



St John's School Newsletter

15th May 2026

Values of this half term

Dignity and Respect

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

Matthew 7:12



Beacon Pupils

Robins - Freddie has really shown his writing skills recently. He shows such deep thought around his ideas, it is a delight to see him being able to express himself clearly. He takes time to plan what he wants to say and then focusses until he has completed what he has set out to do. He is a caring friend and is always aware of who might need someone to play with, happily sharing his ideas. He shows so many of our St. Johns' values every-day. Keep up the good work Freddie.

Starlings - George for his fantastic effort in his learning this week. He has shown an excellent attitude in completing tasks to a great standard. In his version of Allan's big scary teeth he worked hard on remembering his capital letters and full stop, he also used a wide range of adjectives. As a learning partner he has worked with confidence when using clocks to tell the time. He was able to share his knowledge and also listen to his partner. George has also shared what he remembers about alligators to the class and it has been lovely to see this hardworking side to George. Keep it up.

Kingfishers - Harrison has grown in confidence since joining us, making great friendships and taking part in all our activities. It has been great to hear Harrison's ideas in whole class discussion, and seeing his imagination shine when writing play-scripts in English. Harrison has shown good focus and knowledge in our Maths decimals topic, working independently and alongside his talk partner. It's great to see that Harrison is building on that focus and determination in lessons, and we are looking forward to seeing the progress he continues to make.

Sandpipers - Lewis has such a warm and infectious energy in class and we have been so proud of how cool, calm and collected he has been during SATs week. During the breakfast club, he was quietly helpful to others, jumped in to help tidy up, and had beautiful manners. Throughout all his learning, we always love Lewis's incredible enthusiasm and engagement - he puts such care and thought into every piece of learning and always works hard. Lewis is a thoughtful friend to others - we've seen this in abundance this week when offering a kind word, making others smile and gently checking in. It has been lovely to see his care towards his buddy this year and the friendship that has blossomed and the role model Lewis has been. Well done!

SATs

Another of the year's key points has passed this week with the year 6 completing their SATs. The tests are an important part of the transition for the children as they prepare for their move to secondary school. We were impressed with their focus and resilience throughout. Many thanks to Miss Ng for preparing the delicious breakfasts for the children each day.



FOREST SCHOOL

We are delighted that Mrs Youngs will soon be beginning her training to be a Forest School leader. We are planning for Forest School to be part of our on-going provision and curriculum with Mrs Young's training being an important first step on the way to this aim. We are also delighted that one of our parents, Donna Shepherd, has been very busy organising a parents' gardening weekend during which we are planning to complete a range of jobs around the school site including making a path through the spinney to be part of our St John's Forest School area. Many parents have volunteered to come along on Saturday 13th June; please let us know if you can join us on that day as well. No special skills are required just willingness and energy!

We will be having our next Outdoor Learning week on the week beginning Monday 15th June.

VISIT to ST JOHN'S CHURCH

On Tuesday afternoon the children who attend the lunchtime club, Faith builders', and Sandpipers class learnt all about the eucharist during their visit to St John's Church. Exploring the importance of the eucharist is part of the RE curriculum. We were very impressed with the quality and range of questions that the children asked Revd Kathryn.

Attendance - Holidays in School time

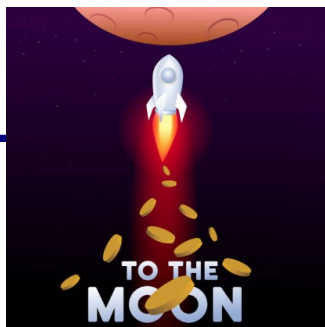
We kindly remind parents that holidays should not be taken during term time, as this disrupts children's learning and can impact their progress and well-being. Attendance at school is a legal requirement, and requests for leave during term time will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances.

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.

MISSION 26-26

' The greatest silver line '

Faye Dave sent out a message from the LSA recently relating to the next venture in raising funds for Mission 26-26. Please collect all your **silver coins** and bring them into school. The overall value of the coins will go towards the **Mission 26-26** and the house team that makes the longest line with their coins will receive a total of 50 house points! Please bring in the coins in envelopes and bags, labelled with the child's names and the relevant house team. We look forward to seeing the line of coins stretching across the playground later this term! The deadline for returning the coins is 15th June.



Mission 26-26 Fundraiser

21 plants are still looking for their forever homes! Available at just £3 each.

Please see <https://www.facebook.com/share/g/1DkgNDabhV/> for updated names list or please email stjohnslemsfordlsa@gmail.com for plant names and how to order.



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.

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 - thank you all for pre-selecting a meal.

Governors' Award Day - July 2026

Once again Carrie Shannon, our Chair of Governors, will be organising a Governors' award day for those children who have received 5 merit certificates. **The deadline for children to hand in their 5 merit certificates is Friday 3rd July.** Any that are handed in after this date will be included in the Governors' award day in 2027.

Food Donations

We would like to begin the food donations which go to the local Food Bank. Any tinned or dried food or toiletries would be very much appreciated. Suggested donation days are:

- Friday 22nd May Sandpipers Class
- Friday 5th June Kingfishers Class
- Friday 12th June Starlings Class
- Friday 19th June Robins Class

Camp St John's

You will have a received a message about this year's Camp St John's which, weather permitting, will take place on Saturday 27th June. Pizza and camping will be fun. We are only opening this event up to parents of children who attend St Johns. Thank you.



Robins had a lovely trip to Mill Green Museum on Thursday. They had a fantastic time learning about the mill and even had a go at making their own bread rolls. Everyone was impressed with their listening skills and their good behaviour.



