



St John's School Newsletter

2nd October 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



Beacon Pupils

Robins - Princess has had a great start in Robin Class. She is such a kind friend and loves to chat and play, including anyone in her game that would like to join in. She has learnt our classroom routines and is helpful in keeping the classroom clean and tidy. She is keen to have a go at learning activities and think about things that she can do and that she needs another go at, meeting challenge with a positive attitude.

Starlings - Hazel for a truly fantastic week. She has been a kind and caring friend, always showing thoughtfulness towards others. Hazel has been a fantastic learner and has worked hard across all areas. She wrote some wonderful sentences about The Leaf Man and showed great creativity and attention to detail. In Maths, Hazel completed her work confidently and used number-related facts effectively to help her solve problems. Her perseverance and determination has been great to see.

Kingfisher - Gracie approaches each day with such enthusiasm and a positive attitude. She has been a kind and thoughtful learning partner, always willing to support others and share her ideas during class discussions. She has worked hard in English this week, creating an imaginative recipe using time conjunctions to sequence it. In Maths, she has shown great determination when tackling our place value investigations and has confidently explained her thinking. It has been fantastic to see Gracie embracing every opportunity to learn and making such a positive contribution to Kingfisher Class.

Sandpipers - Danny has blown us away with his fantastic start to Year 5. We have been really impressed with how confident and settled he has been and the great resilience and perseverance he shows. He has worked hard on recent maths challenges, showing a great understanding of rounding and negative numbers and also asking for help when needed. He shared brilliant ideas for our balanced arguments, then worked hard to write these up into a clear and cohesive piece. He ran well in the Year 5 fun run and was a great support and encouragement to others.

Year 5 Fun Run

Year 5 took part in a Fun Run at Stanborough on Wednesday afternoon. The children were very supportive of one another and were a great team. Five out of the twelve children that attended chose to choose a second race as well! They were presented with their certificates at today's Celebration Assembly. Well done year 5!



School Harvest Celebration Thursday 8th October 9.00 a.m.

All parents and siblings are warmly invited to join us for our Harvest Celebration assembly on Thursday morning. We would appreciate the children bringing in donations of non-perishable food items that will be donated to a local food bank.

Attendance

Week Ending 18th September 2026

Robins	94.7%
Starlings	93%
Kingfisher	99.3%
Sandpipers	93.9%

St Francis Church Art Exhibition

As you know last week the children completed their designs for this year's Christmas cards! The designs were based on the class bird names and were given a Christmas twist. Six of the children's designs have been chosen to be part of an art exhibition at St Francis Church in Welwyn Garden City. The designs chosen were by: Freya L, Oscar W, Julia B, Veronica-Rose C, Joey C and Zach Z.



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

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.

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.

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!

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

Belle - Robins
Benji - Starlings
Marley - Kingfisher
Jenson - Sandpipers



SIAMs inspection report

Earlier today we shared with you the report following our recent SIAMs inspection. Here is part of an email that we received from Duncan Gauld, the Diocesan Director of Education at the Diocese of St Albans

'Congratulations on your most recent SIAMs inspection outcome. You, your staff & governors should be rightly proud of all that has been achieved.

I was particularly pleased to read the strengths of the main body of the report which states: 'Kindness, exemplifying God's love, is the main thread that pervades the school culture. This results in positive relationships between adults and pupils, creating a harmonious place to work and learn.'

It is also testament to your leadership that the report goes on to say: 'The vision is clearly understood and articulated, as adults and pupils embrace the learning opportunities that are offered at St John's. Governors and school leaders actively live out the vision, showing the school values of wisdom and understanding through the decisions they make.'

These findings demonstrate you are 'Living God's Love' & enabling your school to truly flourish, even under the immense pressures in education at the moment.

Thank you for all you are doing.'

Lemsford School Association (LSA) news

Thank you to those parents who came along to the Annual General Meeting of the LSA on Wednesday evening.

