



St John's School Newsletter

17th 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



Welcome to Miss Wallace

We have been very fortunate to have Miss Wallace (Mrs Wallace's daughter) working in school as a volunteer. She will soon be beginning her training with us as a teaching assistant following an apprenticeship scheme. We would like to warmly welcome her to the staff team and are grateful for the time that she has already given to the school.

Teeth!

As you know dental hygiene is very important, the news has been full of stories of issues children are presently having with their teeth. Here is a link to some useful information.

[How to take care of your baby or toddler's teeth - Start for Life - NHS - NHS](#)

[Children's teeth - NHS](#)

World Book Day

World Book Day, the annual national celebration of reading, is on Thursday 6th March. This year we would like to invite the children to dress up as their favourite book character or bring a prop to represent their favourite book or story, of course they are welcome to do both! We look forward to seeing the children however simple their costume or prop might be!

Beacon Pupils

Robins - Charles has been working hard in Robin class. In our phonics he has worked hard to learn the first set of sounds and now he has been persevering with his blending which is showing in his lovely reading this week. In his play he has wonderful ideas and he is welcoming to other children in his games. Keep up the good work Charles.

Starlings - Jaime for her consistent effort in her learning this week. She has worked hard on all tasks this week but has particularly impressed us with her English description writing and her knowledge of numbers in Maths. She has grown in confidence and is starting to volunteer information during both whole class and small group discussions. When working with learning partners she listens well to her partner and shares her ideas. On the playground and around school she is kind, polite and a great friend to all.

Kingfishers - Maya has been engaged and hard-working throughout topics this week, thinking carefully about multiplication strategies to tackle tricky problem-solving questions in maths through to thinking of fantastic similes to describe in English. She showed real determination when exploring our history topic to consider similarities and differences between time periods, finding some fantastic links. She has been joining in some excellent discussions with her talk partner and thinking carefully about incorporating all the subject-specific language we have been using. Well done Maya

Sandpipers - Emma is a warm, friendly and kind member of class. She is a lovely friend to all and always looks out for and looks after others. We have been blown away by her verbal and written responses to our book Pig Heart Boy - Emma has really delved into the ethical discussions about the book, producing a fantastic balanced argument! Emma has also been a wonderful learning partner, gently guiding them through some tricky long division questions and leading conversations well. A brilliant role model for us all - well done!

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


John 10:10

Top Tips and Word of the Week


Fun with Rhyming

Encourage your child with rhymes. Say a word and ask your child what other word sounds like it.

Examples are Sun/Fun, Mat/Cat, Kind/Find, Lunch/Munch

Word		Definition	Challenge
shudder		You shook because you were cold, frightened or disgusted.	Pretend your are feeling scared. It makes you shudder .

This week's word for younger children:

Word		Definition	Challenge
flourish		To grow or develop successfully.	If plants are going to flourish , what do they need? If a child is going to flourish , what do they need?

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](#)

CENSUS DAY

Thursday 16th January 2025

Thank you to all the children who had a lunch on Thursday, every meal requested benefits the entire school. Over 90% had a meal, which is amazing.

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.

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

- Benji - Robins
- Pemisire - Starlings
- Jonah - Kingfisher
- Vinnie - Sandpiper



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.

We will send out further information about booking next week.

DIARY DATES

School Clubs Start - w/c 20th January 2025

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)

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.

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.

One of the stalls for the fete usually sells **homemade jam**. Do you know anyone that makes jam? We would love to have a jam making afternoon in school (for adults!) but need someone with the necessary skills! We will provide the resources including fruit. Please let us know.

Hello

I hope you've been enjoying the gorgeous spell of blue sky and sunshine recently. Things always feel better in the light! This cunningly brings me on to this week's reminder that we're holding our Christingle Service this Sunday (19th January) at 4pm.

Christingle is a service full of light! It's a chance to come together, have fun, and carry the joy, hope, and light of Christmas into the new year. You'll get to make your own Christingle using oranges, candles, and sweets (a definite highlight!), before we gather for a short, all-age service. And afterwards, there's pizza for everyone! If you're looking for a way to brighten up January and spend time with family, friends, and our community, we'd love to see you there.

This half-term in collective worship, we're exploring Jesus' "I am" statements, thinking about who Jesus is and what that means for us.

This week, we focused on Jesus' words: "I am the Bread of Life." In church, we thought about how bread is something simple, nourishing, and life-sustaining—something we rely on every day. In the same way, Jesus offers spiritual nourishment, hope, and life to those who follow Him.

We particularly reflected on how Communion helps Christians remember and experience this truth. The bread shared during Communion is a symbol of Jesus, the Bread of Life, given for the world. It reminds Christians of His love, His sacrifice, and the unity we share as His followers. Big stuff!

Hope to see you on Sunday.

Rev'd Kathryn

