



St John's School Newsletter

12th September 2025

Values of this half term

Hope & Aspiration

'For I know the plans I have for you' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future.'

Jeremiah 29:11



Building Fund

Attached with this newsletter is information about the school building fund and the tremendous impact it has had on our school environment. Our latest project, as you know, has been the total refurbishment of the boys' and girl's toilets as well as an update of the Robins class toilets. These developments have made a tremendous difference to our school environment and facilities.

Do please read the attached the Building Fund information letter to find out how you can support us with future projects.



From this....
To this...



Beacon Pupils

Robins - Oliver is our Beacon Pupil this week for being such a helpful and thoughtful member of our class. We have seen him making sure his friends get a turn with toys and creating interesting games for them to play together. He has shown great focus in our sessions and thoughtful answers to questions in class. Keep it up Oliver!

Starlings - Kalia for her excellent attitude and helpfulness. This week she has been a great role model for others ensuring that she has everything she needs to learn and also helping those around her with resources. As a learning partner she has listened carefully to their ideas as well as contributing those of her own. Whilst making our own books Kalia has used excellent adjectives and thought carefully about her illustrations.

Kingfishers - Raf. It has been fantastic to see Raf engage with all our subjects this week, from investigating states of matter in science, to using powerful verbs to describe events in Pompeii. Raf's care in his work resulted in a brilliant informal letter, and this excellent attitude to learning applies throughout our topics. Raf has been an excellent learning partner and group member, and he has stepped into his new year group and new learning, with confidence and enthusiasm. Well done Raf.

Sandpipers - Evie S is a brilliant example of our School Values and is a shining beacon in Sandpiper Class each day! She is conscientious and hard working, putting great effort and care into all of her work - whether it's detailed art work, careful maths, or descriptive writing. Evie always takes great pride in her learning while also praising, complimenting and helping others. Well done!

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

John 10:10

FETE MONDAY 4th MAY 2026!

Plans are afoot for the next Lemsford fete - the committee just does not stop planning!

We would like to invite all parents to a fete meeting in which we aim to explore ideas for next year's event. The meeting is on Wednesday 1st October in school at 8.00 p.m. Do please come along - the more the merrier!

Relating to the fete. One of parents is aiming to make new signs to advertise the fete. They would like to use old tents for this and would prefer polyester or nylon ones to transform into signage. If you have any old tents that you no longer need would you please let us know via Ms Lewis in the office. Thank you!

School Dinners

As you know we have a new school cook Stephanie Taggart. We have been really pleased with the quality and variety of food that is being offered. Here are a few photos from one lunchtime this week. Do please look again at the school lunch menu to consider school lunches for your child. We have been so fortunate to have another cook provide lunches for us but we need to keep the numbers of children having lunches up in order to maintain this - thank you!



Jobs around school

Maintaining the school buildings and grounds is a full-time job! There are a number of jobs that we would appreciate support with. If you can help with any of the following or make recommendations for us please do let us know:

- Painting the sheds
- Painting the end of the Treetops building
- Repair or replacement of the windows of Treetops
- Help with monitoring the health of the trees in the school grounds

Art Exhibition

For the first art of the year each class has created drawings and paintings relating on the theme of 'New beginnings' to reflect the start of the new year. We have chosen one picture from each class to be part of an Art exhibition in St Francis Church (on the Parkway in Welwyn Garden City.) The exhibition will include work from other schools as well as the works of local adult artists.

The children's paintings that will be part of the exhibition are by: Oliver D, Julia B, Winter C and Lily L. Well done!

In the coming week our school displays will be renewed with all the children's pieces of Art.

The Exhibition at St Francis Church will be open to the public on September 26th from 11-6, September 27th from 11-6 and September 28th, from 1-4. The entrance fee for adults will be £5, aged 18 and under free. Refreshments will be available in the Church Hall.



Harvest Celebration Thursday 2nd October 9am

All parents are warmly invited to our Harvest Celebration at St John's Church beginning at 9am. Donations of non-perishable food would be appreciated.

As part of the collective worship each class will be sharing a Harvest Poem.



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](#)

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.



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 not 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.

Grapes in School

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



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.

Menu Changes

We will have a new lunchtime menu starting after October half term - more information will follow soon.

Please label school uniform so it can be reunited with your child.



DIARY DATES

24th September - 1pm Year 5 Fun Run at Stanborough Lakes
24th September - 7.30pm LSA AGM - All Welcome - School Hall
25th September 6.30pm-8pm Full Governing Body Meeting
26th September - deadline for Christmas Card returns
W/C 29th September - BikeAbility Week for Sandpipers
2nd October - 9am - School Harvest Celebration at St John's Church - all welcome
2nd October 9.45 - Individual Photos being taken by Nic Sanders.
2nd October 11.30am - Siblings Photos*
16th October - Road Safety Talk for Starlings
17th October - LSA Café at 3.15 in our Dining Hall - Starlings to provide cakes please!
21st October - 1.30pm - Open Afternoon
21st October - time tbc - Meet the Teacher (in person) appointments - more details to follow
23rd October - time tbc - Meet the Teacher (on line) appointments - more details to follow
24th October - 10am - Open Morning.
27th October - 31st October - Half Term
Half term holiday club running on 27th/28th/29th and 30th October *
28th November - School Closed to Pupils
17th December - Christmas Lunch*
19th December - End of Term (1.30 finish)

*more details to follow



Hello!

It was lovely to see the children in church this week for Part 2 of our Collective Worship journey through God's big story — the story of the whole Bible! Each week a symbol reminds us of our theme, and this time a broken heart connected us to the story of the Fall — when the first of God's people turned away from him. We reflected on how we sometimes get things wrong too, but that Christians believe God always forgives us when we say sorry.

This Sunday (21st September, 3pm) it's time for St John's@3 - Autumn Wild Worship. We'll be heading outdoors to discover and celebrate God's creation, with plenty of fun for all ages. We'll start with drinks and cake outside the church Annexe before setting off. Why not give it a try!

Coming soon: Harvest Festival

Our All-Together Harvest Festival with Communion is on Sunday 5th October at 11am. This lively service is a chance for the whole church family to give thanks for God's good gifts, and to share what we have with others. We'll be collecting for the local foodbank and the Bishop's Harvest Appeal - if you're able, please bring along tins or packets, and any spare change for this good cause. It's always wonderful to see lots of parents and children there — let's fill the church and make this a whole St John's family service to remember!

A warm welcome awaits you at all of our services, whether you can come once a year, once a season, once a month, or every week.

Have a brilliant weekend.

Rev Kathryn
Vicar, St John's Church

