



St John's School Newsletter

18th 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



SIAMS inspection Thursday 17th September

Thank you all for your support in the lead up to and during our SIAMS inspection. The report should be with us in two weeks. At this stage all we can say is that the feedback was very positive. During the inspection the children's behaviour was 'impeccable' and there was so much to be proud of. We will share the report with you once we have received it.



Welcome Miss Piper

We would like to welcome Miss Piper to St John's. Miss Piper is in her final year of teacher training and is working with Starlings class. She will be with us for most of this term.

Attendance Week Ending 11th September 2026

Robins	98.6%
Starlings	98.7%
Kingfisher	95.2%
Sandpipers	95.4%

Beacon Pupils

Robins - Carter has had a wonderful start in Robins Class. He is kind and thoughtful and has been making sure that everyone is included and has a good day in our class. He has shown lovely manners around the school and a can-do attitude to all of our new adventures, including going to church. We have enjoyed hearing about his interests and look forward to seeing what his great learning attitude will lead to this year, keep it up Carter.

Starlings - Ozzy for his excellent attitude to all his learning. In English he has written brilliant independent sentences using capital letters and full stops. In his maths he had worked well with a group to create number lines and work on comparing numbers using correct mathematical language. He impressed us all yesterday with his determination on the chrome book to create a church using Just2east. He is always very polite and kind keep up the great work.

Kingfisher - George has hit the ground running in year 3, tackling new learning confidently, working alongside his learning partner to take on further challenges in maths, and writing fantastic, structured sentences in English and asking meaningful questions in RE. George has really wowed us in swimming, where he is growing in confidence.

Sandpipers - Mabel is a warm and friendly member of our class who is a kind and caring classmate to all. She has really impressed us with how well she's settled into the routine of Year 5 and a new class. Mabel shows great focus in her learning and is determined to do well - she has risen well to challenges in maths and writing, and we have been so pleased with her positive attitude to feedback and next steps. She is a lovely learning partner who not only listens well but has also been sharing brilliant ideas with us all. Very well done!

House captains

Many thanks to our year 6 children for preparing speeches in preparation for the school vote for House Captains. We were impressed with their thoughtful presentations and the care they took with them.

The new House Captains are:

Willow House Sophia and Alex
Oak House Skyla and Jo Jo
Maple House Miley and Lily
Ash House Milo and Lillia

Congratulations!



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 | Child-net](#)

Please do have a look. Thank you

Our school Harvest celebration

Our school Harvest will be on **Thursday 8th October at 9.00 a.m.** in St John's Church. We would appreciate donations of non-perishable food items being brought in for this; these will be donated to a local food bank. All parents are warmly invited to join us for the celebration.

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!

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.

Fundraising at St John's

BUILDING FUND

The Building Fund is an on-going fund for the development of the school buildings, recent developments have included the new children's toilets and cloakrooms, 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.

Finer Diner

Children with exemplary manners during lunchtimes are given a Best Behaviour slip.

Those slips are put into a hat and children are then invited 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

Elisabeth - Starlings

William P - Kingfisher

Carter JS - Kingfisher



Forest School

Starlings class had a lovely time outdoors with Mrs Youngs.



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.

Running Late?

Please let the school office know before 3.15pm

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.

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.

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.

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

Autumn Term 2026

22nd September - Kingfishers and Sandpipers
Three Faiths Tour to Bedford.

30th September - Individual 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*

10th December—Nativity performances

13th December - Candlelit Service at St John's
Church 4pm

14th December - School Christmas Lunch

14th December - Rocksteady Concert (time tbc)

15th December—Christmas Concert

17th December—Carol Service

18th December - Last day of term (1.30pm finish)

*more information to follow

Hello from Revd Kathryn

Hello

By the time you read this, the SIAMS inspection will be over. Whatever the official outcome, preparing for it has been a lovely chance to stand back and notice again what a special school St John's is - a place where every child is encouraged to flourish and lead a 'full life', and where the close relationship between school and church really matters.

Our inspector joined us for Collective Worship on Thursday. We began with a deliberately unfair game in which only half the church was allowed to join in. Unsurprisingly, it didn't take long for the other half to point out that something wasn't right! We then heard a Bible story about people being missed when the first Christians shared food. Thankfully, someone spoke up, the leaders listened and together they changed things.

Our thought for the week was: Speak bravely. Listen carefully. Put it right together.

One place where we can put things right is the world around us - which leads rather neatly to this Sunday's St John's@3 Wild Autumn Worship!

Join us at 3pm this Sunday (20th September) to explore, wonder and create as we think about how we're invited to notice, value and care for the world.

Expect an autumn trail, things to ponder and do, an interactive story - and cake!

We'll be outdoors, so dress for the weather. Everyone is welcome, whether you come to church regularly or have never been before.

We'd love to see you there.

Have a great weekend.

Revd Kathryn and Revd Dan

2026/2027

School Holiday Clubs

Information and booking forms were emailed to parents earlier today.

Please request a further copy from the school office.

HARVEST CELEBRATIONS

Harvest Celebration at St John's Church Sunday 4th October 11.00 a.m.

Children are once again invited to take part in the Harvest service at St John's Church. There will be opportunities for our children to read, lead the prayers, sing in the choir and other roles. Please let us know if your child(ren) are able to take part. Thank you.

