



# St John's School Newsletter

## 27th February 2026

### Values of this half term

#### Love & Forgiveness

'A new command I give you: Love one another.  
As I have loved you, so you must love one another.  
So now I am giving you a new commandment:  
Love each other.'

John 13: 34



#### Netball Festival at Stanborough

Well done to our Year 5&6 netballers who attended the friendly festival at Stanborough. Through fantastic team work and perseverance, they won all three games!



#### Indoor Athletics session with Mrs Moxham

Mrs Moxham, our Stanborough Schools Sports Partner, led an indoor athletics session for Sandpiper Class. We enjoyed taking part in activities such as long jump, triple jump, hurdles, speed bounce and chest push.



#### Beacon Pupils

**Robins - Oriana** for being someone who has shown so much enthusiasm for her learning recently. She has worked very hard to learn her sounds in our phonics lessons, and it has been lovely to see her confidence growing, and now we can see her using her sounds in her reading and writing. She has lovely ideas for games and enjoys sharing these with her friends. She is working hard to become a helpful part of the class and showing our St. Johns values in taking care of her friends.

**Starlings - Rupert (Yr2)** for showing a positive attitude to his learning. When completing adult led tasks Rupert has worked with a calm and collected attitude. He has concentrated on forming letters correctly both in handwriting and transferring this skill to his English work. In Art Rupert was able to discuss with confidence the textures and colours he could see in Monet's paintings, he worked well to create his own landscape painting working on using the texture. It had been great to see his positive attitude and imagination on the playground playing with his friends to create a range of imaginative games. Keep up the good work, Rupert.

**Kingfishers - Poppy** whose confidence is shining through this week, from reading poetry to the class thinking about intonation and prosody, right through to working with a group to create a small informational video. Poppy has shown determination in maths, identifying and calculating units of measure and wrote a really thoughtful prayer encompassing our values this half term. Poppy continues to be a great friend and peer, and a committed and hardworking member of our class.

**Sandpipers - Ronnie** has really impressed us with his growing maturity in Year 6 and his great attitude to learning. He wrote lots of creative similes using brilliant vocabulary, really pushed and challenged himself when learning about turns and degrees in Maths, and asked thoughtful questions in History. Ronnie really shone during the indoor athletics session - he helped and encouraged others, improved his scores, and showed great perseverance. In the Year 6 songwriting session, Mr Rapson was impressed with his range of ideas and enthusiasm. Very 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.



## Holiday Club at St John's

Booking is now available for our Easter and May Holiday Club.

Dates coming up are

**Easter Holidays**

**30th March**

**31st March**

**1st April**

**May half term**

**26th May**

**27th May**

Children can join for full days, just mornings or just afternoons - please ask the school office for a booking form.

### CHOIR EVENTS

Please look out for letters at the start of next week regarding two invitations for the choir to sing at local churches. The first is on Sunday 15th March - Mothering Sunday and is at St John's Church, Lemsford. The second is on Sunday 22nd March at St Francis Church, Welwyn Garden City which is an invitation to join the church choir as well as another local school choir for a choral evensong.

### Sponsored Walk Mission 26-26

#### UPDATE

Just a reminder that the final day of our sponsored walk is Sunday 1st March. Could any monies raised and completed sponsored forms be returned to us by Wednesday 4th March. Many thanks for all your support with this - we look forward to seeing how much you have all raised!

Thank you in advance for your support with this!



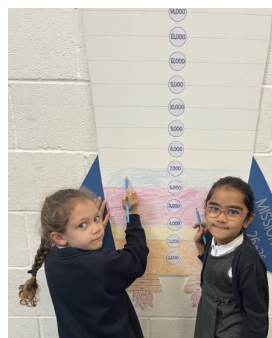
### Mission 26-26

Due to the huge efforts of the LSA and the generosity of parents we have now raised £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.



