



St John's School Newsletter

19th 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



House Competition - Star decorations

The House Captains had a tough job judging the nearly 50 wonderful entries to the House competition! Well done to Sophia, Ozzy, Joey and James for being the overall winners for your Houses.



Music Concert

This week we were treated to an excellent concert led by Mr Rapson, our music teacher. Each class had prepared a performance of a Christmas song combining singing with instrument playing. It was fantastic to hear the singing and to see the way in which this was accompanied by the children.



Beacon Pupils

Robins - Iskirat has been so well focussed in the last few weeks so she is our Beacon Pupil today. She has been using all of her new skills in phonics for her reading and her writing. It has been lovely seeing her grow in confidence to use these skills. She is such a kind and thoughtful friend, always happy to include everyone in her play and share her creative ideas. Keep up the good work Iskirat.

Starlings - Victoria for her mature and grown up attitude this week. She has written lovely instructions on how to make hot chocolate and worked well with her group sharing ideas and listening to others. In Maths she has helped to solve problems with her group and showed her in-depth maths knowledge. Victoria has a great confidence in both whole class and small groups and has shown her caring side towards her friends this week. Well done and keep it up!

Kingfishers - Mason has been a fantastic role model, classmate and friend this week. He has shown great focus in class drawing on our learning throughout topics to answer our key questions - remembering excellent facts in Science and RE. Mason thought carefully about the structure of his newspaper in English and showed great confidence in dividing using the formal method. Mason has really been a kind and caring friend during all our Christmas activities, and is first to offer help when needed or take on roles of responsibility. Thank you for all your hard work, Mason.

Sandpipers - Jenson C has really grown in confidence in his time in Year 6 and it's been lovely to see him be more talkative and chatty! He has shown great determination in recent months, even when school feels tricky or challenging he works hard and shows great interest in our learning. In the past few weeks he has shown amazing resilience and put himself out of his comfort zone with lots of new activities - from enjoying the pantomime, being great fun at our class party, and showing off great cooking (and eating!) skills. Well done!

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

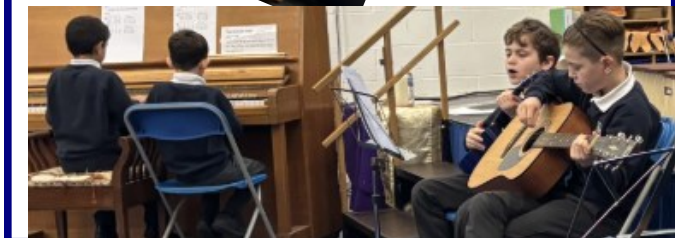
John 10:10

Rock Steady

Well done to the children who took part in the Rock Steady concert. An information leaflet about Rock Steady is attached to the accompanying email.



More photos from this week...



Harry B - Former Pupil

The very talented Harry has a song being released on Spotify, Apple Music, Amazon music and all other channels This Saturday (20th) at 10am.

Harry wrote the song, and is playing all the backing instruments and singing all the backing vocals. He recorded it all in a studio during Half Term. The instruments are Guitar, Bass Guitar, Electric Guitar, Ukelele, Piano and Drums.



Goodbyes

We are very sad to be saying goodbye to three of our children this week, Otilie, Alessandro and Nicole. We wish them all the very best in their new schools and will miss each of them.





Christmas parties and dinner
 The classes enjoyed their class Christmas parties this week. This followed a lovely Christmas party prepared by our school cook, Stephanie. Thank you to Mrs K and Miss Gray for decorating the dining room and to staff for organising and leading the parties.



Sandpipers

We were delighted to be able to sample the cooking from the children in Sandpipers this week. The spring rolls were especially good.

Choir at Stanborough Lodge

Once again, the choir visited the residents of the Stanborough Care Home. The children sang Christmas carols and songs for the residents, spreading some Christmas cheer. After singing the children chatted with the residents and were then treated to a buffet. Many thanks to parents for their help in transporting the children for this visit - we couldn't have done it without you!



Carol Service at St John's Church

Our carol service at the church was a lovely celebration of the Christmas story. The choir sang, Sandpipers class presented the readers and members of Kingfishers led the prayers. The children in Robins class made a lovely tableau of the nativity scene. Thank you to the parents who came along to be part of this special service.



