



St John's School Newsletter

6th March 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



Beacon Pupils

Robins - Oliver is such a reliable and kind member of our class. We love his thoughtful questions and answers in our sessions and his determination to master the skills we are learning in class. He has been working hard on his writing and really using his phonics skills to be able to express his ideas. In his friendships he strives to be fair and we often notice him including different friends in his play. We can't wait to see what he will do next in his learning, keep up the good work Oliver!

Starlings - Henry for his fantastic attitude to his learning. When looking at our world book day text Henry recalled facts about Eid and thoughtfulness about the story. He also gave very thoughtful insights during the RE enrichment day thinking about times of reflection and prayer. Henry has also presented good ideas with measuring this week and works well with his partner measuring with cubes. Henry has great confidence and ability to discuss a range of topics with his learning partner and in a small groups. He volunteers good contributions during whole class discussion. Well done for the hard work this week.

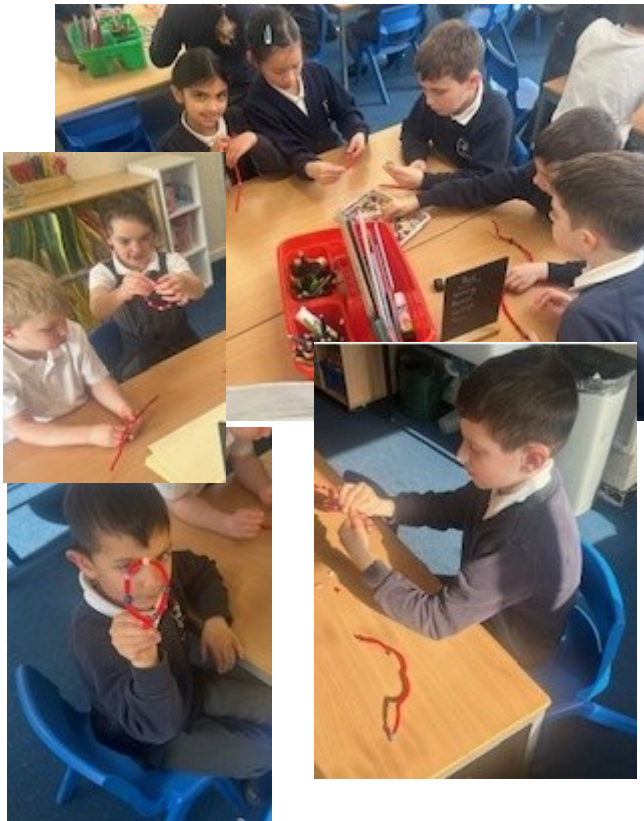
Kingfishers - Will B's thoughtfulness has shone this week, from his care in learning through to his care for his friends and peers. Will has used his fantastic imagination to create expanded noun phrases based on our World Book Day text, has used a range of learning strategies to find missing lengths and perimeters in maths and shared meaningful ideas about spirituality on our enrichment day. In science, Will worked fantastically with his talk partner to compare and create teeth, using excellent vocabulary to describe. Will is an advocate for his class mates and friends, and his care for them has impressed us all. Well done Will.

Sandpipers - Nevena has really impressed us with her growing maturity and confidence over the past few weeks. She has been a brilliant learning partner and always listens carefully while also sharing her own ideas. Nevena has really understood our figurative language work in English, and has written fantastic metaphors and similes in her poem. She blew us away with her thoughtful and deep ideas about spirituality on RE Enrichment Day, and led the way with sharing the joy of reading in our class and House activities on World Book Day. Well done!

RE Enrichment Day

On Tuesday the school took part in an RE enrichment day, the focus of which was spirituality. During the morning the children thought about looking up, looking in and looking out in order to find those ways of connecting with themselves, with others and with God. In class during the morning the children reflected on a set of age-related questions relating to spirituality. We were very impressed with their quality of thought and depth of thinking.

During the afternoon in house teams they thought about the times and places spirituality is evident at St John's. These included, "making good choices," "in RE lessons," "in church," "reading my book," "being together."



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

John 10:10

More from RE Enrichment Day

The children have produced these beautiful displays in our Hall.



On-line safety

On-line safety is an on-going area of importance for school and parents. There is much we can do to keep children safe when on-line at school and at home. At home please use parental controls, set strict privacy settings and have open regular conversations about what is being accessed. Screen time should be limited and ideally devices will be being used in shared spaces at home.

A helpful document* from the DfE gives parents further support for keeping children safe online.

*The link will be found on the email that accompanies this Newsletter

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.



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

Letters have been sent home 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.

