



St John's School Newsletter

3rd July 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



Sandpipers Residential

Many thanks to Miss Ng, Mrs Kay and Mrs Young for leading the Sandpipers residential trip to Caythorpe Court, in Lincolnshire. These trips could not take place without the time, care and commitment of our members of staff.



Beacon Pupils

Robins - Oliver is a consistently kind and helpful member of Robin Class. He shows great care over the classroom and his friends demonstrating all of our St. John's values. In his work he has been asking what he can do to improve and then thoughtfully adapting his work. We all enjoy chatting to Oliver and listening to his creative ideas and stories. Keep up the good work Oliver.

Starlings - Isabelle for her excellent start to St John's. She has settled well into the class and worked hard to build friendships with a range of children. She has developed her confidence this week to share her ideas in the small groups and within the whole class setting. In English she has worked hard on writing sentences using the writing frames and word mats to support her. She has come up with great ideas for her writing and tried to convince the reader in her persuasive letter writing. Isabelle has worked well in her group this week developing positional language giving clear instructions on how to move from one part of her map to the other. Creatively Isabelle worked really well with her group to create a beautiful natural picture in the style of Andy Goldsworthy. Well done on settling in so brilliantly.

Kingfishers - Hargun has shown great confidence by answering questions thoughtfully and sharing her ideas during lessons. She has worked brilliantly with her talk partner, always listening carefully and contributing positively. Hargun has also impressed us with the effort she has put into learning her words and remembering her places in our summer production. Her fantastic attitude to learning, enthusiasm, and willingness to always try her best make her a wonderful role model for our class. Well done Hargun!

Sandpipers - Milo was a superstar during our PGL trip! He showed amazing bravery in many different ways - from confidently staying away from home, flying up the climbing walls, and being cool, calm and collected when injured. We were so impressed with Milo's positive attitude and enthusiasm throughout the whole trip. He was encouraging others during activities and a really lovely friend when others felt homesick. Milo was wonderful company and a fantastic role model to others - he has much to be proud of! Well done!

Year 6

Arbor Balances

It is less than a month until our Year 6 children leave St John's.

A gentle reminder to ensure you have paid any balance outstanding on Arbor in full **before** your child leaves.

Thank you

Attendance

Week Ending 26th June 2026

Robins	88.7%
Starlings	97%
Kingfisher	93.8%
Sandpipers	90.5%

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 Governors award day later this term. If your child has Merit certificates that have not been counted a part of the 5 previously, please bring them in. Cut off for the upcoming Award Day has now passed. Those received from now will be part of next year's Governors awards Day.

Good luck England!

However we will not be authorising any absences relating to tired children who have stayed up to watch the match on Monday morning. We expect everyone in and on time as usual!

**GOOD LUCK
ENGLAND**

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.

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.



Making memories at PGL



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.



Play Equipment - Progress

This week work has started on constructing the play equipment itself, so exciting to see things gradually taking shape.



K'Nex Challenge

Many congratulations to Callum and Finley in Sandpipers class who have won the county K'Nex challenge! What a fantastic achievement!

This is the email that Miss Ng received from the K'Nex Challenge Organisers...

*This year has been another fantastic success, with **163 schools, 315 challenge sessions** and **8,745 pupils** taking part across Peterborough, Hertfordshire, Luton, Essex and Suffolk.*

We were incredibly impressed by the creativity, team-work and engineering skills demonstrated by all of the pupils. The standard of entries this year was exceptionally high, making the judging process a very difficult one.

*After carefully reviewing all of the winning entries, we are delighted to announce the **Overall Winners of the 2026 Go Construct K'NEX Challenge**:*

🏆 1st Place

St John's CofE VA Primary School, Lemsford
Team: Callum & Finley



Camp St John's

Many thanks to the LSA and to Carrie Shannon for organising Camp St John's. A lovely relaxing evening and overnight stay was enjoyed by the parents and children who attended.

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

- 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)

*more details to follow

**all parents welcome

Hello from Revd Kathryn

Hello

July is a month of both endings and beginnings, and we'd love to invite you to two special services at St John's

On **Sunday 5th July**, our **All Age Worship** will explore a subject that feels especially relevant at the end of the school year - rest. As the summer holidays begin, we'll be thinking about why rest matters - not just as a break from work or school, but as something God gives us so that we can flourish.

On **Sunday 12th July**, we're holding an **All Together Celebration Service** to welcome Rev'd Dan, our new curate (trainee vicar). The service begins at 11.00am at St John's Church, and afterwards we'll enjoy a relaxed picnic lunch, games and candifloss together. Dan will be spending a lot of time in St John's school, so do come along and say hello, and help make him feel welcome in our community.

Have a great weekend whatever you're up to.

Revd Kathryn



Fundraising for Isabel Hospice

St John's Church

22nd July - 1pm-3pm

Join us from tea, coffee and cake. Everyone is welcome.

