



St John's School Newsletter

22nd 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 - **Ozzy** has been a brilliant example in Robins class. He shows our St. John's values in how he treats other people with respect and shows care towards adults and children. He has been focusing well in our lessons and is showing all of his learning in his conversations and in how well he is now reading and writing. He impressed us with his reasoning in our maths lessons this week explaining how to repeat a pattern. We can't wait to see what he can do next, keep up the good work Ozzy.

Starlings - **James** for his enthusiasm for learning. He has taken on some big challenges this week with his maths learning how to tell the time with past and to. When working in a group he has been able to explain the time clearly and has shared his counting in 5 knowledge which has helped him. In English he has written out great animal facts learning a variety of facts about animals before our visit to the zoo. During our trip he was keen to find different information on each animal and shared this with great enthusiasm to his peers. James is always so polite and kind to his friends and was a joy to have in the group on our visit.

Kingfishers - **Will B** has shown such enthusiasm and determination this week. Will was a fantastic role model at the Zoo yesterday, engaging and enjoying our activities and workshop. This was also the case during the golf-competition, really giving his best and trying his hardest. This has also shone in class, where he has worked hard to uplevel his sentences in English to add detail, and in English when tackling conversion and adding of money. In science it was fantastic to see Will reflecting on the impact of scientists to our modern way of life.

Sandpipers - **Zach** is a lovely and friendly member of our class who is always ready and raring to go with our learning! We love the little chats that we have with him and seeing him coming out of his shell and growing in confidence. Zach has really impressed us with his creativity and imagination with his own Wonderland food and drink inventions. In maths, he has worked hard on interpreting dual bar charts, as well as collecting the data to make his own. He really impressed us with his mature ideas and opinions in Science, and how he listened to others and really added to the discussion. Zach puts lots of care and attention into his work, making little changes and edits that add up to a big difference and improvement! Well done!

Golf Tournament

A group of children from Kingfishers had a lovely morning on Monday at Brocket Hall, competing against 11 other schools in the District Golf Tournament.



Census Meal 19th May

Thank you to every child who had a school meal on Tuesday. A very successful event with 77% of the children taking part. The ice lolly was a particular hit.

Attendance

Congratulations to Kingfisher class who achieved the highest % of attendance (99.6%) for the week beginning 11th May. They received the attendance cup in today's Celebration Assembly.

Also, congratulations to Year 4 who have achieved the highest % of attendance - 97.76% for the first half of this summer term. A great achievement!

Kingfishers had a lovely time exploring the zoo on Thursday. We took part in a herbivore/carnivore workshop.



Starlings also had a lovely time exploring the zoo on Thursday. In our experience the class worked as conservationists examining different animal tracks. The Hertfordshire zoo staff were impressed with their knowledge of animals and their excellent behaviour.



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.

FETE 2026 FUNDRAISING the total is in!

Many, many thanks for all your support in the run up to the fete and on the day itself. Stalls like the bottles/chocolate tombolas and the lucky dip bags raised large amounts of money and relied solely on your kind donations. Many thanks to those of you who were able to be on stalls on the day, it was a fantastic team effort. We are delighted to let you know that the fete **raised just over £15,000** which will be divided between the church and the school.

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.

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 5th June Kingfishers Class

Friday 12th June Starlings Class

Friday 19th June Robins Class

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.

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.

Holiday Club at St John's

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

Dates coming up are

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.



