



St John's School Newsletter

10th 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



Happy New Year!

Wishing you, your families and friends all the very best in 2025. We hope you all had a lovely Christmas full of the joy of spending time with family and friends.

During the holidays a lucky family enjoyed a Christmas lights tour courtesy of Mr Hill, one of our parents who is a London cabbie. The tour was a raffle prize that was part of our Fireworks event organised by the LSA.

We would like to say many thanks for the very generous Christmas gifts that the staff received from the children. We are very appreciative of your generosity and thoughtfulness.

Spring Term Clubs

Children have been given details about our Spring Clubs today. We are so pleased that Revd Kathryn has offered a club for Year 6 hope that they will take up this opportunity. Thank you, too, to Mrs Shannon, our Chair of Governors, who is leading a club as well.

There has had to be a change to the day for netball club due to Mrs Redmond leaving at the end of last term but we do hope that this thriving club will continue to be well attended on a Monday after school.

Collective Worship

During our INSET day on Monday 6th January, we looked carefully at our schedule for Collective Worship and the way in which it is organised throughout the week. Whilst continuing to focus on our school Vision and Values we will also have a weekly theme which will flow through our daily acts of Collective Worship. This half term the theme is the 'I am...' sayings of Jesus, for example, 'I am the way, the truth and the life,' 'I am the vine.'

Beacon Pupils

Robins - Dougie for a fantastic this week. We are proud of his hard work even when it is tricky. He is a thoughtful child and will often spot things which are out of place or need some care. He looks out for children around him if they need a little help or friendship and is always ready with some kindness. Keep up the good work Dougie.

Starlings - Rupert for a fantastic first week back. In our English work Rupert has completed sentence writing independently using a range of phonic knowledge and keyword cards. Also within our English tasks Rupert was able to discuss the range of emotions the character felt and performed a great freeze frame with his group. He has made some lovely friendship groups within the class and has tried hard to be a productive and helpful learning partner.

Kingfishers - Yulana has shown real enthusiasm and determination in his learning. He has been a really reflective learner this week, taking time to consider his learning and tackle work independently. He has shown his fantastic imagination in English using figurative language and shared brilliant mathematical vocabulary to explain his multiplication activities. Well done Yulana.

Sandpipers - Lukey has shown independent learning skills and positive attitude throughout Year 5. He has been making good choices in the classroom and on the playground, showing a growing sense of responsibility and maturity. In Maths this week, he persevered well with tricky order of operations problems, using resources and class examples to help him make good progress independently. Lukey has also impressed us with his thoughtful, mature ideas linking to our class book, Pig Heart Boy; he shared his opinions well and was able to think about different characters' perspectives. Well done!


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

John 10:10


Top Tips and Word of the Week

Early Reading

Children are more likely to enjoy reading if those around them also read. Share a comic or a magazine, take a look at a cookery book together or even read out the TV listings - every word counts.

Word		Definition	Challenge
gloomy		So dark that you can't see very well.	How does the word gloomy make you feel? Why?

This week's word for younger children:

Word		Definition	Challenge
skirmish		A small battle.	Imagine there was a skirmish in your street. What would cause it? What would it look like?

Christmas Lights Tour

Our raffle winners had the most amazing trip around London to see the Christmas Lights. Thank you to Steve for giving his time and to the family for sharing these fantastic photos.



FOREST SCHOOL

We are aiming to develop provision for Forest School at St John's. As part of the plan, we would like to create a circle of logs in the spinney with enough logs for a whole class to be able to be seated for activities such as story telling. We would also like to create a path through the spinney made of wood chip. If any parents know of a company or individual who might be able to source woodchip and seating logs for us would you please let us know.

Thank you.



Packed lunches

We appreciate that it can be difficult to know what to put in a child's packed lunch, however, we would encourage parents to provide a balanced packed lunch based on healthy food choices. We would recommend the following:

At least one portion of fruit

At least one portion of vegetables

One portion of meat, fish, eggs or non-dairy protein (e.g. hummus, beans)

A starchy food such as bread (e.g. white or brown rolls, chapatti, pitta bread or tortilla wraps), pasta, rice, couscous or noodles

A dairy food (e.g. yogurt, cheese)

Further suggestions can be found on the NHS Website: Food facts - Healthier Families - NHS



LSA Request - Pre-loved Christmas items

If you have any preloved Christmas jumpers or any new unwanted Christmas gifts, would you please donate them to the LSA ready for Christmas 2025! Also if you have any left over unopened bottles (alcoholic or non-alcoholic) with a best by date of June 2025 we will use these in the bottle tombola for the Lemsford Fete. Please contact your class representative about who to pass these items to. Many thanks.

Christianity Unpacked course Tuesday lunchtimes (Year 6)

This half term, I'm running a Christianity Unpacked course for Year 6 students on Tuesday lunchtimes, starting 21st January.

Together we'll be exploring some big questions about life and faith in a relaxed, friendly, and open way, including:

Why bother with faith?

Who was Jesus?

Why pray?

What might it mean to follow Jesus?

This will be a space to ask questions, share ideas, and listen to what others think - no right or wrong answers, just a chance to explore together. At the end of the club, there will be an **optional** opportunity to be Confirmed in June, if parents are content. There will be absolutely no pressure to take this step - this is about learning, exploring and having conversations.

If your child would like to give it a go, just let the school office know.

Wishing you all a blessed and joyful start to the new term.

Rev'd Kathryn

CENSUS DAY Thursday 16th January 2025

Children in Starlings, Kingfisher and Sandpiper

Census Day is a very important day in the calendar, budgets for children are set based on a snapshot of a day in our school.

To ensure we get the best possible outcome for our learners, we ask that as many children as possible have a school meal that day. This helps to increase our budget going forward.

The meal options that day are:

Beef Burger in a Bun
Tomato Bolognese
Tuna Roll
Jacket Potato with cheese and/or baked beans

There is no need to inform the school in advance, just leave your packed lunch at home this Thursday and have a meal in school. The cost for children in Year 3-6 is £3.30.

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.

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

Rupert S - Robins
Florence P - Starlings
Will B - Kingfisher
Rei F - Sandpiper



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

DIARY DATES

School Census - 16th January 2025 - If children have a school lunch today it helps us with our future budget
School Clubs Start - 20th January 2025
Lion Dance Workshop - 29th January 2025
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
End of Term - Friday 4th April (1.30pm finish)

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.

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

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

Welcome back! I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and a good start to the new year. It was lovely to see so many of you at our Christmas services and celebrations. Whether you came along to sing carols, enjoy the children reading, share in festive worship, or simply pause amidst the busyness of the season, your presence made Christmas at St John's very special.

I have sent details of Christianity Unpacked a group for children in Year 6 - see Page 3 of this newsletter for more information.

Christingle service - 19th January, 4pm

Now that the decorations are packed away, it's easy to feel the January blues creeping in. But the light of Christ doesn't stop shining just because Christmas is over! That's why I'd love to invite you to our Christingle Service on Sunday 19th January at 4pm.

It's a chance to come together, have fun, and carry the joy and hope 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! So, 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. Let's keep the light shining!

Rev'd Kathryn

