St John's School Newsletter
13th 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

Science Week March 2026

We have just come to the end of this year's Science week, the national theme which has been 'What is your question?' To start the week our year 6 children presented resources and explanations relating to a number of topics including magnetism, space, microscopes and rocks.

Each year group visited the hall to find out about these and other topics from our year 6 scientists before then producing their own questions to explore during the week in class. During the week topics included magnets, earth and space, rocks, light, and electricity.

Brocket Hall Golf Sessions

We are really lucky to have a great community partnership with Brocket Hall. Years 3-6 enjoyed a visit from the golf team on Tuesday. We practised our putting and driving skills in a range of activities and games! The team will visit again next Tuesday with further activities.

Beacon Pupils

Robins - Thomas has been showing excellent learning behaviours in our class recently. In our maths he showed a great understanding of how to subitise two groups to make a whole number and use all the language we had been practising. He has wonderful, creative ideas in his small world play and has been sharing these with his friends and drawing other children into his play. We love to see the progress with his phonics and growing confidence with his reading. Keep up the good work Thomas.

Starlings - Winter for her engagement and enthusiastic efforts in class. She has worked hard this week to create fantastic description for her disgusting sandwich and also involved herself activity in class discussion. In maths Winter has shown good knowledge of measuring and worked well with her partner to measure objects using ruler. Winter has worked hard to solve problems involving measuring and comparing sizes. It has been wonderful to hear her sharing her ideas with confidence. Keep it up Winter

Kingfishers - Jude has wowed us with his enthusiasm and confidence, both working alongside his talk partner and independently. Jude has used conjunctions effectively to extend his sentences in English, tackled equivalent mass reasoning using a range of strategies, and confidently identified the different teeth and their functions in science. He engaged fantastically in our science fair, generating some meaningful enquiry questions he would like to explore. Jude continues to be a positive, hard-working member of our class, Well Done Jude.

Sandpiper - Samuel M has really impressed us this week with his great progress, maturity and attitude to learning. He was brilliant during the Science Fair - he shared clear explanations, used great vocabulary, and engaged all the children throughout the school. His fantastic Science knowledge was also seen in our investigations where he showed a great understanding of refraction, shared great ideas and deep questions. Samuel thoroughly enjoyed the Brocket Hall golf afternoon; as well as working hard on his own technique, he offered lots of praise and encouragement to others too. A brilliant week which reflects all his hard work and progress throughout the year! s -

"I came that they may have life, life in all its fullness.'"
John 10:10

Lots of Socks Day

We will be raising awareness of World Down Syndrome Day by wearing odd socks on Friday 20th March.

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

Fundraising continues!

Thank you for all your efforts in the sponsored walk which has raised £2000 - a fantastic effort. The 'Name the Jellycat' event is going well and will continue for another week. In May Joey Coales is planning a sponsored litter pick in the village, more details will be shared nearer the time.

Thank You…

We extend a very warm thank you to Mr Lanigan (Jenson's dad) and the staff at Kwik-Fit for their generous donation of Hi-Viz vests.

Holiday Club at St John's

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

Dates coming up are

Easter Holidays	**May half term**
30th March	**26th May**
31st March	**27th May**
1st April	

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

Choir Events

Thank you to parents of children who are members of the school choir for their support in enabling their child (ren) to participate in the forthcoming services at St John's and St Francis.

Attendance

Since the start of the school year, September 2025, 68% of our children have achieved an attendance rate of between 95% and 100% which is fantastic. 95% + attendance at school is judged to be good by the government.

Many other children are very close to this level of attendance and will hopefully be able to improve in order to achieve this higher rate of attendance at school. Presently 21% of our children are achieving an attendance rate of between 90% and 95%.

As you know good attendance is very beneficial for children, giving them benefits for their learning, development and future. It is important that good habits relating to attendance are formed as early as possible.

Please support us with this by ensuring your child is in school consistently.

Piano Concert

We are looking forward to the concert given by children who are having piano lessons. If your child would like to perform and has lessons outside of school please let us know at the start of next week the title of the piece they will be playing.

