



# St John's School Newsletter

## 27th 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



#### Happy Easter

We would like to wish everyone a very Happy Easter! Thank you to parents for all your support including your very generous donations to our Mission 26:26. Many thanks also to our staff team, LSA and governors for everything they do to contribute to St John's. and to make it the special place that it is.

Wishing everyone a lovely, restful holiday.

Mrs Boylan

#### Music Concert

We enjoyed the termly concert on Tuesday. The concert differed to the usual structure as it included solos by years 5 and 6, the school choir and a song performed by the whole school. The song was a very special one as it was written by year 6 led by Mr Rapson. Called 'Don't ever give up' the song's lyrics included many aspects of the school vision and values. What a fantastic achievement - please look out for recordings of the song.

#### Governor Award Celebration

Ms Ng presenting this term's governors' awards.



#### Beacon Pupils

**Robins - Iskirat** has been working so hard in Robins class over the last few weeks. We have loved seeing her confidence grow and seeing her contribute more in our class and group sessions. She is flying with her phonics learning and using this knowledge in her reading and writing. She is such a kind and thoughtful member of our class, often looking out for people who need a friend and including them in her creative play ideas. We can't wait to see what she can do next, keep up the good work Iskirat!

**Starlings - Ivy** for her enthusiastic and organised group work. During maths Ivy has been able to weigh a range of objects and predict which would be heavier or lighter as well as sharing her ideas with others. In English Ivy has created a wonderful spring poem using a range of adjectives and worked hard on her presentation. Ivy's confidence has shone through in our Art lesson as she shared her picture with the class modelling how to construct a mosaic picture in the style of the artist. It had been lovely to see Ivy coming out gaining and sharing her knowledge.

**Kingfishers - Jonah** has shown real determination and focus this week, from designing and creating his own kite, to using excellent scientific vocabulary to compare human teeth to animal teeth. Jonah has been an excellent group member, sharing ideas and working alongside his friends, and also a great learning partner building on answers and posing further ones. Jonah's confidence has shone through in all his learning, particularly in sharing his ideas with the rest of the class. Well done Jonah.

**Sandpiper - Finley** has really impressed us with his great attitude to learning and maturity. He makes positive choices, listens well and cares deeply about his learning. Finley has really stepped out of his comfort zone this week in many ways, showing great determination and enthusiasm. He was fantastic during our rehearsals, shone on stage during the Dance Festival, and behaved impeccably at Campus West. Finley showed such perseverance when sewing this week - asking for help when needed but also being determined to try himself. He has made a lovely bag for someone special! Well done!

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

John 10:10

## Holiday Club at St John's

Booking is now available for our May Holiday and Summer Holiday Club

Dates coming up are

### May half term

26th May

27th May

### Summer Holiday

23-24 July &

27/28/29/30/31  
July

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

## 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 3<sup>rd</sup> and Monday 4<sup>th</sup> - 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

## Going to Church on Easter Morn

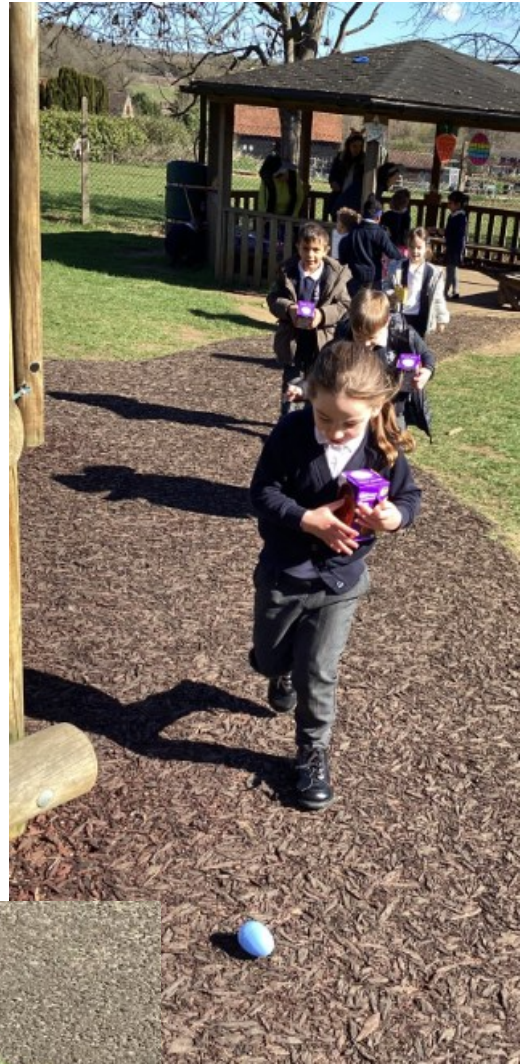
Up with the sunrise,  
Excitement is in the air,  
Easter morning  
Is finally here.

