



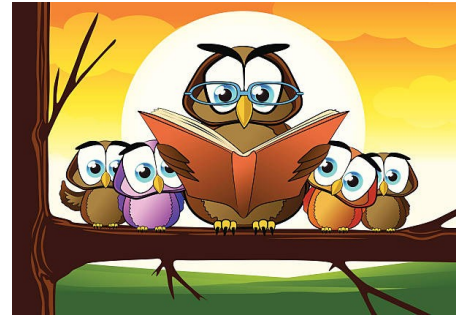
St John's School Newsletter

6th February 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



Cookie Creation



Yesterday the school were busy making biscuits for our 26:26 Mission, raising £205.10 so far. The baking was the bright idea of our school council led by Mrs Ching. During the morning the dining room was a hive of activity with Mrs Ching and Ms Wallace helping the children to make their sweet treats. At the end of the day the children returned to their house teams to enjoy their biscuits. Thank you to Mrs Ching and Ms Wallace as well as to parents for supporting us with this venture.



Beacon Pupils

Robins - Reggie is such a consistently helpful member of Robin Class that he had to be our Beacon Pupil this week. He has been working so hard to use his phonics learning in our book writing this week and it has been a joy to see him gaining confidence to write his story down. He is a kind friend who loves to include people in his games and share his ideas. His willingness to help adults and children is such a lovely characteristic. Keep up the good work Reggie!

Starlings - Isabella for her kind and caring attitude towards her learning partner and working group. In reading she has impressed us with her prosody using great expression and joining in with confidence in sharing her understanding of the book. In English Isabella has written a great piece of writing on our Great Fire of London book, trying to persuade the King to put out the fires. Isabella has shown confidence in her maths learning sharing her understanding of multiples of 10 and 5. Isabella is a thoughtful member of our class who has shown great maturity this week.

Kingfishers - Emma is such a positive and enthusiastic member of our class, showing great care for others, and all she does. It has been fantastic to see Emma's determination in maths this week, tackling fraction problems both independently and alongside her talk partner. Emma has shown real creativity in creating her artwork in the style of Lucy Sparrow, sharing her knowledge of magnets in science and showing a wide range of vocabulary in descriptive sentences using powerful verbs. Well done Emma.

Sandpipers - Miley has really impressed us throughout her time in Year 5. She always listens carefully to others, respecting their ideas and then building on them with her own. Miley has worked incredibly hard over the past few weeks to work on her division, using the resources brilliantly and challenging herself well. She has shared some amazing descriptive ideas in writing and impressed us with her editing. Miley was a great help in the school council baking, helping everyone take turns and making great biscuits herself!

"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.

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 13th February Robins class

Many thanks for the generous donations so far!

Mission 26-26 Sponsored Walk

Today in our celebration assembly Faye Dave, our LSA lead, explained the next stage of our mission to raise £26,000 by the end of 2026 for new play equipment. The challenge is for the whole school to walk/cycle/swim/scoot 2026 miles in the next two weeks which includes the half term holiday,

Today the children have brought home letters and sponsor forms, please check the children's bags. On the letter there is a barcode for the miles to be logged.

Music Concerts

At the end of the spring term we will once again be able to enjoy musical performances by the children as follows:

Wednesday 18th March 2.30 p.m. Piano concert

A concert presented by Mrs Cheung and the children having piano lessons in school. We would also invite children having piano lessons outside of school to also perform, please let us know if your child would like to participate.

Monday 23rd March Rock Steady concert - afternoon

Performances given by the school bands who work each week with our Rock Steady tutor, Olivia. Time to be confirmed.

Tuesday 24th March Whole school music concert 9.00 a.m.

Presentation of the music that the children have been working on with Mr Rapson in their weekly class music lessons.



National Reading for Pleasure Year 2026

Focus on their hobbies

Hobbies can be a great way to get children reading, writing and chatting. Read these five tips on how to make the most of your child's passion.

Exploring outside

If your child prefers getting muddy in the garden to staying indoors, you can use their love of the outdoors to chat and learn. Spotting plants and wildlife can help with memory skills and teach them new words.

Music

Learning lyrics can be a fun way to read and improve memory. Challenge your child to learn all the words to a new song. If they like music, ask them to write their own lyrics!

Finding out

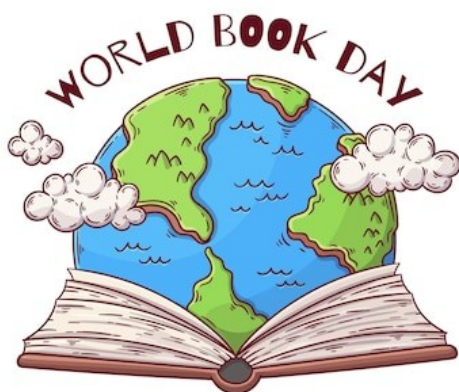
Lots of children enjoy reading factual books to learn more about the world around them. If your child enjoys learning about the past, they might like *Horrible Histories*, which enables children to learn about history in a funny and entertaining way.

Getting creative

Following instructions and recipes to make something or expressing an idea can help boost literacy levels.

Football and sports

Reading newspaper reports, learning players' names and talking about matches can all help improve reading and communication.



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

- 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
13 February - Robins Class Food Bank Donations
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

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

Ruben- Robins

Carter- Starlings

William P- Kingfisher

Bernadette - Sandpiper



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!

This week in collective worship we explored the last of the four Gospels — John's Gospel. With the help of a range of emojis, we asked a big question: what is God actually like? John's answer is simple: if you want to know what God is like, look at Jesus.

Our Faith Builders lunchtime LEGO club has become a real highlight of my week. Not only do the children create some fantastic builds inspired by Bible stories, they also offer amazing insights. I'm planning to continue this club after half term, and then introduce a Faith Explorers group after Easter, with the option of confirmation for those who wish to take that step. Watch this space!

In terms of what's happening in church for families, we have Sunday Club this week during the 11am service. Our guest speaker in the main service is an expert in children and young people's mental health — so while your children enjoy activities in Sunday Club, you may find the sermon particularly helpful and relevant.

Looking ahead, we'd love to welcome families to our Mothering Sunday all-age service on Sunday 15th March. This is a relaxed, family-friendly service celebrating care, love, and the people who nurture us, in all their different forms. It's always designed to be accessible and engaging for all ages.

We're also looking forward to St John's @ 3: Easter Journey on Sunday 22nd March at 3.00pm. This is a highly interactive, child-friendly way to explore the Easter story, with stations, activities, and space to wonder together.

We love welcoming school families into church life, and hope that some of these events might offer a gentle and meaningful way to explore the Christian story together this spring — whether you regularly attend church, belong to another church, or have never stepped through the doors of one before.

Have a great weekend,

Rev'd Kathryn

