



St John's School Newsletter

24th April 2026

Values of this half term

Dignity and Respect

'Treat others as you would like to be treated yourself'.

Matthew 7:12



LEGO / Affinity Water Project

On Thursday Sandpiper and Kingfishers classes took part in Lego workshops.



The workshops involved the children creating Lego bots and then programming them. They used the bots to explore maps to discover ways of saving water. The children showed fantastic team work, listening skills and problem solving. Well done!

26:26 MISSION



Today in celebration assembly we were able to add a further £4000 to the funds already raised taking the total raised so far to £14000, which is fantastic news. We are well on the way in our fundraising and with the fete as well as other fundraising events planned we are making brilliant progress. Many thanks to everyone for their continued support with this venture!

Beacon Pupils

Robins - Frankie has been working hard in Robins class this term. He has grown in confidence with his reasoning skills in our Maths sessions and is using great language to explain what he has found out. He has also shown great perseverance with his letter formation which is helping him in his writing and we have had some lovely dinosaur writing from him this week. He loves to create stories in his play and he is working hard on listening to his friends and including their ideas. Keep up the good work Frankie.

Starlings - Carter for his excellent and mature attitude towards his work. He has made great progress in English, particularly in his writing about characters from our *Snack Attack* film clip. He has worked hard to improve his handwriting, ensuring it is neat and well presented, and has shown real determination when writing longer pieces. This week in our Maths work Carter has focused well on fractions, working with his group to find halves and quarters. He has also been a fantastic learning partner, consistently making positive choices about who he works with and supporting others effectively. Carter has continued to contribute well to class discussions making thoughtful insights to all our topics. Keep up the mature attitude.

Kingfishers - Aashi has shown fantastic effort and enthusiasm across the curriculum. In Maths, Aashi has developed a strong understanding of time, tackling challenges with confidence. In English, she has impressed us with her creativity and independence when planning our own stories, using excellent vocabulary. Aashi also worked brilliantly as part of a team, contributing thoughtfully during the Affinity Water LEGO project and collaborating effectively in RE to complete a group mission.

Sandpiper - Reuben has been working hard to make positive choices in the classroom and reflecting on how to learn from mistakes and continue to flourish. We have really seen the impact of this on his learning, especially in how he is maturing and stepping up to new responsibilities. Reuben has been listening carefully in class, joining in with discussions, and showing great focus. Reuben has not only worked hard independently on some tricky translation and co-ordinate questions this week in maths, but has also recognised when he needed some help. Reuben has really understood the bonkers world of *Alice in Wonderland* and we've been pleased with his interesting ideas and predictions, and look forward to more of his writing. Well done!

Joey's Fundraising Journey

Don't forget that Joey in Kingfishers is fundraising for Mission 26:26 by carrying out a sponsored litter pick on 2nd May, just in time for the Lemsford Fete. We are so grateful for his efforts which has raised nearly £400!

Please see the 'newsletter attachments' email for details on supporting his amazing efforts.

We hope the sun continues to shine for you next weekend.

Holiday Club at St John's

Booking is now available for our May Half term and Summer Holiday Clubs

Dates coming up are

May half term

26th May

27th May

Summer Holiday

23rd & 24th July

27th, 28th, 29th, 30th & 31st July

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



FINAL PUSH FOR THE FETE

LEMSFORD FETE - Bank Holiday Monday - 4th May

This coming week is the last week before the fete - May the 4th be with you!

We really do need more volunteers to help run the stalls. If there are less stalls, then there will be less income. More volunteers would also help to lessen the load for those parents who are offering so much of their time in planning, organising, setting up, running stalls and tidying away.

"MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK!"

Please let your class reps know if you are able to help in any way - it would be appreciated very much.

Many thanks for the generous donations that have been handed in. Further donation days are:

27 April - Saleable Bric-a-brac/toys (please leave these under the canopy at the front of school)

29 April - Bring in your Lucky Dip Bags - please check recent information about these and contact your Class Rep if you need further clarification.

