

# Prospectus

## 2025 - 2026



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

John 10:10

Opportunity, Fulfilment, Service.

## Welcome

Dear Parents,

Thank you for taking the time to read our prospectus. It will give you a flavour of our caring, supportive village school. We are a small school of just over 100 children. Being the size that we are gives a feeling of belonging to a family; a family in which every child, parent and staff team member is known and cared for. A word that typifies our school is 'nurture' as we seek to protect and care for all our children throughout their time with us. Safeguarding our children is of prime importance to us, we strive to ensure the safety of the children in our care. As a church school all aspects of our school life are based on our Christian vision and values.

Although we are a small school, we offer our children a broad, balanced and inspiring learning journey. High quality teaching is at the heart of our provision. In all subjects the children are supported to fulfil their potential through well-planned lessons which employ a wide range of learning strategies and in which the children are supported and challenged. We also offer a wealth of inspiring experiences in the wider curriculum including participation in sporting events, concerts, performances, educational visits and residential experiences. We seek to give our children life-enhancing opportunities and to educate the whole

child. This is exemplified in our school vision,

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

John 10:10



Choosing a primary school is one of the most important decisions you will make for your child and we hope that our prospectus will help you in making that decision.

However, the most effective way of finding out if our school is the right environment for your child is to come and meet our children and the staff team in person.

Thank you for considering St John's Church of England Primary, Lemsford for your child. Please do not hesitate to contact us to arrange a visit, or to ask any further questions about the school, we will be delighted to show you around.

Michelle Boylan Headteacher



## Aims and Ethos

### **Our vision**

At St John's Church of England Primary School we aim to nourish the curiosity in each child by creating a safe, nurturing and inspiring learning environment which is shaped by our shared Christian values and driven by a desire to embrace challenge and to grow.

Our learning community of children, parents, staff and friends work together to enable all our children to become successful life-long learners in and beyond the classroom. We endeavour to equip them with respect for others, confidence in their own abilities, and flexible skills for their future.

Through our Christian vision, based on John 10:10 "I came that they may have life, life in all its fullness", we aim to provide:

- high standards of learning and achievement for all
- a strong ethos of mutual respect, excellent behaviour and care for each other
- opportunities to grow in understanding of our own faith and the faith of others
- a strong sense of community
- a flexible, skills and knowledge based curriculum to challenge all learners
- a safe and exciting environment for active learning

### **St John's Christian Ethos**

We aim to serve our community by providing an education of the highest quality through the context of Christian belief and practice. We encourage and develop the understanding of Christian values and beliefs through the experiences we offer our children, whilst respecting all other faiths.

The school preserves and develops its Christian character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the church at parish and diocesan level.

## Staff, Governors and Parents

### **Class teachers and Teaching assistants**

Our talented staff team are our greatest asset at St John's and in order to help our pupils achieve the very best they can, we set ourselves high standards.

Staff share knowledge, skills and expertise to support the development of the whole school. All teachers are subject leaders and the school is managed by our senior management team.

We have four classes. Classes are organised as follows:

## **Robins class**

(Reception) 15 pupils, 1 teacher and 1 teaching assistant

## **Starlings class**

15 Year 1 and 15 Year 2 pupils, 1 teacher and 1 teaching assistant

## **Kingfishers class**

15 Year 3 and 15 Year 4 pupils, 1 teacher and 1 teaching assistant

## **Sandpipers class**

15 Year 5 and 15 Year 6 pupils, 1 teacher and 1 teaching assistant Children with special educational needs are supported by additional learning support assistants.

## **Specialist teachers**

As well as highly trained and expert class teachers, we also have on our team a range of specialist teachers who support particular areas of our broad and balanced curriculum.

We have a specialist Modern Foreign Language teacher who provides the pupils with quality teaching of French from Reception, where they learn song and rhymes through to Year 6 where they work on grammar, writing sentences and speaking accurately.

We also have an excellent specialist PE teacher who helps provide high quality experience and supports our enthusiastic participation in many local activities and competitions.

