



FUNDRAISING MISSION 26:26

This year our LSA have been raising funds for the replacement of the play equipment on the main school playground.

We are aiming to raise £26,000 by the end of 2026.

The plan to replace the school play equipment is part of a two-phase playground project which aims to enhance, to develop our beautiful school grounds and to carefully blend structured play with our natural environment:

The Project Plan

Phase 1: Playground Tidy-Up, Forest School & Wildlife Habitats

Carried out by our wonderful parent volunteers, this stage focuses on improving our existing spaces and boosting local biodiversity. The school is very keen to establish a "Forest School" in our small wooded area, known as The Spinney. One of our teachers is currently training to become a certified Forest School leader, which is incredibly exciting. We plan to clear a small area, lay a safe path, and install log seating for the children. To further enrich this area and encourage local wildlife, we will also be installing several bug and butterfly habitats. During this stage, volunteers will also tidy the school pond and give our existing sheds some much-needed TLC.

Phase 2: New Play Equipment & Willow Dome

After spending a great deal of time comparing different companies to find the best fit for St John's, we have selected our supplier. The deciding factor was the flooring: this company supplies a premium, non-slip surface backed by an excellent guarantee. Crucially, it will allow the children to use the playground in all weather conditions, getting them outdoors much more often. We have also chosen a highly inclusive design. As a small school with a high SEN percentage where children regularly play in mixed-age groups, it was vital to select equipment that caters to all ages and abilities. To beautifully

complement these new structures with a natural element, we will be planting a living willow dome alongside the playground, which we know the children will absolutely love.

Progress so far:

We are making tremendous progress thanks to the generosity of our parents and the hard work of the LSA. As well as raising funds through LSA organised events and sponsored activities we are also actively seeking donations for local companies and organisations.

We are very grateful to the local companies for their support:

Donations



“St John’s school, Lemsford is thrilled to have been successful in securing funding from Ramble Worldwide Outdoor Trust to contribute towards refurbishing the playground and creating a nature friendly space for pupils to explore and learn.

Jeff Sissons, trustee of Ramble Worldwide Outdoor Trust commented, “The charity is focused on helping a wide range of people enjoy the many benefits the outdoors can bring. Schools are rich learning environments, and it there is an increasing evidence body of evidence that learning of any sort is enhanced by being outside. We are proud to play our part in supporting the local community. “

The contribution from Ramble Worldwide Outdoor Trust will really make a difference to our school and the wider community.

Please see our most recent newsletters to follow our progress with this ambitious and exciting project.