



St John's School Newsletter

14th February 2025

Values of this half term

Wisdom & Truth

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father, except through me."
John 14:6



Feeling Good Week

As you know this week we have been celebrating Feeling Good Week which this year we have linked to the children building their resilience. Mrs Gammon began the week for us with a Collective Worship focussing on resilience during which the children focused on the following statements and found that posters relating to them had popped up all over school:

Feel the feeling

Feelings come and go.

Step outside your comfort zone.

What if I fall? What if you fly?

Notice the glimmers.

There is a lovely display in the school hall which shares the children's and staff glimmers from the week.



For further information please follow this link to our Resilience page on the school website

[Resilience | St John's C of E Primary School](#)

Sandpipers visit Stanborough School

The children from Sandpipers class visited Stanborough to watch the show Matilda. The performance was given by students at the school including some previous St John's children. Sandpipers and the adults who accompanied them thoroughly enjoyed the performance and we are grateful to Stanborough School for giving us the opportunity to visit.

Beacon Pupils

Robins - Ava is a wonderful member of Robins class. This week she has been putting her hand up to share her wonderful ideas in our carpet sessions. Her maths language has been brilliant, and it is lovely to see her growing in confidence. She is a kind and thoughtful friend who has lovely ideas in her play. We love having you in our class, keep it up Ava Boe.

Starlings - Pemisire for her continued positive attitude towards all areas of her learning. In music she has taken an active role showing Mr Rapson great listening skills and understanding. She continues this love of music with her singing as she is always singing beautifully in collective worship. In her English this week she has shown a great understanding of the story and used beautiful handwriting to complete her work. When solving subtractions Pemisire has communicated with her partner on how to complete the work using a number line. In our computing lesson Pemisire also worked well with her partner to create a bar graph inputting the data they collected together. Around school Pemisire is a kind and caring friend with a great attitude and enthusiasm. Keep up the great work.

Kingfishers - Miley has shown real confidence in her work and understanding, working hard in activities and sharing excellent ideas in class discussions. Her creativity shone in art this week, taking inspiration from the artists and artwork we have explored to create a collage, and also in English using the structure of the text to create her own story. She has been both a fantastic friend and talk partner, showing great care for those around her.

Sandpipers - Eva is a sweet and kind member of class who always offers compliments and praise to others. She is always positive and optimistic about life and her learning, sharing some lovely 'glimmers' throughout the week! It has been lovely to see Eva's resilience grow over the months, helping her to flourish in all areas. She faces challenges well, is keen to try tricky learning, and has developed her problem-solving skills well. Eva is a wonderful role model, showing responsible and trustworthy behaviour and making good choices. 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

Encourage your child to write letters, thank you notes, journals, shopping lists even a diary about their daily life.

This week's word for younger children:

Word	Definition	Challenge
stroll 	Walking very slowly in a relaxed way.	Act out stroll . Can others guess?

This week's word for older children:

Word	Definition	Challenge
sway 	Move slowly side to side.	What in nature sways ? When do people sway ?

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!

Badminton success!

Many congratulations the children who were part of our boys' and girls' badminton squads who took part in a tournament at Ridgeway school on Thursday. The children from Sandpipers and Kingfishers classes played very well and showed their resilience, good manners and sportsmanship. The boys' team came fourth overall and the girls' came third for which they each received a medal.



Mrs Shannon's Craft Club

We are grateful to Mrs Shannon, our chair of governors, for leading an after-school craft club this half term. The children who attended made their own puppets and theatres. They then created a story which they performed using the things they had made in their session. They did a great job!



Robins

Admiring their positive affirmations.



Starlings



Working in teams to learn and present new skills.



Feeling Good Week



Kingfisher

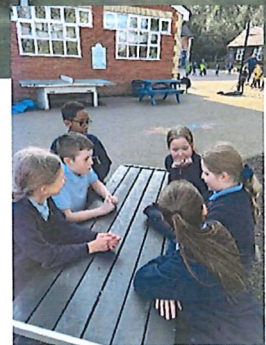


Making potato people!

Sandpipers



Thinking about and looking for the 'glimmers.'



Meet the Teacher and Book Look

Thank you for attending the Meet the Teacher sessions this week. Just a reminder that there is an opportunity to have a look at your child's books if your appointment was on on-line. The date of the Book Look is Thursday 27th February 3.30 – 4.30 p.m. Would you please let us know if you would like to come along. Thank you.

Rock Steady

After half term our Rock Steady lessons will be taking place on a Monday afternoon rather than a Thursday morning.



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.

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.

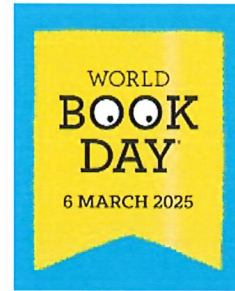
Nut Free School

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.



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](#)

Reminder - next week is the half term break with Monday 24th February being an INSET day for staff. We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Tuesday 25th February. Have a lovely week!

Just a reminder too to encourage your child to take part in the sponsored read over the week, as shared with you last week in aid of the Canine Concern charity.

DIARY DATES

Half Term - Monday 17th - Friday 21st February
Inset Day - Monday 24th February
Knex Challenge Starlings and Kingfisher - 25th Feb
Reception Screening & Hearing Re-tests by School Nurse Team - 26th February 9.30-11am
Book Look—27th February 3.30—4.30 p.m.
World Book Day—Thursday 6th March
Science Week - 10th-14th March
Rocksteady Concert - 27th March *
Last Day for Clubs - 28th March
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 will begin to replace the external steps that lead to the hall and to Sandpipers Class. The present ones, which are fairly rotten and are past repair, are going to be 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. There is a letter attachment with this Newsletter email which tells you more about the Fund and how to donate. 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 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

In Collective Worship this week, we've been thinking about another of Jesus' sayings—"I am the vine; you are the branches" (John 15:5). With the help of some very wobbly volunteers, we saw how tricky it is to stand strong on your own—but how much steadier we become when we're connected to something solid! The Early Church (Acts 2:42-47) discovered this too. After Jesus had gone back to heaven, His followers didn't just go their separate ways. Instead, they prayed, learned, shared, helped one another, and praised God together—and because they stayed connected to Jesus and each other, their faith and the church grew stronger. The children had some fantastic ideas about how they too could stay connected to Jesus.

Looking Ahead: Lent and Easter

It's nearly half-term, and before you know it, we'll be heading into Lent and racing towards Easter. Here's what we've got coming up next half-term for children and families:

9th March, 11am

Sunday Club with pancakes!

16th March, 4pm

Connect@4: Lent Discoveries (crafts, stories, songs, activities, prayer, food & more!).

30th March, 11am

All Together Mothering Sunday Service

3rd April, 9am

Whole School Easter Service in church - parents welcome!

20th April, 11am

All Together Easter Service - with an Easter Egg Hunt!

We'd love to see you at any of these special services—everyone is welcome!

Have a fantastic break

Rev'd Kathryn

