



St John's School Newsletter

25th 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



Three Faiths Tour

On Tuesday children from Sandpipers and Kingfishers classes took part in the Three Faiths Tour in Bedford. The visit gave the children the amazing opportunity to experience three different faiths in one day as they visited places where Christians, Muslims and Sikhs worship respectively. At each place of worship, the children listened attentively to informative talks and were able to explore. The overwhelming message from visiting each place of worship was how much they share in terms of appreciating those shared values of respect, dignity, kindness and peace. We were very proud of the way in which the children made thoughtful observations, the way in which they listened and how brilliantly they behaved.

See page 4 for lots of photos of our trip.

Little City

Robins and Starlings classes were treated to a visit by Little City on Wednesday morning. Little City is a mobile role play set-up which encourages oracy and creative play. It was lovely to see the children so actively involved in their play.

See pages 6 and 7 for lots of photos...

Attendance

Week Ending 18th September 2026

Robins	96.7%
Starlings	97%
Kingfisher	97.9%
Sandpipers	95%

Beacon Pupils

Robins - Freya has made a fantastic start in Robin Class. She is a kind and thoughtful classmate, noticing when there is something that needs tidying or something else that we need some help with in the class. She has been keen to carry on with learning activities to challenge her understanding. She has been a kind friend, including people in her play and showing them what she is doing.

Starlings - Ava Boe for her excellent attitude to her learning. Ava has grown in confidence in sharing her ideas in class. She has shown great perseverance in all her learning. In English she has written sentences independently about Stickman working on using key words and correct punctuation with growing happiness and confidence. In her maths group she has shown knowledge of 2 and 5 times table. Ava took part in our art afternoon and created a beautiful painting thinking carefully about her colour choices and brush strokes.

Kingfisher - Joseph has really wowed us this week with his enthusiasm throughout topics and activities. His engagement during our Three Faiths Tour was fantastic: sharing his knowledge and asking meaningful questions. He has relished the exploration in Science and Geography in investigating and exploring rocks and volcanoes, and excellent inference when beginning our new text 'George's Marvellous Medicine'. Joseph has shown real focus in his handwriting and has made excellent progress.

Sandpipers - William has really impressed us with his flying start to Year 5! He shows a real thirst for knowledge, a keenness to embrace challenge, and a passion for learning. William contributes brilliant questions and ideas to our class discussions and is always listening carefully to others and building on their ideas. He was fantastic company at the Three Faiths Tour and we enjoyed listening to his wealth of knowledge and seeing the awe and wonder on his face as we toured the faith buildings. William always shows great curiosity and inquisitiveness.

SCHOOL COUNCILS

Today the new members of our school councils were given their badges in our Celebration assembly. Each council had their first meeting as well, thank you to Mrs Ching and to Mrs Redmond for leading each council. We look forward to seeing them influencing school decisions and to being the voice for their classes. We will encourage them

'Be the change you want to see,' Mahatma Gandhi.

School Council members:

Reuben, Zach, Astrid, Morland, Mason, Hargun, Gracie

Eco Council members:

Evie, Finley, Jonah, William, Kalia

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. We have information leaflets in school that can be given to anyone interested. 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



Freya - Robins
Rafaella - Robins
Frederick - Starlings
Toni - Kingfisher

Artist visit and Christmas cards

Yesterday each class took part in Art workshops led by Sally Miles. With Sally's support the children created their Christmas Card designs all including the class birds. The children's designs will be coming home today, please complete your orders and return the form and art to us at school on Monday.

Thank you to Katie Wardle for organising the art workshops for us.



Images from the Three Faiths Trip



Forest School

Robins and Starlings using blackberries to create a natural dye / creating shelters for our woodland friends!



Robins were busy in Little City this week...



Starlings had a lovely time at Little City this week...



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 than 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

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 - School 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

2026/2027

School Holiday Clubs

Don't forget to book your places for October half term and Christmas.



Hello from Revd Kathryn

Hello

This week in our Collective Worship, we heard the story of Tabitha - a disciple in the early Church known for making clothes for women in need. When she died, the community she'd cared for gathered round in tears, holding up the clothes she'd made, proof that she'd noticed them and that they mattered. The children left with a simple challenge: use one ordinary thing you can do to make somebody else's day a little better. Hopefully that challenge will make its way home!

It was wonderful to see new and regular families at our St John's@3 Wild Autumn Worship in the churchyard on Sunday. We followed the autumn trail, wondered together over what we found, heard the creation story with the aid of some 'interesting' props, and ate the world (or biscuits decorated as the world). Our next St John's@3 is at 3pm on Sunday 8th November, when we'll be celebrating light in the darkness with games, food, stories, crafts and more

Don't forget, The Big Give is coming up this Friday - 25th September - to support the work of St John's Church. There'll be tea and coffee, homemade cakes, games, a craft activity for children, and even live music. Entry is free, with donations welcome via the QR code on the poster. Pop in to the church on your way home from school.

And finally, we'd love to see you on Sunday 4th October for the well-loved All-Together Harvest Communion Service at 11am. We'll be bringing the Season of Creation to a close by giving thanks for the gifts of the earth, with the children reading, singing and leading the prayers. Afterwards, do join us for a bring-and-share lunch in the school hall: bring a dish to share if you can, and enjoy food and good company together.

Have a great weekend.

Revd Kathryn and Revd Dan

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.