



St John's School Newsletter

20th 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 - Prayer has shown lovely St. John's values using her manners and sharing her ideas with her friends. She has been working hard in our phonics lessons and now we are really seeing her using this knowledge in her writing, where her creativity really shows. We love seeing the creative ideas and how she sets herself challenges and persists with these even when it is tricky. Well done Prayer.

Starlings - Eva for her positive attitude when working in a group. She has shown a great kindness to those she has worked with. In maths she has been finding and comparing sizes using both inside and outside resources. She has used a ruler and cubes to measure objects and shared her findings with her partner. In English she has used her knowledge of letters to write words and sentences. Eva has worked hard in art to create a beautiful copy of Van Gogh's starry night using swirly patterns. Eva has been a kind friend at lunchtime. Keep up the great work

Kingfishers - Gracie has shown hard work, perseverance and resilience this week. She has shown confidence in group work, working alongside her classmates to delve deeper into learning, asking thoughtful questions and sharing her ideas. Gracie has shown excellent comprehension and inference in English, recognising key features and then using this information to create detailed settings. In Science, Gracie has wowed us with her scientific vocabulary and the links she has made to previous learning. Well done Gracie

Sandpiper - Lily is a lovely member of our class who always impresses us with her positive attitude and hard-working nature! She is a thoughtful and kind friend to everyone, and we love how welcoming and inclusive she is. Lily was brilliant in the K'Nex challenge and we were blown away with her creative ideas, alongside her great teamwork, listening and compromise she showed. Lily has made great progress in her learning and shown lots of deeper thinking thanks to the pride and care she puts into everything. Well done!

Piano Concert

Thank you to our pianists who played beautifully in Wednesday's concert. From Old MacDonald to the Pink Panther, we were very impressed with your wonderful playing.

Many thanks to Ms Cheung for preparing the concert for us.

See Page 5 for photos.

Choir

Many thanks to choir members and their families who came to the Mothering Sunday service at St John's Church last week. Your participation was much appreciated. Just a reminder for those members of choir who have been given permission will be singing alongside the choirs of St Francis Church and Applecroft school this coming Sunday, at St Francis Church in Welwyn Garden City. The rehearsal will start promptly at 4.00 p.m. so please arrive by 3.50 p.m. at the latest. The service will begin at 5.00 p.m. and will finish at 6.00 p.m. Families are warmly invited to come to the service. The children need to wear school uniform for this.

National Down Syndrome awareness day

Today the children came into school wearing odd socks as part of our marking of Down Syndrome. As part of the day, we welcomed Lynn and Imie to school to judge the sock design competition.

Our competition winners are on Page 5.



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

John 10:10

Herts For Learning have teamed up with Herts Mix 92.6 radio station on a series of interviews with their school advisers for their parent show. These interviews are specifically designed to support parents.

The aim is that providing information and advice to parents, will support them to work with their children and their schools for the best outcomes.

A variety of topics will be covered including nurturing a confident child, what to do when things aren't working out at your child's school and how to support your teenagers with exams.



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

Mission 26:26 Our latest fundraising

Many thanks to everyone who has supported the Name the Jelly Cat fundraising activity. Hazel was the winner and the name that has been given to the Jelly Cat is Gareth! Thank you to Kalia and Orianna's family for the kind donation of the Jelly Cat!

In May Joey Coales is planning a sponsored litter pick in the village, more details will be shared nearer the time.

Fete Preparations

Preparations for the fete are in full flow! Many thanks for the generous donations of bottles that came into school today. Further donation days are:

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

Sunday 3rd and Monday 4th - Cake donations - This year we are requesting that donated cakes are portion size, cakes like cupcakes, tray bakes, buns etc, if possible. Thank you!

** non uniform days

Summer Clubs at St Johns

Details will be coming home early next week. Revd Kathryn will be running a Lunchtime Christian Explorer Group (Years 4-6) with the option of Confirmation towards the end (more details to follow). Children are very welcome to attend the group simply to explore, without any expectation or pressure to be confirmed.

Confirmation

Confirmation is taking place at St Albans Abbey on 23 May, parents who feel their child may like to be confirmed are invited to let Revd Kathryn know at the beginning of the group. Miss Lewis will email more detail separately to parents of children in Year 4/5/6.

With parental consent, Revd Kathryn will then have a short, informal conversation to explore what confirmation means and whether it feels like the right next step.

Attendance

Since the start of the school year, September 2025, 68% of our children have achieved an attendance rate of between 95% and 100%. 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.

Brocket Hall Golf Partnership

Kingfisher and Sandpiper Class enjoyed another visit from the Brocket Hall golf team. Years 3&4 are looking forward to putting these skills to the test next week when they visit the putting green and driving range at Brocket.



Meningitis

Following the reports of the meningitis outbreak in the Kent region, we received an official statement from the Children's Services Team at Hertfordshire County Council.

That advice was shared to parents this morning by email.

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.

The last week of term:

Just a reminder about the events during our final week of term:

Rock Steady

Monday 23rd March 2.15 p.m. Performances given by members of Rock Steady. Parents of children who are part of these bands are invited to come along.

Whole school performance

On Tuesday 24th March at 9.00 a.m. the whole school will be performing the song that Mr Rapson and year 6 have written together earlier this term. It will be a world premiere! There will also be performances by the school choir and years 5 and 6.

