



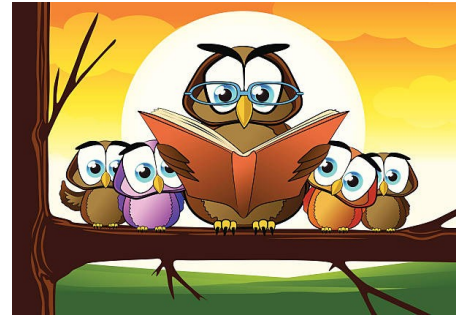
St John's School Newsletter

13th 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



Feeling Good Week

This week the children have been enjoying a range of activities linked to Feeling Good, this year's theme has been **Belonging**.



Starlings completed a daily mile to add to our steps and also taken part in some movement exercises. They painted to classical music and enjoyed moments of mindfulness.

[More from Feeling Good Week on Pages 2 and 3...](#)

Badminton tournament

Yesterday 8 children from years 5 and 6 took part in a badminton tournament. Eleven schools were represented and each team played several matches each lasting 4 minutes. The boys' team made it to the final and came fourth overall. All the children played very well.

Sandpipers visit to Stanborough School

On Wednesday morning Sandpipers class enjoyed a performance of School of Rock presented by the students of Stanborough School. The children enjoyed the show, especially seeing past St John's pupils taking part.

Beacon Pupils

Robins - Ruben is such a conscientious and kind member of Robin Class. He is quick to listen and thoughtful with his contributions in class. This week we were especially impressed by his focus on making a space book of his own. He used questions to draw the reader in and is really developing a sense of himself as an author. His creativity in his play is a joy to see as well as the way he includes other children. Keep up the good work Ruben!

Starlings - Ava Boe for her continued effort in everything she does. This week she has been the mathematician expert finding number facts for numbers to 20. She was able to find the inverse too using both addition and subtraction to gather all the facts. It has been great to see Ava have more confidence in talking to both in whole class setting and in small groups. In reading Ava has shown great knowledge of the book and read well in her group. This skill has transferred into her writing whereby she has written a great fact file all about the great fire of London. Ava is always such a kind and thoughtful member of our class. Keep up the great work.

Kingfishers - Freya has been fantastic in class. She has worked so positively and enthusiastically - both in her independent work and also within a group this week. Freya is always a kind friend, keen to support others and her love of learning really shines through. Freya has created a setting using well thought out prepositional phrases including a variety of brilliant adjectives in English; she has shown real determination in maths tackling enquiry fraction questions, and in RE Freya created a thoughtful, vibrant diva lamp showing her creativity and attention to detail.

Sandpipers - Rei is a valued member of our class and such a ray of sunshine. She works incredibly hard and puts effort into every subject and every piece of learning. Rei has impressed us with her calm approach to challenging learning - earlier in the week she thought carefully about how to tackle some tricky maths questions, showing great problem solving skills. Rei was impeccably behaved on the walk to and from Stanborough and enjoyed the School of Rock show. She is a kind friend and it's been lovely to see her giggling and chatting away with others in class!

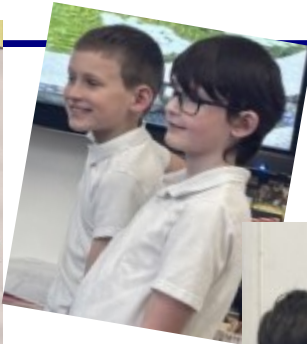
"I came that they may have life, life in all its fullness."

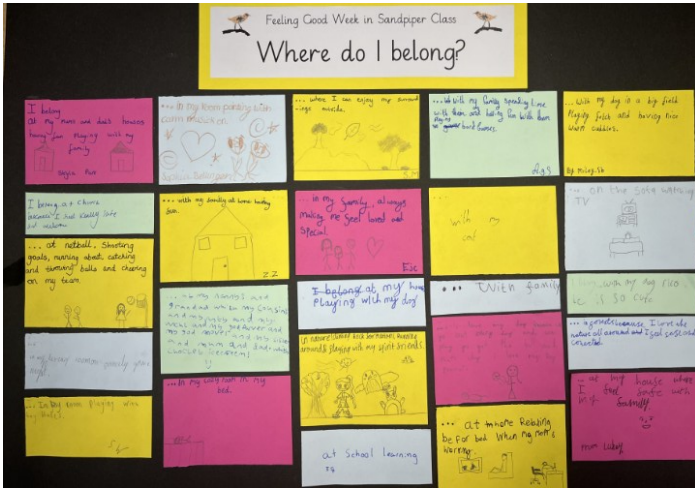
John 10:10

Feeling good week!

