



# St John's School Newsletter

## 5th June 2026

### Values of this half term

#### Courage and Responsibility

'Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go'.

Joshua 1:9



#### LSA - Silver coin challenge

The LSA are planning a House team competition to see which team can make the longest line made up entirely of silver coins. We would like the children to bring in as many silver coins as they can to be part of the lines of silver! Coins need to be in named envelopes or bags with the child's name and house team and given to class teachers by Monday 15th June. The total amount raised by the coin collections will go towards the Mission 26:26 challenge.

#### Outdoor Learning Week

In preparation for our outdoor learning week, Mrs Shannon would like everyone to have an empty toilet paper roll and a 500ml sized empty and washed out clear plastic pop bottle. If you have extras to spare for others so we can share them out that would be great! We hope to get every pupil to plant a sunflower seed and see which class can grow the tallest sunflowers by the end of the school year. Please bring them in by June 19th.

#### Welcome

We extend a very warm welcome to Jo-Jo, Isabelle and Sophia who have joined us this week. We look forward to getting to know you, your families and celebrating your progress at St John's.

#### Beacon Pupils

**Robins - Aurora** shows such consistent hard work and effort in our class. The last few weeks we have seen her really grow in confidence to use her phonics knowledge in her writing, carefully persevering with all the skills she needs including practising her letter formation. She is a kind and thoughtful friend, listening to other children and noticing when they could do with someone to play with. We love to hear her chat and to listen to her stories about what she has been doing. Keep up the good work Aurora!

**Starlings - Henry** for his excellent attitude towards everything. He has worked incredibly hard in all aspects of the curriculum. In English he has written a thoughtful summer poem using a range of adjectives and using new vocabulary from the word mat. He remembered to use full stops and finger spaces. In maths he has worked hard to create tally charts and pictographs with his partner and logging onto the computer. Henry is a thoughtful and kind friend who is a brilliant learning partner and has grown in maturity over the last few weeks. Keep it up!

**Kingfishers - Freya** has challenged herself to use a wide range of vocabulary and has written an excellent rhyming couplet poem. She has demonstrated excellent reasoning and problem-solving skills when subtracting money and consistently approaches her learning with determination. She has been kind, thoughtful and positive in and out of class and has been very reflective in RE, sharing mature and insightful ideas. Well done on being such a fantastic role model!

**Sandpipers - Miley** has really impressed us with how much she has matured and blossomed over the year. Miley has hugely grown in confidence and we have seen that in many ways this week. She flew through our maths challenges focussing on timetables and calculating journey lengths, working independently on some tough questions. Miley's paid great attention to detail, colour and texture in Art, producing a beautiful bird collage. In English, she has worked hard on her creative and descriptive detail but also on the technical grammar side of her writing, making great improvements and edits. Miley wrote a lovely 'buddy' letter and spoke excitedly about this new responsibility and we know she will be fantastic in that role in Year 6!

#### Attendance

##### Week Ending 22nd May 2026

Robins	97.3%
Starlings	92.9%
Kingfisher	93.7%
Sandpipers	92.7%

### Questing Club led by Mrs Shannon

This week was full of puzzles as we faced the Minotaur and tried the Labyrinth ball challenge, passed hot lava balls down a path and made dragons. Who knows what challenge we will face next week?



### Holiday Club at St John's

Booking is now available for our Summer Holiday Clubs

Dates coming up are:

**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.

### 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.

### Sun Inn - Fundraiser

We are delighted to receive a £150 donation from Neil Carroll/Sun Inn following a fundraiser. The support of the local community is very much appreciated. Thank you.

### Food Donations

Food Bank donations will continue this term. Any tinned or dried food or toiletries would be very much appreciated. Suggested donation days are:

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June Starlings Class

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June Robins Class

### 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.



## 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.

## 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 3<sup>rd</sup> July.** Any that are handed in after this date will be included in the Governors' award day in 2027.

## 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 27<sup>th</sup> June. Pizza and camping will be fun. We are only opening this event up to parents of children who attend St Johns. Thank you.



