



# St John's School Newsletter

## 6th 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



### CHOIR

The choir have had a very busy week! As well as rehearsing they have been performing at two local venues. On Wednesday the thirty one choir members walked to Brockett Hall to sing carols for the 'Brockett Babies,' people who were born in Brockett Hall when it served as a hospital in the Second World War. The children entertained the guests as they arrived at the hall and led them to the ball room singing as they walked. This was followed by carol singing for residents of the Stanborough Care Home on Thursday afternoon. They sang a selection of traditional and popular Christmas carols and songs following which they chatted with residents. The children were great ambassadors for the school!

They will next sing at the Carols by Candlelight service at St John's On Sunday 15th December.



### Beacon Pupils

**Robins** - **Ava Boe** has been so helpful in class this week. She shows thoughtfulness and care for the classroom and other children in the way she respects other people and looks after our toys. She is gaining confidence to share her brilliant ideas and we love to hear her chatting and playing with her friends. She is a calm and happy presence in our classroom and such a joy to teach, keep it up Ava Boe.

**Starlings** — **Carter** for his excellent attitude to his learning. This week he has written a wonderful postcard looking at using his phonic skills and key word cards. He has worked independently to recognise 2D shapes and created a great repeated patterns. Carter has been a great friend and has made some great choices as a learning partner.  
Sent from my iPhone

**Kingfishers** - **Evie** has shown real enthusiasm in her learning, drawing on her learning throughout our topic in English to create some imaginative and well structured creative writing. This creativity also shone in DT when she designed and created her tree decoration. She has shown real determination in maths, using resources to support her learning and using fantastic mathematical vocabulary to tackle problem-solving questions.

**Sandpipers** - **Ronnie** has really grown in confidence over the past few weeks and it has been lovely to see him flourishing. We have been so pleased to see his independent learning skills develop across our topics - he is using resources to help him, listening carefully, and giving tricky learning a try. He wrote a fantastic scientific guide in English, showing brilliant perseverance and commitment as well as wonderful vocabulary choices. He has also made great progress in his fraction learning in Maths. Ronnie has a really positive attitude to learning and it has been lovely to see him making good choices, joining in well, and being focussed. Well done!


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

John 10:10


## Top Tips and Word of the Week

Give children lots of opportunities to read different things in their own time - it doesn't just have to be books. There's fiction, non-fiction, poetry, comics, magazines, recipes and much more. Try leaving interesting reading material in different places around the home and see who picks it up.

This week's word for younger children:

Word	Definition	Challenge
swoop 	A bird suddenly flies downward.	Pretend to <b>swoop</b> . Which animals might <b>swoop</b> ?

This week's word for older children:

Word	Definition	Challenge
inherit 	Money or a house that a person gives to others after they die.	Ask family members if they have ever <b>inherited</b> something.

### 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.**



### Goodbye to Mrs Deborah Redmond

We are very sorry to have to share the news with you that Mrs Redmond, one of our school teaching assistants (not to be confused with Mrs N Redmond one of our Robins class teachers) will be leaving St John's at the end of term. Mrs Redmond has worked at St John's for over 7 years. She began at St John's as a parent volunteer and has subsequently worked with individual children, groups and has also taught classes, especially Kingfishers class in recent years. We will miss her very much. She has been a fantastic support to so many of our present and past children. She has led our netball club with enthusiasm and tremendous skill. We wish well in her next venture and hope that she will keep in touch.

### 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



### Christmas is a-coming!

Many thanks for all the Christmas gift donations, lists and spending money. Our Christmas shopping afternoon is on Tuesday. Look out for the gifts that will be coming home.

#### Pantomime

It is our **Pantomime** trip on Monday - all children need to be in school before 9am, otherwise they might miss the coach!

### Names on clothes

The children are looking very smart in their uniform. Just a reminder that all clothes, especially school jumpers and cardigans must be named. We already have a few in school with no names on.

### 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](#)

### Reduce, Recycle, Reuse workshops

Today Monika Koziara visited and led workshops and an assembly to explore how we can help the planet by reducing, reusing and recycling items we no longer need. We had lots of hands-on activities and opportunities to ask questions. We then discussed how we can have a positive impact by reducing waste and recycling.



### Friday Celebration Assemblies

After today we have two more Celebration Assemblies on Fridays before Christmas. Each will include the regular features such as celebrating children's birthdays. However, please note the other celebrations we will be including:

Friday 13th December this Celebration Assembly will include presentation of **Governors' Awards** - so your child will need to bring the necessary 5 merit certificates before the 13th to receive your certificate. Thank you for those we have already received this term.

Friday 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!



### 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.



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

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

## DIARY DATES

Panto - 9th December  
Christmas Shopping Afternoon - 10th December  
Christmas Jumper Day - 11th December  
Nativity Rehearsal - 11th December  
Nativity Performance (1) - 12th December (2.30pm)  
Nativity Performance (2) - 12th December (5pm)  
Celebration Assembly & Gov Awards - 13th December  
Foodbank Friday donations from Robins—13th December  
Carols by Candlelight at St John's Church - 15th December (3.30-5pm)  
Music Concert - 17th December -

Christmas Dinner - 18th December  
Class Parties - 18th December  
Rocksteady Concert - 19th December - 10.00 a.m.  
Carol Service - 19th December- 2.30 p.m.

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

**Start of Spring Term - Monday 6th January 2025**

**Children Back - Tuesday 7th January**

**Half Term - Monday 17th - Friday 21st February**

**Inset Day - Monday 24th February**

## Nut Free School

A gentle reminder that we are a nut free environment, packed lunches and snacks must not contain nuts. Pistachio is often overlooked but contains pine nuts and so is not allowed. Many thanks

## Lemsford Fete

**Bank Holiday Monday 5<sup>th</sup> 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

My chocolate Advent doors are rapidly opening, as Christmas races nearer! I hope your Christmas preparations are going well.

It was our last Explorers group on Tuesday. We celebrated with a game of Advent pass the parcel, and thought about how we might each prepare our hearts for the coming of love at Christmas. I've really enjoyed spending my Tuesdays with the children, and exciting plans are afoot for next year's activity. More details to follow soon!

There are not many newsletters left before Christmas, so you'll be including lots of information over the next few weeks on our special Christmas services at St John's.

With something for everyone—whether you love the sparkle of candlelight, the joy of carols, or the wonder of the Christmas story—these are celebrations for the whole community.

This year, we're especially excited about our All-Together Carols by Candlelight on Sunday 15th December at 4:00pm. Children from the school will be singing in the choir and sharing the readings, making it a truly intergenerational event. It's a shorter, welcoming service of carols and readings that's perfect for all ages.

Other highlights include:

Children's Crib Service - Christmas Eve, 3:00pm Perfect for children (and grown-ups too!) as we bring the Nativity story to life in a fun interactive way.

Midnight Mass - Christmas Eve, 11:00pm For those who love to put the children to bed and pop out to enjoy the peace and joy of this traditional Christmas Eve celebration.

All-Together Communion - Christmas Day, 11:00am A joyful all-age service to celebrate Christmas morning. Bring your favourite present!

We're also holding a Christingle Service on Sunday 19th January at 4:00pm, complete with oranges, candles, and even pizza!

We'd love to welcome you and your family to our services. Whether you're a regular visitor or it's your first time, St. John's is your church, and we're here to help make Christmas special for everyone.

See you soon.

Rev'd Kathryn

