



St John's School Newsletter

3rd October 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



Harvest Celebration

On Thursday morning it was lovely to welcome so many parents to our Harvest Celebration at St John's Church. The service celebrated harvest through each class sharing a harvest poem or song, everyone joining in harvest hymns, prayers led by children in Sandpipers class and a talk by Revd Kathryn. Thank you for all the donations of food which will be given to a local foodbank.



Bikeability

Once again children in Sandpipers class have taken part in Bikeability sessions. We have had 3 riding instructors in school who have led the children on bike rides in the local area. As well as teaching them road safety skills, the sessions have built up the confidence of the children. Many of them have cycled around the roundabouts in Welwyn Garden City town centre and have developed their navigation skills by working out routes into town. We are grateful for the expert tuition the children have received in supporting them to acquire such important life skills.

Beacon Pupils

Robins - Ruben has been such a calm, thoughtful classmate in Robins so far this term. He thinks carefully about our lessons and offers great answers to questions. In our phonics and maths sessions he has made a great start at sounding out and counting carefully. He takes such care over his art activities and has such wonderful ideas for creations. We love the care he takes of his friends and the way he tries hard to help the adults in the class in any way he can. Well done Ruben, keep up the good work!

Starlings - Viaana for her great enthusiasm for all areas of her learning. She has grown in confidence this week and has taken an active role as a learning partner. In English she worked independently to write a letter using conjunctions. Viaana is a great mathematician and has shown good knowledge of great than, less than and equal to. Whilst problem solving with Year 2 Viaana also showed strong knowledge of the 2 times table. This has been an excellent week for her learning and we are so proud all she has achieved. Keep up the great work.

Kingfishers - Joseph has made such a fantastic start at St. John's and in Kingfisher class, throwing himself into all our topics and activities with confidence, hard work and care. Joseph has shown determination throughout our topics: in maths to solve addition and subtraction using column method, in English to create his own story based on the structure of our text, and in art to consider how he will use symbols and tone to represent myth characters. Joseph is always very focussed, considers how best to complete a task and shares ideas with the whole class confidently.

Sandpipers - Bernadette is someone who goes above and beyond in everything she does! She has been a fantastic buddy, helping them to settle in and make friends well. Bernadette puts lots of effort and care into all of her learning, always wanting to add more details or challenge herself further. We were really impressed with her mature ideas and reflections about Kindertransport children, and how she helped the class discussion with her interesting questions. She has really shone in Bikeability this week, with the instructors praising her listening skills, safety on the road, and effort. Well done!

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

John 10:10

More from our Harvest Service



Netball

The netball team had a great time at Stanborough learning driving and defending skills.



Individual Photos

Nic Sanders will be in school on the morning of Wednesday 8th October. Nic will take individual photos of children with their younger siblings after drop off. Please come straight to the hall.

Holiday club

Just a reminder that we are intending to run a holiday club during the half term break. The dates it will be running are:

Monday 27th October
Tuesday 28th October
Wednesday 29th October
Thursday 30th October

Do please contact Ms Lewis or Mrs Kay as soon as possible to book a place for your child.

Parking

We would strongly encourage parents to park in the public carpark at Lemsford Village Hall on Brockett Road rather on the road beside the school, whenever possible. By parking outside the school, traffic is being impacted and it is difficult for cars to drive past. The Village Hall car park is large and is fairly close.

We would appreciate your support with this.



 show you care, park elsewhere 

Menu Changes

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

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

School Census 2nd October 2025

Thank you to all the children who had a home packed lunch yesterday. Every single meal taken boosts our much needed funding. 63% of the children had a meal in school.

Harvest Service at St John's Church Sunday 5th October

Many of our children will be taking part in the service at St John's on Sunday morning at 11.00 a.m. They will be singing in the choir, leading the prayers and readings as well contributing in other ways. Could all children including those singing in the choir be at the church for 10.40 a.m. when we will have a practice with the adult choir members. Children do not need to wear school uniform.

Thank you, as always, for your support with this.



Tune into St John's on the Radio

Students, staff and parents are in for a treat, St John's will be mentioned on local Radio. Tune into Hertfordshire's MIX 92.6 Breakfast Show around 8.20am on 8th October, we are featuring on The Random School Selector slot.

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.

School Meals

As the kitchen needs meal choices by 9.30am, please either ring the school beforehand and pre book a choice or send in a home packed lunch if your child misses morning registration for any reason.

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.

Site Safety Message

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.

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.

Sandwich filling containing nuts, such as Nutella® and chocolate nut spread are not permitted.



Breaktime snack

A reminder that breaktime snacks should only be a piece of fruit/vegetable or plain biscuit. Chocolate or crisps are not allowed.

Grapes in School

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



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



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

Rupert So - Starlings

Danny & Mila - Kingfisher

Lily - Sandpiper



DIARY DATES

8th October - individual photos being taken
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's All About Harvest!

This week we had a wonderful school Harvest in church — and we're looking forward to continuing the celebrations on Sunday at 11am!

On Thursday morning, it was a joy to see the children taking part, thinking about the journey from seed to plate, and remembering all those who contribute — farmers, shop workers, delivery drivers, cooks — and God! It was a time to say thank you, and also to recognise that we have a part to play in sharing what we have.

The Harvest excitement continues this Sunday at 11am, when we'll be holding our All-Together Harvest Service. This is an all-age, more informal communion service, giving the whole community the chance to worship together. We hope as many families as possible will come along.

After the service there will be a bring-and-share lunch/refreshments. If you're able to bring something simple to share (sandwiches, cakes, fruit, savouries, etc.), that would be wonderful!

We'll also be collecting donations of food and essentials for our local foodbank. Items such as tinned vegetables, pasta, rice, toiletries, and other non-perishables will be gratefully received. Your generosity will help those in our local community who may not have enough.

Everyone is warmly invited: whether you come to church regularly or it's your first time, please join do us on Sunday as we celebrate, give, and share together.

Have a great weekend.

Rev Kathryn
Vicar, St John's Church

