



St John's School Newsletter

14th March 2025

Values of this half term

Love & Forgiveness

'A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other.'

John 13: 34



A Musical Treat

Thank you to Callum for sharing a beautiful musical piece on Tuesday. It was a pleasure to hear him play.



Kingfishers Golf Session

Kingfishers had another fantastic Brocket Hall golf session, progressing with their putting, chip and drive shots. We were lucky enough to have guidance and tips from a professional golfer too.



Stanborough Musicians

Sandpiper Class had an exciting visit from a number of musicians at Stanborough School. We loved watching them play - drums, guitar, piano and singing - as well as finding out about their musical inspirations. It was especially lovely to be visited by former pupil James and to see him play the drums!

Beacon Pupils

Robins - Viaana has been working so hard in class recently. She takes care to listen and follow instructions showing care in her class work. Her thoughtful attitude shows in her learning and particularly this week in our Science experiment. She was able to make a prediction about what would happen to the ice and then looked back frequently to see what was changing. She was able to talk about what had happened using great vocabulary and reflected on her original ideas.

Starlings - Freddie for his enthusiasm for learning. He has become more confident to share his ideas both in small groups and as a whole class. In our maths work Freddie has shown great knowledge of measuring using a ruler and working well with his learning partner to measure a range of objects and compare height. In our Science experiment this week Freddie shared great knowledge about global warming and how this linked to our experiment of melting ice. It has been great to hear Freddie's voice and watching him share with us his wealth of knowledge.

Kingfishers - Will B has shown great determination and enthusiasm for his learning - and this has shone particularly in his confidence identifying unit and non-unit fractions in maths. He has made excellent contributions to class discussions and worked alongside his talk partner to think about features of news reports. Will showed great observation and drawing conclusion skills during our science week experiment, sharing thoughtful ideas about what this might mean for glaciers.

Sandpipers - Luca is a cheerful and positive member of the class who has really grown in confidence since being in Year 5. We were really impressed with his efforts in Worship Group this week, including reading a Psalm clearly in front of the whole school. Luca is a brilliant learning partner who shows fantastic speaking and listening skills, and he has made great strides in confidently sharing his ideas and answers with the whole class. He has shown a great understanding of some tricky maths, including area and volume, and shared his reasoning and methods well. It has been lovely to see him flourish in so many ways.

"I came that they may have life, life in all its fullness."


John 10:10

Top Tips and Word of the Week


Encourage Number Skills

Look for shapes and patterns in real life. For example a pizza is round, can you find something else round? You might see a plate, a round window or a car tyre.

This week's word for younger children:

Word	Definition	Challenge
squeal 	A long, squeaky sound.	What animals might squeal ? Draw one.

This week's word for older children:

Word	Definition	Challenge
solitary 	On your own.	When is it nice to be solitary ? When isn't it?

Science Week

This week the school has taken part in Science Week. Science Week is an annual national event for schools and this year's theme was 'Change and Adapt.' Throughout the week Science has been a key focus and has included each class completing an ice melting experiment and relating what they found out to global warming and its impact on animals.



All England Badminton Championships

Alex and Finley (Year 4) travelled all the way to Birmingham with John Stobo (badminton coach) to watch the badminton championships! They enjoyed watching a number of single and double games throughout the day and loved the perseverance and teamwork shown. The boys behaved beautifully and were a credit to the school.



Lemsford Fete

Bank Holiday Monday 5th May 2025

Thank you for participating in the first of our Fete donation days today!

As always please keep the fete date free as the children will be singing and dancing as part of the event. If you would like to be involved in the planning and organising of the fete please let us know. The dates of future meetings will be on the school diary once they are decided.

This year it is the fete's 75th anniversary as the first one was held in 1950. After the Easter holidays there is a week and a half of school before the day itself - Monday 5th May!

A letter will come out next week which will share information about the children's attendance on the fete day.

Here are some dates for your diaries:

Friday 28th March - Non-uniform day in exchange for bottle donations

Friday 25th April - Non-uniform day in exchange for bottle or chocolate donations.

Wednesday 23rd April to Wednesday 30th April - Bric a Brac donations into school please.

Monday 28th to Friday 2nd May - Lucky dip bags to be brought into school

Friday 2nd May children performing their dances and songs for parents who will be looking after stalls on the day of the fete.

Parent help

On-going maintenance of the school and its grounds is an important part of managing St John's. Recently we have had fantastic help from parents and families with this which has included beginning to create a pathway and a log circle in the spinney area, painting exterior windowsills and supporting with plumbing issues.