## Forest School

As mentioned in previous newsletters we are planning on establishing Forest School as part of the curriculum. We are beginning to gather resources for use as part of Forest School. If any parents have any access to logs that we could use for a seating area in the spinney, then do please let us know. Just a reminder too that on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June there will be a parents' working party who will be completing tasks in the school grounds including creating a path through the spiny. Many thanks to everyone involved!



## National Year of Reading What did our staff read?

This week our Teaching Assistant, Mrs Meola from has given her review.

### Redwall by Brian Jacques

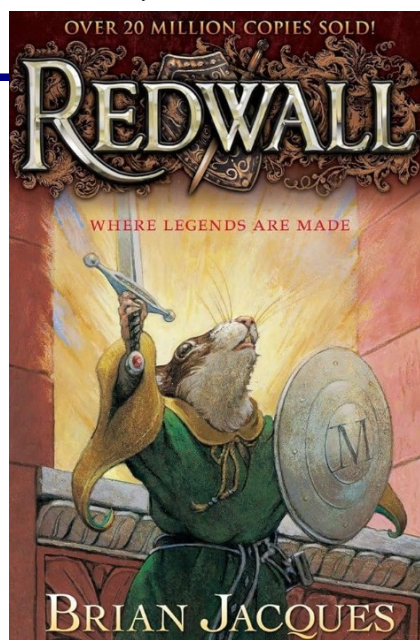
Having devoured everything written by Enid Blyton as a child, especially loving Famous Five, Secret Seven and Malory Towers books, this book was a departure from my usual style but what a memorable one! I was captured by the author's words as soon as we started reading it in class and when asked about a favourite book from my childhood, I was excited to take a trip down memory lane and share this one with you.

Redwall by Brian Jacques is the initial book in a 22 book series following the adventures of the animals that live at Redwall Abbey and the surrounding countryside of Mossflower Wood, including mice, moles, hares, badgers, and other woodland species. These peace-loving creatures of Mossflower are often called upon to become warriors to defend themselves against bands of "vermin" such as rats, weasels, and foxes that want to take over their beloved home of Redwall.

These fantastical stories are fast paced and the author's descriptions of the characters remain vivid in my head so many years later.

Redwall is the story of a bumbling young mouse named Matthias who with his friends, from near and far, must protect his abbey home against the ruthless, one-eyed rat, Cluny the Scourge. Although life for the little mice living at Redwall is quite tranquil and sweet, there are some epic, medieval-style battles against Cluny the pirate rat and his army!

The author explores the themes of good vs evil, community and courage. The stories are aimed at 8-12 year olds (10+ for more sensitive readers).



### 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

- 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)

\*more details to follow

\*\*all parents welcome

## Hello from Revd Kathryn

Hello

If you're an avid reader of this newsletter, you may notice the same piece popping up for a couple weeks — I'm taking my summer leave in June this year. The good news is that this gives you plenty of time to get all our summer dates for children and families in your diary!

St John's@3 Wild Summer Worship - Sunday 28th June, 3pm

Our outdoor, all-age gathering in the churchyard at Lemsford — with space to explore, create, eat, and simply be together. Brilliant for children, and for anyone who wants to "do church" in a more informal way.

All Together Service - Sunday 5th July, 11am

Our monthly all-age service in church, where we worship together in a simpler, more interactive way.

All-Age Celebration Service for the arrival of Revd Dan - Sunday 12th July, 11am

We'd love to fill the church for this service for all ages as we say a big hello to Revd Dan, our new curate (think trainee vicar), who will be joining us for nearly three years. The service is followed by a bring-and-share picnic lunch and games in the school grounds — please do come and help us make him feel at home in the St John's family.

Alongside these services, we'll be continuing to explore our Collective Worship theme of Fullness of Life in lots of different ways. This half term our focus shifts to a full life including change, endings, and new beginnings — very fitting for the final weeks of the school year.

See you soon

Revd Kathryn



## Congratulations

Many congratulations to Evie Shannon who was confirmed at the start of the half term holiday. The service took place in St Alban's Cathedral, and the confirmation was led by Bishop Jane.

During our Thursday Collective Worship service in church Revd Kathryn presented Evie with a cross and a gift.

