



# St John's School Newsletter

## 22nd November 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



### Robins class - Thinking about Spring!

On Thursday afternoon Robin Class helped Mary plant bulbs for the church garden. They filled pots with soil and compost and learnt which way up the bulbs need to be placed to grow well. They then carefully filled the pots and had great fun pushing the wheelbarrow round to the front of church where the pots are not proudly placed. We will now wait patiently for the arrival of spring and the display of colour which should appear. Robin Class will check on progress each week as we pass for church and we look forward to sharing progress in the Spring.



### Beacon Pupils

**Robins** - Elisabeth is our Beacon Pupil because she has been such a kind influence in Robin Class this week. She is quick to help any friends who need something and often offers adults help as well. She has a wonderful, happy and creative personality and we love to hear her stories and ideas. Her kindness and sense of humour are appreciated by everyone in class.

**Starlings** - Toni for her excellent independent learning. During our English lessons we have written acrostic poems about Remembrance day. Toni used the resources on her table to help her write a poem about poppies. In maths she has shown great ability in solving subtraction problems using a number line. Toni has contributed to discussions during Guided reading and has started to gain confidence in answering questions in the whole class discussions. Toni is a wonderful friend with a kind and caring heart and is often found checking in on her friends to make sure they are happy. Keep up the great work.

**Kingfisher** - Prosper : Prosper has been channelling his fantastic enthusiasm and joy of learning into thoughtful pieces of work and well explained contributions to class discussions. He has worked fantastically in independent, paired and group work; sharing well considered ideas in RE, forming well structured sentences in English using conjunctions, and using a range of methods to answer problem-solving questions in our multiplication topic in maths.

**Sandpiper** - Ella—We really love Ella's positive and enthusiastic approach to learning, and can see how this has impacted her progress and understanding. She has been literally dancing for joy when understanding new learning in maths! Ella has embraced new jobs as a Year 6, not only stepping up into the responsibilities and shining herself but also aiding others in their new roles. She is a valued member of our Worship Group and we love how she confidently shares her own thoughtful ideas and reflections,

### Occasional Day

Just a reminder that next **Friday** (29th November) is an occasional, so school will be closed for the day.


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

John 10:10


**Top Tips and Word of the Week**

When listening to your child talking, once in a while comment when they use a great word. If they tend to use simple words, then show them how they could use more advanced words.

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

Word	Definition	Challenge
Rundown 	Not looked after so it is a bit broken and doesn't work very well.	Spot things on your way home that look rundown.

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

Word	Definition	Challenge
Loomed 	Something that is large and has an unclear shape, often frightening.	Pretend someone was looking over you. Talk about what you see and how you would feel.

**Herts Libraries 'Winter Reads' Challenge**

Winter Reads is an exciting reading challenge taking place from 1st November to 31st January. Children are tasked with reading 6 different books to complete their challenge card. Make sure you visit the local library to get your card stamped and to be entered into the prize draw! As well as being a great way to explore new books, authors and genres, Winter Reads is a brilliant opportunity to read together as a family or with friends. Visit [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/winterreads](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/winterreads) to find out more about the challenge and for details of upcoming local library events.



**Christmas is a-coming!**

Many thanks for all the hamper donations that we received today. Thank you also to the parent volunteers who helped to create the hampers. We will send out information next week about buying raffle tickets and the Christmas shopping afternoon.

The raffle prize winners will be announced on the last Friday of term, Friday 20th December in our final celebration assembly of the year.

Attached is a copy of our 12 days of Christmas events. We will send out a paper copy along with further information next week.

Thursday 28th November - Pre-loved Christmas jumper sale at 3.15 p.m. If you have any jumpers that you are able to donate please bring them to the school office before 28/11/24 - many thanks!

**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



**Open Days**

Due to the popularity of our open mornings and afternoons we have one more date to offer:

**2 December 1.30-2.30pm**

**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**

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.

## DIARY DATES

Nic Sanders (Photographer) in School - 24th November  
Pre Loved Christmas Jumper Sale - 28th November  
**Occasional Day - Friday 29th November**  
Nic Sanders (Photographer) in School - 1st December  
Choir to Brocket Hall for Brocket Babies - 4th December  
Choir to Stanborough Lodge - 5th December  
Foodbank Friday donations from Starlings class—6th Dec.  
Wear a Christmas Accessory Donation Day - 6th December\*  
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 (morning)\*  
Christmas Dinner - 18th December  
Class Parties - 18th December\*  
Rocksteady Concert - 19th December (morning)\*  
Carol Service - 19th December\*  
**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**

## Stories

Thankyou to those children who wrote short stories during the October Half Term. Miss Ng has compiled them into a St John's Story Book which can be found in the Entrance Foyer.

## 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 everyone,

It's been a busy and exciting week at St John's! On Sunday, we had a wonderful time at **Connect@4**, getting creative and reflecting on 'remembering'—honoring loved ones, saints, and those who have lost their lives in war. Ottilie and Rupert brought along some delicious cakes for everyone to enjoy while we crafted and chatted. Cakes are definitely one of the perks of being a vicar!

Tuesday was a brilliant day in school, where I had the chance to think with staff and children about collective worship, both in school and church. Lots of exciting ideas came out of it—watch this space! Later, at **Explorer Club**, we explored the story of Joseph and got creative with some fabulous designs for his very colorful coat.

As we approach the end of the church year, we're in what's known as **Kingdom season**—a time to reflect on God's Kingdom in heaven and on earth. On Thursday, we used a Giant Jenga set to think about the Christian belief that God stands firm, even when the things of our earthly kingdoms change or fall. Next week, I'll be on retreat, recharging my spiritual batteries ahead of the busy Christmas season. While I'm away, Rev. Indiria will be leading Collective Worship for the first time—she's really looking forward to it!

Looking ahead, on **1st December**, we'll have our **All Together Advent Service** at 11am—a fun, 45-minute service exploring the meaning of Advent. It's designed for children but enjoyable for all ages.

You'll find all our **Christmas services** listed on the attached poster. We'd love to see you at any of them, but the following will be particularly wonderful for families:

- 15th December, 4pm - All-Together Carols by Candlelight
- 24th December, 3pm - Crib Service
- 25th December, 11am - All Together Christmas Day service.
- 19th January, 4pm - Christingle and pizza party.

Wishing you a great weekend

Rev Kathryn



## All - Age service at St John's Church Sunday 1st December

If any children would like to part in the next All Age Service at St John's Church on Sunday 1st November at 11.00 a.m. would you please let us know. Children are invited to lead prayers, readings and/or sing with the adult choir.