Music and singing are a great focus at St John's and our specialist music teacher provides all the pupils with a rich experience of music and supports many opportunities to perform in a variety of contexts.



*Our Robins class performing in one of our termly music concerts.*

## **Governors**

The Governing Body at St John's plays an active and vital role in the success of our school. Governors work with staff to help develop the best provision for your child. Governors work hard to support school improvement and give generously of their time and valuable expertise.

## **Lemsford School Association - LSA**

Our energetic parent association is the social and fundraising heart of the school and works tirelessly to provide fun and interesting activities for children and parents alike. In doing so they also manage to raise considerable and much appreciated funds to enhance the learning experience of every child in the school.



*Maypole dancing practice for performances at the annual Lemsford Fete.*

## Home Learning

Parents have an opportunity to become involved in their child's education through regular home learning activities. These of course vary as the children progress through the school but might consist of a reading, spellings (or phonics) English, maths or topic tasks.

## Parent Partnership

At St John's we believe that parents play a hugely important role in successful learning at home and at school. We actively encourage parents to be involved in their child's education in as many ways as possible.

Our enthusiastic parents support reading throughout the school and are encouraged to help with clubs and class trips. We value the expertise and skills our parents' offer.

As a school which has safeguarding as a high priority we will always share any safeguarding issues with parents and, where necessary, with relevant agencies to safeguard a child's physical or mental wellbeing.

## Friday Celebration Assembly

All parents are welcomed to our lovely 'Celebration' assembly each Friday where we celebrate birthdays, 'Beacon Pupil' and share all the good work and behaviour shown by our children during the week. We also encourage children to talk about their achievements experienced out of school.



*Children receiving their merit certificates in one of our weekly Celebration Assemblies.*

## Treetops - our wrap round provision



*Treetops - our wrap round care facility*

St. John's School wrap round care aims to provide high quality provision for children before and after school. The children are able to participate in a range of activities as well just to relax in a safe, caring environment. The

provision is for St John's children, aged 4 -11 years.

We are open for Breakfast Club at 7.40 each morning when we welcome children in for the day with cereal, toast and a drink. The children who attend are taken to the main school across the playground at 8.40am when the school gates open. In the afternoon the children attending Treetops go straight there at the end of the school day and stay until they are collected (any time before 5.30 p.m or 5.00pm on a Friday)

All our staff, led by Pari Khierynejad, our wrap round care manager, are committed to providing a caring, relaxing atmosphere where children can choose from a wide variety of activities. We offer support with home learning, as well as a chill out area resourced with books and games.



The club operates an equal opportunities policy and is committed to the development of out of school care which respects the rights, responsibilities and needs of all children and their parents.



## Our Curriculum

At St John's we aim to provide a broad and balanced curriculum which underpins our fundamental aims of high standards of learning and achievement for all. We work hard to ensure our curriculum is tailored to the needs of all our children and our staff meet regularly to review the curriculum as part of our school improvement focus.

We feel it is vitally important for children to learn a variety of skills that can be transferred across different areas of learning. At St John's we are always developing our curriculum to encompass topics and learning that make strong links between skills and knowledge.

Our children are enthusiastic learners and, like all children, work most successfully in a learning culture of praise and encouragement. We firmly believe that for each child to reach their full potential they must be able to embrace challenge and be taught to evaluate their own learning and identify their next steps for improvement.



*Enjoying reading together in Starlings class*

## English

Fluency in reading and writing are crucial skills to successful learning across the whole curriculum. From their entry in the Reception class, St John's School fosters a love of reading, speaking and listening and writing.



*An outdoor English lesson in our amphitheatre*

Our lively English lessons often link to other areas of the curriculum to give a real purpose to reading and writing. Children are taught to write for a range of purposes and a variety of audiences in a lively fluent way. Emphasis is placed on grammar, punctuation, exciting vocabulary and creative, imaginative ideas.

We follow the Little Wandle scheme for our early reading phonics provision. The scheme provides a clear sequence that enables children to begin to read and write simple words, phrases and sentences as early as possible.

