



St John's School Newsletter

4th September 2026

Values of this half term

Hope & Aspiration

"For I know the plans I have for you' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future.'

Jeremiah 29:11



WELCOME BACK!

It was lovely to see everyone returning to school this week. We have an exciting year ahead with the beginning of Forest School sessions as well as Robins and Starlings classes working together in different ways through their provision and staffing. Information about the first of our school trips, the Three Faiths Tour, for Sandpiper and Kingfisher classes has already been shared and Kingfishers have their first swimming session next Wednesday. So already it is a busy start!

We would like to extend a particularly warm welcome to our new children who have joined Robins class and their families. We look forward to getting to know you all and are delighted to have you join St John's.

Open days

Reception places September 2027

We are planning this year's Open Days for families of children who will be beginning their Reception year in September 2027. The dates are:

Wednesday 14th October 10.00 - 11.00 a.m.

Thursday 15th October 1.30 - 2.30 p.m.

Tuesday 20th October 1.30 - 2.30 p.m.

Wednesday 21st October 10.00 - 11.00 a.m.

Please ask anyone you know, with a child in this age group, who is looking for a reception place to ring us to book a place on one of the tours. Many thanks!

ATTENDANCE

Attendance continues to be a very important area of focus for everyone at St John's. Our Attendance Policy is available on our school website. We request that parents ring the school office before 9.10 a.m. on the first and every subsequent day of their child's absence. We ask that, wherever possible, medical appointments are booked outside of school hours but that where appointments are taken within the school day we request that parents provide us with evidence of the appointment.

Thank you for your co-operation with this, we appreciate you working with us to achieve the best possible attendance for every child at St John's.

Class meetings

Next week we have our Class meetings. Please do come along to them, even if your child is staying in the same class. They are an opportunity to find out about the children's year as well as an opportunity to ask any questions.

The days and times are:

Robins	Monday 7th September 2.30
Starlings	Tuesday 8th September 2.45
Kingfisher	Wednesday 9th September 2.45
Sandpipers	Thursday 10th September 2.45

Collective Worship

This half term the focus of our Collective Worship is the early Christians and the growth of the early Christian Church. This follows on from our journey through the Old Testament and Gospels in New Testament last year. We will explore how the early Christian Church developed, how the challenges were faced and how the Good News was spread. We are grateful to Revd Kathryn for writing the scheme for us. Please do join us on a Thursday mornings in our Collective Worship at St John's Church as well as on our usual Celebration assemblies on Friday mornings in the school hall.

Forest School

We are very excited for Forest School to begin next week! **Robins** will be starting on Tuesday afternoon, followed by **Starlings** on Wednesday afternoon, with both classes enjoying Forest School throughout this half term.

To help your child make the most of their sessions, please ensure they have a Forest School kit suitable for the season and weather, including appropriate outdoor clothing and footwear.

We would also be very grateful for any donations of old outdoor equipment, waterproof clothing, wellies or other suitable items that could be used during Forest School sessions. Pre-loved items that are no longer needed at home could have a new lease of life helping our children explore and learn outdoors!

We are looking forward to welcoming Kingfishers and Sandpipers to Forest School after half term and can't wait for all of our children to enjoy exploring, learning and having fun outdoors.



Online Safety Advice

Just a reminder about the importance of your children staying safe on - line. Here are two useful links; the first gives information on how to set parental controls and privacy settings to devices and the other is a presentation about internet safety for your child (ren.)

[Parental controls and privacy settings guides | Internet Matters](#)

[Staff Led Parent Online Safety Presentation | Childnet](#)

Please do have a look. Thank you



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.

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.

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.



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.

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.

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.

Grapes in School

A gentle reminder that grapes are to be cut in half lengthways.



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.

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.



Payments / Balances Trips/Events/Workshops/Swimming/Meals

Please check your account(s) regularly 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

Autumn Term 2026

9th September - Kingfisher Swimming Starts
11th September - Art Explorers Starts
14th September - School Clubs Start**
15th September - Elite Dance Starts
22nd September - Kingfishers Three Faiths Tour
30th September - Photos*
3rd October - St Francis Art Festival*
3rd October - Parent Social at Crooked Chimney
4th October - Harvest All Age at St John's Church 11.00am
5th October - Sandpipers Online Awareness
8th October - Harvest Celebration
12th October - BikeAbility Week
26th-30th October - Half Term
13th November - LSA Fireworks Event
27th November - Occasional Day (school closed)
29th November - Advent Sunday
8th December - Pantomime*
14th December - Rocksteady Concert (time tbc)
18th December - Last day of term (1.30pm finish)
20th December - Candlelit Service at St John's Church 5pm

*more information to follow

**request forms going home next week

School Christmas Lunch - date to be confirmed*



October & December

School Holiday Club

We are planning to run a Holiday Club on Monday 26th & Tuesday 27th October 2026

and

Monday 21st December & Tuesday 22nd December

Booking forms will be sent home soon.

Hello from Revd Kathryn

Hello and welcome back!

We hope you have all had a good summer and that the first few days of the new school year have gone well. Hopefully you've all managed to enjoy at least one uninterrupted hot drink since Wednesday drop-off! It was great to say hello to parents at our 'welcome' coffee morning on Tuesday.

There's something rather lovely about September - it's both an opportunity to begin again, and build on what's gone before. There are new classes, new teachers and new things to learn, as well as the return of familiar routines. For some, that will feel exciting; for others, it may take a little while to settle back in. Most of us probably feel a mixture of the two.

New beginnings are an important part of our life in church too. This term, we're marking a brand new Festival of Creation, as part of a Season of Creation that runs throughout the whole of September. It's a time to celebrate all that's good in our wonderful world and to think about how we can care for it. There is lots happening for families, and we would love for you to join us at the events below.

Sunday 6 September, 11am — All Together Service: New Term, New Creation! A lively all-age service to begin the new school year and our Season of Creation.

Sunday 13 September, 11am — Creation Care Sunday Club. Exploring how we can love and care for God's world.

Saturday 19 September, 11am — St John's@3 Wild Autumn Worship. An interactive, outdoors all-age gathering, experiencing God in nature and enjoying the changing season.

Sunday 4 October, 12 noon — All Together Harvest Service. Our popular all-age service, followed by a Bring and Share Harvest meal.

We're really looking forward to seeing the children in church next Thursday for our first church Collective Worship of the new school year. Parents and carers are always welcome too!

Hope to see you soon.

Rev'd Kathryn & Rev'd Dan