



St John's School Newsletter

12th 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



Nativity performances

Yesterday families were treated to wonderful performances of the nativity given by children in Robins and Starlings classes. They sang, spoke and danced so well - it was a joy to see. Many thanks to the families who came along and a huge thanks to the staff team who worked so hard to make each performance so memorable.



Pantomime

The children had a very enjoyable visit to the Campus West Theatre to see their performance of Cinderella. It was everything a good pantomime should be - fun, entertaining, colourful and loud! Thank you to the LSA for providing refreshments in the interval.



Beacon Pupils

Robins - Jesse has been a star this week at school. His enthusiastic performance in the Nativity really put a smile on all of our faces and we loved watching him have a great time at the Pantomime. He has also been working well in small group activities in our phonics and maths time in class and contributing his ideas. Keep up the good work Jesse.

Starlings - Toni for her amazing enthusiasm in everything she does. This week she has shown passion for the nativity production. She was able to learn her lines and show off her fantastic moves in the star dance. Along with the Nativity play Toni has written beautiful sentences on our class story of the Lonely Christmas tree. She has great knowledge of both 2D and 3D shapes. Toni is a lovely learning partner and a great friend to all. Well done Toni.

Kingfishers - Otilie shows enthusiasm for all our topics, sharing fantastic ideas and excellent focus in her work. Otilie has shown real determination in her maths, tackling division of 3-digit numbers and working systematically to solve them. In English, Otilie has shown great inference, considered characters emotions and motivations through broad vocabulary, and structured an empathetic diary entry as 'Star'. Otilie's mature attitude extends to how she conducts herself both in class and outside, caring for those around her and ensuring that everyone is included and valued. Well done Otilie.

Sandpipers - Sophia is a warm and friendly member of our class who is a kind and considerate friend to all. We have been impressed with her growing confidence and attention to detail in her writing, in particular her brilliant description in her Highway Man story to create a spooky atmosphere. When cooking this week, Sophia led her group with a quiet confidence - she showed great skills when using the knife, helped others, and made sure everyone had a turn. She was also brilliant during the class samba performance, smiling with pride while shimmying and box-stepping! How lovely to see you continue to blossom and to see your personality shine.

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

John 10:10



Amazon Wish List



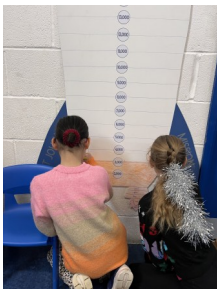
Thank you to all the parents and children who have been so generous with their purchases from our Wish List so far this year.

Some of the items were sent to us anonymously and on behalf of the children, we extend a special thanks to you too.

Christmas Shopping

Once again the Christmas shopping event was one of the highlights of the year, Santa's elves were kept busy wrapping the gifts the children had chosen for their family members. Many thanks to parents for so generously donating gifts, there was definitely something for everyone!

Mission 26-26



We continue to add to our fund, the total is now over £3,000.

One small step nearer to our goal.



Word of the Week

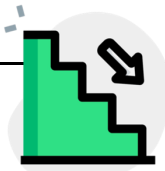
This week's word for younger children:

Word	Definition	Challenge
disguise	You try to look different so people do not recognise you.	What disguise would you like?



This week's word for our older children:

Word	Definition	Challenge
descent	Moving down.	What things can you make a descent in or on?



Christmas Tree Festival at St Francis Church in Welwyn Garden City

For the first time the school entered a tree of the annual Christmas Tree Festival at St Francis Church.



Canine Concern

We have been sent a copy of the Canine Concern Newsletter which we would like to share - as we are mentioned.

Please see our Newsletter Attachments email for your one-off copy.

We are very lucky to have volunteers and their dogs, like Hattie pictured here, in school to support reading with the children.



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.

**12 Day of Christmas
Counting down to Christmas**

Next week is the final week of our 12 Days of Christmas - please check the schedule - lots of lovely activities including Christmas jumper day on 15th and the Christmas Raffle on Friday.



P show you care, park elsewhere **P**

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.



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. All are welcome.



DIARY DATES

December

15th Christmas Jumper Day

15th RockSteady Concert

16th Christmas Concert

16th Choir to sing at Stanborough Lodge

17th Christmas Lunch & Class Parties*

18th Carol Service at 2.30pm - all parents welcome

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)

*Bring party clothes in a bag to change into.

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 was our last Collective Worship of the term. As it's nearly Christmas, we explored what we really need at Christmas with the help of a spot of Christmas shopping.

As you might expect from a vicar, I'm going to use my last but one newsletter column of the year to remind you of all the brilliant services we have coming up for children – and adults – over the next couple of weeks.

This Sunday at 4pm is our popular All-Together Carols by Candlelight. We can't wait to hear the school choir sing and listen to the children re-tell the Christmas story in this magical candlelit service for all ages.

On **23rd December** we'll be carol singing in the village and then at The Sun Pub. We're setting off from church at 6:15pm if you'd like to join in.

On **24th December** at 2:30pm it's our hugely child-friendly Crib Service. Christmas doesn't truly start until you've been to a crib service – so come and join us for 45 minutes of family fun.

And on **25th December** at 11am it's our All-Together Christmas service: an informal all-age communion to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

All our other services are in the poster below. Children are welcome at absolutely all of them. Whatever you're up to this weekend, I hope you have a brilliant one.

Rev'd 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	



JOY