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

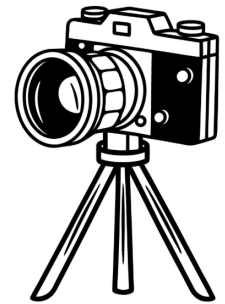
- Iskirat - Robins
- Ava P - Starlings
- Raf - Kingfisher



School Photos Wednesday 20th May

Our class and whole school photos will be taken on Wednesday 20th May

Please ensure your child is in correct uniform including school cardigan or school jumper





National Year of Reading What did our staff read?

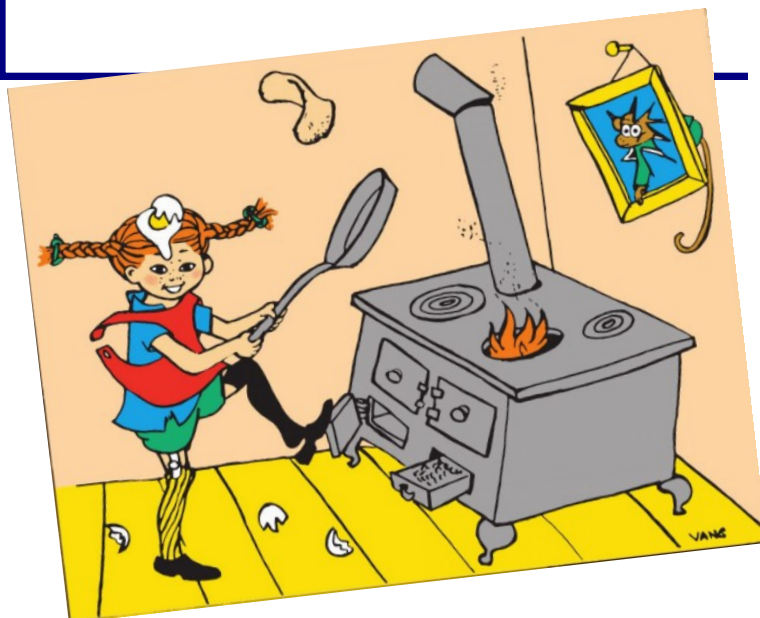
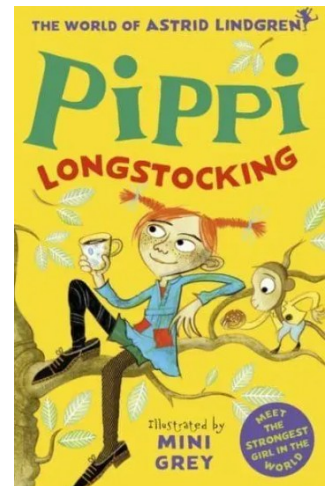
This week our Teaching Assistant, Mrs Apostoli from Kingfishers, has shared her review.

Pippi Longstocking by Astrid Lindgren is one of the books every child should read. Pippi is strong enough to lift a horse and doesn't go to school because she managed for nine years without knowing her pluttification (her word for multiplication) tables and sees no reason to change the situation now. She frequently gets into trouble, but she's never hurtful and she's the best friend there could be for her neighbours Tommy and Annika.

Pippi lives on her own, except for a horse, a monkey and a suitcase full of gold and with no grown ups to tell her what to do.

Pippi Longstocking teaches us two very important lessons. Firstly, is to turn a difficult situation in life into something happier. Secondly, to accept oneself as we are and try to improve, but stop worrying about what others might think of us.

Pippi is unlike any child you've ever met and from the very first page, readers won't be able to look away. Pippi is the character that stays with people long after they close the book. She is someone you might not necessary want to be, but she is definitely someone who makes you see the fun in life.



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

- 18 May - School District Tri Golf Event
- 19 May - School Census Meal - leave your packed lunch at home today
- 21 May - Starlings and Kingfisher to Herts Zoo
- 21 May - School Census Day
- 22 May - Food Donations - Sandpipers Class
- 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)**
- 13 June - Parent Volunteers / Gardening**
- 15 June - Outdoor Learning Week*
- 26 June - Back Up Sports Day **
- 27 June - Camp St Johns*
- 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)

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 you cooperation with this.

Hello from Revd Kathryn

Hello,

I hope you've all recovered from the excitement of the fete — what an amazing day! Thank you so much to all who volunteered and helped create a fantastic community event, that also raises much needed money for the school and church.

This half-term in collective worship we've been asking what Jesus meant when he said he came to bring life in all its fullness. Not a perfect life, it turns out! This week we've been thinking about hope: what it actually is, and what it isn't. We used a seed to explore it — the idea that things can look completely finished, buried in the dark, and still be the beginning of something new.

On **Sunday 17th May at 3pm**, St John's @ 3 Wild Worship is back — we'll be outside the church annexe this month, looking at the story of Jesus cooking breakfast on a beach for his friends. There'll be a spot of boat building, charcoal drawing, prayer, and cake. It's relaxed and for all ages. No church background needed — just come as you are and dress for the weather.

And on **Sunday 24th May at 11am** we're holding a Pentecost All Together service — one of the most dramatic moments in the whole Christian story. We'd really love children to be part of it. There will be something for all ages.

Hope to see you soon

Revd Kathryn

St John's Church

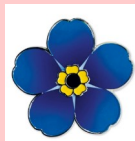
Charity Fundraiser for Alzheimer's Society

Friday, 22nd May

2pm - 4pm

Fund raising tea / coffee and cake event in the church grounds or annexe (weather dependent)

All welcome - come along and join us!



St John's @ 3

SPRING WILD WORSHIP

Breakfast on the Beach!

Discovering God in the great outdoors

**A relaxed interactive gathering
for ALL AGES**

Sunday 17th May @ 3pm