St Johns School Newsletter
13th 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



Remembrance Day

On Wednesday we took part in an Act of Remembrance. In church Revd Dan led prayers and gave a talk about why it was important to remember these past events. Each class has made a new wreath and we gathered around the Remembrance Tree where the wreaths were laid and where we held a two minute silence.





Archery

Sandpipers class took part in an archery session with Mrs Moxham from the local Sports Partnership. They had lots of attempts at hitting the target, scores were kept and the highest scoring participants will be in our school Archery team!

Attendance

Week Ending 6th November 2026

Robins	100%★
Starlings	94.3%
Kingfisher	96.1%
Sandpipers	97.6%

Beacon Pupils

Robins - Mayla is such a wonderful, helpful and kind member of Robin Class. She is such a thoughtful friend who has imaginative ideas for games which she loves to include her friends in. We enjoy her focused learning and her determination to have another go if there is something she would like to improve. She shows our St. John's Values in school every day and we can't wait to see where her learning will take her. Keep it up Mayla.

Starlings - Ivy for her excellent presentation in English writing including her use of adjectives and description in her poem. In maths she has completed difficult subtraction challenges working well within the group. Ivy has grown in confidence and will share her ideas readily with both a partner and in small groups. She has also been an excellent helper in writing out spellings for her friends. Well done Ivy.

Kingfisher - Harrison is so enthusiastic about his learning, from using prepositions to give location in English to using classification skills in Science to identify types of living things. He has shown great listening and engagement, thinking carefully about his handwriting and really thrown himself into all our activities this week.

Sandpipers - Skyla is a fantastic role model to everyone at St John's. She is always a kind and caring buddy, a thoughtful classmate, and a wonderful friend. We have also been really impressed with her positive attitude to learning and how she has embraced new challenges. She is always an enthusiastic learner who works hard, showing great care for her learning. Skyla has worked incredibly hard on her writing and we have been blown away with her complex sentences and descriptive detail. She has worked hard to understand and apply square and cube numbers, using resources well to secure this learning. Well done!

12 Days of Christmas

We are very grateful to the LSA for once again organising our 12 Days of Christmas festivities. The 12 Days begin on Thursday 3rd December for us. It is a busy time and will inevitably include some cost to parents, for example donations and the cost of Panto tickets. We want every child to be able to enjoy the excitement of Christmas and we would never want financial concerns to prevent any child from taking part. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you are finding the cost difficult. Any conversations will be treated confidentially.

Hamper Donation Day - Friday 20th November – Non-uniform Day

Next Friday will be a non-uniform day in exchange for the donation of food and drink items that would be suitable for the hampers that make up raffle prizes at the end of term. Many thanks!

School Shoes & PE Footwear

Please ensure footwear is the correct size for your child.

Shoes and trainers with straps, laces and Velcro are ideal, with sturdy soles and a good grip, especially for busy outdoor play.

18th December 2026

As we finish at 1.30pm on last day of term, please let us know if you need a booking until 4pm that day.

2026/2027

School Holiday Clubs

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

Monday 21st December
Tuesday 22nd December

Many thanks to Mrs Kay for leading Holiday Club during the October 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 final date is:

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. 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.

Children in Need - Fun Run

The school council organised a Fun Run in aid of Children in Need. It was great seeing the colourful house colour accessories decorating our school uniform for the day. Mrs Ching and the school council set up an obstacle course on the playground and throughout the afternoon the children, in their house teams, took part. Well done to the School Council for thinking up and organising this events and well done for everyone in raising £102.72 for Children in Need. Many thanks for your donations!

















This week we created leaf confetti cups after discussing Diwali and fire-works night - we built and filled our bug hotel and we did lots on how to carry our resources and work as a team.