Kingfishers spent time reading *Harmony House* and considering what belonging means to us. We thought about how 'my place' could be in many different environments, including our homes, school, community and within us. We created our own *Harmony House*, thinking about what helps us to feel like we belong, and also how we work alongside others to create our own community of belonging.

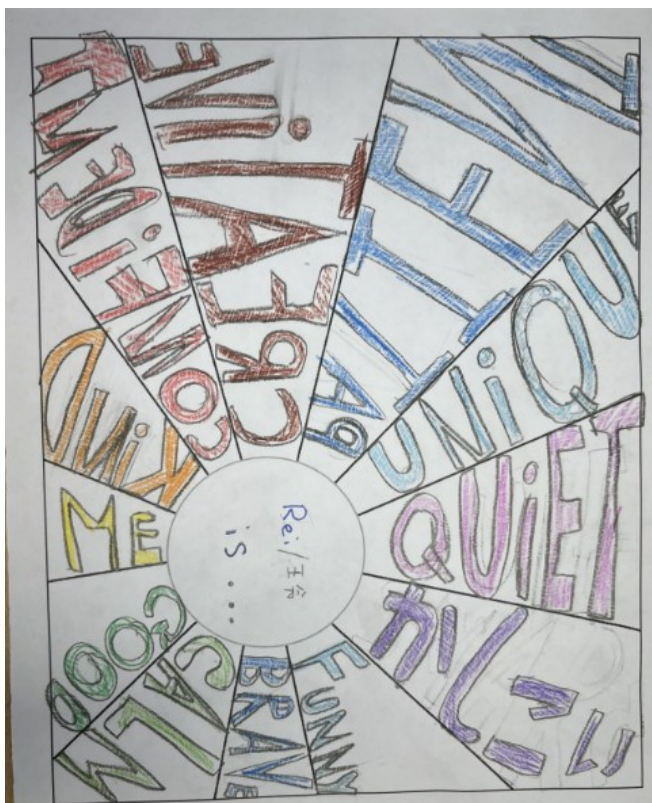
We took part in a group task to design a garden for people who face a particular challenge. We discussed how we could remove barriers, enhance garden features and provide a place for people to feel that they belonged. Kingfishers assigned job roles for the task, shared initial ideas, translated this into an A3 design and finally creating a slideshow to share their ideas. We were so impressed by the thoughtfulness that went into their designs and their fantastic team work.





**Feeling Good Week
Sandpiper Class**

We loved reading Harmony House and it made us think carefully about how we can live and work in harmony and feel good together at school and in our community. Children thought about where they 'belong' - in clubs, at school, in church, with friends and family, out in nature, and even tucked up in bed! We enjoyed learning about Jesus' 'I am' statements and spent time thinking of some for ourselves and each other, sharing lots of compliments and noticing each other's positive qualities. We ended the week with some positive affirmations and a treat!



Careers talk from parents

Thank you so much to Amber (Finley's mum), Nick (Astrid's dad), Donna (Poppy and Teddy's mum), and Jon (Jonah's dad) for speaking with Years 3-6 as part of our series of careers talk. It was fascinating to learn about creating leather goods and starting your own business, working for the Ministry of Defence, procurement, and various roles in film and television production. It was brilliant to hear your different routes to your current roles, and that while everyone will follow different paths and interests in life, it is important to show passion, perseverance and pride in what-ever we do.



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.



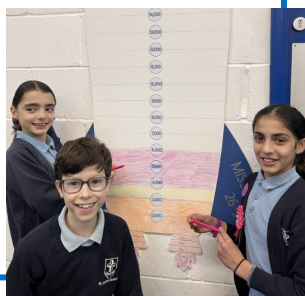
Mission 26-26

Due to the huge efforts of the LSA and the generosity of parents we are well on our way to £7,000.

What a tremendous achievement - thank you all!

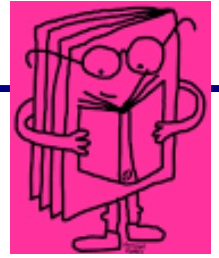
Please look out for further events and opportunities for fundraising this term.

Any suggestions of fundraising events would be considered.



Meet the teacher

It was lovely to see so many parents meeting our teachers in-person or on-line this week. For those parents whose appointments were on-line there will be the opportunity to look at books on Wednesday 25th February 3.15 - 4.00 p.m. Do please



Cake Sale



Many thanks to the parents of children in Kingfishers class for their very generous donations of cakes last Friday and to those who came along to purchase them. The sale raised over £200 which will go towards the Mission 26-26.