Many thanks to the following who agreed to take on the following roles:

Chair: Faye Dave
Vice Chair: Hilary Clark
Secretary: Laura Carson
Treasurer: Samuel White
Head Teacher & Staff Representative: Michelle Boylan
Reception Rep: Laura White
Year 1 Rep: Charlotte Watkins & Yasmin Claridge
Year 2 Rep: Hilary Clark
Year 3 Rep: Leanne South
Year 4 Rep: Faye Dave & Marina Castellano
Year 5 Rep: Katie Wardle
Year 6 Rep: Anya Bellinger

Plans for the new school year are beginning to be put into place, the first of which is the launch of the 100 Club. Please see the information attached to the accompanying email for further details about to take part.



LSA are running

100 CLUB

A simple way to support the LSA and be in with a chance to win!

Who can join?
Parents, staff and close family members only.

£20 per number

How it works

- 1 Choose a number (1-100). Numbers can only be selected once.
- £ Pay £20 for that number. Numbers are not returned until payment is made.
- Draws take place on the last Friday in each month, starting in October.
- The winning number will win a cash prize. Numbers can win more than once.
- The draw runs for 10 months, October to July.

How the money is shared

- Half of the money raised goes to the LSA, helping to support the school.
- The other half is split equally between the 10 monthly draws (October to July).

If all 100 numbers are chosen

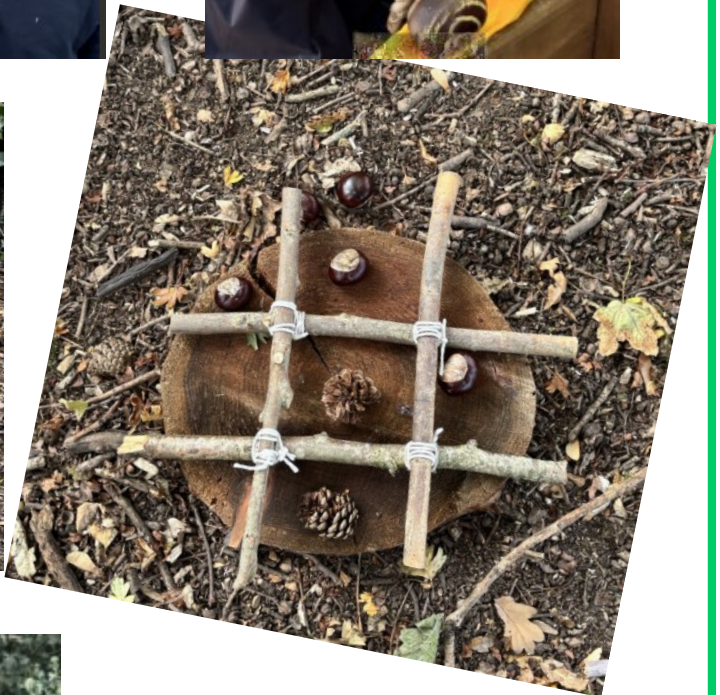
100 numbers x £20 = £2,000 raised
£1,000 goes to the LSA
£1,000 is the prize fund
£1,000 ÷ 10 months = £100 prize each month

Join the 100 Club today!

Support our school • Support the LSA • You could be a winner!



We were bonkers about conkers 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 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

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 9.00 a.m.
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)

2026/2027

School Holiday Clubs

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



Hello from Revd Kathryn

Hello

Firstly, a big thank you to everyone who gave to the Big Give. Whether you gave a little or a lot, or spread the word, it made a real difference. We raised £644 for the work of the church, and we're so grateful.

It was lovely to have Revd Dan lead collective worship in church on Thursday. He told us how the first Christians, feeling scared, gathered to pray together, and we thought about how courage can grow through prayer and the people around us.

Our Creation Season draws to a close this Sunday with our Harvest All Together Communion Service at 11am in church. It's a service designed with children and families in mind, as well as all other ages.

The school choir will be helping to lead the singing, and children will be involved in different parts of the service. There's plenty to see, do and join in with, and it's a happy, informal way of saying thank you for all we have. If you're coming along, it would be fantastic if you could bring a harvest gift of non-perishable food with you.

Afterwards there's a bring and share lunch, so if you'd like to bring something sweet or savoury to add to the table, that would be lovely.

If you've never given church a try, this would be a great Sunday to come along. It's wonderful when the church and school family join together for these special occasions.

See you soon,

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.