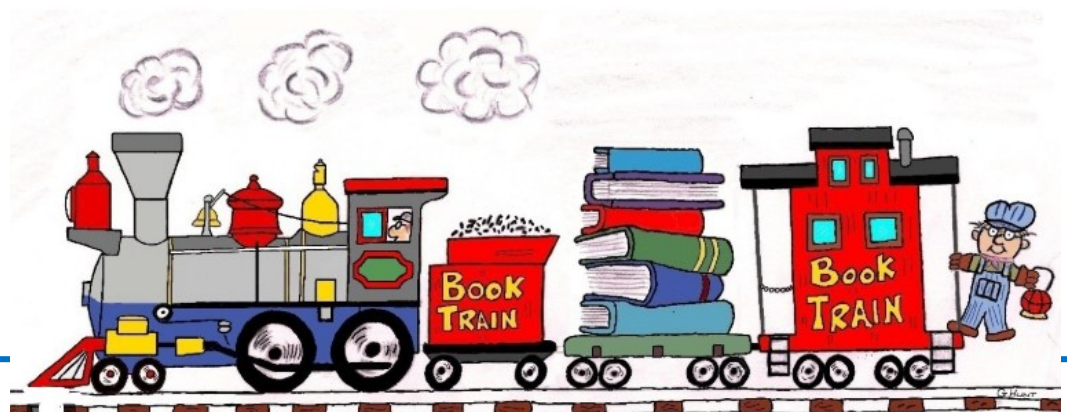
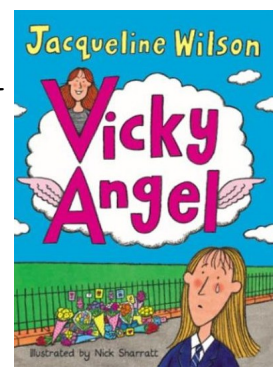
National Year of Reading What did our staff read?

This week our Teaching Assistant, Miss Noonan from Sandpipers has given her review of *Vicky Angel* by Jacqueline Wilson.

This was a comfort book for me growing up, that I really enjoyed and found very relatable as a child. It explores many emotions and includes themes of friendship, grief and imagination in a way that is understandable for children.

I would recommend this book to children it explores real emotions and friendships in a way that is easy for young readers to understand and relate to.

For children aged 9-12.



Hertfordshire County Council, in partnership with the All Aboarders railway station adoption group, has organised a children's book trail in Welwyn Garden City. The trail will run from Friday 22 May to 6 June 2026, spanning two weeks, including the spring half-term holiday.

This free event includes prizes to encourage participation. It has been designed to offer families an engaging half-term activity, celebrate the railway station's 100th anniversary, and encourage residents to explore and enjoy the town.

We would be grateful if you could help raise awareness by including this information in your parent communications. The attached leaflet can be printed, or copies can be collected from participating shops, the library, or from outside the train station in the Howard Centre.

Golf Tournament

More photos from the Tri-Golf Tournament at Brocket Hall...



Church

Children in Robins helped Mrs Brooks in Church to demonstrate parts of the Last Supper. From serving the bread and wine, and thinking about the symbolism of this, to Jesus washing his disciples feet.



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

25-29 May - Half Term (school closed)
1 June - INSET (school closed to pupils)
10 June - District Athletics (letter sent today)
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)

*more details to follow

**all parents welcome

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 Fundraising success

We have made tremendous progress with our Mission 26:26. The LSA were successful in applying for a grant from the Ramblers Worldwide Outdoor Trust - whose headquarters is in the village, Their generous donation of £3000 has been much appreciated.



Camp St John's

You will have 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.



Hello from Revd Kathryn

Hello all,

As the weather starts to get warmer, I wanted to share what's coming up at St John's for children and families over the next couple of months.

This Sunday 24th May, 11am — Invisible Helper Our special all-age Pentecost communion service. We all have moments when we need a helper — this Sunday, with the help of a few balloons, we're celebrating the one you can't see but can definitely feel. Fun, interactive, and genuinely for everyone. Do come along, and let Mrs Boylan know if your child would like to be involved.

Sunday 7th June, 11am — All-Age Service with Baptism Our monthly all-age service, where everyone is welcome exactly as they are — a relaxed, informal morning of worship for the whole family. This month we're looking forward to baptising two of our friends from St John's school. Come and support them!

Sunday 12th July, 11am — All-Age Celebration Service + Bring and Share Lunch A special service as we welcome Revd Dan Ide as our new curate — a trainee vicar joining our team! After the service we're heading outside into the school grounds for a bring-and-share lunch and fun for the children. Bring something to share, a blanket, and come ready to enjoy some time together in the (hopefully) summer sun.

Sunday Club — with fun activities for children in the Annexe during the main 11am Sunday service — runs on the second Sunday of each month.

Children are always genuinely welcome at St John's on any Sunday — noise, wriggling and all.

If you'd like to know more, please do get in touch.

Revd Kathryn

St John's Church Lemsford

**ALL-TOGETHER SERVICE
FOR
PENTECOST**

Sunday 24th May @ 11AM

The Invisible helper...