



St John's School Newsletter

25th October 2024

Values of this half term

Hope and Aspiration

'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future'.
Jeremiah 29:11



Parents' Visit - Careers

Many thanks to Dr Stevens, Mr Jordan and Mr Winters who spoke to Sandpipers and Kingfisher classes about their professions. They shared their very interesting careers in medicine, computing and Antarctic surveyance! The children asked questions and listened attentively. The talks linked brilliantly to this half term's values of Hope and Aspiration.



Heart for the Earth Day

Yesterday the children took part in activities connected with Heart of the Earth, a project created by the Diocese of St Alban's. In church Jo led a collective worship based on the Creation story, as she told the story the children did actions relating to light, animals, mountains etc. During the day each class then thought about ways in which we can look after our beautiful world, Robins thought about their favourite places, Starlings considered how we can look after one another, Kingfishers reflected on our local community and Sandpipers explored issues relating to the wider world including ways to reach net zero emissions. The children were very thoughtful in their responses and we will capture their learning from our first Heart of the Earth Day in floorbooks and in a new hall display.



John 10:10

Beacon Pupils

Robins - Hazel is our all round superstar. She knows our class routines really well and focuses brilliantly on our lessons and in her own exploring time. She has interesting ideas in her play and has imaginative ideas in her games with her friends. Her phonics work has grown in confidence to blend sounds to find words. We love her curiosity and enthusiasm. Keep it up Hazel.

Starlings - Florence for her wonderful attitude in class this week. She had a thirst for knowledge and is always keen to share her ideas with class. As a learning partner she had shown a kindness, active listening and a good response to her partner. Florence has great mathematical knowledge showing good understanding of finding the difference, addition and take away. She used fantastic adjectives in her writing to create some lovely writing about Prince Cinderella.

Kingfisher - Josie has shown real focus and determination in her learning, working fantastically alongside her talk partner, and making really thoughtful and well-evidenced contributions to class discussions. Her creativity has shone through in her English planning of an additional chapter, and she was able to share her brilliant vocabulary to use a range of verbs in her writing. Well done Josie


Sandpiper - Brogan has had a super start to Year 6! We have been really impressed with his polite manners and consideration and care towards others. He has been a fantastic buddy, going the extra mile in settling his 'little robin' into St John's and building a lovely bond with her. Brogan is incredibly hardworking, and he can always be relied upon to kickstart our class discussions with interesting observations and questions! Well done!

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


Top Tips and Word of the Week

What is the same? What is different? Select two things from the same topic, for example a pear and an apple. Both are fruit but what is the same and what is different about them?

This week's word for younger children:

Word		Definition	Challenge
hurl		To throw something. You use a lot of energy to throw it really hard.	Think of another word that is a bit like hurled . Do others at home agree with you? What words have a similar meaning to hurl ?

This week's word for older children:

Word		Definition	Challenge
tranquil		Calm and peaceful	Imagine a tranquil place. What would you see and hear there?

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.



Terminology

Digraph: A grapheme made of two letters that represent one sound. An example is the 'sh' in 'shop'. Your child may use the mantra 'two letters, one sound' when they spot a digraph.

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.

Lego donation

We were delighted to receive a large box of Lego this week, a donation which was organised by Mr Peters who works for the Lego company. We look forward to seeing the Lego in use around school. Thank you!

Silent Disco

It was great to see so many children coming along to our Silent Discos last Friday. Using individual sets of headphones the children were able to access the music tracks independently. As well as the music there were various craft activities available as well as snacks.

Thank you to our LSA members who organised this lovely event.



Open Days - Reception places for September 2025

Although we have only just welcomed our new Reception children we are already beginning to plan for September 2025! Our open days for prospective parents of reception aged children are as follows:

Tuesday 5th November 1.30 - 2.30 p.m.

Thursday 7th November 10.00 - 11.00 a.m.

Each visit will consist of an introduction to the school given by Mrs Boylan followed by a tour led by our year 6 children.