Brand new clothes  
and a freshly washed face,  
Going to church to give thanks  
For God's grace.

## Easter Service and Easter Egg Hunt

Once again, it was lovely to celebrate Easter at the St John's Church and to have parents join us. The service included readings and prayers led by the children as well as their joyful singing. The service was followed by an Easter Egg hunt in the playground which was organised by the LSA. Lots of fun was had by everyone!





### **Golf at Brockett Hall**

Kingfishers class enjoyed an afternoon of golf at Brockett Hall on Wednesday afternoon. They took part in 3 different golf related activities and had a very enjoyable time. Thank you to the parents who helped with the event.

## Rocksteady Concert and Dance Festival

Well done to the children who took part in the Rock Steady Concert on Monday. It was great to see their confidence and enjoyment of their music making.

Once again years 5 and 6 took part in the annual Dance Festival at Campus West. Their dance performance to the song 'Cake by the Ocean' was full of impressive dance moves even including some gymnastics. Many thanks to Miss Ng for her amazing choreography!

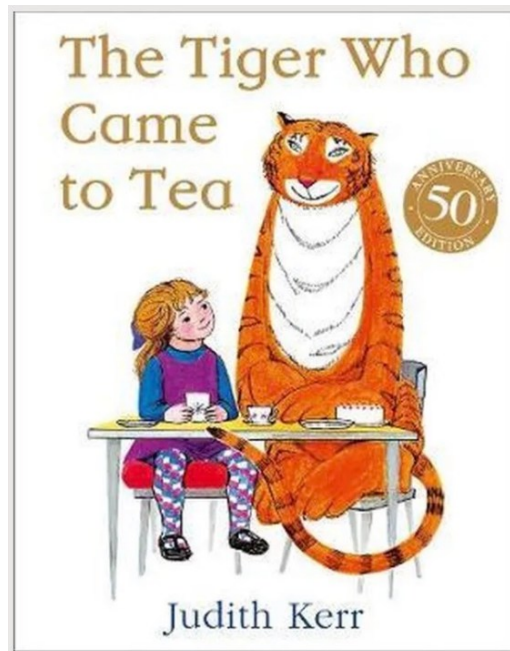




### Our Favourite Books

This week we have Mrs Gammon's book choice.

I love *The Tiger Who Came to Tea* by Judith Kerr! I used to choose it so often when I went to the library with my mum and sister when I was little. I remember not being phased at all that a TIGER had turned up and eaten everything in the house but thought it was absolutely brilliant that it meant the got to go out for tea as there was no food left! I loved reading it to my children and my nieces and nephews too.



What can we learn from *The Tiger Who Came to Tea*? The book teaches us about accepting the unexpected, the joy of surreal disruption, and the resilience of a calm, loving family. The core lesson is to handle surprises—even disruptive ones—with calm and to adapt when things do not go as planned.



### 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

**13 April** - Inset Day (no pupils in school)  
**14 April** - Start of Summer Term  
**22nd April** - PGL residential meeting for year 6  
**4th May** - Lemsford fete  
**W.b 11 May** - SATs week for year 6  
**20th May** - Whole school and class photos  
**10 June** - District athletics  
**12 June** - Sports Day \* (1-3.15pm)\*\*  
**26 June** - Back Up Sports Day \*\*  
**29 June-1st July** - Sandpipers residential trip  
**7th and 8th July** - Sandpipers and Kingfishers performances



## 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.

Hello!

It was wonderful to have so many families join us for our St John's@3 Easter Journey on Sunday, as we explored the different events of Holy Week through the traditions of different countries.

It was full of life, with children and adults moving together from table to table, discovering the story through crafts, food, and other activities as they went. A big thank you to everyone who came—and to all who helped make it happen. Our next St John's@3 is on 17th May at 3pm - if the weather is good we'll be outside for a spot of 'Wild Worship'. Pop the date in your diary now so you don't miss out.

Our school Easter service on Thursday was also fantastic. Thank you to all the brilliant readers who helped bring the story to life so vividly. The school holidays may be nearly here, but there's still plenty happening in church over the coming week, as Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday.

Families might particularly enjoy our All Together Easter Sunday Communion service at 11am. It's an all-age service, so expect something interactive and relaxed—and yes, there will be an Easter egg hunt! Do come and join us if you can.

Have a wonderful Easter break when it comes.

Rev'd Kathryn

