



St John's School Newsletter

30th 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



Speed Stacking

Our year 4's represented St. John's fantastically and had a great time participating in a speed stacking competition on Thursday. The event took place at Stanborough School and 5 schools participated. Everyone showed great skill and determination with Hallelujah and Josie winning medals for fastest speed stacking in the 9 cup and 12 cup categories.



Beacon Pupils

Robins - Adeline has shown real determination in her learning this week. We were particularly impressed with her space story writing and her brilliant ideas, really making the story her own. She is a friendly, happy and kind member of our class who is always welcoming to other children and happy to share her ideas with them. She loves to help adults with jobs and she shows great perseverance when things are tricky. Keep it up Adeline!

Starlings - Florence for her continued positive attitude in everything she does. In the classroom she is a fine role model to the other members of the class always trying her best in all she does. This week she has shown us how to be a multiplication and division expert with her deep understanding of number and problem solving. She has volunteered information to both small groups and whole class. In DT we have been creating our fire engines and Florence had taken her time to make the different parts with care. Above all else Florence is a kind and caring member of the class always looking out for others and finding ways to help. Keep up the great work.

Kingfishers - Joey continues to show real focus and enthusiasm throughout topics, from excellent comprehension in guided reading through to structuring and writing his own myth. Joey has shown excellent use of scientific vocabulary when conducting an investigation and a real creativity in designing an Anglo-Saxon village incorporating all the key features. Joey has shown real insight and questioning to extend our learning in class. Thank you for all your hard work, Joey and for your kindness and thoughtfulness.

Sandpipers - Callum has stepped into his role as a year 6 brilliantly. He is a caring and intuitive buddy who is not only fun to play with but also sets a great example of our school rules. Callum has worked well to plan and lead Young Leader sessions, helping lots of children to enjoy new games and enjoy lunchtimes together. He shares wonderful and creative contributions to our class discussions across all subjects and shows great care and attention in his work. In Music, Callum has blown us away with his commitment to his violin playing and it inspires the class each week. Well done!

"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.



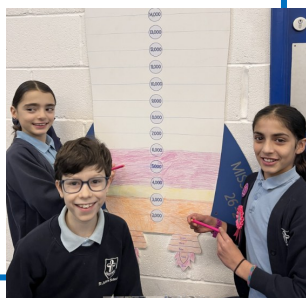
Mission 26-26

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.

Any suggestions of fundraising events would be considered.



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 6th February Starlings class

Friday 13th February Robins class

Many thanks for the generous donations so far!

Cookie Creation

House Teams Biscuit Making Event 5th February 2026

Check your inboxes for email sent 26th January about our Cookie Making Event.

We are trialling the use of School Shop on Arbor for payments, which can be done between now and 13th February, or cash into the office on the day.

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

Arty - Robins

Kalia - Starlings

Jenson - Kingfisher

Morland - Sandpiper



JARS and GLASS

Due to the risk, please ensure the children do not bring food or drinks into school in glass bottles or jars.

We appreciate your help with this.



No glass



National Reading for Pleasure Year 2026

Don't dismiss a Comic!

Comics at home: Visual appeal creates a powerful shared reading experience

Comics often provide a powerful reading experience at home and can appeal to a wide range of readers and age ranges.

Their visual appeal, links to popular culture, and the ability to enjoy them quickly and collaboratively make comics well-suited to family reading.

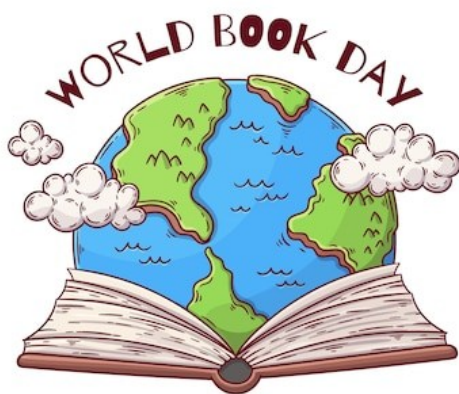
Parents sometimes underestimate comics, assuming they "don't count" as real reading, but evidence shows they can help develop:

comprehension,
sequencing skills, and
a lifelong love of stories.



Shared comics reading, whether print, digital or web-based, can also foster intergenerational enjoyment, giving families opportunities to talk about characters, humour and narrative together.

Recognising comics as a valid literacy practice at home is therefore crucial in building confidence and engagement among a wide range of readers.



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
24th February - Netball Festival
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 - Knex Challenge*
19 March - Full Governing Body at 6.30pm
21 March - Jam Making Session
23 March - Rock Steady Concert*
24 March - Music Concert*
24 March - Dance Festival - Sandpipers
27 March - End of Term (1.30 finish)

*more details to follow

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.

JAM MAKING DAY

In preparation for the school fete we will be having a Jam Making Day in the school kitchen on **Saturday 21st March**. 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!

I hope you're having a great week. We've certainly been finding lots to brighten up this rather grey and soggy January, both in school and in church.

In Collective Worship, we've continued our journey through the Gospels, focusing this week on Luke and his message that everyone matters. On Thursday, the children heard the story of the Good Samaritan, where the hero turns out to be the person nobody expected. They engaged brilliantly, quickly spotting that kindness sometimes means noticing who is in need beyond our usual friendship groups.

That theme of noticing continues this weekend at our all-age Candlemas service on Sunday 1st February (11am).

Candlemas is about staying with the story of Jesus birth a little longer. Forty days after Jesus' birth, Mary and Joseph bring him to the temple, where two older people - Simeon and Anna - recognise who Jesus really is. While others might have missed it, they stop, pay attention, and see something extraordinary — Jesus is a 'light' meant for everyone.

During the service, we'll be lighting and blessing candles as a way of remembering that light, and our calling to share it with others. It will be a relaxed, all-age service, with children very much at the heart of it.

Everyone is warmly welcome. Why not give church a go in 2026!

Have a great weekend whatever you're up to.

Rev'd Kathryn

