



St John's School Newsletter

15th 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



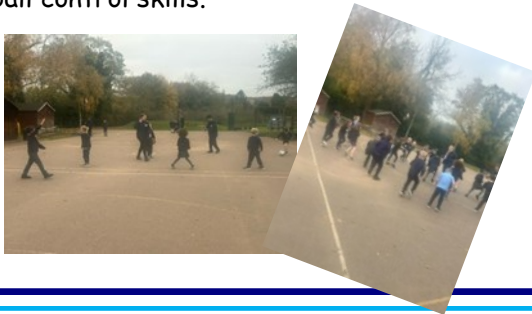
Remembrance Service

On Monday the children took part in a Remembrance Service at St John's Church. Revd Kathryn and the children reflected on the symbol of the poppy. We went all outside to show our respect through a time of silence with each class placing their wreath by the tree.



Knightsfield School

Students from Knightsfield led the first of two PE sessions with Starlings class. The students visiting us are all sport leaders and it was good to welcome them and their staff to our school. The children had a very busy PE session playing games and developing their ball control skills.



LSA Fireworks Display & Raffle

****TONIGHT****

See you this evening, doors open at 5.15, tickets available on the night, with Fireworks from 6.30pm.

Beacon Pupils

Robins - Benji for settling in to our class routines and having a fantastic imagination. He contributes such thoughtful ideas to our class discussions and has creative ideas in his play. He works well with other children in creative play, thinking about his ideas but listening to other children as well. His maths reasoning has been brilliant this week thinking about a target number and whether we have the right amount, more or fewer items. Keep it up!

Starlings - Tilly for demonstrating a great growth in confidence. She has taken part in class discussions and joined in with our small group work. As a learning partner she has been able to discuss their work and solve the tasks as a pair. In English Tilly has shown great perseverance in using her pencil grip and writing her sentences in clear, neat handwriting. Tilly has thought of great adjectives to describe the poppy scene. In maths Tilly has shown a great understanding of how to use a number line to tackle her subtraction problems.

Kingfisher - Mason has shown real determination and enthusiasm in his learning this week, from using conjunctions to extend his descriptive writing through to using his known facts of multiplication to tackle problem-solving and reasoning questions. He has been thoughtful in his approach to tasks, worked independently with great resilience and felt confident to share his ideas with the class. Well done Mason!

Sandpiper - Ahamdi is a much valued member of our class and school community. Ahamdi always works incredibly hard and is keen to challenge himself in his learning. We have been really impressed with his positive attitude to learning, in particular how he is able to learn from mistakes or errors and how he perseveres with tricky learning. He has really blossomed since being in Year 6 and it's lovely to see his confidence and self-belief grow so much!


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

John 10:10


Top Tips and Word of the Week

Words we think of as 'English' quite often originate from abroad. 'Ketchup' comes from Malaysia, 'bacon' is French, 'chocolate' is from Mexico and 'pyjamas' from India. Can you find two words that originate from another country?

This week's word for younger children:

| Word | Definition | Challenge |
|---|---|--|
| perhaps  | You are not sure, but it might be true. | Count how many times people at home use the word perhaps in sentences. Set a family record! |

This week's word for older children:

| Word | Definition | Challenge |
|--|---|--|
| loomed  | Something that is large or has an unclear shape, often frightening. | Pretend someone was looming over you. Talk about what you would see and how would you 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 to find out more about the challenge and for details of upcoming local library events. 

Terminology

Split digraph: A vowel digraph that is split by a consonant. Examples include 'a-e' as in 'cake' (ai sound); 'e-e' as in 'athlete' (ee sound), 'i-e' as in 'time' (igh sound), 'o-e' as in 'bone' (oa sound) and 'u-e' as in 'tube' (yoo sound).

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 ASC - 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.

Smoking on our site/car park is prohibited.

Children In Need

We have been seeing spots today. Thank you for your kind donations. We have raised over £78 for Children in Need.

Letters

Please look out for letters which have come home this week relating to upcoming Christmas events. All children have received a letter about the pantomime visit and the Christmas lunch whilst Robins and Starlings have had a letter about their nativity performances and the choir have received information about their Christmas events. We would appreciate reply slips returned to us by date given. Thank you.

Open Days

Due to the popularity of our Open mornings and afternoons we have two more dates.

22 November 10.00-11.00 am

2 December 1.30-2.30pm

If you know of any other families who are interested in applying for places ask them to ring the school to arrange a visit.

British Legion Poppy Appeal

Thank you to everyone who donated to this very important cause.

Christmas is a-coming!

Our busiest time of the year is fast approaching. We will soon be sending home information about the 12 Days of Christmas activities.

There are also a couple of further dates:
Friday 22nd Christmas Hamper Donation Day - the LSA will be sending out details of the donation suggestions for each class.

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



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

Foodbank Donations

Just a reminder of our suggested dates for classes to make donations of tinned or dried food are:

Friday 22nd November - Kingfishers Class

Friday 6th December - Starlings Class

Friday 13th December - Robins Class

Thank you for all the donations we have received.

Welcome

A very warm welcome to Mrs Prytuliak who has joined the After School Club team, working in TreeTops every afternoon.

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.

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 **home-made 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.



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.

DIARY DATES

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

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

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

Inset Day - Monday 24th February

*more information to follow

Hello!

The children were fantastic at our Remembrance service on Monday morning. The beautiful class wreaths offered a powerful way to remember those who have died in wars and served as our prayer for peace. Everyone managed to stay incredibly quiet during the minute's silence outside, and we shared some wonderful ideas for creating peace in our world.

Our 'remembering' theme continues at Connect@4, happening at 4pm on Sunday, 17th November. Join us for a relaxed, interactive gathering where we'll explore the season of remembering through storytelling, creative activities, reflections suitable for all ages, and, of course, cake!

Our Explorers lunchtime group also began again this week, and we've been thinking about the story of Jacob and Esau. The children created brilliant comic strips of the main scenes! There are a couple of places available in this group, which meets at 12:40pm on Tuesdays. Please let the school office know if your child would like to join.

And finally... the Christmas season is on its way! I'll include details of all our services in next week's newsletter, but here are a few family favourites to save the date for:

Rev'd 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.

St John's Church - dates for your diaries

1st December, 11am
All Together Worship for Advent

14th December, 4pm
Carols in the pub (Sing out with gusto some well-known carols at the Crooked Chimney)

ST JOHN'S CHURCH, LEMS福德

CONNECT@4

Community, food, faith, fun, music, exploration & creativity

4pm, 17th November

Remembering....



A relaxed, fun, interactive gathering
for ALL AGES