Rock Steady Concert







We were treated to renditions of popular Christmas songs presented by our three resident Rock Bands.

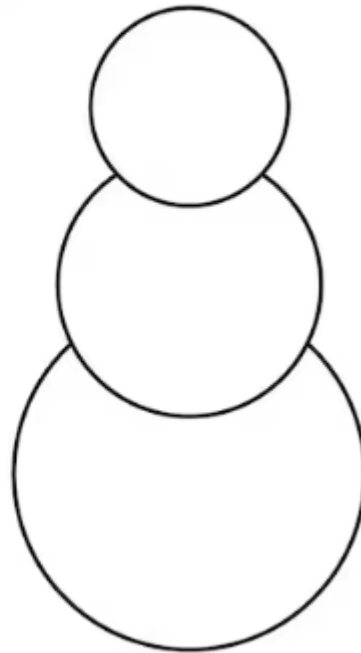
Olivia our RockSteady leader and the children have worked hard to prepare for their performances.



ROLL A SNOWMAN

Roll the dice and draw the corresponding part of the snowman. Continue until you have completed your snowman. The first to complete their snowman wins!

-  Eyes
-  Nose
-  Scarf
-  Mouth
-  Hat
-  Arms



A few end of term reminders:

Uniform

Please take the opportunity over the holidays to check that all items of uniform have your child's name labelled clearly on them, including any new items of uniform. Also please ensure that if your child wears trainers as part of their uniform that they are **completely** black.

Attendance

We appreciate that this is the season for coughs and colds as well as other illnesses. However, there are many children whose attendance during the second half of the Autumn term has fallen to below 90%, which is classed as persistent absence. Medical and dentist appointments should not be taken in the school day. Holidays or short breaks away should also not be taken during term time. Absence from school impacts the children's development in a number of negative ways including academically and emotionally, as well as impeding their social development. Please support us by ensuring that your child's attendance is consistently good.

LSA Fundraising

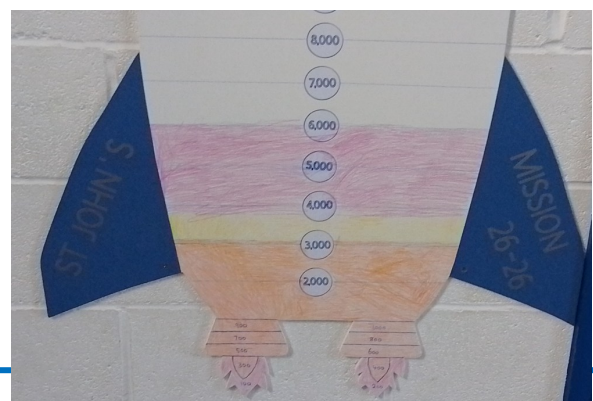
Over the 12 Day of Christmas we have raised over £1,500.

We thank each and every person who contributes to our fundraising, every penny helps.

Mission 26-26

Due to the huge efforts of the LSA and the generosity of parents we have now reached a total of £6,000

What a tremendous achievement - thank you all!



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.



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



DIARY DATES

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.

*more details to follow

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.



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!

I can't believe we've reached the end of term and that Christmas is almost here!

I wanted to start with a massive THANK YOU to everyone who supported our All Together Carols by Candlelight last week. It was wonderful to have a full church, listening to the children read and sing so beautifully. I've had so many lovely comments from people about how amazing they were — and we didn't set the church alight as a bonus!

If you missed last weekend's service, don't be sad — in addition to the school carol service, we have the Children's Crib Service at 4pm on Christmas Eve, and our All-Together Christmas Day service at 11am.

I have it on good authority that some special guests will be making an appearance at the Crib Service... and Christmas Day might just involve a little present.

Whether you're able to be part of St John's Christmas celebrations or are heading away for Christmas, I hope you have a wonderful time and a blessed beginning to 2026.

See you in the New Year!

PS Don't forget to put Christingle and Pizza in your diary — Sunday 19th January at 3pm

Rev'd Kathryn

