



St John's School Newsletter

10th 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



Beacon Pupils

Robins - Adeline is such a positive character in Robin class. She shows great curiosity in all of our activities and asks brilliant questions. In her friendships she is keen to include people and make sure everyone has toys to play with. She has shown determination in our phonics lessons to learn her sounds and begin to blend them together. Keep up the good work Adeline!

Starlings - Benjamin for his excellent attitude to his learning this week. In Maths he has been focusing on working out number facts and spent time using resources to work independently. He has shown excellent resilience in working out number bonds to 10, 20 and 100. In English Benjamin has shown his group how to act like the crayons in our book taking on the various characteristics with a great sense of humour. During this week he has also shared his historic dolls house to small groups doing so with great knowledge and confidence. Benjamin is a kind and helpful member of our class. Well done on such a great week.

Kingfishers - Max has been growing in confidence in every aspect of our school day, from engaging in excellent discussions through to his participation in swimming. His work has reflected this, creating an excellent care guide for mythological creatures and using a range of strategies to solve reasoning questions in maths. Well done Max.

Sandpipers - Skyla is a ray of sunshine in our classroom! She is always kind and thoughtful, and is a wonderful friend to everyone. While she is brilliant at sharing her ideas, she also listens carefully and respectfully to others. Skyla has been a lovely learning partner this week, really bringing her partner out of their shell and working well together! She shows great care and attention to all her learning, wants to challenge herself, and listens well to feedback. A fantastic role model, well done!

Harvest

Thank you to those children and families that came along to St John's Church last Sunday morning to participate in the Harvest festival. Members of the school choir joined with the adult choir to sing 'For the Beauty of the Earth' while children also led the readings and prayers. Thank you for all your support.

Collective Worship

The theme of our Collective Worship this term is a 'Journey through the Bible.' We are retelling the main Bible stories and began with Genesis at the start of the term. For each story we have a symbol, this week the symbol has been a staff like the one that Moses held in the book of Exodus. We relate each story to our own lives and so far have explored themes like forgiveness, promises and love.



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

John 10:10

IMPORTANT

Safeguarding Alert: Children's Spy Books by the author Andy Cope

We are bringing to your attention a recent safeguarding issue affecting some popular children's books by Andrew Cope, including the Spy Dogs, Spy Cats, and Spy Pups series.

Some editions of these books include a printed web address at the back. This link used to go to the author's website, but the domain is no longer under his control. It has since been taken over by another party and now leads to inappropriate adult content.

The publisher, Puffin, has paused sales and distribution of the books and is working with schools, libraries, and retailers to remove copies from circulation. They have stressed that the website has no connection to the author or publisher.

What this means for you:

- If your child has any Spy Dog, Spy Cat or Spy Pups books at home, please check the back for website links and make sure they do not try to visit the site.
- It is safe for children to continue reading the stories themselves — the concern is only with the outdated link.
- We recommend talking with your child about the importance of not following web addresses in books without checking with an adult first.

If you intend to hold or visit any fairs, car boot sales or other events and spot a copy of an Andy Cope book, please inform the seller that these books have been withdrawn from sale.

September 2026 Open Days

Can you help?

If you are a parent and have children attending a local playgroup or nursery - would you be able to pop in and collect some leaflets to hand out to the other mums and dads who also attend.

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

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 than 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 

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 remember to check your account(s) and clear any unpaid invoice(s)

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.

Remember Nutella type spreads and Pesto are not allowed.



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.



Menu Changes

We have a new menu from 3rd November 2025 (after half term).

A copy of the new menu is now on our website. We have a fantastic new cook, Miss Taggart, who provides a delicious range of food. Now the weather is getting colder, we can offer your child a filling hot meal every day.

DIARY DATES

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 - Meet the Teacher (in person) appointments - more details to follow
23rd October - Meet the Teacher (on line) appointments - more details to follow
24th October - 10am - Open Morning.
24th October - 2-4pm Macmillan Tea at the Church
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

Come and visit

"I came that they may have life, life in all its fullness." John 10:10



**St John's Church of England Primary School,
Lemsford**

Parents of children looking for a place in a
Reception Class for September 2026
are warmly invited to come along to one of our
Open Mornings or Afternoons.

Tuesday 21st October 1.30 – 2.30 p.m.
Friday 24th October 10.00 – 11.00 a.m.
Tuesday 4th November 1.30 – 2.30 p.m.
Wednesday 5th November 10.00 – 11.00 a.m.

Come along and have a tour of our lovely school

To book your visit

email: admin@stjohns561.herts.sch.uk
or call: 01707 322598

We look forward to meeting you.



SUNDAY CLUB

at
St John's Church Lemsford

For children of all ages
Bible stories, crafts, friendship,
fun and snacks!

Every 2nd Sunday of the month
during the 11am service

Hello

What a brilliant week of Harvest celebrations we had at St John's!

On Thursday the children led a joyful Harvest Service in church. We built a "food chain" together and thought about all the people and processes behind something as simple (and delicious!) as an apple crumble. The children reminded us that, for Christians, right at the start of that chain is God, who gives sunshine, rain and soil so that everything can grow. And just as God plants tiny seeds in the earth, he's also planted seeds in each of us — things like kindness, laughter, courage and creativity — which grow when we share them.

Then on Sunday we gathered again for our All-Together Harvest Festival. This time we unpacked and ate a lunchbox to think about how Harvest is about more than food for our tummies — it's also about the food that feeds our hearts. The church looked beautiful — full of colour, children, laughter and harvest gifts for the Foodbank — and we even sang Happy Birthday to Maple the dog! Thank you to everyone who took part, brought donations, decorated, sang, read, or simply came along and joined in.

This Sunday we'll be back in church for Sunday Club at 11am, with stories, crafts and activities for children during the morning service. Everyone's very welcome at this fun and growing group.

Have a great weekend.

Rev Kathryn
Vicar, St John's Church

