St Johns School Newsletter
6th November 2026

Values of this half term

Peace & Understanding

'Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth to those with whom he is pleased.'

Luke 2:14



Welcome back to the second half of the Autumn term. We hope everyone had an enjoyable half term break.

Collective Worship

Our theme this half term is Women in the Bible. We will be learning about the women who were part of many important events in the Old and New Testaments. This week we have found out about two Old Testament women, Deborah and Esther. Deborah advised a leader and showed tremendous courage by going helping him form an army and by being with him in battle. Esther played an important part in saving the Jewish people from being destroyed, she showed faith and courage in speaking out for them.

Starlings Class

After collective worship in church yesterday morning the children in Starlings class were shown what happens in a Christening in a Christian Church by Revd Kathryn. The children answered the questions very well, showing how much knowledge they have.



Attendance

Week Ending 23rd October 2026

Robins	100%★
Starlings	97.3%
Kingfisher	98.2%
Sandpipers	97.1%

Beacon Pupils

Robins - Belle has made a great start to Reception this term. She is helpful and follows our classroom routines, organising her own belongings as well as keeping our classroom tidy and clean. We love to see her creative play, with ideas that she loves to share with her friends. In her learning she listens carefully and has shown great perseverance with some of our trickier sounds and is beginning to blend words more confidently. We look forward to what she will do next in Robins Class, keep up the good work Belle!

Starlings - Benji for his continued positive attitude and resilience in his learning. In English he has written great sentences about the characters in our story Where the poppies now grow and continued to write books about poppies during continuous provision. He has worked hard on his presentation and letter formation. In maths he has shown a good understanding of number bonds and this has helped him with adding 2 digit numbers, he showed great perseverance. In guided reading Benji has read with expression and has shown a wonderful attitude in helping his friends. Benji has shown good maturity in working in a group and listening to the adults. Keep it up!

Kingfisher - Alice has wowed us this week with her determination and hard work throughout topics. Alice worked independently to use arrays to find fact families, recognising the inverse and using this to write both multiplication and division facts. Alice has thought carefully about her sentence structure, including conjunctions to extend. In RE it fantastic to see Alice sharing meaningful and thoughtful ideas. Alice continues to be a great friend and valued member of our class.

Sandpipers - Jonah is cheerful and friendly and brings such joy to our classroom! We have been really impressed with his perseverance and understanding in maths, showing great reasoning skills when working with prime numbers and problem-solving and sharing this with the class. He has shared great knowledge of WWI and applied this well when reading Private Peaceful, sharing fantastic inferences and predictions about the story, and understanding tricky vocabulary or plot points. Jonah was a wonderful team player during den making in Forest School, and impressed Mrs Youngs with his enthusiasm for the task and encouragement of others. Well done!



British Legion Poppy Appeal

Next week, we will be raising money for the British Legion Poppy Appeal by selling poppies, wristbands and other items. The stall will be run by Year 6 children from Monday 9th to Friday 13th November with items available to buy from 3:10-3:25pm each day. Please bring exact money as no change will be given. If children are in Treetops, please put their money safely in a labelled envelope and they will be given a chance to buy items.

Suggested donations:

Poppies – 30p

Zip pulls and reflectors – 50p

Wrist bands - £1

Snap bands - £1.50

2026/2027

School Holiday Clubs

Don't forget to book your places for the Christmas. Holiday Club.

Many thanks to Mrs Kay for leading Holiday Club during the half term break and to Leah and James who worked with her.

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!

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.

Kingfishers and Sandpipers had a great introduction to forest school. They explored habitats and resources within our setting, and began to problem solve the best way to build shelters.

More on the next page….











Forest School

Forest School









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

13th November - LSA Fireworks Event
20th November - Hamper Donation Day (non-uniform)
26th November - Pre Loved Uniform sale
27th November - Occasional Day (school closed)
29th November - Advent Sunday
3rd December - 12 days of Christmas Day 1
7th December - Choir to Stanborough Lodge (pm)
8th December - Pantomime*
9th December - Kingfisher last swimming session
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)
20th December - Candlelit Service at St John's Church (5pm)

Spring Term 2027

4th January - Inset (no children in school)
5th January - Children back in school

*more information to follow



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

Hello everyone,

Welcome back after half term! I hope you had a wonderful break.

This half term in collective worship we're hearing the stories of women in the Bible - stories that aren't often told, but have a lot to teach us about courage, wisdom, peace, hope and love as we journey towards Christmas.

This week, we're thinking about women who led. On Thursday in church we met Esther, a queen who was frightened, but found the courage to speak up when other people were in danger. We asked: how can we use our voices to help others? The children have been challenged to look for one person this week to speak up for, include or help this week.

Light Party: this Sunday afternoon!

We'd love to see you at our St John's@3 Light Party, on Sunday 8th November, 3pm to 4.30pm, in the church and the Annexe.

The days are getting darker, so we're going to gather and make some light together. There will be a trail to follow round the churchyard and church, games, crafts, chat, and a party tea at the end. It's relaxed, it's for the whole family, and you don't need any church background. Just come along for a relaxed afternoon together.

Hope to see you there!

Rev Kathryn and Rev Dan

