



St John's School Newsletter

1st May 2026

Values of this half term

Dignity and Respect

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

Matthew 7:12



Year 4 Maths Challenge

On Tuesday, Freya, Jack, William and Harry took part in a year 4 maths challenge. This was an online, inter-school competition giving teams of Year 4 children the opportunity to apply their mathematics knowledge and teamwork skills to solve problems and answer challenging questions, putting their reasoning skills to the test. They showed fantastic teamwork, enthusiasm and focus - and were thrilled to find out they scored enough points to qualify for the final. A massive congratulations to the team, and we look forward to seeing how they get on in the final.



LEMSFORD FETE - BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY

The fete is upon us! Many thanks to all parents and the LSA for everything you have done in preparation for the event. All children need to be brought to Treetops at 1.45 p.m. ready for their performances. They been working hard to prepare their dances and singing. We look forward to seeing everyone on Monday - whatever the weather!



Beacon Pupils

Robins - Jesse has been an enthusiastic dancer in our fete preparations this week. We have loved to see him joining in with the class and dancing so joyfully. He has also been working thoughtfully in his phonics sessions, recognising more letters and having a go at writing these down. Jesse loves to problem solve and create games for his friends to play. We also love his sense of justice and wanting to make sure everything is fair for his friends. Keep up the good work Jesse!

Starlings - Ireti for her fantastic confidence in her learning. She has contributed to all class discussions showing a broad knowledge of all our subjects. In maths she has taken on the challenges to find fractions and worked well with her learning partner. In English Ireti wrote out an excellent information sheet showcasing all her knowledge of alligators. She shared this well with her group, showing great vocabulary and knowledge. Ireti is a kind and caring friend to everyone and has been a great role model on how to show all of our St John's values. Well done.

Kingfishers - Danny has shown great enthusiasm, determination and confidence throughout the week. Danny has worked well both independently and with his talk partner, tackling time conversions in maths, carefully structuring and typing an 'overcoming a fear' story in English and using charcoal to show depth in Art. It has been fantastic to see Danny's confidence in putting himself forward for extra parts in our Maypole preparations and in times tables practise.

Sandpipers - Samuel W is a joyful and enthusiastic member of our class who always brings a lovely positive energy! He is a thoughtful and kind friend who looks out for others, is helpful, and makes sure everyone is including. Samuel is always the first to help others and cares deeply about making our classroom a safe and happy place for all. He has worked incredibly hard on some recent challenging maths, showing great understanding of reflection and translation. Samuel also really impressed us with his creative and bonkers Alice in Wonderland food guide in English. Well done!



LEMSFORD FETE - Bank Holiday Monday - 4th May

It's the countdown to the highlight of the year for the Lemsford community.

Donations of cakes can be left on the morning of 3rd and 4th May. A reminder that they be portion size (like cupcakes, tray-bakes, buns etc).

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

Attendance - Holidays in School time

We kindly remind parents that holidays should not be taken during term time, as this disrupts children's learning and can impact their progress and well-being. Attendance at school is a legal requirement, and requests for leave during term time will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances. We appreciate your cooperation in planning family holidays outside of school terms and thank you for your continued support in ensuring the best possible education for all pupils.

Joey's Fundraising Journey

Don't forget that Joey in Kingfishers is fundraising for Mission 26:26 by carrying out a sponsored litter pick tomorrow, 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.

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.

Art Explorers Club

Two spaces left for the next block of sessions. Please book early to secure your slot.



READING FOR PLEASURE

National Year of Reading What do our staff like to read?