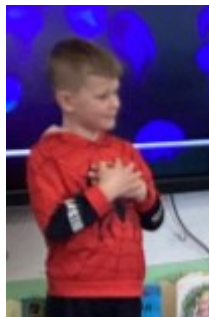
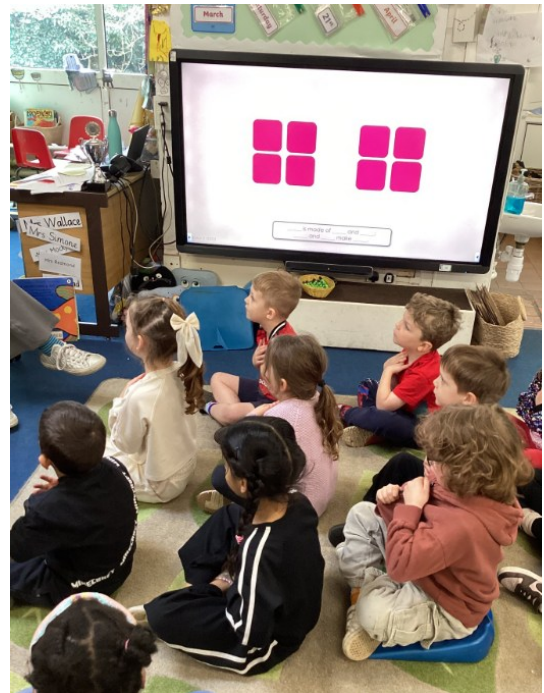
Easter Service

On Thursday 26th March we will have our Easter service at St John's Church. Parents and family members are warmly welcome to join us.

Visit from Sarah Austin

Starlings worked with Sarah to learn some Makaton signs and were able to remember 10 signs in a row.

Robins worked on learning the signs for the school prayer.



Lots of Socks Competition

Well done to the winners

Adeline
Ava C
Jack S
Evie W



Piano Concert



Knex Challenge

Sandpiper Class enjoyed taking part in the annual Setpoint STEM K'Nex Challenge. This year they designed and made rockets with detachable thrusters and capsules. Well done to Callum and Finley for being the class winners! Their design will be judged alongside over 300 winners across the country - good luck!

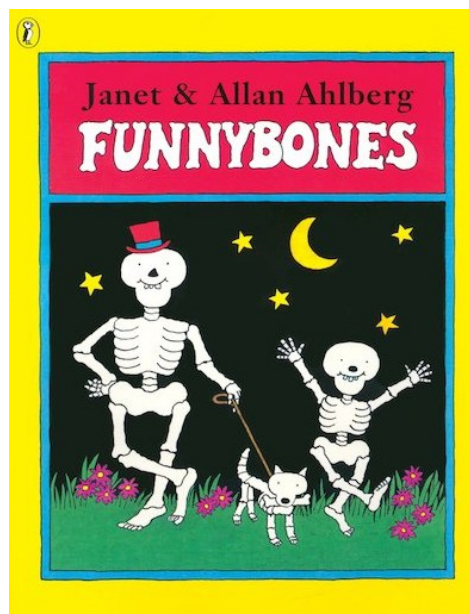




Our Favourite Books

This week we asked Miss Ng for her book choice.

Miss Ng says her favourite childhood book is *Funnybones* by Janet and Allan Ahlberg. The story follows a pair of mischievous skeletons (and their dog!) on a late-night adventure while the rest of the town sleeps. My sister and I used to love reciting the story to each other, making up tunes for their songs, and giggling at the high jinks they all got up to. I gift this book to every little one that joins our family and friendship circle, and am always so pleased when they also grow up to love the story!



This is the first book in the FUNNYBONES series published in 1980 and introduces the skeletons who live in a dark, dark cellar of a dark, dark house on a dark, dark hill and so the word repetition continues through this light-hearted story for early readers. The skeletons venture out of their cellar one night to find someone to scare, but everyone is in bed so they amuse themselves by scaring each other and playing with the skeleton animals that live in the zoo.

Allan Ahlberg, a former teacher, postman and plumber's mate, has published over 100 children's books and, with his wife Janet, created such award winning picture books as *Each Peach Pear Plum* and *The Jolly Postman* - both medal winning books.



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

- 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 **

*more details to follow

**all parents welcome

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 we invite children 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

Thomas -

Ivy

Miley



Hello!

What a fantastic couple of weeks it's been in school and church!

Last Sunday we celebrated Mothering Sunday, and it really was one of those services that just felt full of life. There were flowers, biscuits, a brilliant bit of Bible drama, and some wonderful singing, prayers and readings from the children. It was a great reminder that St John's is a place where everyone belongs.

This week was also the final session of our Lego Faithbuilders lunchtime club. It's become a real highlight of my week. I've loved spending time with such a brilliant group of children—chatting about the Bible and creating scenes from the stories of Genesis together.

In Collective Worship, we've continued our theme of spirituality, focusing this week on St Francis of Assisi. He chose a simple way of living, centred on kindness, care and joy. The children explored the question: what really matters? It led to some thoughtful conversations about friendship, kindness, and how having less of the unimportant things can help us notice the important ones more clearly.

Looking ahead, we'd love to invite you to St John's@3: Easter Journey on **22nd March** at 3pm.

This will be a relaxed, fun and interactive way to explore the story of Easter as it is celebrated around the world, with different stations around the church and things to see and do for all ages. You can move around at your own pace—and there will, of course, be delicious refreshments as always.

See you soon

Rev'd Kathryn

