



St John's School Newsletter

21 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 - Oriana has been working so hard in our phonics lessons. She is growing in confidence with her sounds and using them for reading as well. In the class she has wonderful, creative ideas which she enjoys sharing with her friends. She listens carefully and has thoughtful ideas to share in our class sessions. We cannot wait to see what she does next.

Starlings - Hazel for her continued enthusiasm for all aspects of her learning. She has written some beautiful sentences about our earth this week in English using a range of adjectives. In maths she has shown such confidence in subtraction, working on solving problems and finding the difference. She is a great friend to all and a positive learning partner with everyone she has worked with this term.

Kingfishers - Hallelujah has been an active learner this week - contributing to our class discussions, excellent independent and paired work, and extending on her learning to create detailed and in-depth pieces of work. In maths it has been fantastic to see Hallelujah using her multiplication knowledge to problem-solve, in English she has used her creativity and empathy to plan and begin writing a recount in role as a character and in RE Hallelujah shared insightful and thoughtful analysis of Islamic stories and what they represented.

Sandpipers - Morland brings such joy to our classroom with his sense of fun and great sense of humour! He is also incredibly engaged and enthusiastic about his learning. We have been impressed with his brilliant vocabulary and creativity in his writing, but he has also worked hard on improving his punctuation and sentence structure, and taking more care when proof-reading. Morland is a deep thinker who contributes such valued ideas and questions to our class discussions! Well done!

Governors' Visit

Many thanks to four of our governors, Carrie, Lawrence, Revd Kathryn and Lucy, who visited school yesterday afternoon. They came to see teaching and learning in action in RE. As part of the visit, they also spoke to some of the children about safeguarding and aspects of life in a Church of England School such as spirituality, RE Enrichment days and collective worship.

Many thanks to all our governors who support us in so many ways.



Mission 26-26

This morning in our celebration assembly we updated the Mission 26-26 rocket. We have reached over £3100!




"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
determined 	When someone is sure they want to do something, even if it is difficult.	Ask someone at home to say the word determined in a sentence.

This week's word for our older children:

Word	Definition	Challenge
defective 	Not working, something is wrong.	Do you have anything at home that is defective ? What happened to it?

St Francis Church Christmas Tree festival

This year we will be taking a tree along to the Christmas Tree Festival which takes place in St Francis Church in Welwyn Garden City. The festival will take place over the weekend of 6th and 7th December. As part of our RE enrichment day on Thursday 27th November we will be exploring the colours of Christmas. The children will work in their house teams to create red, green, gold and silver decorations for the tree. If you would like to see our tree and many others for more details please follow this link:
[St Francis' Christmas Tree Festival - News - St Francis of Assisi - A Church Near You](#)

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.

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

We would like all bookings to be made by the end of next week.

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

12 Days of Christmas!

The 12 Days of Christmas will be beginning on Thursday 4th December and we are very grateful to members of the LSA for supporting us with the brilliant range of Christmas activities that the children will soon be enjoying. The LSA poster of activities was sent to you yesterday.

Many thanks for all your donations for the Christmas hampers which were brought in today.

A reminder to about our sale of pre-loved Christmas jumpers which will be taking place after school on Thursday 27th November. If you have any jumpers which your children have grown out of that could be part of the sale, please bring them into school between now and next Thursday - many thanks, in advance.

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 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

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.

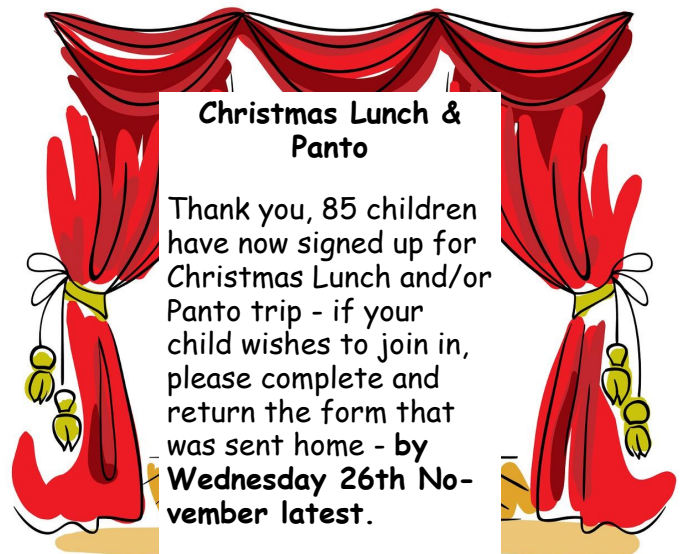


Please label school uniform so it can be reunited with your child.



Christmas Lunch & Panto

Thank you, 85 children have now signed up for Christmas Lunch and/or Panto trip - if your child wishes to join in, please complete and return the form that was sent home - by **Wednesday 26th November latest.**



DIARY DATES

November

26th Last day to sign up for Christmas Lunch

27th LSA Pre-loved Christmas jumper sale 3.15pm

28th School Closed

December

3rd Choir to Brocket Hall

4th The 12 days of Christmas activities begin

9th Panto visit

17th Christmas Lunch

19th End of Term (1.30 finish)

January 2026

5th - Inset (school closed to pupils)

6th - Start of Spring Term

Later in Spring Term:

16-20th February - Half Term Break

27th March - 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!

We've had another great week in Collective Worship, as we've continued our journey through God's Big Story, reaching the moment when God's people return home after many years in exile. My pile of props for each part of the story is starting to become rather large! When the people finally arrived back in Jerusalem they found their city in ruins - but in the story of Nehemiah we discovered that rebuilding happens best when everyone works together. We reflected on what this means for us today too — that our school, like their city, becomes kinder and stronger when everyone plays their part in building something good.

Lots of you have started asking about what's coming up in December for Christmas, so I've attached a rundown below. The services on 7th, 14th, 24th and 25th December are especially brilliant for children. We're also carol singing in the village from 6:15pm on 23rd December (starting at the school car park). And then it's our orange, sweet, pizza (and Jesus) filled Christingle service on 19th January! We'd love to see you at these special services over the next few weeks. St John's is your church!

Have a great weekend.

Rev'd Kathryn

All the December dates for your diary!

7th All-Together Journey to Christmas*
with a little help from Sunday Club
11am

24th Crib Service*
2:30pm

14th All-Together Candlelit Carols*
4pm

24th Midnight Mass
11pm

21st A Service of Readings & Carols
11am

25th All-Together Christmas Communion*
11am

23rd Carol Singing in Lemsford village & The Sun
6:15pm Church
7:30pm The Sun

Plus **19th January** Christingle service with pizza*
3pm

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

*Brilliant for children (and all other ages!)

JOY

