



St John's School Newsletter

26th 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



Thank you

A big thank you to all parents for your support and understanding during the recent very hot weather. We really appreciate your help in ensuring that the children come to school with a water bottles, sunscreen on them and hats. Thank you for collecting them early and for working with us to keep everyone safe and comfortable. Hopefully, temperatures will return to normal over the coming weeks!

Welcoming the new curate at St John's Church

On Sunday 12th July the Lemsford community will be welcoming their new curate. We have been invited to take part in the welcome service. It would be fantastic to have children singing and leading the prayers. Please do let us know if your child is able to be at the service and to take part.

RE Enrichment Day

We had the first part of our RE day this week. In class the children found out about Christianity in different parts of the world. The focus was 'one faith, many ways'; parts of the world included Nigeria and China. Thank you to two of our governors, Carrie Shannon and Lucy Lambert for joining us for the morning.

Beacon Pupils

Robins - Veronica has been working especially hard in our lessons the last few weeks. It has been lovely to see her gaining confidence with her skills in writing and reading and for her to see the things she can do and be proud of. She has been a particularly thoughtful friend, noticing when a friend was upset and trying hard to make them feel better. She has a generous heart and will often make things to give to children and adults. Keep up the good work Veronica.

Starlings - James for his fantastic attitude to his learning and taking on extra learning challenges. In maths he has shown great arithmetic skills in working out column subtraction and addition. He worked with his learning partner to discuss and compare answers and strategies. In English James has been a great news reporter, reporting on the story of Stuck. He wrote out a good newspaper report trying to use the same newspaper language. James is a great friend to all and always ensures that he includes everyone in his playground games. He is a great learning partner and works well with anyone that is paired with him. It has been wonderful to see the growth and maturity in this part of the term. Well done James.

Kingfishers - Joseph shows on-going enthusiasm towards his learning. He is keen to answer questions and does so in a thoughtful way, making many interesting observations. He has lots of ideas to share and works well in groups and with a partner. He showed great interest in Christianity in Nigeria during our RE Enrichment Day. He has included detail and interest to his writing. Keep up the good work, Joseph!

Sandpipers - Lukey has really impressed us with his optimistic attitude to learning, his maturity, and making positive choices around school. He has joined in brilliantly throughout our South America topic by using his map to help him and his partner, being observant when comparing photos of different cities, and sharing great questions. In our Alice in Wonderland rehearsals he has really shone - he knows all his lines, is projecting his voice, and is adding lots of actions too! It's been lovely to see Lukey growing in confidence and flourishing in lots of ways. Well done!

Attendance

Week Ending 19th June 2026

Robins	93.3%
Starlings	97.7%
Kingfisher	98.2%
Sandpipers	96.9%

Governors' Award Day - July 2026

Merit Certificates

Just a reminder that if your child has 5 merits certificates they are eligible for a Governors' Award and can take part in the Governos award day later this term. If your child has Merit certificates that have not been counted a part of the 5 previously, then **they must bring them in by Friday 3rd July**. Any received after that will be part of next year's Governors awards Day.

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.

Welcome

We say a warm hello to William P who joined Kingfishers this week. We are looking forward to seeing you flourish at St John's.

The Main Event

Thursday saw the celebration of Mrs Boylan's Big(ish) Birthday!

The children joined her in the hall for a rousing Happy Birthday, presented her with cards and gifts and were each treated to a delicious cupcake, made by Star Baker, Mrs Wallace and her loyal assistant Miss Wallace.



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.

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.



Play Equipment

Replacement of the play equipment has begun, we are all very excited to see the finished result.



Keeping Cool

We have placed gazebos and cushions around the field - the children have appreciated the shade this week.

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

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 tbc)
15th July - Water Safety assembly
16th July - Governors' Treat
17th July - Leavers' Party
21st July - Music Concert with Mr Rapson (9.00 a.m.)
21st July - Leavers' assembly 2.15 p.m.
22 July - End of Term (1.30pm finish)

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 second half of our RE Enrichment Day will be later this half term. During it house teams the children will be exploring 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.



Hello from Revd Kathryn

Hello

I seem to have brought the Italian weather back with me from my holidays — with an extra dollop of humidity! I really hope you're all managing to find ways to stay cool.

This term in **collective worship** we've been thinking about the meaning behind the school's 'fullness of life' vision. In church this week we remembered that we need others to help us lead a full life, especially when life becomes a bit tricky. Together we explored the story of the paralysed man and his four extraordinary friends — the ones who, when they couldn't get through the door, simply climbed onto the roof and made a hole in it. It's one of my favourite Bible stories, not least because it's a reminder that community isn't just a nice idea. Sometimes it means literally carrying each other.

This Sunday it would be great to see you at our St John's@3 Wild Summer Worship — we'll be gathering at 3pm in the churchyard for an hour of connecting with God through nature, creativity, informal chat and cake. It looks set to be cooler, but our Bible story is about a cup of cold water, which will come in handy if it's still a bit hot!

Finally, don't forget that on **Sunday 12th July at 11am we are holding an All Together service to welcome our new curate, Revd Dan Ide**. This will be a chance for us all to give him a proper St John's welcome. Do put the date in your diary — it would be lovely to see as many of you there as possible. After the service there will be a bring and share picnic lunch in the school grounds, with games and candy-floss.

Have a lovely weekend.

Revd Kathryn

And finally...

To those children who are off to PGL - have a lovely time. Looking forward to hearing all about your adventures.