



St John's School Newsletter

16th May 2025

Values of this half term

Dignity and Respect

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

Matthew 7:12



Golf Event

Thanks to Jo Moxham, once again for a brilliant golf session with Kingfishers and Sandpipers this week. It is fantastic to see the children progressing in the various sporting activities that we offer.



Beacon Pupils

Robins - Benji has been working so hard on his reading this week. We can really see his perseverance paying off in his confidence with his reading book now. In our maths he has also thinking hard about the vocabulary we have been using to talk about the number bonds we have been making. He has wonderful, creative ideas in our story telling sessions and we look forward to hearing what he thinks of next. Keep it up Benji!

Starlings - Mila for her excellent attitude to learning and efforts in being a fantastic learning partner. She has increased in her ability to join in class discussion, making great contributions. In English this week Mila has written great sets of instructions working hard to write at length and include a range of verbs. She showed persistence in completing her work to a high standard. In Maths she has chosen to take on her learning independently showing a great maturity.

Kingfisher - Zach has shown real determination and confidence in his work, joining in class discussions with thoughtful and extending contributions, and making good choices both in class and outside. He represented the school well in our recent sports event and has worked hard in English reading back and upleveling his writing. He continues to wow us with his confidence in maths, relishing our new topic of time, and sharing excellent strategies he has found to convert between analogue and digital.

Sandpiper - Daisy has been a picture of perseverance and determination during SATs week! We have been so impressed with how she has tackled the tests and managed nervous feelings so well. Daisy has also been lovely company at the daily breakfast, chatting lots and helping put others at ease. She has been a wonderful friend this week, checking in on classmates and looking after others. Well done!

SATS

The year 6 SATs are all completed for another year. The children were a real credit to themselves and to the school, showing perseverance and resilience throughout the week. They also showed very healthy appetites tucking into their breakfast at school with gusto! Many thanks to Miss Ng for the lovely breakfast she provided each day, as well as many thanks to the Sandpipers class team for the way in which they have prepared the children for the week.


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

John 10:10


Top Tips and Word of the Week

As adults we need to know at least 30,000 words. Most of these words are learnt in childhood which means children need to learn seven new words every day. Reading to your child is one way to expose your child to more words. If you come across an interesting word in a book, try to use it again in a conversation with your child.

This week's word for younger children:

Word	Definition	Challenge
boom 	A loud, deep sound.	Do you know anyone that has a boom-ing voice? Say your name in a boom-ing voice.

This week's word for older children:

Word	Definition	Challenge
beckoned 	To use your hand to ask someone to come to you.	Show how you can beckon someone to come to you. What do you need to beckon ?

TT Rockstars Day - Tuesday 20th May

We are having a Times Tables Rockstars Day to encourage the children to have fun with their learning in Maths next Tuesday. 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.

An email was sent out this week with all the details.



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!

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.

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

Census Day

Thank you to all the children who had a school meal on Census Day - your help to ensure the school receives vital funding is very much appreciated.

Other News...

Governors' Award Day 2025

The school year is flying by and the Governors' Awards Day event will soon be here. We are very grateful to the governors for planning and leading this fun annual event which celebrates the achievement of those children who have attained 5 (check the number of) merit certificates. Please note that the final date this year for being able to hand in 5 merits certificates in order to receive a governors' award this term is **Friday 27th June**. After that date any merit certificates achieved will count towards the next year's governors' award day.



Ukelele club

There will be an extra session for those children who began ukelele club this term next Wednesday. The children need to bring their ukeleles on Wednesday and Thursday - thank you!



Finer Diner

Children with exemplary manners during lunchtimes are given a Best Behaviour slip.

Those slips are put into a hat and four children are then invited to have lunch with Mrs Boylan on a Friday.

This is a lovely way to end the week with a chance to share their news with Mrs Boylan in person.

Today the children were

Eva - Robins	Joey - Starlings
Jenson - Starlings	Rei - Sandpipers

Pottery Workshop
Monday 19th May 2025, 3.15pm

Father's Day Mug Decorating Session

Details were emailed to parents earlier today about an event organised by the LSA. To secure your place please email stjohnslemsfordlsa@gmail.com.

Places are limited so please book early. Any questions, please speak to your LSA Rep.



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

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 events — week beginning Tuesday 3rd June
Robins to Library and Theatre - 6th 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
Last day for handing in merit certificates—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.
Start of the new school year—Thursday 4th September

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 you child to participate please let us know.

Hello

This week in **Collective Worship**, we found Jacob sleeping rough with a stone for a pillow - it makes my forthcoming pilgrimage seem luxurious! But while he slept, he had an incredible dream of a ladder reaching to heaven, and heard God's voice saying, "I am with you... I will not leave you." We used a real ladder in school to think about our own hopes and dreams — the things we're reaching for — and reminded ourselves that however big or uncertain those steps might feel, God walks with us through it all.

That links fantastically with this **Sunday's Connect@4 at St John's Church (18th May, 4pm)**, where our theme is "*Always with you...*" We'll be exploring how Jesus is with us in all the ordinary parts of life — at home, at school, at work, and on the move. There'll be music, creative activities, storytelling, snacks, and a warm welcome for everyone — whether you're 5, 45, or 85. It's relaxed, friendly, doesn't require lots of sitting still, and lasts about 50 minutes. No need to book — just come along.

Finally, if you're looking ahead, pop these dates in your diary:

Sunday 8th June, 11am – our joyful All Together Pentecost service, with engaging worship for all the family.

Sunday 15th June, 11am – Sunday Club returns during the main service.

We'd love to see you!

Have a great weekend, whatever you are up to.

Rev. Kathryn

