



St John's School Newsletter

18th 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



Black History month

As part of our curriculum the children have been learning about key figures from our country who have made a positive change. So far key people that the children have been learning about have included Walter Tull, Marcus Rashford and Mo Farah.

Christmas Cards

Thank you to everyone that ordered the Christmas cards. Just over £130 was raised for the school. The LSA have been informed that the children's artwork is now with the Christmas Card company.

Just One Tree

The children have raised over £70 today, enabling the charity to plant over 70 trees. Well done everyone.



Beacon Pupils

Robins - Elijah is our Beacon pupil this week because of his enthusiasm for all that we have been doing in Robin Class. He listens so carefully and loves to try and solve any challenges given to the class. He was able to recall a challenge given the week before when we visited church this week, what a great memory! His sense of curiosity and fun is a delight in class, keep it up Elijah.

Starlings - Joselyn for her excellent attitude to her learning. Her passion for reading and discussing books is infectious and her guided reading group always appreciate her thoughtful insights. In group English work Joselyn worked hard to ensure that all her group contributed to the writing and sequencing of our class book Prince Cinders. She has used excellent vocabulary in her descriptive writing and has shown her fantastic maths skills in very difficult subtraction sums.

Kingfisher - Milo has shown enthusiasm and determination in his learning throughout the week, thinking carefully about the text we have been reading in English to support his explanations and using all his known rules in maths to tackle column addition. He has shown real focus in class, working hard both independently and with his talk partner - sharing some fantastic ideas with the class from his learning. Well done, Milo.

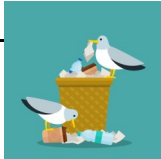
Sandpiper - Rei has settled brilliantly into life at St John's and we can't imagine our classroom without her! She is polite, well-mannered and really hard-working. We have loved seeing her confidence grow over the weeks - she has made lots of friends already, is finding her voice in class, and works brilliantly with her learning partner. We can't wait to see her continue to blossom in her time at St John's. Well done!

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


John 10:10

Top Tips and Word of the Week

Change the story. Take turns to tell well-known stories with your child but make small changes to the story and see where that takes you. Change a character or the ending. You might have 'Goldilocks and the Three Kittens'. Would the kittens really eat all the porridge?

Word		Definition	Challenge
scavenge		Animals or people do this when they are looking through lots of things nobody else wants.	Rats, seagulls, foxes all scavenge . What do they scavenge for?

This week's word for younger children:

Word		Definition	Challenge
rummage		Search for something in a rush and are a bit careless with other things.	When was the last time you had a rummage for something in your bedroom? What did your room look like afterwards?

Lemsford Fete Bank Holiday Monday 5th May 2025

The Fete Committee met once again this week to plan for the next 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



Terminology

Decode: To break down ('sound out') a written word into sounds then blend the sounds together to read the word.

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 is therefore not allowed. Many thanks

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.

Kingfishers - Brocket Hall Golf Event

Today Kingfishers took to the Greens in green!



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.

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 22nd October 1.30 - 2.30 p.m. **FULL**
Wednesday 23rd October 10.00 - 11.00 a.m. **FULL**
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.

Careers

The values that we have been focusing on this term are Hope and Aspiration. Last week in Monday's collective worship we had a visit and performance by Andrew Watkins, a retired professional violinist. The children asked him lots of pertinent questions and were able to link his life and skills to our values.

Would any parents be able to come into school on Friday 25th October to talk about your careers and jobs. It would be great if you were able to talk to the older classes about your work and then answer questions. Any kind of profession would be engaging for the children to hear about, we know many of you have some very interesting day jobs!

If you are able to come in after our celebration assembly 9.30 until 10.30 a.m. that would be fantastic. Thank you.



Cake Sale

Thursday... cakes to be donated by Sandpipers Class and will be on sale at the end of the day in the dining hall, for parents to buy.

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 Sandpipers 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.



Meet the teacher

Our parent/teacher meetings are next week: On-line appointments are on Tuesday 22nd October and face-to-face meetings are on Thursday 24th October.

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.

For the face-to-face meetings that take place in the school we will be using a bell to keep everything running to time and to maintain 10 minutes for each meetings. We look forward to seeing you.

DIARY DATES

On-Line (virtual) meet the teacher - 22nd October
LSA Cake Sale - 24th October - Sandpipers class please.
Face-to-face meet the teacher - 24th October
Careers Morning - 25th October
Half Term Monday 28th October - Friday 1st November
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