### New Hall Display

Thank you to Miss Noonan who has created a new display based on our recent series of collective worship. During our collective worship we journeyed through the principal stories and themes of the Old Testament to the birth of Jesus at the start of the New Testament. The Old Testament themes and symbols form the journey which is decorated with flowers which the children have painted.

### Our year 6 songwriters

Year 6 spent Wednesday morning with Mr Rapson in a songwriting workshop. The aim was to begin to compose a song based on our St John's vision and values. We are hoping that through the song we will be able raise funds for Mission 26 - 26.

A quote from Mr Rapson,

"Year 6 students rose to the challenge of composing for the school on Wednesday morning. Students participated in an active listening session where they broke down the themes, lyrics, chords and harmony of other songs. After break, they began using some of these ideas to construct their own original piece of music. I'm really proud of how the year 6 students were and look forward to how they begin to arrange the piece!"



### Collective Worship

The topic this week in Collective Worship was 'What Binds Us Together?'

In the Bible, the "ties that bind" refers to the spiritual and relational connections—primarily love, faith, and shared commitment—that unite people with God and one another.





## National Reading for Pleasure Year 2026

Parents, do you remember this classic read? Maybe you still have a copy of your favourite book. Adults who loved to read as children will enjoy reading for life.

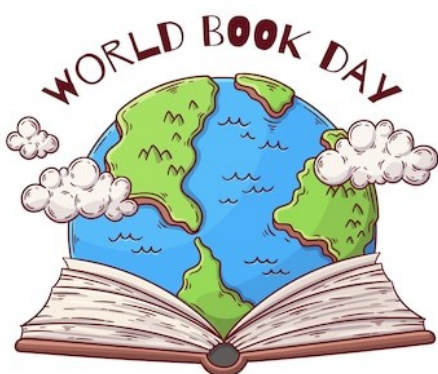
The Hare boasts to the other animals about how fast he can run. He challenges them to a race and when none of them responds he taunts them that they are too scared even to try. When the Tortoise offers to race, the Hare scoffs that he won't waste his time racing the slowest creature in the world. The Tortoise returns the taunt, saying the Hare must be scared of being beaten. Some of the animals laugh at this so the Hare agrees to a race, to take place a week later.

We all remember what happened next!

A perfect book for less-confident children, proving you can succeed when others say you might not.



Whether it is a classic reimagined or a new author reading together is fun and encourages language and discussion about other topics, opening up a passion for learning.



## World Book Day - Thursday 5th March

Next Thursday is World Book Day. This year we will **not** be asking the children to 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 are shared with you in the email attachment.

### 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

- 3 March - RE Enrichment Day
- 5 March - World Book Day
- 6 March - LSA Disco (details available from the LSA)
- 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
- 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

Ozzy - Robins  
Ava Boe- Starlings  
Mason - Kingfisher  
Nevena - 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!

Hello

It's been really good to be back in school after half term — and especially good to be back at Faithbuilders LEGO Club. This week we built the Tower of Babel, which doesn't always look quite as you'd expect it to!

This half term in Collective Worship we're exploring Christian spirituality — which sounds like a huge subject (it is!), but at its simplest we're asking: what connects us to God, to each other, and to the world beyond us? What really matters? How do people draw close to God?

Over the next few weeks the children will hear about four different Christian spiritual traditions. Some Christians connect with God through quiet reflection. Some notice God in everyday life and in nature. Some express their faith through kindness and simplicity. Others through joyful worship and the Holy Spirit. Different paths, but all leading in the same direction.

If this sparks your interest, you'd be very welcome to join our half-day Lent retreat on 7th March in the St John's Annexe. It doesn't matter whether you're a regular churchgoer or not — there will be something for everyone. Just drop me an email if you'd like to find out more. (revkathrynalford@gmail.com).

The highlights of this month in church our much-loved all-age Mothering Sunday service on Sunday 15th March at 11am and a very family-friendly interactive St John's@3 Easter Journey at 3pm on 22nd March. It would be lovely to see you there.

Have a great weekend. Hopefully the sun will keep shining!

Rev'd Kathryn

