



St John's School Newsletter

28th February 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



K'nex Challenge

On Tuesday Sandpipers took part in the annual STEM-POINT K'nex Challenge. This year, they had to design and build a fairground round, thinking about safety features, how the ride would function, and additional fun features. Well done to Samuel M and Gitish who were the class winners! Pop to the class page on the website to see photos of all the children's designs.



Half Term Reading Challenge

Thank to those children who took part in the half term reading challenge, we will let you know how much has been raised for Canine Concern as soon as we have the final figure. Our reading dogs Hattie and Charlie will continue to visit, with their humans, this half term!

Next week

Next Wednesday we will be having the second of our RE enrichment days. The day will begin with collective worship in church led by Revd Kathryn. Throughout the day we will be focusing on the journey from Lent to Easter, with a particular focus on using Lent as a time to be hopeful and reflective.

World Book Day is next Thursday. Thank you to those parents who have offered to come and read to the children. We look forward to seeing the children's book related props and/or costumes.

Beacon Pupils

Robins - Ivy has been on top form since coming back from the half term break. This week she has been well focussed in our phonics sessions and is using her finger spaces well in her sentence writing. She was also spotted practising her tricky words with a friend in her free choice time earlier in the week. In her play she has wonderful, creative ideas and enjoys getting her friends organised to retell a story of her invention. We enjoy her happy, bouncy disposition in the class and look forward to seeing what she does next. Keep it up Ivy.

Starlings - Raf for his confident start to the term. He has shown the class his knowledge by sharing his ideas during whole class discussions. In Maths this week Raf had been a great learning partner sharing his knowledge of doubling and linking this to multiplication and division. During small group work we have seen Raf share his viewpoint and organise the group to complete the activities. Raf has shown that he can use a range of adjectives in his writing which is starting to push his writing onto the next level. Keep up this new found confidence!

Kingfishers - Jonah has shown fantastic enthusiasm in his work this week, working hard both in independent and shared learning. He created thoughtful kennings poems in English, thinking carefully about what nature means to him and has really relished the challenges in our maths perimeter topic. He was able to share thoughtful ideas with his learning partner in RE. Well done Jonah.

Sandpipers - Matilda has really impressed us this week with her fantastic communication skills across our learning and activities. She worked brilliantly with her partner in the K'nex challenge - respectfully listening to ideas, carefully explaining her ideas, and making sure the final project was fully collaborative. We have loved her thoughtful responses to our Values of love and forgiveness, helping us in class and in Collective Worship to think a little deeper about forgiving others and ourselves. In the netball fixtures, she communicated well to the team their strengths and areas of improvement, as well as offering lots of praise to others. Well done!

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


John 10:10

Top Tips and Word of the Week

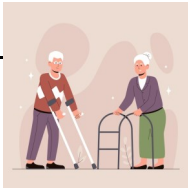
Encourage reading

Keep a dictionary on hand. Help your child look up new words they read or hear.

This week's word for younger children:

Word	Definition	Challenge
smothered 	Cover something over.	Who in your family smothers their toast with jam?

This week's word for older children:

Word	Definition	Challenge
frail 	Not very strong or healthy.	Who do you know who is frail ? Are there any characters from books who are frail ?

Netball Fixtures

Well done to our netball team for playing brilliantly in Thursday's fixtures. Their great communication, swift ball skills, and fancy footwork resulted in two brilliant wins, 7-3 and 4-2, and a 2-2 draw!



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!

Parents' Career Talk

Thank you so much to Mrs Jarmain-Chew, Mr Robins and Mrs Shannon who spoke to Sandpiper and Kingfisher classes about their professions and their career journeys as part of our 'Dreams and Goals' learning in PSHE. It was really interesting to learn about conveyancing, audience management for the BBC, floristry and much more! It was brilliant to hear how skills such as communication, team work, and being calm under pressure can help us follow our interests in many different routes.



**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.

Rock Steady

A reminder that our Rock Steady lessons will be taking place on a Monday afternoon rather than a Thursday morning.



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.

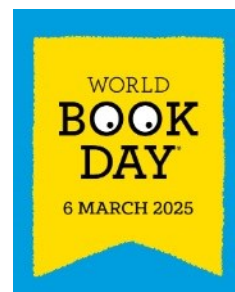
This is a lovely way to end the week with a chance to share their news with Mrs Boylan in person.

Today the children were

Ottilie - Starlings Nicole - Starlings
Callum - Sandpipers Samuel W - Sandpipers



World Book Day - 6th March 2025



Dress up as a character from a children's book.

This year, children (and parents and staff!) are invited to come to school on World Book Day dressed as a children's book character. Children may wear a full costume, or they may wish to wear an item of clothing or carry a prop that represents a particular character. Please remember that children will need sensible footwear and appropriate clothing, as they will be outside during break and lunchtime.

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

WOW at St John's Church - 2nd March
RE Enrichment day - Wednesday 5th March
World Book Day - Thursday 6th March
Science Week - 10th-14th 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)

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 present 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

The children's participation in the Sunday morning services at St John's are always much appreciated.

Sunday 2nd March - WOW Factor - 11am - see Rev'd Kathryn's column opposite for more details.

Sunday 30th March - Mothering Sunday - we would love to members of the school choir to join in with the leading of the singing. We will send out a letter regarding Mothering Sunday later in the term.

Hello

I hope you all had a fantastic half-term break, and enjoyed those few days of sun at the beginning - Spring is on the way!

March is packed with exciting events for children and families at church, and we'd love to see you at any—or all—of them!

☐ Sunday 2nd March - THIS SUNDAY!
☐ All Together Worship @ 11am - The WOW Factor!

Have you ever had a WOW moment? At our All Together Worship this Sunday, we'll be thinking about Jesus' mountaintop WOW moment, as well as the WOW moments in our own lives and our church—and how they keep shaping us long after they happen. This is an informal, interactive service where all ages worship and learn together. Would your child like to take part? They can read, pray, sing, or help in other ways—no experience necessary! Just drop me an email at revkathrynalford@gmail.com.

☐ Wednesday 5th March, 9am
☐ Ash Wednesday Collective Worship (Parents welcome!)

Join us as the whole school mark the beginning of Lent together.

☐ Sunday 9th March, 11am (during the main service)
☐ Sunday Club - with Pancakes!

Sunday Club is always fun, but this week, we're celebrating the start of Lent (which begins on 5th March) with PANCAKES! Come along for 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. A great opportunity for children of all ages (and their grow-ups!) to reflect on what this season of renewal teaches us about God, ourselves, and each other.

Have a wonderful weekend whatever you're up to.

Rev'd Kathryn