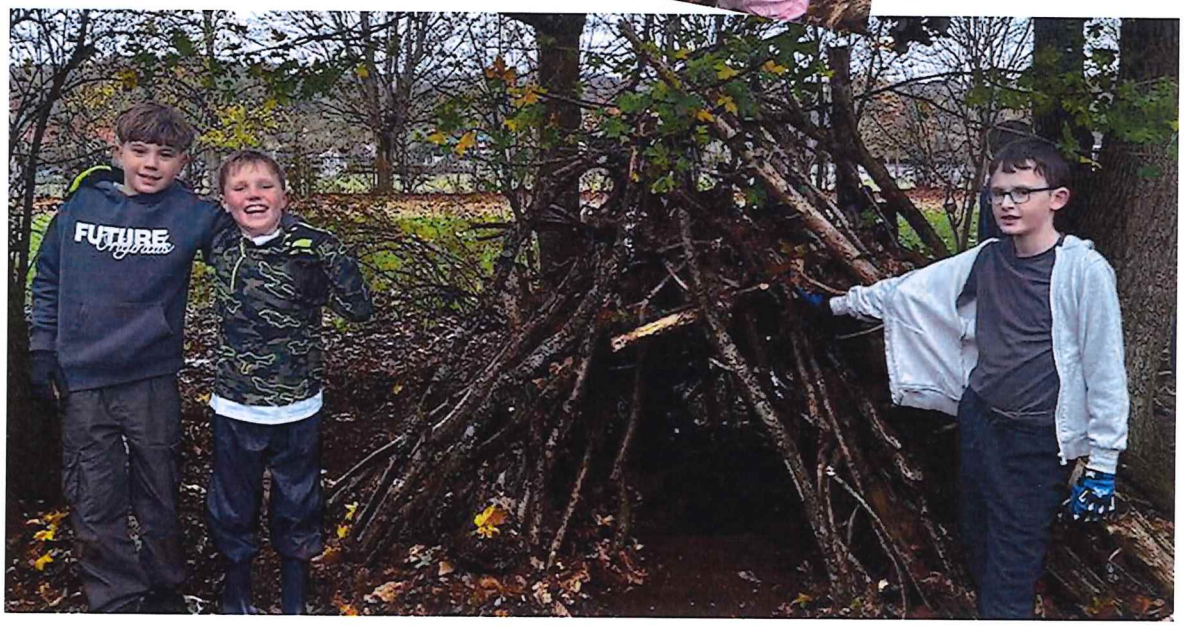




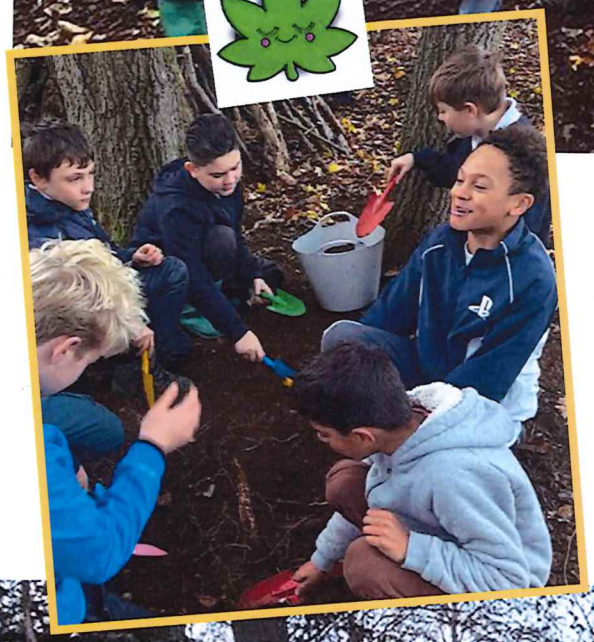




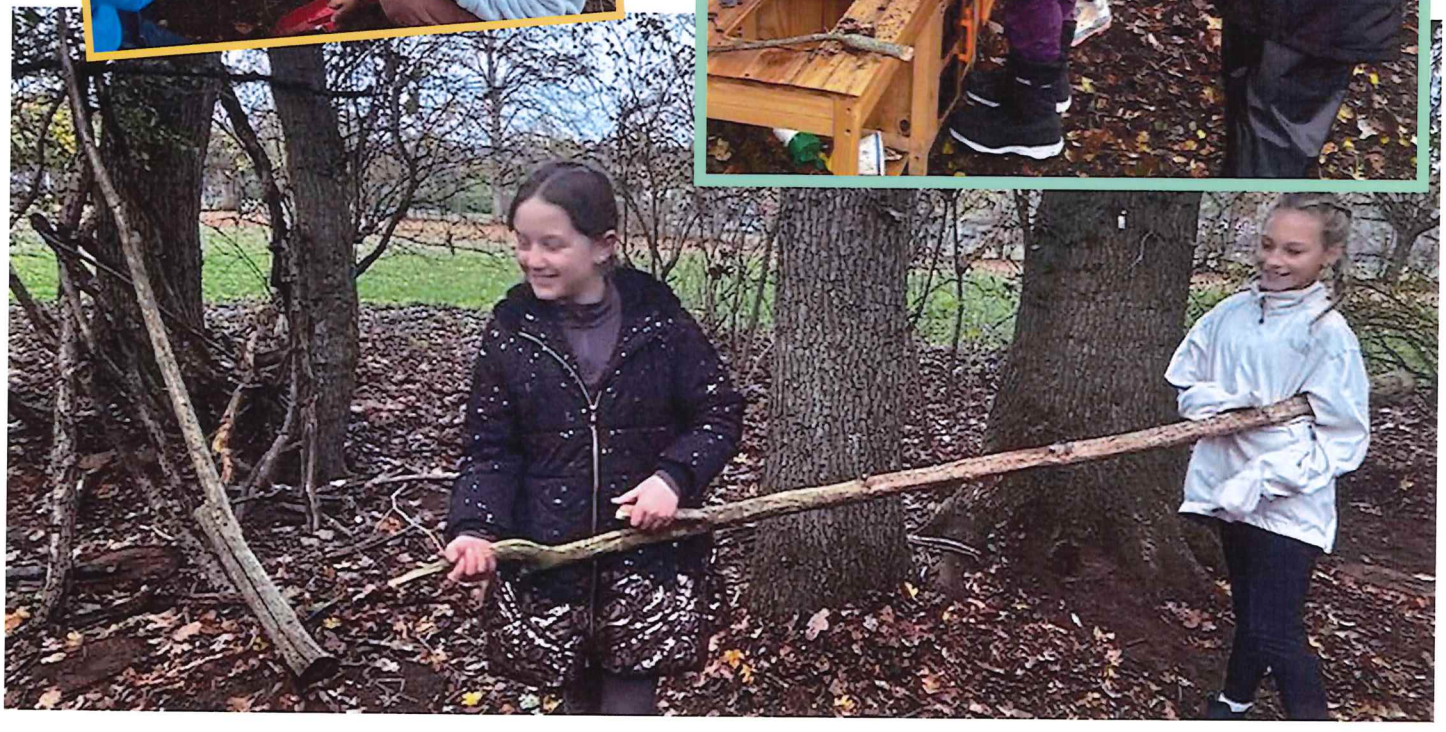
Forest School











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.



show you care, park elsewhere

DIARY DATES

Autumn Term 2026

20th November - Hamper Donation Day (non-uniform)
26th November - Pre Loved Christmas jumper 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 9.00 a.m.
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

Finer Diner

Children with exemplary manners during lunchtimes are given a best behaviour slip. Today Maya, Jesse, Blossom and Jude were invited to have lunch with Mrs Boylan.



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 is a first update from me as Revd Kathryn is away, I hope you all are doing well as the weather becomes chillier!

This Wednesday we held our Remembrance Day service, where we thought about what it means to remember those who have served in the Armed Forces and fought and died in wars. We listened to Nimrod, a famous piece of music often heard at Remembrance services, as children from each class processed up to the altar to lay their class poppy wreaths.

Along with remembering, we also spent time thinking about what kind of future world we want to live in, a world where "the nations will make their swords into plowshares" (Isaiah 2:4). The passage encourages us that instead of seeking to hurt one another, we would turn that which harms into things that help new life grow!

We then went outside to the Remembrance Tree to lay our poppy wreaths, before observing two minutes of silence. We finished our time together with an Act of Commitment to Peace, where we invited students to strive to be peacemakers in their everyday lives.

Our service on Sunday is Reflective Worship, a slower, prayerful service with Revd Iain preaching for us.

We would love to see you there!

Rev Dan and Rev Kathryn

Puzzle Club

Let's round off a busy week with a lovely photo taken in our new Puzzle Club.

