



St John's School Newsletter

7th 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



RE Enrichment Day Ash Wednesday

On Wednesday we had the second of our RE enrichment days. The aim of these days is to deepen the children's understanding of aspects of Christianity. Our focus was Lent and the Easter story, with the day beginning in church with Collective Worship led by Revd Kathryn. Later in the day the children worked in their house teams to explore part of Easter Week. There is a new display of their learning in the hall for parents to see. In classes the children considered Lent and '40 acts of generosity' as well as ways in which we can put these into action during Lent.



World Book Day Thursday 6th March

What a thrill to see the children (and staff) in their World Book Day costumes this year. We had a day full of celebrating the joy of reading which included parents coming into share their favourite stories and poems, a World Book Day fashion parade and shared reading in house teams. We also had three of our governors visiting during the morning, Luca Rastello, Tom Coales and Carrie Shannon, to monitor the impact of reading.



Beacon Pupils

Robins - Hazel because of her great attitude to her learning as well as her thoughtfulness in class this week. Her persistence in our phonics lesson is leading to some brilliant reading and writing emerging this term. In class we have noticed a real thoughtfulness in the way she has included children in her games, looking out for children who don't have anyone playing with them and seeing if they want to be included. What a joy she is to have in class. Keep it up Hazel!

Starlings - Nicole for her excellent attitude towards her learning. She has participated in great activities this week concentrating on building her vocabulary in her writing and continuing to build her love for reading. During our guided reading sessions Nicole has developed great prosody and setting a great example to her group. In our maths this week Nicole has extended her knowledge of measuring from working with cubes to using a ruler to measure in cm. On world book day she was a great learning partner working well to find all the different objects on the scavenger hunt. Nicole is always incredibly polite and kind to everyone in our class.

Kingfishers - Nevena has shown a real maturity to her learning, sharing thoughtful ideas when interpreting the text in English, and working fantastically with her learning partner in maths to tackle tricky perimeter questions to find missing lengths. She has been able to draw on all of her learning to make links to other topics, particularly in science when thinking about electricity and its uses.

Sandpipers - Holly is a kind and thoughtful member of our class who is a lovely friend to all. She is empathetic and observant, and we have really noticed her being a great role model when it comes to friendship. She makes sure everyone feels included in games and activities and helps others find a compromise. She has shown fantastic leadership skills as a House Captain. Holly brilliantly led some lovely activities for World Book Day, and helped her House with a dramatic and musical poetry reading for RE Enrichment Day. We have been so impressed with her responses, both in writing and watercolour painting, to our whole school book. Very well done!

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


John 10:10

Top Tips and Word of the Week

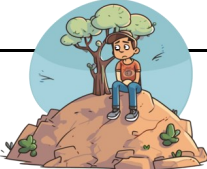
Encourage reading

Read mysteries with your child and try to figure out the clues together.

This week's word for younger children:

Word		Definition	Challenge
eerie		Strange and frightening.	What places might be eerie ?

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?

Reading Challenge

School council and Mrs Ching would like to say a big thank you to everyone that took part in the reading challenge to raise money for the reading dog charity Canine Concern. This charity has given us our two reading dogs Hattie and Charlie, who everyone loves to read with.

Over the half term we raised £157 for the charity. Again, thank you to all those that took part.



Lemsford Fete

Bank Holiday Monday 5th May 2025

As always please keep the 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 75th anniversary as the first one was held in 1950. The countdown to the fete will soon be beginning. After the Easter holidays there is a week and a half of school before the day itself - Monday 5th May!

Here are some dates for your diaries:

Friday 14th March - Non-uniform day in exchange for donations of chocolate

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.

There will be more information nearer the time, especially for parents who are new to all of this!

Tree planting

This morning the Eco -Council visited the playing fields near the sports field. They had been invited to plant some trees as part of a project led by the Hatfield Town Council to improve the facilities.



**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.

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

Hazel - Starlings Pippa - Starlings
Maya - Sandpipers Emma M - Sandpipers



More from World Book Day...



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.

DIARY DATES

Science Week - 10th-14th March

Non-uniform day in exchange for donations of chocolate for the fete—Friday 15th March

Rocksteady Concert - Monday 24th March 2.00 p.m. (please note the change of day and time.)

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*

Easter Egg Hunt - 3rd April*

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

*more information to follow

Building work at St John's

During the half term break work began to replace the external steps that lead to the hall and to Sandpipers Class. The old ones were fairly rotten and past repair, are being replaced by brick-built steps. 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](#)

Services at St John's



Hello

Exploring Lent and Spirituality

We had a fantastic time this morning thinking about the meaning of spirituality, Lent, and Ash Wednesday. After clearing away some 'mess' in church, we reflected on how God is always ready to forgive us for our own 'mess' and offer us a fresh start.

At the end of the service, children had the option of receiving an ash cross on their hand—a symbol of God's love and an invitation to turn to him this Lent.

It was lovely to see parents in church for the service. I hope you enjoyed watching how engaged the children always are with what's being explored. Their answers always amaze and inspire me!

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a season full of services and events for children and families at church. We would love to see you at any—or all—of them!

Sunday 9th March, 11am - Sunday Club with Pancakes!

Sunday Club is always a fun and welcoming space, but this week, we are celebrating the start of Lent with pancakes! A morning of faith-filled fun and delicious treats.

Sunday 16th March, 4pm - Connect@4: Lent Discoveries

An hour of hands-on, interactive fun exploring Lent through creative activities and informal worship.

Sunday 30th March, 11am - All Together Mothering Sunday Service

One of our big, joyful all-age services of the year! Children from school will be leading and taking part throughout the service, making it extra special.

Sunday 6th April, 11am - Sunday Club

We've changed the date for Sunday Club in April because of the school holidays.

Sunday 20th April, 11am - All Together Easter service celebration.

Wishing you a wonderful weekend in the (nearly) spring sunshine, whatever you are up to.

Rev Kathryn

