



St John's School Newsletter

13th June 2025

Values of this half term

Courage & Responsibility

'Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go'.

Joshua 1:9



Beacon Pupils

Robins - Dougie has been working so hard in Robins class. We love his curiosity and the thoughtful questions he asks when we are exploring different topics, he always wants to know a little more. His perseverance with his learning is really paying off this term and we are so pleased to see his confidence with reading and maths growing. His sense of humour and kindness towards adults and children is such a ray of sunshine in Robin Class and we will miss him next year. Keep up the good work!

Starlings - Winter for her continued effort in her writing and reading. She has grown in confidence sharing her ideas with small groups and with the class. Her reading prosody is starting to develop with her showing a good understanding of what she is reading. In her colour monster writing Winter used a range of adjectives and continues to produce beautifully handwriting. She has shown great ability in making o'clock times in maths and has worked well with her learning partner. Well done Winter.

Kingfisher - Maya has shown excellent confidence and determination this week. She represented the school fantastically during both athletics and golf this week and has been a really kind and caring friend. Maya has been a resilient learner too, tackling tricky decimal questions in class and using fronted adverbials to create an excellent opening to a diary entry. Well done, Maya!

Sandpiper - Anna has had a fantastic and jam-packed few weeks! Whether at our residential trip, at our various local activities or recent sports events, she has behaved beautifully and been a real credit to the school. Even though she was a bit nervous about some events, she persevered and showed great resilience throughout, having a fun time and making memories with her friends! She was lovely company on the residential and was a kind (and very tidy!) roommate. She was supportive and encouraging of her teammates at the district athletics, and she was polite and helpful at the girls' golf event. Well done!

Parliament talk

On Tuesday Sandpipers and Kingfishers classes were given a talk by Kelly Stroud, an education and engagement officer for parliament. Lots of information was shared with them about how the House of Commons and the House of Lords operate, also, the way in which new laws are established. The children learnt about the voting system and had an actual vote on a bill to extend the weekend to three days - no prizes for guessing the result of that debate and vote!



District Athletics

On Wednesday, 27 children from Years 3-6 took part in the district athletics competition at Gosling. It was very busy afternoon filled with track and field events! The children all competed well, showing great perseverance and determination, and were brilliantly supportive and encouraging of each other. Well done to our medal winners: Dylan (long jump), Holly (triple jump), Teddy (600m) and Will (600m)

Many thanks to parents for transporting the children to and from the event.

Camp St John's Saturday 5th July

The popular Camp St John's will be taking place once again! This year it will be on Saturday 5th July. If you fancy an evening of fun, games and pizza on our lovely school field please do come along. More details are included in the attached LSA poster.


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

John 10:10


Top Tips and Word of the Week

Keep on reading. Amidst the business of family life, it is hard to always find time to read to children. If you read to your child for 15 minutes per day, in a year they will have heard 1.5 million words. Reading slightly more challenging books to your child, than they can read alone, will help boost their reading too.

This week's word for younger children:

Word		Definition	Challenge
clench		Holding tightly because you are angry.	Clench your fists and your jaw and make a face to go with how you might be feeling.

This week's word for older children:

Word		Definition	Challenge
cantankerous		Someone who is always finding things to argue and complain about.	Look cantankerous up in a thesaurus. Find a synonym that you know well and ask someone in your family about how the two words are the same and different

Mary Poppins is coming!

Once Sandpipers class are back from their residential trip they along with Kingfishers class will be preparing their performance of Mary Poppins. Auditions, line learning and rehearsals have already begun and we can't wait to enjoy their supercali..... performances!

The dates for Mary Poppins are:

Wednesday 16th July 2.00 p.m. and 6.00 p.m.

Thursday 17th July 6.00 p.m.

Please put these dates into your diaries.



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.

Hello

We warmly welcome Victoria and Mabel to St John's. Victoria has joined Starlings Class and Mabel has joined Kingfishers. We look forward to getting to know the girls and their families in the coming weeks.

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.

