



St John's School Newsletter

9th January 2026

Values of this half term

Wisdom & Truth

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father, except through me."
John 14:6



Thank you

The staff at St John's would like to extend a huge thank you for the Christmas cards and gifts that we received at the end of the Autumn term. Thank you for your thoughtfulness and generosity. We wish you all a very happy 2026!

Collective Worship

Last term our Collective Worship took us through the key stories of the Old Testament. We learnt that the Bible is one big story of God's love for His people but that it is also *our* story because we are part of God's people today. This half term we are exploring the four Gospels to find out about how each of the gospel writers (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) told the story of Jesus' life on earth. The photo shows our version of the 4 apostles!



Welcome

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to two new children who have recently joined us. They are Finley B who has joined Kingfishers class and Alice S who has joined Starlings. We look forward to getting to know them and their families.

Beacon Pupils

Robins - Arty has come back to school with a real sense of determination to learn in Robins Class. She wanted help to perfect her letter 'e' formation this week and worked on it in her independent learning time with help from a teacher. We love her curiosity and fantastic questions which she uses to explore our topics and her own interests. She also has wonderful creativity in her play and art work. Keep up the good work Arty.

Starlings - Benjamin for a fantastic work ethic in everything he has completed. In class Benjamin has shown great confidence in sharing his ideas, both in small groups and as part of the whole class. He has demonstrated excellent knowledge of sentence structure when writing about his Christmas break. In maths he has shown great perseverance in problem solving with making equal groups and working well with his learning partner. Benjamin is a kind and thoughtful member of our class and always comes to a school with a smile. Keep it up.

Kingfishers - Pippa has shown excellent focus, determination and questioning within lessons. In Science, Pippa gave excellent explanations for her science understanding, really extending on her learning. In English, Pippa has shown excellent use of alliteration and using fantastic vocabulary to add variation and description. Pippa has worked brilliantly both independently and with her learning partner, and it's great to see how her confidence has grown in sharing her ideas with the class.

Sandpipers - Lukey has really impressed us with his hard-working attitude and positivity towards his learning. He carefully listens to others and has thoughtfully contributed to our class discussions. We have been really pleased with his focus and concentration towards his learning, helping him to tackle and master multiplication methods. He shared mature ideas in RE, understood our class text well in English, and was supportive towards others when sharing dreams and goals in PSHE. Lukey led a brilliant young leader session this week, organising the children and resources well and helping everyone to join in and have fun. Well done!

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

John 10:10

Autumn Term - Governor Awards

Well done to Isabella, Joey, Eva, Lewis and Callum who received their Governor Award in December. Congratulations also to Gracie who received her Governors award today.



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.



Weather Alerts

Should we need to close the school for any reason, staff will contact Parent/Class Reps who send a WhatsApp message to each family.

We would then update you regularly.

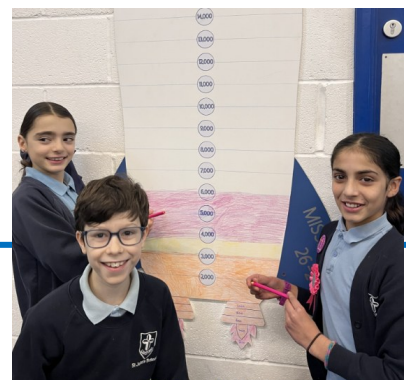


Mission 26-26

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!

Please look out for further events and opportunities for fundraising this term.



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

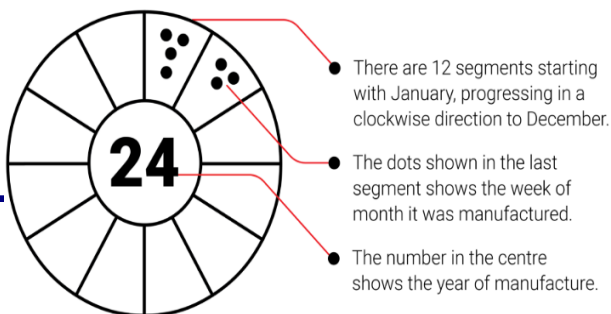


DIARY DATES

- 15 January - School Census
- 22 January - 6.30-8pm Full Govs Meeting
- 5 February - House Teams Biscuit Baking Event to raise money for Mission 26:26
- 6 February - LSA Café, Kingfisher Class
- 9 February - start of Feeling Good & Mental Health Week
- 10 February - Meet the Teacher *
- 12 February - Meet the Teacher*
- 13 February - Careers Talk given by parents
- 16-20th February - Half Term Break
- 5 March - World Book Day
- 6 March - LSA Disco*
- 12 March - Salt Mine Theatre to visit
- 13 March - LSA Café, Sandpipers Class
- 9th March - start of Science Week
- 19 March - Full Governing Body at 6.30pm
- 23 March - RockSteady Concert*
- 24 March - Music Concert*

Home Safety - Hot Water Bottles

Did you know Hot Water Bottles have an expiry date. You need to replace these every 2-3 years? This image shows when your bottle was manufactured...



Hello!

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year, and that the return to routine hasn't been too much of a shock! It was so lovely to see so many of you in church for the Crib Service — I hear that another special guest might be making an appearance next year...

It was great to see the children again at Collective Worship on Thursday. This term we'll be exploring why there are four different Gospels telling the story of Jesus' life, and what each Gospel writer might have been trying to convey about who Jesus is. One of the big themes in John's Gospel is Jesus as the light — which brings me to a reminder that our Christingle Service is coming up on Sunday 18th January. It's at the slightly earlier time of 3pm this year, so there's plenty of time to get ready afterwards for Monday morning. All the details you need are below.

Christingle Service – Sunday 18th January at 3pm

The perfect cure for the January blues... The Christmas decorations may have been packed away, but the light of Christ still shines bright!

Join us on 18th January at 3pm for our New Year Christingle celebration. Come along and have fun making your own Christingle with oranges, candles and SWEETS, before joining in a short, joyful service for all ages. And afterwards? PIZZA for everyone! A chance to carry the joy, hope and light of Christ's birth into the new year.

Let's brighten up January together!

Rev'd Kathryn

