



St John's School Newsletter

20th December 2024

Values of this half term

Peace & Understanding

'Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth to those with whom he is pleased.'
Luke 2:14



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

We have reached the end of a very busy week with so many lovely Christmas events taking place.

On Sunday members of the school choir sang beautifully in the Carols by Candlelight service at St John's Church.

It was great seeing so many parents joining us for our Christmas concert on Tuesday morning. Mr Rapson had prepared a Christmas song with each class. It was lovely seeing each class singing and playing their own accompaniments. Photos are on Page 3.

Wednesday was an action-packed day with Christmas dinner, class parties and a visit from the man in red himself, Santa Claus! On Thursday we were entertained by our Rock Steady rock bands.

Our festive celebrations concluded with our Carol service in the church yesterday afternoon. Once again it was lovely seeing so many parents joining us.

Wishing all you all a very Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!



Many thanks to the LSA

We are very grateful to members of the LSA who have contributed to making our Christmas celebrations so memorable this year. They have provided refreshments, gifts, crackers, created over twenty hampers, wrapped over 300 presents as part of the shopping afternoon and even provided Father Christmas with 3 elf helpers! Many, many thanks!

Beacon Pupils

Robins - Ava for being such a wonderful member of our class. She always has such a positive attitude to all of the challenges we explore in the class. Her singing and actions in our performances were so enthusiastic and well remembered. Keep up the good work Ava!

Starlings - Marley for a continued effort in her work. She has grown in confidence in recognising shapes and has created beautiful pictures and constructions out of 2D and 3D shapes. In the outside area Marley used natural resources to make 2D shapes with her learning partner and was able to talk about sides and vertices. Marley has shown excellent knowledge of the Nativity story and shown the ability to sequence the story independently. As always Marley is a kind and considerate member of our class and a wonderful friend to all.

Kingfishers - Morland has 'wowed' us this week with thoughtful and insightful contributions throughout topics, asking further questions and making fantastic links with previous learning. In geography, Morland drew on his history learning to support his ideas and share this with both the class and in his group work. His creativity has shone in literacy, creating a fantastic character. He has been an excellent friend and classmate, working hard right up to the Christmas holidays.

Sandpipers - Aarav for his hard-working attitude and positive approach to learning in his first term in Sandpiper Class. He has made fantastic strides forward in his learning and is always keen for a new challenge. We have been pleased to see his vocabulary develop so well, helping him be more confident in approaching and making new friends. Aarav has also shown brilliant recall of number facts, helping him spot patterns and move forwards in maths. He has shown great perseverance and maturity in recent months. Well done!

Special Thanks

A very special thank you to Emma Towner and Aurora Lighting, for buying all of the Santa gifts for the children.


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

John 10:10


Top Tips and Word of the Week

Reflect on 2024

As the year comes to a close, take the time to reflect on the past months with your family. Discuss the highlights, challenges and memorable moments.

Word		Definition	Challenge
scrumptious		Really tasty.	Think of five things that are scrumptious .

This week's word for younger children:

Word		Definition	Challenge
savouring		To enjoy an experience as much as you can.	Ask someone who you live with, what things they like to savour .

Christmas Jumper Competition

Thank you for all your fabulous and festive Christmas Jumper designs for the House competition! Every entry has earned 2 house points. Congratulations to the winners of each class - James, Joselyn, Jack and Emma. Thank you to the House Captains for organising the competition for us all to enjoy.



James (Brocket) - Robins



Joselyn (Palmerston) - Starlings



Jack (Melbourne) - Kingfishers



Emma (Cowper) - Sandpipers

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



House Cup Winners

The cup was presented to Cowper.

Congratulations to them for a fantastic achievement this term.



COMING SOON...

Christianity Unpacked (open to all in Year 6)

Tuesdays - 21st Jan, 28th Jan, 4th Feb and 11th Feb.

Have you ever wondered what Christians believe? Do you want to explore some big questions about life and faith in a relaxed, friendly, and open way?

Then why not come along to our Christianity Unpacked lunchtime sessions next half term?

Over four sessions, we'll explore questions like:

Why bother with faith?

Who was Jesus?

Why pray?

What might it mean to follow Jesus?

It 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 that step - this is about learning, exploring, and having conversations.

Rev'd Kathryn

Booking forms will be sent out in the New Year

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](#)

Celebration Assembly

Well done to all the winners of our Raffle Prizes, thank you to parents for all their donations and to the LSA for creating the beautiful hampers.

Can you help?

We are looking to keep a small selection of good condition, pre-loved warm coats in school, 1-2 per class for children who forget to bring a winter coat in. If you have a spare coat please speak to Miss Lewis.



Photos from our Christmas Concert with Mr Rapson



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.

DIARY DATES

INSET day - Monday 6th January

Children Back - Tuesday 7th January

School Census - 16th January 2025 - If children have a school lunch today it helps us with our future budget

Lion Dance Workshop - 29th January 2025

Half Term - Monday 17th - Friday 21st February

Inset Day - Monday 24th February

End of Term - Friday 4th April (1.30pm finish)

Clubs - Spring Term

We will be sending out a list of After School clubs for Spring Term in the New Year.

Names on clothes

If you are replenishing 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

As we come to the end of this busy and joy-packed term, I wanted to say a massive thank you for the school community's participation in this Advent and Christmas season.

Last Sunday evening's packed All-Together Carols by Candlelight service was truly magical, made so special by the children's wonderful singing, thoughtful readings, and enthusiastic participation. Thank you all for being amazing!

A huge thank you as well to all the children for taking part in our school carol service in church on Thursday. Your beautiful singing and readings again made it a very special occasion for everyone who came.

As we look ahead to the rest of our Christmas celebrations, we'd love to see you at our upcoming services. Whether it's our very child-friendly Crib Service (3pm, Christmas Eve), our family-friendly All-Together Christmas Day services (11am Christmas Day) or our more traditional lesson and carols (11am, 22nd December) and Midnight Mass (11pm, Christmas Eve), there's something for everyone as we gather to celebrate Christ's birth.

This season, we're reminded of the light that Jesus brings into the world, and in the midst of all the busyness and excitement of Christmas preparations, I hope you can find some quiet moments to receive the message of love, hope, peace that this time of year offers.

Wishing you all a peaceful and joyful Christmas. See you in the New Year!

Rev'd Kathryn