Guacamole making

For the coming weeks children from Starlings class will be cooking with Lois Gammon, Miss Gammon's daughter. Lois is completing an Extended Project Qualification as part of her sixth form studies and is exploring the preparation of healthy food with the children.

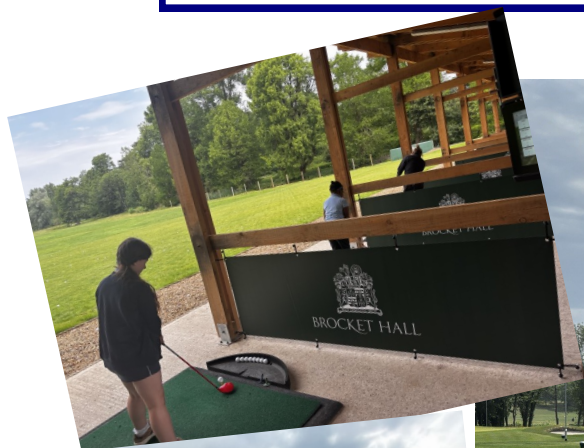


Photos

Nic Sanders was in school Wednesday, we will send out photo proofs as soon as they are with us.

This Girl Can Golf Event

The girls from Kingfishers and Sandpipers had a fantastic morning at Brocket, taking part in several different golf activities including using the new driving range facilities. They had fantastic coaching as always from Stuart, Jo and Mark.



Sandpipers Local Activities



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](#)

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.

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.

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.

Also, please ensure car wheels are not on pavements, blocking pedestrian walkways.

Grapes in School

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



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.

Breaktime snack

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

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.



Finer Diner

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

Those slips are put into a hat and 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

Ivy B & Elijah - Robins

Rory - Starlings

Jack S - Kingfisher

Aarav - Sandpipers



DIARY DATES

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

Camp St John's - Saturday 5th July

Move-up day—Thursday 10th July

Rock Steady concert—Monday 14th July

Mary Poppins - Wednesday 16th July 2.00 p.m. and 6.00 p.m.

Mary Poppins - Thursday 17th July 6.00 p.m.

Music concert—Tuesday 22nd July

End of term—Wednesday 23rd July 1.30 p.m.

Start of the new school year—Thursday 4th September

Food donations

We would like to continue Food Bank donations. Non-perishable items would be appreciated including tinned food and toiletries. The donation dates for the classes are:

Friday 20th June Kingfishers class

Friday 27th June Sandpipers class

Pentecost

Many thanks to the children who took part in the Pentecost service at St John's Church on Sunday. It was a very joyful occasion and was lovely to have so many of our children participating. Last term Revd Kathryn led a lunchtime Explorers club, this led to Emma being confirmed at St Alban's Abbey last Saturday and taking her first communion during the Pentecost service.



Hello!

We're having a busy summer in church this year!

Huge congratulations to Emma, who was confirmed by Bishop Jane in a wonderful service at St Albans Abbey last Saturday. It was lovely to be there to support her, and the other candidates from St John's.

And **a big thank you** to everyone who helped make our Pentecost Sunday service so special — the readings, prayers, music, dancing, and serving (especially by Emma and Teddy!) were all brilliant.

What's On at Church for Families – June/July Highlights

I'm away for the next two weeks, so here's a quick round-up of everything coming up at church for children and families before the term ends:

- **This Sunday (16th June)** – *Sunday Club* will be running during the 11am service. All children are welcome for stories, games and fun together.
- **Sunday 6th July** – It's our *All Together 'Thank You' Service* at 11am, celebrating all the amazing people who help make our church, school, and community such a great place. If you'd like to be involved in the choir, doing a reading, or leading a prayer — speak to Mrs Boylan.
- **Sunday 13th July** – It's our *final Sunday Club of the term* and we're going out in style with an *end-of-term party!* Whether you come every week or have never been before, this is a great time to join in. There'll be music, games, a craft activity and afterwards, a *whole-church bring-and-share picnic*. Everyone's invited... and there might even be a rounders match!

We'd love to see you at any (or all!) of these. Everyone is welcome.

Rev Kathryn

