the car park at all times of the day.

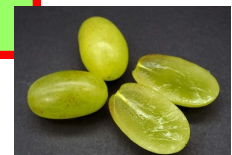
Parents must use the pavement alongside Lemsford Road and into the side gate by Treetops - not walk through the car park at any time.

Children that are late should come to the main office using the pavement only, never through the main gate/car park.



### Grapes in School

A gentle reminder that grapes are to be cut in half lengthways.



## DIARY DATES

Full governing board meeting—Thursday 8th May  
SATS test week for year 6—week beginning Monday 12th May  
Summer Census - 15th May  
**Half term holiday**— week beginning 26th May  
INSET day—Monday 2nd June  
Children back to school—Tuesday 3rd June  
Year 5 and 6 activities and residential week—week beginning Tuesday 3rd June  
School class and team photos—Wednesday 11th June  
Outdoor learning week—week beginning Monday 16th June  
Sandpipers class visiting Stanborough School—Thursday 19th June  
Sports Day— Friday 27th June  
Sports event for years 4 and 5—Wednesday 2nd July  
Sports day back up date—Friday 4th July  
Move-up day—Thursday 10th July  
Rock Steady concert—Monday 14th July  
Music concert—Tuesday 22nd July  
End of term—Wednesday 23rd July 1.30 p.m.

## Pentecost service at St John's Church Sunday 8th June 11.00 a.m.

Once again, the children have been invited by Revd Kathryn to take part in the All-age service at St John's Church, including reading, leading prayers and singing with the choir. If you would like your child to participate please let us know.

Hello

**It may have been a bit nippy, but what a great fête we had on Monday!**

From setting up gazebos to baking cakes (and everything in between), it was wonderful to see the school and church community pulling together, and Jo loved seeing everyone at the church Sunday Club stall. It really did feel like a celebration of all that makes our St John's communities so special. Thank you to everyone who helped and supported in any way.

**This week in collective worship**, we've been thinking about **Jacob's journey** — how he left home feeling unsure and afraid, and found that God was with him even in the middle of nowhere.

We talked about life being a bit like a journey too: sometimes we feel ready, other times not so much... but even then, we're not alone. The children helped unpack a rucksack full of things you might need on a journey, and we used our hands like little labyrinths to pause, think, and pray. It was beautiful to see children of all ages joining in with real care and thoughtfulness.

Coming up next is **Connect@4 on Saturday 18th May, 4pm** — a relaxed, all-age gathering in church with crafts, refreshments, story, a short time of prayer, and space to connect with others. If you've never been before, you'll be very welcome — it's friendly, informal, and only lasts about 45 minutes. We'd love to see you there.

Rev. Kathryn