We invite parents to come to the concert which will begin at 2:30pm on the Wednesday 18th of March.

Saltmine Theatre Company Visit

On Thursday afternoon the whole school enjoyed a performance given by the Saltmine Theatre company. They are a Christian drama group who presented stories from the bible. The children enjoyed the acting singing and dancing. Sandpipers class participated in a workshop following the performance.

Fete Preparations

The fete preparations are well underway and children have brought home two letters this week. The first related to the whole school singing and dancing performances which are such an important part of the fete.

The second one, brought home today, gives you information about the timetable for bringing in donations. Once again, many thanks for all your support with this important school, church and community event.

Fete Donation Days

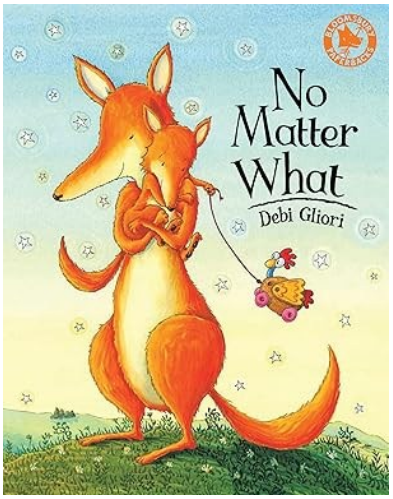
20 March - Bottle Donation**
17 April - Chocolate Donation**
24 April - Bottle & Chocolate Donation**
27 April - Bric a brac and toy Donation
29 April - Lucky Bag Donations
3/4 April - Cake Donations

** non uniform days

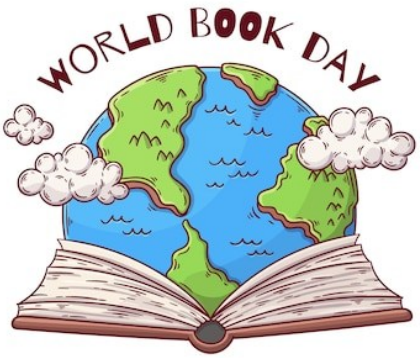
Our Favourite Books

Staying with the theme from the last newsletter, we have asked Mrs Boylan for her favourite Children's book.

Mrs Boylan has chosen 'No Matter What' by Debi Gliori, a beautifully illustrated book with a heart warming message; one that she used to read to her sons.



The key message behind this simple and beautiful book for small children is that the love a parent feels for a child is constant and never dies, no matter what happens. The two characters, a parent (Large) and a child (Small) are not identified as male or female. Small is 'grim and grumpy' and says 'nobody loves me at all'. Large provides reassurance that Small will always be loved, grumpy or not. Small asks many 'what if..?' questions: "If I turned into a bug, or a bear, or a crocodile, would you still love me?" Large explains comfortingly that their love will never go away, no matter what. Large shows Small the night sky, and explains that some of the stars stopped shining a long time ago, but they continue to glow and shine brightly. The book ends with the words 'Still they shine in the evening skies, love, like starlight, never dies'.



World Book Day

Don't forget to use your World Book Day Voucher.

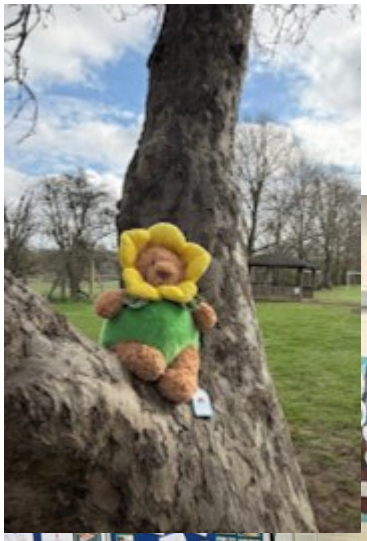
More from
Science Week March 2026

Robins have enjoyed exploring different activities this week. They loved being shown all of the different scientific activities by the Year 6 children in our Science Fair, they especially enjoyed the planet stand, recalling what they had being learning in class last term. In class we tried different materials to help keep Humpty Dumpty safe when he fell off his wall and discovered the bubble wrap and fluffy material worked well to keep him safe. We are also enjoying watching our bean plants grow and get taller each day!

