



St John's School Newsletter

23rd 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



Clubs

The lunchtime and after school clubs started this week. It has been lovely to see so many children enjoying their Lego, singing, science, dance and ball skills to name some of the clubs that are taking place this term. Many thanks especially to Carrie Shannon and Revd Kathryn for the Science and Lego/Bible story clubs respectively that they are running for us.



Nut Free School

A reminder that we are a nut-free school. All food brought into school MUST be nut-free. Food items that should NOT be part of packed lunches include pesto & chocolate spread as these contain nuts.

Beacon Pupils

Robins - Veronica has been spotted being extra helpful this week. Mrs Lewis said she had been very polite to her in the office, and I have noticed her tidying things away in the classroom without being asked, as well as helping her friends to find things they need. In her phonics group she showed her letter formation skills and helped her group to form their letters correctly. She has also shown real perseverance with her new, tricky reading book. Yesterday she spent a long time working on her ideas for her 'Whatever Next' inspired story.

Starlings - Benji for a fantastic week of independent learning. In his sentence writing he has used resources to help him to form his sentences and using his pencil control to complete lovely handwriting. In maths he has shown great knowledge about greater than, less than and equal to. He has also had the confidence to share his ideas with his group and has been our 'expert' in sorting numbers from greatest to smallest. In our whole group sessions Benji has shared his ideas with an increased confidence showing good understanding and wanting to share his ideas. This week Benji has also impressed me with his kindness, sharing resources and being a great friend.

Kingfishers - Finley has shone this week, from using tone and shape to depict Viking pattern to creating his own character, setting and plot for a myth. Finley has shown confidence in independent, paired and group work and in asking for guidance to uplevel his work. Finley's enthusiasm and focus for learning are fantastic, and we are so pleased he has joined Kingfisher class. Well done Finley.

Sandpipers - Eva is a fantastic example of a St John's Year 6! She is a brilliant role model and has embraced lots of responsibilities this year - from being a caring buddy, a great house captain, and an organised young leader. Eva is enthusiastic about all her learning, showing great creativity in her writing and resilience in her maths this week. She shares brilliant ideas in our class discussions and uses her strong knowledge to support others around her too. It has been wonderful to see Eva's confidence grow and see her blossom. Well done for being such a shining star in our classroom every day!

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

John 10:10

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.

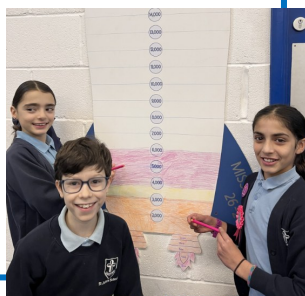


Mission 26-26

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.



Food bank Donations

We would like to replenish our collection of food to donate to the local food bank. We would appreciate donations of dried or tinned food items. If you are able to make a donation, please bring in the item(s) on the following dates:

Friday 30th January Kingfishers class

Friday 6th February Starlings class

Friday 13th February Robins class

Many thanks.



Finer Diner

Children with exemplary manners during lunchtimes are given a Best Behaviour slip.

Those slips are put into a hat and four 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

Oliver - Robins

Pemisire- Starlings

Danny - Kingfisher

Lily- Sandpiper



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 will update via email, on our school website and via Google Classroom

We would then update you regularly.



National Reading for Pleasure Year 2026

You don't always need to read the words in books. Looking at and talking about picture books is a great way to encourage your child to enjoy stories. If you speak another language at home, talk about the pictures and story in your own language.

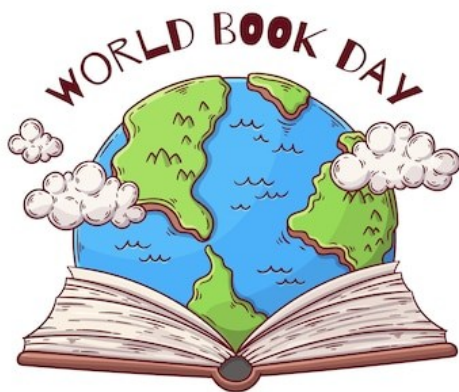
Have fun sharing books with these tips

- Talk about the book's cover and point out the title.
- Let your child hold the book and turn the pages.
- Encourage them to talk about the pictures.
- Use different voices for different characters. Add in sound effects like splashing in puddles, beeping car horns or animal sounds.
- When the story is finished, you could ask them if they liked it and if they had a favourite character.
- Make a den together, like a cloth over a table, with space for both of you to share. You can make your den part of the story - it could be a monster's cave, a rocket ship, or a princess' tower.
- Talk to your child about what you did as a child. Involve the whole family - grandparents may have stories to share from when they were growing up!

Did you know?

Children who were read to regularly by their parents at age five performed better in maths, vocabulary and spelling tests at age 16 than those who were not helped in this way.

Children often have a favourite story they want to hear again and again. This helps them to learn the word order and link the written word to the story - which are the first steps in learning to read!



World Book Day - Thursday 5th March

Just some advanced notice about World Book Day. This year we will **not** be asking that the children dress up as characters from a book. Instead we are asking that the children bring in a copy of their favourite book and a teddy to read to. Further details of our plans for the day will be shared with you nearer the time.

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.

Pesto is also not allowed.



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

- 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 Talks 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** - Rock Steady Concert*
- 24 March** - Music Concert*
- 27 March** - End of Term (1.30 finish)

*more details to follow

Big Garden Bird Watch

This year's Big Garden Bird Watch is taking place on this weekend!

In school the classes will be taking part in activities relating to the Big Schools' Birdwatch 2026.



St John's Church - Candle Mass Sunday 1st February

If any families would like their child to lead the readings or prayers at the Candle Mass service on Sunday 1st February would you please let Mrs Boylan or Revd Kathryn know.

JAM MAKING DAY

In preparation for the school fete we will be having a Jam Making Day in the school kitchen on a Saturday in March or April. We will be guided through the process by our local jam making expert Gina Butler! Gina is the secretary for the Fete committee and a member of the congregation of St John's. Please let us know if you might be interested in taking part. All the equipment and ingredients will be provided, just come along with your enthusiasm!



Hello!

It's been a great week in church-land this week!

It was lovely to see so many of you at Jo's wonderful Christingle service on Sunday. I hope everyone enjoyed thinking about Jesus as the Light of the World, helped along by oranges, candles, red ribbon, sweets — and pizza! Thank you for making it such a special occasion. It was one of those moments where the church felt full of warmth, welcome and friendship.

I also really enjoyed my very first Faith Builders LEGO Club in school this week. The children threw themselves into the challenge of building creations inspired by the Creation story, and I was so impressed by their imagination and thoughtfulness. There were animals, landscapes, light and darkness, and even some very creative interpretations of God! It was fantastic to listen to the children explain their models and share what they thought about each part of the story.

And finally... in Collective Worship this week, we continued our journey through the Gospels by meeting Mark — the speediest of the Gospel writers. Mark shows us Jesus through action: what he does, how he treats people, and how his actions show God's care for the world. Next up it's Luke... my own personal favourite Gospel writer.

Have a great weekend.

Rev'd Kathryn

