



St John's School Newsletter

19th 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



Outdoor Learning Week

This week has been our Outdoor Learning week. It has been lovely to see the children completing so much of their learning in the school grounds, including the new Forest School area. Classes have also visited Lemsford Springs to experience the bird hides and to enjoy the peaceful surroundings.

See the rest of the newsletter for some photos.

District Athletics

On Wednesday we took a group of Year 4-6 children to Gosling for the District Athletics competition. We were so impressed with all your jumping, throwing and sprinting! Well done to the children who won medals in their events. A wonderful day of fantastic team work and sporting spirit! Thank you Mrs Meola and Mrs Hoad for helping on the day, and parents for their support.



Hot weather next week

Hot weather is forecast for next week, please ensure that all children have hats and a water bottle, sun lotion should be applied before school. If you have a spare electric desk or upright fan that we could use for the week, please bring them to the office.

Sorry, no small handheld fans are to be brought into school.

Beacon Pupils

Robins - Artemis has shown great determination in her learning, with real self reflection and a positive attitude to thinking about what she can improve in her work. She has a brilliant ability to ask thoughtful questions to deepen her understanding of our learning. We love her inquisitive nature and we are always challenged to find out more! Keep up the good work Arty.

Starlings - Florence for her continued, strong effort in all her learning. This week she has worked hard on creating beautiful writing linked to our story of Stuck. She used a range of adjectives and ensured her presentation was of the best it could be. Florence is our Chromebook login expert and is able to get herself logged on and started with great independence. In maths Florence has worked well with her partner. During our visit to Lemsford Springs Florence shared her knowledge of the nature we found and was a perfect role model of how to behave when representing the school. In class Florence is a great friend and a brilliant helper to the adults.

Kingfishers - Mabel has thrown herself into all the activities we have taken part in this week - from thinking carefully about sentence starters to write her persuasive speech, to finding quadrilateral shapes in nature. Mabel has shown fantastic enthusiasm and determination throughout, and her positivity and support of others during district athletics this week was brilliant; even stepping up last minute to join the year 5 relay. Thank you for all your hard work Mabel.

Sandpipers - Rei is a kind and caring member of our class and she has really shone in many ways recently. She is always incredibly hardworking, and this has been noticed by adults across the school who have commented on her positive and conscientious attitude to learning. She is a lovely friend to all in class, quietly noticing if someone needs help and always listening closely to others. At the District Athletics on Wednesdays, she not only threw herself into all of the events and was a fantastic teammate, but volunteers on the day noticed her polite and helpful nature. Rei was brilliant company to take to Lemsford Springs and produced a beautiful water colour painting there. Well done!

Outdoor Learning Week

Robins had a good look around the Spinney, finding all kinds of interesting twigs, moss and sticks.



Outdoor Learning Week

Kingfisher Class enjoyed a fantastic Outdoor Learning Week, taking their learning beyond the classroom. In Maths, they explored shapes, lines and symmetry around the school grounds. They created leaf rubbings and Andy Goldsworthy-inspired sculptures using natural materials, and in PSHE reflected on growth, change and future aspirations.

In Science and DT, we began growing cress and mushrooms while investigating how seasonal food can be grown and harvested. A visit to Lemsford Springs helped develop their mapping skills as they followed planned routes and used journey sticks to record their discoveries

It was a wonderful week of exploration, creativity and curiosity!



Silver Line

The children had fun on the playground this morning, adding their coins to the silver line. Well done to Ash for making the longest line and winning the 50 Team Points.



Gardening Day

Once again, many thanks to the parents who came long to school last Saturday to garden, paint, repair and to set up the Forest School. It was a fantastic day and the results have made such a difference.



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.

Attendance Week Ending 12th June 2026

Robins	92.7%
Starlings	96.7%
Kingfisher	96.4%
Sandpipers	96.2%

Play Equipment

Replacement of the play equipment will begin on Monday. The Mission 26:26 was incredibly successful. We are looking forward very much to see the equipment being built over the coming week.

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

We have reached our initial target, but fundraising continues. We aim to replace 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.

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.

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.



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.



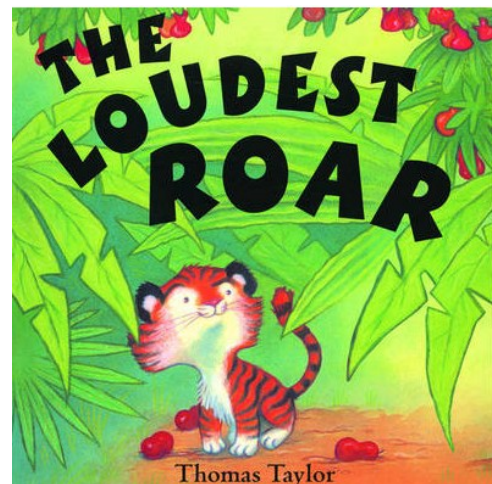


National Year of Reading Our favourite books

This week Miss Wallace has shared her choice

The Loudest Roar by Thomas Taylor is a lovely children's book that teaches an important lesson about confidence and being yourself. The story follows a young lion who believes he needs the loudest roar to be noticed, but learns that kindness, courage and friendship are just as important. The colourful illustrations and simple language make it enjoyable and easy to understand for younger readers.

I liked the positive message and how the characters help each other throughout the story. Overall, it is an engaging and heart-warming book that encourages children to believe in themselves.



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.

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](#)

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.



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.

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.



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.

Please label school uniform so it can be reunited with your child.



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.

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.

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.



 show you care, park elsewhere 

DIARY DATES

27 June - Camp St Johns*

29 June - 1st July - Sandpipers Residential

7 July - KS2 Production of Alice in Wonderland (2.00 and 6.00 p.m.)

8 July - KS2 Production of Alice in Wonderland (3.30 p.m.)

9 July - Year 6 Move Up Day, new reception child visiting and classes move to new teachers

10th July - Dance club performance (2.30 p.m.)

13th July—Rock Steady Concert—time to be confirmed

Collective Worship - 'Fullness of Life.'

This half term we are continuing to explore John 10:10. Our focus is particularly on change and the ways in which change is an important part of leading a full life. In our collective worship in church yesterday Jo reminded us of the key church seasons, their meanings and symbols.

RE Enrichment Day

Our next RE Enrichment Day is on Wednesday 24th June. During the day in class and as house teams the children will be exploring the Christian Faith and how it is celebrated around the world. The children will explore the key Christian festivals and the way in which they are celebrated in different parts of the world and will compare Christian church services in our country with those in other places. If you have any experience of Christianity in other countries or cultures we would love to hear about them.

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

Veronica Rose - Robins

Benji K - Starlings

Harrison RH - Kingfisher

Eva JC- Sandpipers



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