## Mathematics

At St John's we aim to engender a love of maths through interesting, lively activities which challenge children to learn and grow in mathematical confidence.

Children work daily on maths activities and are provided with a wide range of mathematical experiences. These include practical hands on learning, mental maths activities to increase mental agility, investigations and real life problems to solve. These approaches are supported by the emphasis placed on learning the core numerical skills such as place value, number bonds and multiplication and division times tables.

Parental support in learning number bonds and practising times tables is valued and appreciated and has an important impact on children's learning in maths.



*A catwalk as part of our Times table rockstars day!*



*'Hands on' Science*

## Science



*Pond dipping at Lemsford Springs*

Our Science curriculum at St John's aims to develop a love of investigating scientific concepts, developing scientific skills and understanding the world around us. We encourage our children to develop skills such as questioning, observing, making predictions, designing and setting up experiments and recording and interpreting results. We have a well-resourced Science curriculum which has a focus of 'hands on' experiments and activities to engage our budding scientists!



*Our years 5 and 6 pupils taking part a Science lesson at Stanborough School.*

## R.E and Collective Worship at St John's

Religious Education is a core element of our curriculum with staff and pupils enjoying learning about the Christian faith. We are also committed to teaching the children about other world faiths and ensuring our children learn to respect people of all faiths.



*Our children taking part in the Three Faiths tour in Bedford.*

We have a daily act of Collective Worship in school and on Thursday mornings the whole school and parents join with the Vicar of St John's Church, to have our collective worship in church. Each week children are involved in the

church service for example, contributing to readings, prayers or drama. Our close relationship with St John's Church is an extremely valued and important part of our school life and forms a strong support for our Christian ethos.

## St John's Church, Lemsford



*Easter Collective Worship at St John's Church*

Our daily collective worship is planned around a half termly theme which includes the Lord's Prayer, spirituality and Jesus' 'I am ...' statements. As each half term progresses the children deepen their understanding of the themes. Our worship groups (year 5 and 6 children) lead many aspects of collective worship.



*One of our groups leading collective worship.*

## Computing

At St John's Computing is an integral part of the teaching and learning experience. We understand that good computing skills will help our pupils become independent, lifelong learners. Our resources include sets of ipads and chrome books. All classes have interactive whiteboards and visualisers to enhance the learning experience of all our children.

## Physical Education

We believe that PE has an extremely important role to play in our pupils' physical development and development of positive attitudes and healthy lifestyles. Each class enjoys quality PE teaching both indoors and out, fulfilling the aim of 2 hours of PE for each child, each week.



Children enjoy a programme of activities from dance, gymnastics and games to swimming, tag rugby and cross country running. We are fortunate to have a specialist sports teacher, who delivers the majority of our PE.

## Music

We have a long tradition of excellent music provision at St John's with all of our pupils having the opportunity to listen, compose, perform and appraise many different types of music with our specialist music teacher. Singing is a particular strength of the school and pupils sing each day in collective worship.



Children are encouraged to play instruments and to share their music in Church and collective worship



*Our school ukelele club*

## History

History is approached in the Early Years through personal family histories and looking at how things change. As the

children get older they develop their knowledge of the past from a variety of sources and use their skills to understand events, changes in the lives of people and how we can learn from these events today. Topics include The Stone Age and Bronze Age, Egyptians, Ancient Greeks, Romans, Vikings, Victorians. Our links with the Lemsford Local History Society give the children an important insight into the changes in their own locality.



*A pupil involved in an interactive History session at Knebworth House*

## Geography

Learning in geography begins with the study of familiar places in the children's own locality. As children move through the school they develop their geographical skills which includes map reading, contrasting localities and understanding the impact of the terrain and climate on an area. Children are encouraged to think deeply about the effect of environment on humans and the effect of humans on the environment.

## Art

Art offers pupils a different medium of expression and we regard it as an important aspect of learning. Art can increase enjoyment of learning for many pupils and is incorporated into other subjects as much as possible. Themes and topics are taught through a programme of developing the children's skills in experimenting with different media and materials.



