



St John's School Newsletter

7 November 2025

Values of this half term

Peace & Understanding

'Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth to those with whom he is pleased.'

Luke 2: 14



Beacon Pupils

Robins - Ozzy is such a consistently kind and helpful member of Robin Class. He listens carefully and shares thoughtful answers in our class sessions. He has creative ideas in his play and is great at encouraging others to join in, sharing his ideas and listening to others. He is showing great skills in our maths sessions exploring numbers and using our new vocabulary. Keep it up Ozzy!

Starlings - Ava Payne for her excellent attitude to her learning, she has approached her work with care and precision. She is using adjectives that were shared with her group. In maths this week she has impressed us all with her knowledge of number facts to 10. Ava has shown an increased confidence in sharing her ideas and coming up to the front of the class during maths. We can rely on Ava to be a kind and thoughtful friend and learning partner and it had been great to see her confidence grow.

Kingfishers - Maya has shown enthusiasm and care in her work, and real confidence in multiplication and division. She has extended her answers to provide more detail and is meticulous in completing the tasks set. In her writing she uses a wide range of sentence starters to add variety to her work. Maya is an excellent friend and peer in the classroom but equally during playtimes and lunchtimes.

Sandpipers - Anna has really been blossoming in Year 6, showing great maturity and leadership. She shows great resilience and perseverance in her learning, especially in her maths when we've been working on some tricky fraction and percentage problems! Anna shared great descriptive ideas, creating beautiful poetry with lovely figurative language. She was a fantastic team player at the basketball event, encouraging her teammates and demonstrating great sportsmanship in all the matches. Anna has also been a fab volunteer on the busy poppy stall this week when serving the 'customers'!

MP Visit

Today Andrew Lewin MP for Welwyn and Hatfield toured the school and then joined the children from our Eco Council, School Council, Kingfisher and Sandpiper classes today for a Q&A session. Andrew was impressed with the quality of the questions and in particular one raised by Raf which related to our fundraising for £26,000 to provide new play equipment.



Basketball Competition

Well done to our Year 5&6 boys and girls teams for coming in 3rd place on Wednesday's basketball competition!



Archery Session

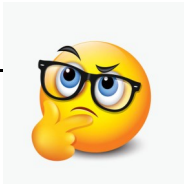
Children in Kingfisher and Sandpipers took part in an Archery Session, led by Jo Moxham of Stanborough School and the children had great fun honing their inner Robin Hood!

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


John 10:10

Word of the Week

This week's word for younger children:

Word		Definition	Challenge
curious		You are interested and want to know more.	Act out curious , showing how you feel with your face and body language.

This week's word for our older children:

Word		Definition	Challenge
Crestfallen		You are sad and disappointed about something.	If you were feeling crestfallen , what might have just happened?

Children in Need Day
Friday 14th November

On Children in Need Day, in exchange for a donation, the children can add a yellow or spotted item to the normal school uniform.

December 2026 Extra Open Day

Hello, for children starting in Reception in September 2026 we have added another tour to our list, that will take place on 5th December at 10-11am.

Remembrance Day
Tuesday 11th November

We will be remembering those who gave their lives in defending our freedom in our collective worship on Tuesday. We will begin our commemoration in the church and will then gather around a tree beside the pond to drape words of remembrance on its branches.



Holiday club

We are taking bookings for holiday club at the end of the Autumn term. The dates it will be running are:

Monday 22nd December
Tuesday 23rd December

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

A couple of extra pictures from our MP visit today...

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

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 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

Eva J - Starlings

Will B - Kingfisher

Rei - Sandpipers



DIARY DATES

8th November - Light Party at St John's Church at 3pm

11th November - Remembrance Day

14th November - LSA Fire works evening

14th November - Children in need day

21st November **LSA Hamper donation day** in exchange for non-uniform (more information to follow.)

27th November **LSA Pre-loved Christmas jumper** sale after school

28th November - School Closed to Pupils

4th December - **The 12 days of Christmas activities begin. Watch this space for information about the many events taking place!**

9th December - Panto visit

14th December - Children in Need Day

17th December - Christmas Lunch

19th December - End of Term (1.30 finish)

Fundraising at St John's

BUILDING FUND

The first is the Building Fund which was introduced last year and again at the start of term. This is an on-going fund for the development of the school buildings, recent developments have included the new children's toilets and cloakrooms, the external steps to the hall and Sandpipers class, repairs to the flat roof and the fencing and tarmac in the Robins class outdoor area. Diocese fund these projects but as a school we contribute 10% of the cost. For this fund we would appreciate monthly contributions or one-off payments. Further details are available on the school website.

MISSION 26-26

This is a fundraising venture led by the LSA with the aim of replacing the play equipment on the main playground. The cost is considerable, one quote being around £35,000, for example. LSA fundraising events between now and the end of 2026 will go towards this goal but any suggestions for match funding and donations from companies and other donors would be much appreciated. Please speak to Mrs Boylan, Faye Dave (chair of the LSA) or other LSA members about this.



Hello

Hello!

We're having an amazing week in church!

On Sunday we celebrated All Saints' Day with a joyful all-age service and Freya's baptism. Congratulations, Freya — it was a joy to be with you as you said your big "yes" to God!

In Collective Worship this week, we're beginning the next chapter in God's Big Story, as we think about God's people finding themselves far from home, yet never forgotten. We'll be adding a broken-house symbol to our ribbon timeline as we explore how, even in strange or difficult places, God is still with us.

Coming up, we're really excited about our Light Party on Saturday 8th November at 3 pm in the Church and Annexe — expect games, crafts, chat, and a snack-filled celebration of light in the darkness!

And if that's not enough, Sunday Club meets during the 11 am service this weekend. Everyone's welcome!

Rev Kathryn

