



St John's School Newsletter

31st January 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



Chinese New Year

On Wednesday morning each class took part in a Lion Dance workshop which is part of the Chinese New Year celebrations. Each class learnt about the role of the dragon as part of the New Year celebrations and had a go at manoeuvring the dragon around the school hall.



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 - James has shown such determination in our class challenges this week. He listens carefully and then spends a while carefully trying out different ideas to achieve a goal. He has thoughtful ideas in his play and is so welcoming to other children and their ideas. In his reasoning in maths he is really taking on our new vocabulary and using it in his explanations. Keep it up James!

Starlings - Benjamin for his perseverance and hard work in all areas of learning this week. He has surprised us with his excellent handwriting and letter formation in their English work. Along with this he has used a range of vocabulary to improve the contents of his writing. Over the week he has shown great knowledge of our story of the Great race and joined in beautifully with the Chinese new year lion dancing. Not only this week but always Benjamin is a fantastic learning partner making great contributions to small group and whole class discussions. He is a kind and thoughtful friend and so polite around school.

Kingfishers - Aashi has shown great focus and confidence this week throughout topics, sharing ideas in class discussions and working hard during activities to produce fantastic work. She shared thoughtful contributions from her interpretation of the text in English and has worked brilliantly alongside her talk partner to complete 3-Digit multiplications.

Sandpipers - Callum is a kind friend to all, a really enthusiastic learner, and contributes brilliantly to our class discussions. We have seen a great growth in his maturity in class and his focus on his learning; his writing in particular has been improving well as he works on feedback given, takes care to proof-read, and has been broadening his vocabulary. He impressed us in Science this week with his investigative skills - from clear planning, conducting it fairly, and drawing great conclusions from his results! It has been lovely to see Callum really take our Values to heart and embodying them in all he does, whether in the classroom or in his friendships. 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

Is there is a movie coming out that your child is off to see? Why not check if there is a book version too. Read together and talk about which you liked better.

This week's word for younger children:

Word		Definition	Challenge
twinkling		A light that keeps getting brighter and then less bright.	Think of two objects that you can describe as twinkling .

This week's word for older children:

Word		Definition	Challenge
quiver		Shaking with small movements.	What feelings might you be having if you are quivering ?

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 75^h 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!



News from the LSA

Everyone's efforts in the 12 Days of Christmas events helped to raise approximately £1300 - a fantastic achievement. Many thanks for all the donations, for the Christmas shopping event and the raffle.

Becky Lake has kindly been organising our pre-loved uniform and has a database of the items that she is storing for us. They are of good quality and very reasonably priced. If you would like have access to the list of items available please contact Becky or your class reps.

Doughnut sale



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

Grapes in School

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



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.

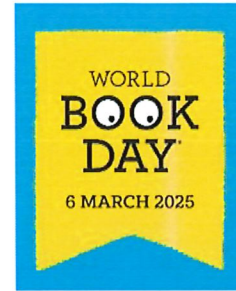
Children that are late should come to the main office using the pavement only, never through the main gate/car park.

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

Names on clothes

If you have replenished uniform over the Christmas holidays just a reminder that all clothes, especially school jumpers and cardigans must be named.



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](#)

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.

DIARY DATES

Feeling Good 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 2nd February - Children to lead the readings, prayers and to help with the talk!

Sunday 30th March - Mothering Sunday - As for the 2nd February but also 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

This week in Collective Worship, the children have been exploring Jesus' words: "I am the door." In church, we used the Parable of the Great Banquet to think about what He might have meant. With the help of some special invitations, we reflected on how Jesus welcomes everyone to come through him into the amazing banquet of God's love.

In our lunchtime Christianity Unpacked session, we tackled the subject of 'sin' - brainstorming some of the messes we can often get ourselves into and considering the Christian belief that God's love offers everyone fresh start.

All Together Candlemas Service - Sunday 2nd February, 11am

Just a little reminder that this Sunday is our special All Together Candlemas Service. At this all-age service, we'll carefully take apart the crib scene, piece by piece, and reflect on what it means to carry the Christmas story out into the world.

This candle-packed service is for everyone, especially children and families. It will be filled with storytelling, singing, and opportunities to take part. Whether you've been to church before or not, you'll be warmly welcomed!

Hope to see you this Sunday. Have a great weekend whatever you're up to.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Rev'd Kathryn



**All-Together
Candlemas
Sunday Worship**

A service with something for everyone aged 0-100+



**Dismantling the Crib
(& carrying Jesus' light into
the world!)**

2nd February 2025
11am

All Welcome - always

