



# St John's School Newsletter

## 13th 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



#### Nativity

This week we have been treated to beautiful performances of the Nativity story by Robins and Starlings classes. They have been working so hard on their singing, speaking and acting to present very lovely performances. Thank you to parents for supporting the children and many thanks to the staff in both classes who have worked so hard to make the presentations such a joy to see.

#### Christmas shopping

Many thanks to the parents who came along on Tuesday afternoon to help at the Christmas shopping event. The range of gifts available was amazing - thanks to all parents for providing them so generously. As always, it was a lovely event with the children being supported to choose carefully. We hope you all love the gifts when you receive them!

#### Christmas Jumper Day

The children looked very festive on Wednesday, we raised £40 for Save the Children. Thank you for all the donations for this worthy cause.

#### Pantomime - Sleeping Beauty

The children thoroughly enjoyed watching the Campus West production of Sleeping Beauty on Monday morning. It was very entertaining! It was lovely to see the children so engrossed in all the action and slapstick. Many thanks to the LSA for providing the interval refreshments and for funding the cost of the coach.

#### Gonks!

This term Mrs Shannon, our Chair of Governors and parent, has been leading an after-school craft club. The children have been busy cutting, sticking, gluing, painting to create a range of items. The most recent thing they have made is a seasonal Gonk! They are brilliant! Thank you, Mrs Shannon, for leading the club and enabling the children to make such lovely things!

See Page 3 for some photos...

#### Beacon Pupils

**Robins - Eva** has been such a star this week with all of the different Christmas activities. In our Nativity rehearsals she has worked hard to learn the actions and words and joined in enthusiastically. She is always a cheery presence in the class and is thoughtful towards other children showing care and concern for them through the day. Keep it up Eva.

**Starlings - Alessandro** for his excellent and responsible attitude during our Nativity play. He has shown a mature and kind manner to not only Starlings class but to Robins class too. In his learning this week Alessandro has been able to create 2D shapes using a geo board and also draw these accurately with a ruler. He has shown great perseverance in his English work changing the story of Stickman in to Shellman. Over the course of the week Alessandro has listened to instructions and shown a great attitude.

**Kingfishers - Finley** has shown real focus and enthusiasm this week, working hard throughout our topics. He showed great resilience in English, tracking back through his writing and finding how he could extend his ideas. He challenged himself in maths working on further challenge questions, thinking carefully about methods to support his learning. He has been a fantastic learning partner, working together to produce fantastic RE and geography activities - including some brilliant illustrations.

**Sandpipers - Samuel M** has a positive attitude to learning as well as his love for learning! We love that he is not only so enthusiastic about learning, but also keenly shares interesting facts linking to our different topics. He is a real font of knowledge! In science, he demonstrated fantastic investigative skills - making clear predictions, checking equipment with care, being objective, and evaluating well. We have been really pleased to see Samuel grow in confidence when speaking and sharing with the class. Well done and keep it up!


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

John 10:10


**Top Tips and Word of the Week**

Festive Recipes: Writing a shopping list, finding the right ingredients in the shop and following a recipe are all fun ways to improve your child's reading.

**This week's word for younger children:**

Word	Image	Definition	Challenge
occasion		When an important thing happens.	Listen and look out for the word <b>occasion</b> . Where might you see it or hear it?

**This week's word for older children:**

Word	Image	Definition	Challenge
slumber		Sleep.	<b>Slumber</b> and sleep are very similar, but when is slumber better to use? Talk to family members about this.

**Christmas Concert**  
**Tuesday 17th December 2024 - 9.15am**

Mr Rapson has been preparing Christmas pieces for each class to share with the school and with families on Tuesday 17th December. The concert will begin at 9.15am. Refreshments will be served by the LSA at drop off in the dining room before the concert - **all are welcome**.



**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.

**Christmas Dinner 18th December**


We now have all responses back, please remember to bring a packed lunch from home if your child has not already booked a Christmas meal.

**Celebration Assembly**  
**20th December**

This Celebration Assembly on the last day of term will include the draw for the **LSA organised Raffle** - over 20 amazing hampers are waiting to be won!

**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

**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.

PE kits will be brought home next week.

### Carols by Candlelight at St John's Church Sunday 15th December 4.00 p.m.

The choir will be singing at the above event at St John's Church. Our children have also been asked to do the readings. If your child is not in choir but would like to take part by reading please let us know as soon as possible.



### 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](#)



### 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.

## DIARY DATES

**Sunday 15th December** Carols by Candlelight at St John's Church - 3.30-5pm

**Tuesday 17th December Music Concert** with all children performing Christmas pieces they have been preparing with Mr Rapson. Refreshments will be served in the dining room for parents and the concert will begin at 9.15 a.m. and will last approximately 45 minutes.

**Wednesday 18th December - Christmas lunch and Christmas parties.**

**Thursday 19th December - Rock Steady Concert** at 10.00 a.m.

**Thursday 19th December - Our Carol Service** - 2.30 p.m. at St John's Church. All are welcome to join us.

**Friday 20th December - Celebration Assembly** - 9.00 a.m. to include the draw for the raffle prizes.

**End of Term - Friday 20th December (1.30pm finish)**

## 2025

INSET day - Monday 6th January

**Children Back - Tuesday 7th January**

Half Term - Monday 17th - Friday 21st February

Inset Day - Monday 24th February

## Payments / Balances

**Trips/Events/Workshops/Swimming/  
Meals & Milk**

Please check Arbor regularly for any new invoices or historic balances that are outstanding.

## Nut Free School

A gentle reminder that we are a nut free environment, packed lunches and snacks must not contain nuts. Pestis 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

I hope you're enjoying the journey to Christmas. In Collective Worship this week, we've been reflecting on the meaning of Advent and thinking about the many different ways we can prepare for Christmas - not just with shopping lists and decorations, but by preparing our hearts for the arrival of love. We came up with loads of great ideas like spreading kindness, taking a moment of quiet, and helping those in need.

This weekend at St. John's, we have some fantastic services to help you pause and prepare for the season:

- On **Saturday 14th December at 4:00pm**, we're singing carols and Christmas songs at the Crooked Chimney. Join us for a festive drink and the chance to belt out your favourite Christmas tunes!

- Then, on **Sunday 15th December at 4:00pm**, it's time for our **All-Together Carols by Candlelight**, one of the highlights of the year. With children from the school singing in the choir and sharing readings, it's a joyful celebration for all ages.

- On **Thursday 19th December**, we're looking forward to the **school Christmas service** in church during the afternoon. Parents are warmly invited to come along and join this special celebration.

- Looking ahead, our other Christmas services include:

- **Children's Crib Service - Christmas Eve, 3:00pm** A lively, interactive retelling of the Nativity story, perfect for little ones (and those young at heart!).

- **Midnight Mass - Christmas Eve, 11:00pm** A peaceful and traditional celebration to welcome Christmas in the stillness of the night.

- **All-Together Communion - Christmas Day, 11:00am** A joyful, family-friendly service to celebrate Christmas morning. Don't forget to bring your favourite gift!

We're also excited to be holding our **Christingle Service** on **Sunday 19th January at 4:00pm**—complete with oranges, candles, sweets, PIZZA and a warm welcome for all.

St. John's is your church, and we'd love to celebrate this season with you. Whether you're a regular visitor or it's your first time, you'll always receive a warm welcome.

See you soon.

Rev'd Kathryn