1st May & mornings of 3/4 May - Cake donations. This year we are requesting that donated cakes are portion size, cakes like cupcakes, tray bakes, buns etc, if possible. Thank you!

Finally, on the day of the performance, please make sure children are by TreeTops at 1.45pm, ready for their 2.10pm performance.

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 cloak-rooms, 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

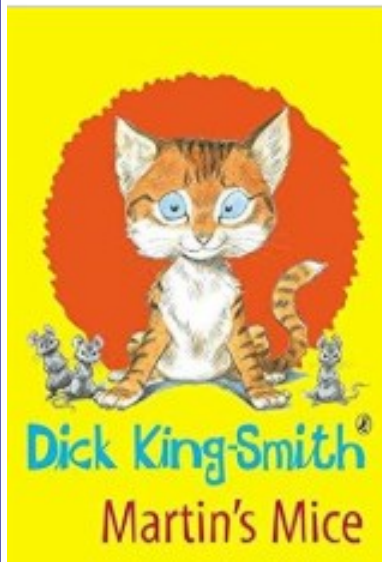
This is a fundraising venture led by the LSA with the aim of replacing the play equipment on the main playground. The cost is considerable, one quote being around £35,000, for example. LSA fundraising events between now and the end of 2026 will go towards this goal but any suggestions for match funding 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.





What did staff read in Primary School?

Miss Mockford was very pleased to be asked to share her favourite book with you all.



One of my favourite books growing up was 'Martin's Mice' by Dick King-Smith. It is about a cat named Martin; a farm kitten who's a bit of an outcast because he has zero interest in catching mice for dinner. His family thinks he's a total failure, but Martin doesn't care; he's too busy saving mice and looking after them.

Martin decides he wants a pet of his own, so he catches a mouse named Drusilla, sticks her in an old bathtub, and thinks he's the world's best pet owner. He brings her food, protects her from his scary mom, and thinks they're best buds. The problem? Drusilla isn't exactly thrilled to be living in a porcelain box.

The best part of the book is when Martin realizes that just because he's being "nice" to his pets doesn't mean they're happy. It's a huge lesson in consent and boundaries. He learns that you can't love something and keep it imprisoned at the same time.

It was inspiring to me as a child because everyone feels a little bit like Martin sometimes - like they don't fit the mould of what their friends or family expect. Watching Martin stand up for his morals, even though others didn't agree, and be a "mouse lover" instead of a "mouse killer" is super empowering.

Also, later in the book, the tables turn and Martin gets a taste of his own medicine. It's a brilliant way to learn about empathy. Basically, "How would you feel if someone did that to you?"



The dialogue is snappy, Martin is super relatable, and the farmyard setting feels totally real. It's not a long book, so it's perfect for a weekend read. I highly recommend it!



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](#)

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.

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.

School Meals

As the kitchen needs meal choices by 9.25am, 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.

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.

Nut Free School

A reminder that 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 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

- 4 May - Lemsford Fete
- 11-14 May - SATS week
- 21 May - School Census Day*
- 25-29 May - Half Term (school closed)
- 1 June - INSET (school closed to pupils)
- 10 June - District Athletics*
- 12 June - Sports Day * (1-3.15pm)**
- 15 June - Outdoor Learning Week*
- 26 June - Back Up Sports Day **
- 29 June - 1st July - Sandpipers Residential
- 7 July - KS2 Production*
- 8 July - KS2 Production*
- 9 July - Year 6 Move Up Day*
- 22 July - End of Term (1.30pm finish)

*more details to follow

**all parents welcome

Rev'd Kathryn is out of office this week.



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

Jesse - Robins

Benjamin - Starlings

Aashi - Kingfisher

Evie S - Sandpipers



Badminton Tournament

On Sunday 19th April, a St John's team represented us brilliantly at the Primary Schools Badminton Tournament at Hertfordshire Sports Village, organised by John Stobo. Well done to Luca, Lewis, Finley and Alex for coming 4th and showing fantastic team work and skill!

More photos from the Lego Workshop...