There are a couple of further tasks that we were wondering if parents could help with. We have a couple of apple trees which need a trim and a dead ivy-covered tree that needs taking down. If anyone is able to plaster we have an interior wall that needs some patching up! If you are able to help with these jobs, would you please let Mrs Boylan or Miss Lewis know, many thanks.

Music Concerts

Piano Concert 26th March at 9.00am

The children having piano lessons in school will be giving a short concert on 26th March—if any other children who have piano lessons would like to perform please let Mrs Boylan know.

Choir at Stanborough Lodge 27th March at 1.45-2.45pm

The choir have been invited to sing at Stanborough Lodge on Thursday 27th March, a letter will be sent out at the beginning of next week to request help to transport the children to/from the venue.

Payments / Balances

Trips/Events/Workshops/Swimming/ Meals & Milk

We have a number of outstanding balances showing on Arbor and these need to be cleared by the end of the Financial Year (by 31st March 2025).

Please check your account(s) and clear any unpaid invoice.

If you have difficulty making payment, and have not already contacted Mrs Boylan, please do so.

Parking

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.

Tree planting

Last week the school Eco-council planted three trees at the Lemsford Playing Field. Below is a link to an article which is part of Hatfield Town Council News this week. Please have a look to see our Eco-council members in action!

[Junior Eco-Champions Helping to Make Lemsford More Sustainable | Hatfield Town Council \(Hertfordshire\)](#)



Attendance

As you know good attendance at school is vitally important for children's' development - social, emotional as well as academic. Good attendance is viewed nationally as being 95% or above.

We appreciate that this is the time of year when there are all kinds of illnesses going around but at present we have many children whose attendance is considerably lower than 95%

Our aim is to work with families to support them to ensure good regular attendance for their children. The following link is a blog on the subject of attendance produced by the DfE.

[DfE external document template](#)

Nut Free School

A gentle reminder that we are a nut free environment, packed lunches and snacks must not contain nuts. Pesto is often overlooked but contains pine nuts and so is not allowed. Many thanks

Grapes in School

A gentle reminder that grapes are to be cut in half lengthways.





Eco Council in Action...

DIARY DATES

Sandpipers class Wednesday 19th March 3.30—6.30 p.m.
Rocksteady Concert - Monday 24th March 2.00 p.m.
(please note the change of day and time.)

Piano Concert - 26th March 9:00am

Choir at Stanborough Lodge - 27th March 1.45-2.45

Last Day for Clubs - 28th March

Class Music concert led by Mr Rapson - Tuesday 1st April 9.00 a.m.

Easter Service at St John's Church - 3rd April 9.00 a.m. Parents are warmly invited to attend.

Easter Egg Hunt - 3rd April*

End of Term - Friday 4th April (1.30pm finish)

Building work at St John's

Work is complete on the external steps that lead to the hall and to Sandpipers Class. The St Alban's Diocese will be funding the project in the same way that they have funded recent school developments (replacing the flat roof at the front of school and the fence and tarmac in Robins outdoor area.) As a school we must provide 10% of the overall cost which even with the support of the diocese for the remaining 90% is still a huge cost to a school of our size, To support with this and other projects we would like parents to consider making donations to our Governors' Fund. We held parent consultations about this last summer term and would now like to proceed with it, with the support of parents.

Here is a link to the school website which also explains the reasons and process further.

[governor-fund.pdf](#)

Many thanks for your support with this, once you have read the information, please to contact us if you have any queries.

Services at St John's



Hello

This week in Collective Worship, we had a great time thinking about trusting God, especially when life feels like a storm. We explored the story of Jesus calming the storm and reflected on how – just like the disciples – we can feel scared or overwhelmed at times. But when we look to God, He can calm our fears and bring us peace. The children had a lot of fun helping tell the story with music! This was all part of our Collective Worship spirituality series, with a particular focus this week on looking upwards to God.

In terms of what's coming up for families, it's an exciting weekend!

On **Sunday 16th March, 4pm**, it's **Connect@4: Lent Discoveries**

Join us for an hour of hands-on fun, exploring Lent through creative activities and informal worship. It's a great chance for families to reflect on what this season of renewal can teach us about God, ourselves, and each other.

On **Sunday 30th March, 11am**, it's our **All Together Mothering Sunday Service**

This is always one of our most joyful all-age services, where children from school take part throughout the service, making it extra special.

Sunday 6th April, 11am it's **Sunday Club**

We've changed the date for Sunday Club in April because of the school holidays, so please join us then for some fun and fellowship.

And then we look forward to...

Sunday 20th April, 11am - All Together Easter Service Celebration with Easter egg hunt!

Wishing you a wonderful weekend.

Rev Kathryn