Do please let families of any present nursery children know about us and feel free to collect some of our information leaflets to share with them, these can be collected from Miss Lewis.

Information about our Open Days can be found on our website.

British Legion Poppy Appeal

We will be raising money for the British Legion Poppy Appeal by selling poppies, wristbands and other items. The stall will be run by Year 6 children from Monday 4th November to Monday 11th November with items available to buy from 3:10-3:30pm each day. Please bring exact money as no change will be given. If children are in Treetops, please put their money safely in a labelled envelope and they will be given a chance to buy items.

Suggested donations:

Paper poppies - 30p

Zip pulls and reflectors - 50p

Wrist bands - £1

Snap bands - £1.50



Netball tournament on Monday 21st October

Over the last few weeks members of our school netball club have been taking part in extra training sessions as Stanborough School. This culminated in a tournament in which they won a game, drew a game and lost a game. Many thanks to Mrs Redmond who leads our netball club every week.

Cake Sale

Thank you to Sandpiper Class for bringing in cakes this week, vital funds were raised for our school.

Fireworks Display

A flyer has been attached to the Newsletter Email.

Foodbank Donations

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

Friday 8th November - Sand pipers Class

Friday 22nd November - Kingfishers Class

Friday 6th December - Starlings Class

Friday 13th December - Robins Class

Thank you for all the donations we have received.

Want to learn to play an Instrument?

Piano lessons are provided through Herts Music

<https://www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk/hertfordshire-music-service.aspx>

Other instruments are offered through Musicale

<https://www.musicale.co.uk/>

Digital cameras

If anyone has any digital cameras to donate to the school we would appreciate them to support the teaching of aspects of computing with our younger children. We would appreciate it if they were donated with their chargers or battery charging units.

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.

Book Look

Following the Parent Consultations this week, if your appointment is on-line there is the opportunity to come into school to see your child's class books on Tuesday 12th November 3.30 - 4.30 p.m.

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

DIARY DATES

Half Term Monday 28th October - Friday 1st November

Remembrance Day service—11th November 9.00 a.m.

Book Look - for parents who had online Parent Consultations - 12th November (3.30-4.30pm)

Children In Need - 15th November*

Fireworks Display - 15th November (5.15 for 6.30 display)*

Nic Sanders (Photographer) in School - 17th November*

Nic Sanders (Photographer) in School - 24th November*

Occasional Day - Friday 29th November

Choir to Brocket Hall for Brocket Babies - 4th 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 (2.15pm tbc)*

Nativity Performance (2) - 12th December (5pm tbc)*

Celebration Assembly & Gov Awards - 13th December*

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 February - Friday 21st February

Inset Day - Monday 24th February

*more information to follow



St John's Church - dates for your diaries

- **3rd November, 11am** - it's our next **All Together service** - a fun, interactive service of around 50 minutes for all ages.
- **10th November at 11am** - it's **Sunday Club time** again during the main service.
- **11th November at 9am** - we're holding a **School Remembrance service**, either outside or in church..
- **17th November at 4pm** - it's our next informal and interactive **Connect@4** gathering. Brilliant for families!

Hello,

I'm away next week, so this column covers the period up to half term.

This week in church, the children took part in a lively and thoughtful collective worship based on the story of the rich young ruler from the Gospel of Mark. Through a 'Would You Rather?' game, the children explored choices about what really matters in life. They learned how sometimes all the 'stuff' of life can distract us from being the best versions of ourselves we can be. As a challenge, the children were invited to think about what they might need to 'let go' of to enable them to focus more on loving and caring for others. I'm sure they'll be handing their games consoles over to you the moment they get through the door at home!

Next week, Jo is leading a special collective worship on the Creation Story. This will introduce an exciting day of reflection, fun and learning in school about our beautiful world and our responsibility to care for it.

I hope you have a great half term whatever you're up to, and here's a reminder of what's coming up in November:

See you in November!

Rev Kathryn