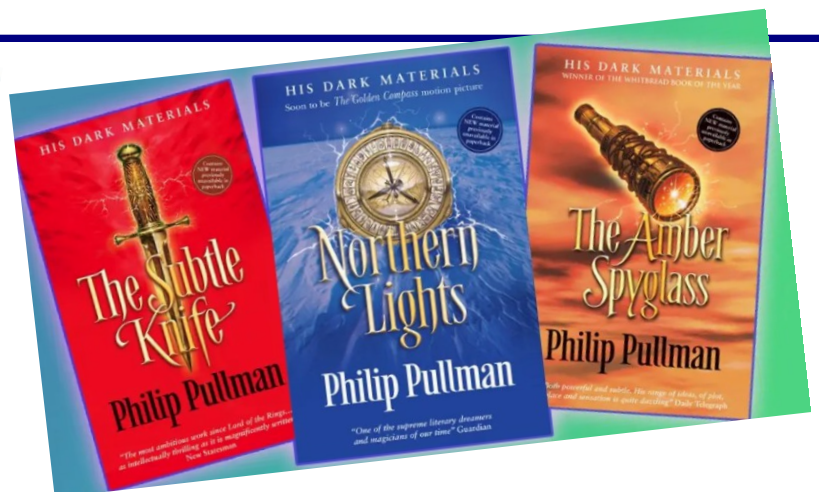
This week is the turn of our Starlings Teacher, Mrs Youngs. Do you agree that this is a brilliant choice? If you have read this book, why not tell Mrs Youngs what you thought about it.



One of favourite book series is the Northern Lights trilogy by Philip Pullman. I have always loved reading, but when I picked up these books, I just couldn't put them down! They took me on an amazing adventure to a magical world full of talking animal companions, brave heroes, and exciting journeys. The main character, Lyra, is clever, curious, and very brave, even when things feel scary. These books made me feel like I was right there with her, exploring new places and solving mysteries. They reminded me just how fun and powerful reading can be!



What I really love is how these books show that being curious and asking questions is important. Lyra and her friends stick together, help each other, and try to do what's right. It inspires me to be brave, to be kind, and to never stop wondering about the world. Reading is fantastic because it lets you travel to new worlds, meet unforgettable characters, and use your imagination - these books are a perfect example of that!



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

11-14 May - SATS week
14 May - Robins Trip to Mill Green Museum
21 May - Starlings and Kingfisher to Herts Zoo
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

School Census Meal Change

As two classes are out on a trip 21st May, we are having our Census Day meal on 19th May instead.

Year 1-6 - please see email sent 22/4

Robins - please see email sent 21/4, parents of children in Robins pre-select their meal each day.

Trainers and Shoes

Just a reminder that the shoes and trainers that children wear to school each day must be completely black including any logos and sides of the soles. Trainers that are worn only for PE can be other colours but we would prefer them to be a dark, plain colour. Please bear this in mind when you are replacing shoes and trainers over the coming months.

Many thanks for your cooperation with this.

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

Adeline - Robins

Elijah - Starlings

Joey C - Kingfisher

Skylla - Sandpipers



Hello!

It was great to be back in church with the children again this week. This term in Collective Worship we're exploring the theme Life in All Its Fullness, inspired by our school vision and Jesus' words "I came that they may have life, life in all its fullness" (Bible John 10:10). Together we are thinking about what it means not simply to get through life, but to live it well – with joy, kindness, courage, hope and care for others. Last week we began by reflecting on the many messages the world gives us about what makes a "good life." This week our focus is Life as Gift. On Thursday in church we encouraged the children to notice the many things we receive, but do not earn (life itself, friendship, love, beauty, creation) and to consider how gratitude can shape the way we live.

On the subject of gratitude, I'm so grateful for all the hard work that has gone into planning and preparing for the School Fete. I'm looking forward to a brilliant day of fun, energy and community spirit.

And finally, a few dates for your diaries. **St John's@3 Wild Spring** takes place on **Saturday 17th May at 3pm** – a relaxed, creative and all-age celebration of the season. We also have our **Pentecost All Together Celebration Service** on **Sunday 24th May at 11am**, where we celebrate the gift of God's Spirit in a lively service for all ages. It would be great to see you there!

Have a wonderful bank holiday weekend and see you on Monday. Praying for sun, or at least no rain!

