



St John's School Newsletter

7th 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



Sponsored Read

We would like to invite the children to take part in a sponsored read over the half term. The sponsored read is the idea of the school council who would like to raise money for the charity Canine Concern. Part of the outreach work of the charity is the Read to Dogs programme which we benefit from at St John's. We have two visiting 'reading dogs' to whom our children read and chat. They are Hattie (and her owner Mary) and Charlie (and his owners Vince and Linda) They are regular visitors and are a delight to have in our school community. Money raised from the sponsored read will be donated to the charity so that other schools and other community groups may also benefit. We will send out a further letter and a sponsor form today. For more information please follow this link: [Read To Dogs Programme - Canine Concern](#)



Careers

After half term, Kingfisher and Sandpiper classes will be thinking about their dreams and goals in PSHE lessons, including pathways and routes to careers. In October, we enjoyed a visit from three parents who spoke about their professions and careers, including medicine, computing and Antarctic surveyance! We would love parents to visit on Friday 28th February to talk about their careers and jobs. It would be great if you were able to talk to the two classes about your work and then answer questions. Any kind of profession would be engaging for the children to hear about, we know many of you have some very interesting day jobs! If you are able to come in after our celebration assembly 9.30 until 10.30 a.m. that would be fantastic. Thank you!

Beacon Pupils

Robins - Elisabeth has been working so hard in Robins class this week, she has been working hard on her handwriting and challenging herself with activities in the classroom. She has such a positive attitude and always keeps trying to see what she can achieve. We love her creative ideas and the way she is so kind and inclusive to all of the children in the class. Keep it up Elisabeth!

Starlings - George for his fantastic attitude to his learning this week. He has impressed us with his growing phonic knowledge and his willingness to have a go at writing independently. His confidence in participating in class has been great to see this week and he has bonded well with his new learning partner. George has great mathematical skills and has been able to subtract on a number line and show others how to do it. Keep up the great work.

Kingfishers - Alex has shown real focus and enthusiasm in his learning, making thoughtful contributions in class particularly during our science and history lessons - where he has been able to really recognise the challenges and adversity faced in different time periods and by different significant individuals in their field. Alex has been a great role model during lunch and break times this week, making great decisions and being a good friend.

Sandpipers - Vinnie has really impressed us recently with his growing confidence in all areas of his learning. He has really found his voice in class, and is not only sharing lots of fantastic ideas in paired and group work but is also sharing great ideas with the class too! He has worked brilliantly in a group this week on our science investigations, communicating well with those he is working with and making sure everyone joined in. We have been so impressed with the care and attention he has put into his writing; he has made sure to include the features needed in his newspaper report, proof-read and edited carefully, and been keen to share his writing with others. 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

Set aside a place for your child to read. Create a reading environment, a soft beanbag, cushion on the floor or a comfy chair in a quiet corner.

This week's word for younger children:

Word	Definition	Challenge
hollow 	Objects with a space inside.	Find three things at home that are hollow .

This week's word for older children:

Word	Definition	Challenge
smouldering 	A fire burning slowly without flame, usually giving off smoke.	Look smouldering up in a dictionary. Check that it matches your understanding of the word. Are there any different meanings?

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!

Feeling Good Week

Next week is Feeling Good Week 2025. This year we will be focusing on the positive things of life, encouraging the children to look for the 'glimmers' in their lives, the things to celebrate and to be grateful for. Look out for the new display that will appear in the hall. We will also be focusing on the children's resilience; we want to help them to identify related feelings and to cope when there are challenges by developing appropriate strategies. Please follow the link to some slides that Mrs Gammon has prepared relating to resilience

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



News from the LSA

Doughnut sale

The LSA are planning a doughnut sale on the last afternoon of this half term, Friday 14th February. More information to follow.



Fireworks

Please keep 14th November free for our Fireworks Extravaganza! More information to follow.

Can you help?

Do any parents have any contacts with local businesses that could donate a raffle prize (voucher or donation) to the grand draw at the fete?

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.

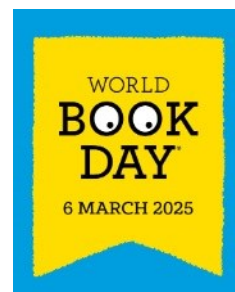
Nut Free School

A gentle reminder that we are a nut free environment, packed lunches and snacks must not contain nuts. Pistachio 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.

More details are on the letter sent home today.

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](#)

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

Ava P - Robins
Mason - Starlings

Jude - Starlings
Matilda - Sandpipers



DIARY DATES

Feeling Good Week and On-line Safety Week- 10-14 February 2025

Face to Face Appointments - 11th February 3.30-6.10

On-Line Appointments - 13th February 4.30-7.10

LSA Donut Sale - 14th February 3.15pm

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

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

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.

Mrs Hayes

Many of you will be aware that Mrs Hayes, one of our teaching assistants who works with Starlings class, has not been with us for some time now. Sadly, for us Mrs Hayes will not be returning to St John's. This is sad news as she has been such a valued member of the school community and has been an incredible support to our children and families. We will be saying goodbye properly to Mrs Hayes later in the term.



Rock Steady

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

Hello

A huge thank you to everyone who took part in our All Together service on Sunday morning. The readings, prayers, and children's participation in every part of the service helped make this a truly light-filled Candlemas! All the characters from the Christmas story were carried out from the crib into the world—reminding us that Christ's light is not meant to stay in one place but to be shared. Our new church candles were blessed, and the old candles were taken home as a reminder that we are called to carry the light and love of Christ wherever we go.

In Collective Worship this week, we explored the Old Testament story of David—a young shepherd chosen by God not because of his strength or size, but because of his heart. David cared for his sheep, protected them from danger, and learned to trust in God—qualities that later made him a great king. This tied in with the school's half-term focus on Jesus' "I Am" sayings, with this week's theme being "I am the Good Shepherd. The children had some fantastic thoughts about how we could be shepherds too!

Last but not least, Sunday Club is back this Sunday at 11am! We'll be continuing our Heroines of the Bible series, discovering the incredible stories of women in the Bible and how they inspire us today. We'd love to see you there!

Have a great weekend.

Rev'd Kathryn