Sponsored Walk Mission 26-26

Please do take part in our sponsored walking event to raise money for the new play equipment. Paper copies of the letter went home last week and another copy was forwarded via email yesterday. Our goal is to travel 2626 miles by walking, cycling, swimming. We would encourage all the family to take part and to log the miles on the QR code that is included in the letter.

There is also a sponsor form which includes information about Gift Aid, if that is applicable to you.

The deadline for returning sponsor forms and funds to the school office is Wednesday 4th March.

Thank you in advance for your support with this!



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

Where do we start?

1. Let your child follow their interests

Some children will love scary stories, others prefer funny stories, and many love to follow a series or favourite author. Some children prefer factual books. Children who struggle with reading may prefer comic books or short stories. There is no one correct type of reading material!

2. Make sure they are age-appropriate

Beginner readers like short stories with pictures and children around age 7+ will be ready for short chapter books. Some books have helpful age guidelines on the back. However, you should always remember that is just what they are: *guidelines*. Whilst it is important to select age-appropriate books, many children will be better suited to books aimed a little above or a little below their actual age.

3. Make sure they suit your child's ability

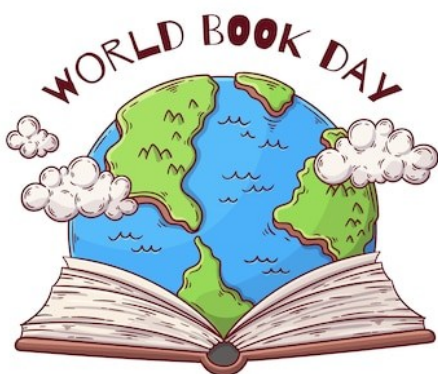
Are the words used appropriate for your child's reading ability? Many teachers advise that if there are more than five hard words on a sample page in early reading books, the book is too difficult. It's not a good idea to push your child to read books they are not ready for yet - that could put them off reading for good.

"Choose books you think your child will enjoy, or better still, let them choose. And remember, your child doesn't have to finish a book if they discover they don't like it. Reading should be fun."
Greta Paterson

4. Look at the book!

Does the cover make your child want to pick it up? Does the blurb make you or them want to read it? Is the print clear and well spaced on the page? Are the pictures bright and colourful? Is the story easy to read aloud?

You could ask your child to read a page at random to see if they like the style. If you're picking a bedtime story for a younger reader, try reading it aloud.



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.

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.

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.

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 than 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

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
9 March - start of Science Week
15 March - Mothering Sunday
18 March - Piano Concert at 2.30pm
19 March - Knex Challenge*
19 March - Full Governing Body at 6.30pm
20 March - Comic Relief / Red Nose Day*
21 March - Jam Making Session
23 March - Rock Steady Concert*
24 March - Music Concert*
24 March - Dance Festival - Sandpipers
26 March - Easter Service at St John's at 9am
Followed by Easter Egg Hunt

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

Veronica-Rose - Robins
Henry - Starlings
Hargun - Kingfisher
Lewis - Sandpipers



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!

By the time you read this, I'll be on annual leave, probably sheltering from the rain!

As this newsletter is being written in advance, I wanted to share a little of what we'll be exploring together when we return next term.

In collective worship, we'll be turning our attention to **spirituality** — thinking about the different ways people connect with God. Christians have never prayed or believed in just one way, and we'll be exploring a range of Christian traditions and practices, reflecting on how people encounter God through stillness, imagination, service, community, creativity and action. As always, these sessions will be reflective, accessible to children of all ages, and rooted in curiosity rather than right answers.

Alongside this, our **Faith Builders** lunchtime LEGO club will continue after half term, and after Easter I'm planning to introduce a **Faith Explorers** group, with the option of confirmation for those who wish to take that step. More details will follow.

A reminder of a few upcoming dates in church life that may be of interest to families:

Mothering Sunday all-age service – Sunday 15th March, 11am

A relaxed, family-friendly communion service celebrating care, love, and the people who nurture us, in all their different forms.

St John's @ 3: Easter Journey – Sunday 22nd March at 3.00pm

An interactive, very child-friendly way to explore the Easter story, with stations, activities, and time to wonder together.

Easter Sunday – All-together service & Easter egg hunt Sunday 31st March, 11.00am

A joyful all-age service celebrating Easter, followed by an Easter egg hunt for children. Everyone is very welcome.

I hope you have a fantastic half-term break, and that the sun makes an appearance. I look forward to seeing many of you as spring (hopefully!) starts to make itself known.

Rev'd Kathryn

