



# St John's School Newsletter

## 5th December 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



### Choir visit to Brockett Hall

The school choir were once again invited to sing for the Brockett Babies' annual Christmas Dinner. The Brockett babies were born in Brockett Hall during the second world war when the house was put into service as a hospital. Twenty-eight children from Starlings, Kingfishers and Sandpipers classes walked to the hall on a lovely bright sunny morning. Once they had eaten their packed lunches in a very beautiful drawing room they sang for the guests as they arrived at the venue and as they went into the dining room. They did a great job performing traditional and popular Christmas carols and songs.

Many thanks to the parents who accompanied us on the visit.



### Beacon Pupils

**Robins - Thomas** has been working really hard in Robin Class this week. He has shown real determination even when things are tricky and is working hard in all of our class sessions. He is growing in confidence using his sounds and spotting them in his reading as well. It has been lovely to see him playing thoughtfully with his friends, spotting if someone is left out and asking them to join in, or asking for help if there is a problem. We love your enthusiasm Thomas, keep up the good work.

**Starlings - Nana** for an excellent start to his time at St John's. During our play rehearsals this week he has shown a great confidence in delivering his lines and singing all the songs. He has settled in brilliantly making lots of friends and sharing his ideas in class. When we have read our book the Lonely Christmas Tree Nana made great suggestions on adjectives we could use to write our expanded noun phrases. He has beautiful handwriting and great knowledge of his phonic sounds. Keep up the great work Nana

**Kingfishers - William P** for his care, attention to detail and enthusiasm leading to fantastic pieces of work (and also excellent class discussions). William shared a wide variety of vocabulary and devices to describe in English, carefully plotted a route using maps in geography (sharing with the class) and has challenged himself in maths with problem-solving questions in multiplication and division. William has shown this same care with his classmates and learning partner, showing support and help where he has recognised it was needed.

**Sandpipers - Teddy** has really impressed us throughout his time in Sandpipers with his maturity, kindness, and enthusiasm for learning and is a great role model. He has worked hard on the presentation and content of his writing - creating a fantastic narrative with brilliant vocabulary! In maths, he has persevered well with tricky questions and used resources to help him tackle new challenges. Teddy represented the school brilliantly at the tag rugby event with his positive attitude and being a great team player. Well done!

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

John 10:10

### Welcome

We would like to warmly welcome two new children and their families to St John's. Nana has joined year 1 in Starlings class and Gursirat who has joined year 5 in Sandpipers. We are delighted that they have joined us and wish them all the very best as they become part of our school community.

### LSA Christmas Jumper Sale

Many thanks to everyone who donated and bought Christmas jumpers and other items last Thursday afternoon. A total of over £200 was raised - fantastic!



### Tag Rugby festival

Well done to our team of 10 children in Year 5&6 for attending the tag rugby festival at Welwyn Rugby Club. They showed brilliant teamwork throughout their wins and draws!



### RE Enrichment Day Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November

We had the first this year's RE Enrichment Days last Thursday. The focus of the day was Advent and the nativity story as viewed by different characters. In the morning after Collective Worship in church each class considered a different telling of the Nativity story in writing and Art. During the afternoon the children explored the colours associated with an Advent wreath and their meaning. Some of the children's learning is displayed in the hall, so do please have a look when you are next in there.

### Cyclist - Esme - visit

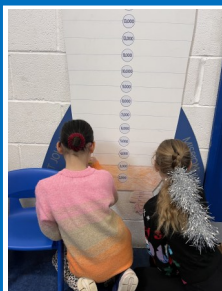
Esmee, a past St John's pupil, is a keen cyclist - she is the national youth champion for time trials and has recently been selected for the GB cycling team! She spoke to Sandpiper Class about how she first became interested in cycling, her training schedule, and competitions. She shared brilliant messages about perseverance and resilience too!



### Mission 26-26

Our total is now over £3,000.

Thank you for your astronomical effort, we will keep reaching for the stars.



### Elite Dance Show



We were treated to a performance by our dance club who are coached by Elite Dance.

The group performed brilliantly. The club will be running again after the holidays. Please look out for information for joining.



### Kingfishers

A reminder that our final swim is next week (10th December)



## Word of the Week

This week's word for younger children:

Word	Definition	Challenge
discover	When you find something that you did not know before.	Imagine you found an old box in a cupboard. What do you think you would <b>discover</b> inside?



This week's word for our older children:

Word	Definition	Challenge
derelict	Empty and in a bad condition because it has not been used or lived in for a long time.	Think of three other adjectives you would use to describe a <b>derelict</b> house?



### Christmas Tree Festival at St Francis Church in Welwyn Garden City

For the first time the school has entered a tree of the annual Christmas Tree Festival at St Francis Church. During our RE Enrichment Day last week we explored the colours that relate to Advent and each house made decorations for the tree. We will share photos once the tree has been dressed and the festival is taking place. For more information about the event please visit:

St Francis' Christmas Tree Festival - News - St Francis of Assisi - A Church Near You



### Holiday club

Thank you to those parents who have booked places on 22nd and/or 23rd December. Invoices are now on Arbor.

### 12 Day of Christmas

Please keep an eye on the 12 Days of Christmas schedule - lots of lovely activities to enjoy! We have sent out a separate email with further information about arrangements for the children's visit to the pantomime next Tuesday afternoon.

### 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

Iskirat - Robins

Elisabeth - Starlings

Marley - Kingfisher

Samuel W - Sandpipers



### 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 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.



### Readers for the St John's Candlelit Service

On Sunday 14th December 4.00 p.m. the school choir will be singing in the candle lit service at St John's Church.

We would also like other children to do the readings.

Please let us know if you would like your child to read at the service.



## DIARY DATES

### December

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)

\*more details to follow

## 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

This week in Collective Worship we continued travelling through God's Big Story. As Christmas draws closer, we reached the moment where Mary says "yes" to God — and everything begins to change. On Thursday — with the help of a game of *pass the joy* — we explored Mary's visit to her cousin Elizabeth, where the joy between them quite literally leaps into life. Our message for the day was simple: when God is at work, joy spreads — and we can help spread it too through kindness, laughter and love.

There will be lots of joy spreading at this Sunday's **Advent All Together Service at 11am at St John's**. Our Sunday Club children (and any other children who'd like to join in) will be helping to lead this interactive, all-age service. Everyone is welcome — especially if you've never been before!

And as if that wasn't joyful enough, do take a look at our Christmas services at St John's below. Next Sunday is our popular **All Together Carols by Candlelight service on 14th December at 4pm** — *get there early to guarantee a good seat!*

Have a joyful weekend.

Rev. Kathryn

### All the December dates for your diary!

7th	All-Together Journey to Christmas* <i>with a little help from Sunday Club</i> 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