Starlings class have explored plants and how they grow. They made observations on the bean plants that they planted a couple of weeks ago. They also went on a nature walk to spot signs of Spring and new growth and made careful drawings of what they observed.

Kingfishers class had a fantastic Science Week! We explored the science fair and asked lots of thoughtful and curious questions about what we discovered. The class investigated big ideas about the universe and carried out an experiment to explore how the universe is expanding. It was wonderful to see everyone thinking like future scientists and considering what these discoveries might mean for the world around us.

In **Sandpiper** class, we were curious about refraction! This is when light rays distort when travelling through a transparent object (such as glass, clear plastic or water). We enjoyed learning more about refraction using prisms and water, and creating Newton discs to help understand that white light is a combination of all the colours found in the rainbow.



What have I been up to this week…?

While waiting for a new name, I decided to have a look around the school. First lesson was Music with Robins and Mr Rapson - I think I might join in again, that was fun. Then it was time to cover in the office, Miss Lewis was impressed by my professional phone manner, but it was too busy there and my paws are not designed for first aid so I took myself outside for a bit of fresh air. To end my week I had a challenging game of Chess with Aarav, just look at my concentration. I didn't win this time but I will practice hard.

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.

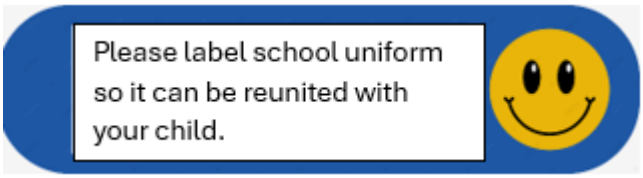
Pesto is also not allowed.

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.



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.

DIARY DATES

15 March - Mothering Sunday
18 March - Piano Concert at 2.30pm
18 March - SATS information mtg Yr5-6 3.30pm
19 March -Knex Challenge
19 March - Full Governing Body at 6.30pm
20 March - Lots of Socks Day (see Page 2)
20 March - Fete Bottle Donation Day
21 March - Jam Making Session
23 March - Rock Steady Concert at 2.15pm*
24 March - Music Concert 9am - **
24 March - Dance Festival - Sandpipers
26 March - Easter Service at St John's at 9am**
26 March - Easter Egg Hunt
27 March - End of Term (1.30 finish)
13 April - Inset Day (no pupils in school)
14 April - Start of Summer Term
12 June - Sports Day * (1-3.15pm)**
26 June - Back Up Sports Day **

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!

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

Frankie - Robins
Nana - Starlings
Pippa - Kingfisher
Lillia - Sandpiper

Hello!

Over the past week in our Collective Worship we've been exploring Celtic spirituality — which might sound a bit mysterious, but actually begins with a very simple idea: God can be found in the ordinary moments of life.

Celtic Christians had a wonderful phrase — "thin places." These are moments where the distance between heaven and earth feels very small. On Thursday, we talked about how those moments might appear in the beauty of creation, in acts of kindness, in friendship, or even in a quiet moment when we stop long enough to notice what's around us. The children were brilliant at spotting examples — it turns out there are rather a lot of "thin places" in a school day if you keep your eyes open.

This Sunday we're really looking forward to celebrating Mothering Sunday, and we'd love to welcome families from the school community to our all-age service at St Michael's at 11am. Mothering Sunday is a chance to say thank you for all those who nurture and care for us — parents, grandparents, carers, friends, and everyone who helps us grow. There will be flowers, as well as the appearance of a mid-service biscuit or two!

And a quick date for the diary: St John's@3 returns on Sunday 22 March at 3pm. It's our relaxed afternoon gathering with crafts, activities and a short time of worship. This time we'll be travelling towards Easter, exploring some of the fascinating ways Christians around the world celebrate the season — think creativity and discovery rather than sitting in pews.

As always, everyone is very welcome.

Rev'd Kathryn