St Johns School Newsletter
16th 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



Harvest Festival at St Alban's Cathedral

On Thursday afternoon Sandpipers and Kingfishers classes attended the Diocesan schools Harvest celebration at St Alban's Cathedral. Approximately 12 schools took part in the service which was led by Bishop Jane, it was fantastic to see so many children coming together in a truly collective worship. Alex read one of the prayers beautifully and Hargun and Sophia very proudly carried the St John's banner in the procession.





Attendance

Week Ending 9th October 2026

Robins	92%
Starlings	95%
Kingfisher	96.8%
Sandpipers	97.5%

Beacon Pupils

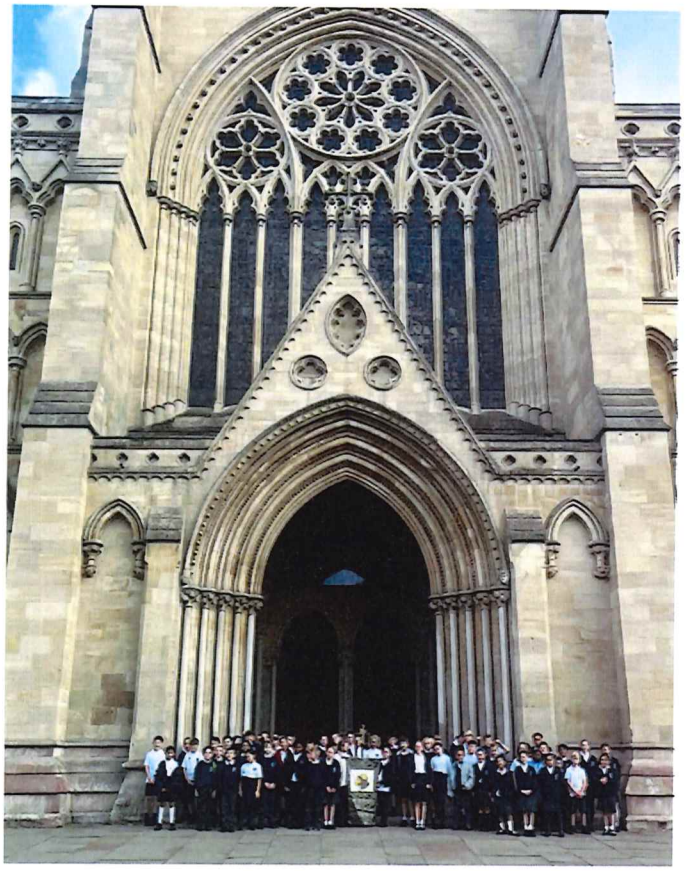
Robins - Logan has shown himself to be such a kind and thoughtful member of the class this morning. He notices small details and when other children need some help. He has made some lovely progress in his learning, trying hard and keeping trying even if he is finding it tricky. We love to chat with him and hear his creative ideas. Keep up the good work Logan.

Starlings - Ava Grace for her continued effort in all her learning. In English she has written a wonderful story using a range of adjectives to improve her sentences. She has also helped others to think of good story openers for their own stories. In maths she has completed the difficult task of bridging 10 and shown great perseverance, solving many of the questions independently. In Art she has enjoyed creating her own sculpture out of junk modelling using a range of resources and trying to take ideas from the artist Joan Miro. Ava has been a great learning partner and worked well within small groups. Keep up the great work.

Kingfisher - Julia has amazed us with her creativity, confidence and enthusiasm this week. From creating her own character and key event in the style of Roald Dahl to solving regrouping addition and subtractions in maths, Julia has shown excellent engagement and hard work throughout. In art, Julia was able to share strategies with the class when creating our final Kandinsky pieces and showed this same support with her peers on the class trip to St. Albans.

Sandpipers - Alex is a thoughtful member of our class who is a kind friend to all. He has been keen to embrace challenge in his learning, taking on feedback well and pushing himself in maths with his problem-solving. In Bikeability, the instructors have praised his great riding skills, focus on safety and taking his time, and the encouragement he has shown others. We were really impressed when he read a prayer during the Harvest Celebration at St Alban's Cathedral in front of hundreds of attendees - he read it beautifully and confidently! He is a fantastic role model who is flourishing in and outside the classroom. Well done!

Harvest Festival



Bikeability

This week many of the children took part in the annual Bikeability training. A group of 3 Bikeability trainers worked with groups of children to develop their cycling confidence on the playground and then on the roads in Welwyn Garden City. Road sense and cycling are such important life skills, it was great to see so many children taking the opportunity to learn in this active and challenging way.