*Reception children sharing their artwork based on Jonah and the whale*

## PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education)

This important area of the curriculum aims to give our pupils the positive knowledge, skills and understanding necessary to help them lead healthy, active lives where they learn to be strong emotionally as well as physically.

We engage the children in developing respect for others and to understand that we are all valued. We teach about common humanity and diversity in our

own setting as well as nationally and globally.



*St John's pupils made their doves of peace to remember those who gave their life for our freedom in different world conflicts*

## Design and Technology

Our children love the challenges D&T gives them and the practical skills they learn. This subject provides many opportunities for imaginative design and problem solving using different contexts and construction materials. As in all our areas of learning, pupils are expected to evaluate their work and suggest ways in which they met their design brief or ways they could improve their product.

## French

All pupils at St John's enjoy a weekly lesson with specialist French teacher from Reception class to Year 6. They learn through songs, actions, listening and speaking and, as they get older, through writing. Our emphasis is on fun and fluency.

## **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)**

St John's is an inclusive school where all children are respected and every milestone is valued, however great or small. Provision is made for children with additional educational needs within their own class. If appropriate, some children may be withdrawn to work in small groups with a teacher or learning support assistant. We also welcome colleagues from external agencies to work alongside us to ensure best progress for a child who is having difficulty with learning. Very able children are also considered to be children with additional needs. Our staff ensure that the curriculum is designed to meet their needs and we liaise closely with neighbouring secondary schools to extend and enrich the curriculum for pupils.

## **House System**

We value our house system at St John's and the children all belong to one of four houses -Oak, Maple, Ash and Willow. House Captains organise inter-house activities and regular house assemblies are organised. Children gain points for their house through good behaviour, kind actions and effort in learning as well as for sporting activities. There is a House Cup for the house with greatest number of house points each half term. Our house system adds to the family atmosphere

of the school and encourages participation and support.

## **School Council**

Our active and successful School Council plays an important role in providing the children with a forum where their views and suggestions can be heard. Pupils themselves lead the meetings. Children are also consulted through the School Council for their views on curriculum subjects, teaching and learning throughout the school as well as resources and facilities. School Council consult with other pupils to choose charities to support.



*An art show of the children's work*

## **Eco Council**

Like the School Council our pupil elected Eco Councillors are working together to ensure we are an eco-aware school. They lead work on aspects such as recycling and creating wildlife areas as well as promoting our garden areas .

## Community Links

As a village school, we enjoy close links with members of our immediate local community as well as developing links with other schools and organisations further afield to ensure our pupils have a strong sense of community and the importance of making a significant contribution. Links include those with local care homes and Brockett Hall golf club.



*Performing for residents of local Quantum Care homes*

## School Uniform

The school encourages parents to ensure that their children wear the correct school uniform with pride.

**ALL ARTICLES MUST BE NAMED, including coats and shoes please.**

**WINTER** - Grey trousers or shorts  
Grey skirt, pinafore  
White polo shirt/blouse  
Navy blue sweatshirt, jumper or cardigan  
Grey/navy tights/socks

**SUMMER** - Blue/White checked dress  
White socks (not grey or navy)

**SHOES** - Plain black shoes or trainers should be worn

**Strappy sandals are not recommended as they are not suitable for active play in the playground**

## FOR PE

Navy blue shorts/blue top.

Tracksuit bottoms and sweatshirt or hoodie in plain navy blue may be worn for outdoor PE in cold weather.

Trainers must be worn.



*Sandpipers class at a Tag Rugby festival*

## School clubs

We offer many activities for children to take part in the end of the school day or at lunchtime. These include: netball, multi-sports, football, multi-skills, badminton, choir, ukelele, art, Lego, story and timetables clubs.

## And finally ...

**Many thanks for taking the time to read our prospectus. Do please contact us if we can help further. We look forward to meeting you.**

## Contact details:

Phone: 01707 322589

Email: [admin@stjohns561.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stjohns561.herts.sch.uk)