If your child wishes to participate please return the tear off slip. We would appreciate these returned to us as soon as possible.

Thank you.

World Book day

House Teams reading together...



and Starlings Class busy measuring their books against teddies and other objects.

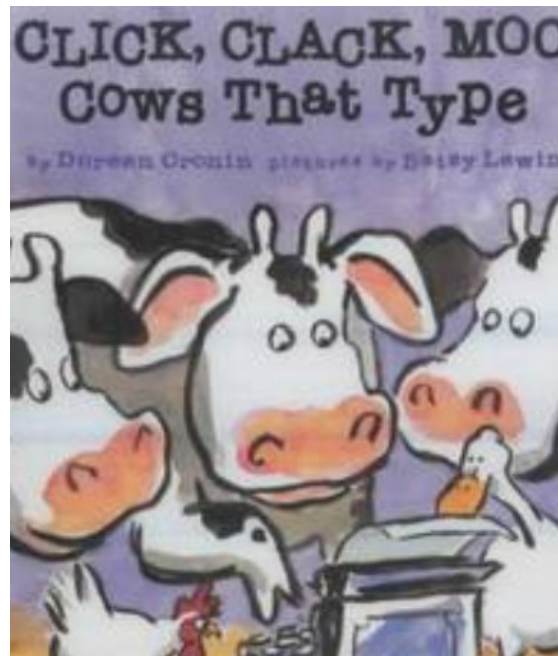




Our Favourite Books

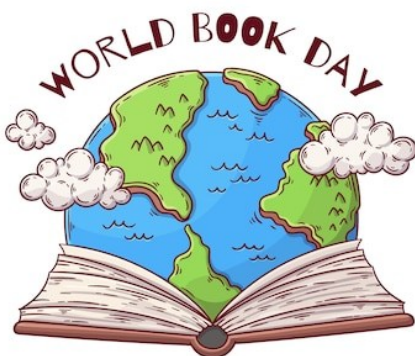
To celebrate World Book Day, we ask a member of staff to tell us about their favourite book.

Miss Lewis has chosen her favourite book (very apt Miss Lewis!)



The cows find a typewriter and go on strike, demanding electric blankets from Farmer Brown. When the farmer refuses, the cows and chickens stop producing milk and eggs until they get their way. The dispute is settled when a neutral duck negotiates an exchange of the typewriter for the blankets.

Miss Lewis says, "I find the idea of typing cows typing their demands, hilarious. The book is a light-hearted introduction to negotiation skills, collective action and compromise, sparking discussions about worker's rights and social change".



World Book Day

Children have been given their £1 WBD voucher.

A variety of books are available for free when you hand over the voucher. Participating stores include TG Jones, Sainsburys, Asda and Waterstones - full details on the back of the voucher.

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

- 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

Hello!

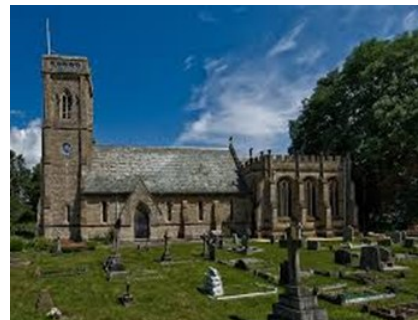
I hope you're enjoying the first signs of Spring - a bit of sun and buds starting to pop up everywhere. This actually links quite nicely with this week's Collective Worship, where we looked at Celtic spirituality. Celtic Christians sometimes talk about "thin places" — moments when the distance between heaven and earth feels a little smaller. The fantastic thing is that those moments aren't just on remote islands or ancient pilgrim routes. They can happen in ordinary life too: noticing the sky, helping a friend, sharing food, or simply pausing for a moment in a busy day to enjoy a moment in nature.

There are also a couple of lovely things coming up at St John's in March.

On Saturday 15th March we're looking forward to the children getting involved in our Mothering Sunday service. Mothering Sunday is really about care in all its forms — the people who look after us, the ways we care for others, and the ways God cares for the world. It will be a warm, relaxed service and everyone is very welcome. You may notice that the poster for the service has biscuits on it... which has left a few people slightly puzzled. There is a reason. You'll have to come along and find out!

Then on Sunday 22nd March at 3pm we have our next St John's @3 — an Easter Journey. This time we'll be travelling around the world to see how different countries celebrate Easter. Expect crafts, activities, snacks and a bit of cheerful creativity as we explore the story together. This is the perfect gathering for families. As always, you would be very welcome at anything happening at St John's — whether you come regularly, occasionally, or are simply curious to see what goes on.

Rev'd Kathryn



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!

