St Johns School Newsletter
23rd 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



End of the half term

We have come to the end of our first half term of this academic year and what a full 8 weeks it has been! The children have settled well into classroom routines and engaged positively in their new learning and topics. As always, our enrichment programme has enabled the children to participate in a wide range of enriching experiences including the Three Faith Tour, a visit to St Alban's Cathedral, Bikeability, a fun run, swimming lessons and Little City workshops. We have been pleased to welcome parents into school for Meet the Teacher appointments, Class meetings, Careers talks and as volunteers. Thank you to everyone for working together to make St John's such a great place to be. We hope everyone has a fantastic half term break.

Collective Worship

On Thursday we took part in the last of this half term's Collective Worship during which we have focussed on the Early Christians. We have been learning about what happened after Jesus' Ascension and how the early church began. We have been pleased to see the way in which the first two of our Collective Worship groups have led with such confidence.



Beacon Pupils

Robins - Blossom has been a wonderful member of Robin Class this week, she takes care of adults and children so kindly in our class. We love to see her imaginative games in which she is happy to include any classmates who would like to play. In her learning she is able to persevere if she finds something a challenge and is happy to keep trying until she can achieve her goal. Keep up the good work Blossom.

Starlings - **Nana** for his continued effort and enthusiasm for his learning. When working with a learning partner Nana has shown great maturity and confidence. In Maths Nana has shown great addition and subtraction knowledge working well with his learning partner and using base 10. In Art Nana created a fantastic surreal junk model thinking carefully about the artist Joan Miro and trying to copy their sculptures. Nana has enjoyed working on making nature soup in our mud kitchen working well as a team. Nana is always a polite and kind member of our class. He has written a great recipe using a range of adjectives.

Kingfisher - **Toni** has shown a fantastic attitude to her learning. She has listened carefully which has enabled her to approach much of her learning with independence and confidence. She has engaged in her learning positively and has made good progress. She is a brilliant learning partner who always shows kindness and thoughtfulness to others.

Sandpipers - Hallelujah is a wonderful member of our class who has joined Year 5 with such confidence and enthusiasm. She has a brilliant work ethic and is always keen to learn! We have been really impressed with the effort and care she shows in all her learning. Hallelujah's newspaper report was well written with formal vocabulary and a great range of sentence structures, and she has wowed us with her factor and multiple knowledge in maths! She took great care with her beautiful Henry Moore sculptures in Art, showing great creativity and resilience. Well done!

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.

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:

Thursday 12th November 2026 10am-11am
Wednesday 2nd December 2026 10am-11am

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 and Book Look

If your Meet the Teacher appointment was online 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.

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.





DIARY DATES

Autumn Term 2026

26th-30th October - Half Term

3rd November - Book Look 3.15-4.15pm

13th November - LSA Fireworks Event

27th November - Occasional Day (school closed)

29th November - Advent Sunday

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 the Christmas. Holiday Club.

Attendance

Week Ending 16th October 2026

Robins	97.3%
Starlings	97.7%
Kingfisher	98.6%
Sandpipers	99.3%

This half term 57% of our children achieved 100% attendance!

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

This week was the last of our Collective Worship series on the early church. We've had a great time thinking about how a small group of frightened people ended up changing the world.

One route to this change was surprisingly ordinary: they treated strangers like neighbours. This week in church, Rev Dan told the story of Paul and Silas, who were thrown into prison, and what they did when an earthquake flung open the doors. It's a story that personally reminds me that kindness and hope can break the cycles of fear and "getting even" that we so often hear about in the news.

Why not ask your children what they learnt from Dan this week?

Next week is half term, and I hope you all have a wonderful break.

When you're back, we'd love to see you at our **All Together service on Sunday 1 November at 11am.**

The next big afternoon event on the horizon is the **St John's@3 Light Party, on Sunday 8 November at 3pm.** Preparations are well under way. We've bought the lights, the crafts and games are planned, and some delicious food is being sorted. As the afternoons grow darker, this is a chance to come together for a bright, joyful time celebrating light, hope and friendship. It's very much for children and families, and you don't need to know anything about church to come along. If you can, please email me at revkathrynalford@gmail.com to let me know you're coming, so we can make sure there's enough food and crafts to go round.



Secondary Transfer

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