Careers talk from parents

Thank you so much to Becky (Gracie and Lily's mum) and Anya and Billy (Sophia and Julia's parents) for speaking with Years 3 -6 as part of our series of careers talk. It was fascinating to learn about residential architecture, chiropractic care, and race car engineering. It was brilliant to learn how following their interests and passions led them to these varied and interesting roles.



Finer Diner

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

Those slips are put into a hat and four 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

Logan and Pasha - Robins

Henry and Prayer - Starlings



Family Fireworks Friday 13th November
A message from the LSA

We are officially kicking off preparations for this year's fireworks display, and we'd love your help to make it fantastic! This is always such a brilliant community event, and every penny raised goes directly back into supporting the children and our school.

Events like this simply can't happen without your support. There are so many ways to get involved, and whatever you can offer makes a huge difference, whether that's sharing fresh ideas, sourcing a raffle prize, or giving your time to help on the night.

The volunteer rota will be shared in the coming weeks, but if you have any preferences on what you would like to do please let us know.

If you'd like to be part of the organising, we are holding a short planning meeting online this Monday evening at 7:30pm.

Please let your class rep know if you would like to join.



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

LEMSFORD FETE Bank Holiday Monday 3rd May 2027

Preparations have started for the annual Lemsford Fete – Bank Holiday Monday 3rd May 2027. As you know this is a hugely important event for the school, church and local community. Its continued success is due to the efforts of the whole community. If you have any fundraising ideas, please speak to your class rep.

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.

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:

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!

Meet the Teacher appointments

Many thanks to parents who booked to the Meet the Teacher appointments this week. Thank you also to our teachers for preparing for these important meetings. If your appointment was on-line then there will be the opportunity to look at class books in classrooms on Tuesday 3rd November between 3.15 and 4.15 p.m.

Forest School

This week at Forest School, we practised our balancing and movement skills using tree log cut-offs, carefully balancing and exploring different ways to move. We also made our own conker soap by removing the shells, breaking up the conkers inside and mixing them with water. We were amazed by the **bubbles and frothy foam that appeared as we experimented with our natural soap!**

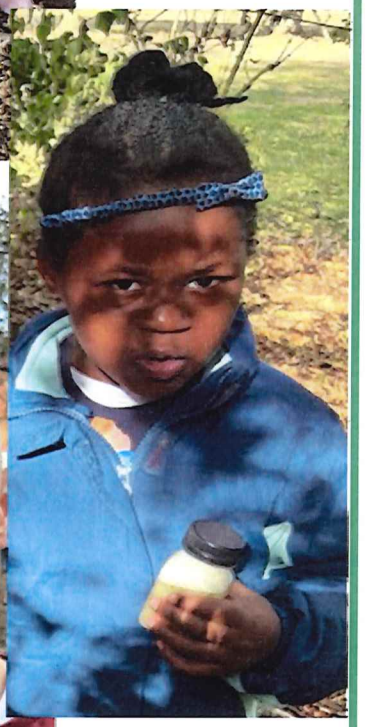












Site Safety Message

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 you 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

26th-30th October - Half Term

13th November - LSA Fireworks Event

27th November - Occasional Day (school closed)

29th November - Advent Sunday

3rd November - Book Look 3.15-4.15pm

8th December - Pantomime*

10th December - Nativity performances - Robins and Starlings classes - 9.15 a.m. and 2.15 p.m.

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.

Secondary Transfer

A reminder that applications for Secondary School transfer should be made by 31st October 2026

Medication in School

If your child requires medication during the school day, please bring the **named** bottle in its original packaging to the Office (or TreeTops if your child is attending Breakfast Club).

You will be asked to complete a form.

If you are collecting meds at the end of the day, please remember to return them each morning.



Children should not keep medication in their bags.

Hello from Revd Kathryn

Hello

Can people really change? That's the question we've been exploring in church this week as we follow the story of the first Christians.

Saul might have seemed an unlikely person to turn over a new leaf - he'd been busy arresting Christians! So when God asked Ananias to visit him, you can imagine how he felt. But Ananias went, and his greeting was simple: "Brother Saul". There's something lovely in that welcome. Saul was beginning to change, but he needed someone willing to take a risk and help him make a fresh start. The children thought about the courage it takes on both sides to do things differently, and to believe that someone else can too.

November will soon be there, and there's lot going on in church for families this month.

We'd love to see you at our **All Together service on 1 November and Sunday Club on 15th November - both at 11am**

A big highlight of the month is also **St John's@3 Light Party on Sunday 8 November at 3pm**.

As the afternoons get darker, we'll be celebrating light, hope and friendship together with games, crafts and treats. You don't need to know anything about church to come along, and there'll be plenty for children of all ages to enjoy and explore. If you can, please email me at revkathrynalford@gmail.com to let me know you're coming to the Light Party, so we can make sure there's enough food and crafts to go round.

See you soon,

Revd Kathryn and Revd Dan

