



St John's School Newsletter

24th 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



Big Garden Birdwatch 2025

In keeping with our Robins, Starlings, Kingfishers and Sandpipers classes we would like to encourage the children to take part in the Big Garden Birdwatch this weekend. The Big Garden Birdwatch is a survey organised by the RSPB.

What is Big Garden Birdwatch?

Big Garden Birdwatch is the world's largest garden wildlife survey. Every year, hundreds of thousands of nature lovers take part, helping to build a picture of how garden birds are faring.

How to take part

If you are able to please spend an hour in your area and count how many birds that you see land. If you would like to you can use the recording sheet which is part of the following link but equally please devise your own way of recording.

Bring your results to school

If you are able to take part in the survey please bring your results into school on Monday, in whatever form you have them. Each class will record their results on to RSPB website and will also use any results as a basis for some data handling tasks in Maths during the week.

Here is the link to the guide:

[BGBW2025_HowToGuides_English_A4_low.pdf](#)

Link to the RSPB:

[Big Garden Birdwatch](#)



Beacon Pupils

Robins - Henry has been really focused in his learning this week. He has been choosing to try out some of the challenges in his choosing time and taking care with his letter formation. We love his creativity and he has been telling some super stories based on our traditional tales. Keep up the good work Henry.

Starlings - Isabella for showing exceptional kindness to others in our class. She has made sure that everyone has someone to play with and listening to her friends at playtime. During our learning she has shown great handwriting in our English work and used fantastic range of adjectives in her sentences. In our History topic Isabella has shown strong understanding of the explorers and what they are famous for; she also worked sensibly in her group comparing objects used in the past and those used in the present. Isabella has also been a great learning partner and shown great confidence in our small group and carpet discussions.

Kingfishers - Jenson has shown such a great attitude to his learning, become really confident in class, working both independently and with his talk partner. He has shared thoughtful ideas in RE and PSHE, used strategies to complete multiplication problem-solving and shared his creativity in creating similes in English. Well done, Jenson.

Sandpipers - Dylan has really impressed us in class with his growing confidence and his great attitude to learning. In the past few months, he has really stepped up as a Year 6 and embraced new responsibilities! He tackles his Year 6 jobs independently and with purpose, he has been a brilliant learning partner, and he's been sharing great ideas in class. He has been a kind and caring buddy, even enthusiastically taking another buddy under his wing! Dylan has grown into a fantastic role model and has really embraced new responsibilities. 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

Talk to your child about the book they have been reading, why they chose it and how it makes them feel.

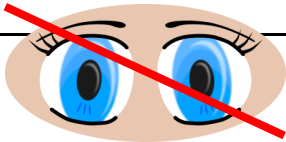
This week's word for younger children:

Word	Definition	Challenge
dull	A colour that is not very bright. Weather can also be dull.	Ask someone at home to say the word dull in a sentence.



This week's word for older children:

Word	Definition	Challenge
overlook	To not notice something.	Think of a time when you did something that your teacher overlooked .



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](#)

Lemsford Fete

Bank Holiday Monday 5th May 2025

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 the Lemsford fete will be 75 years old! The first fete was in 1950 and raised £50! Here is a link to the Lemsford Local History society containing further information about this important event:

[Lemsford Local History Group - Lemsford Village - Cromer Hyde- Stanborough](#)

Grapes in School

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



Finer Diner

Children with exemplary manners during lunchtimes are given a Best Behaviour slip.

Once a week, those slips are put into a hat and one per class is drawn. 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

Elisabeth - Robins
Hargun - Starlings
Hallelujah - Kingfishers
Alexa - Sandpipers



Meet the Teacher appointments

We will once again be holding our Meet the teacher appointment on the last week of this half term. The dates are:

Tuesday 11th February 3.30 - 6.10 p.m. Face to face meetings in the school hall.

Thursday 13th February 4.30 - 7.10 p.m. On-line meetings.

Hall displays



Our school hall displays have been changed once again with each class sharing some of their amazing learning on their display board. We have also included the one at the back of the stage. As part of our RE enrichment day last term we considered the beauty of the world and our responsibility in looking after it, the new display reflects this. We are grateful to Miss Noonan for painting the backdrop so beautifully.

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.

School Readers

Did you know we have a team of volunteers who come in to listen to the children read?

Two volunteers also bring along very fluffy and calm dogs who have very big listening ears.

Our readers are Mrs Almeyda, Mrs Anstey and her beautiful Schnauzer, Hattie and finally we have Mr & Mrs Gammon who bring the delightful Charlie.

Encouraging reading is the foundation of learning and these volunteers really do help to engage the children.

Payments / Balances Trips/Events/Workshops/Swimming/ Meals & Milk

Please check Arbor regularly for any new invoices or historic balances that are outstanding. Please also ensure your payment is against the correct account.

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.



DIARY DATES

Lion Dance Workshops - 29th January 2025
Face to Face Appointments - 11th February 3.30-6.10
On-Line Appointments - 13th February 4.30-7.10
Half Term - Monday 17th - Friday 21st February
Inset Day - Monday 24th February
Reception Screening & Hearing Re-tests by School Nurse Team - 26th February 9.30-11am
World Book Day—Thursday 6th March
End of Term - Friday 4th April (1.30pm finish)

Services at St John's

The children's participation in the Sunday morning services at St John's are always much appreciated. There are two All - Age services this term in which we would love the children to take part. They are:

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.

Please let us know if your child(ren) are able to participate in the All - Age service on the 2nd February as soon as possible, We will send out a letter regarding Mothering Sunday later in the term.

The theme of our Collective Worship this week has been the words of Jesus 'I am the light.' On Thursday in our Collective Worship at church the children acted out the story of Jesus' presentation to Anna and Simeon in the temple.



**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



Hello

This week, I'm excited to share two highlights from this half term: our special All Together Candlemas Service and the launch of our brand-new Christianity Unpacked lunchtime club at school.

All Together Candlemas Service - 2nd February, 11am

This Candlemas, join us at St John's for a special all-age service: "Dismantling the Crib (& Carrying Jesus' Light into the World)." Together, 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.

Candlemas marks the turning point from Christmas to the next chapter of Jesus' story, and is one of my favourite services in the year. Everyone loves a candle!

This service is for absolutely 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.

If your child would like to sing, read, carry the cross, or lead a prayer, please let Mrs. Boylan or Rev Kathryn know—we'd love for them to be involved.

Christianity Unpacked - Lunchtime Club

I've loved launching our new Christianity Unpacked lunchtime club at school this term. It was fantastic spending time with the children on Tuesday, exploring what the Bible is all about and why it matters to Christians.

The club has given the children the chance to ask big questions and share their brilliant thoughts. Our goal is to make big ideas simple, engaging, and meaningful.

I'm really looking forward to exploring more topics with them in the coming weeks. If your child is in Year 2-6 and would like to join, it's not too late - just let the school office know!

I really hope see you on 2nd February, if you can make it.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Rev'd Kathryn

