



St John's School Newsletter

11th 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



Harvest Service at St Alban's Cathedral

Sandpiper Class were lucky enough to be invited to the Harvest Service at St Alban's Cathedral on Wednesday. It was lovely to sing harvest hymns, reflect and pray with other local schools and be part of such a special service.



Tennis at Gosling

On Wednesday afternoon Starlings enjoyed a tennis workshop with a coach from Gosling Sports Centre. There were lots of team building games as well as development of tennis skills. We will be sending home leaflets about tennis at Gosling as soon as we receive them.

Young Shakespeare

On Thursday the Young Shakespeare Company led a performance of Macbeth with our Sandpiper and Kingfisher classes. It was a gripping performance with lots of involvement by the children who played many of the main roles. This is an annual event which is funded by the LSA. It is a great first-hand experience of theatre in our school setting.

Beacon Pupils

Robins - Rupert has been such a helpful friend in Robin Class. He looks out for people who might need some support and shows understanding and patience if a friend needs a little more help with something. He listens well to his friends as well as in class sessions and shows his understanding with thoughtful comments. Keep up the good work!

Starlings - Jude for his excellent, mature attitude in his learning. His work with his talk partner has been very calm and informative helping his learning partner where he can. During his English work Jude had used a range of adjectives to describe Cinderella's glass slipper. In Geography he had been able to share his knowledge of Kenya and created a fantastic Africa necklace.

Kingfisher - Jack has shown fantastic engagement and enthusiasm for all our topics and activities this week, asking great questions, sharing brilliant ideas and showing great focus and determination. In maths, he has really challenged himself to extend on our learning activities, recognising when to use resources and finding patterns within his learning. In our golf activity and within class in sharing his rocks/fossils, he shared his knowledge with the rest of the class confidently, and this confidence also shone out in our harvest festival. Well done Jack.

Sandpiper - Bernadette always demonstrates impeccable manners, is helpful in class, and is thoughtful towards others. She takes great pride in her work and is always striving to improve. We have been really impressed with her mature responses when we have been learning about World War I and reading Private Peaceful. She has made fantastic links between our learning in English and History, using her knowledge to write a brilliant letter and newspaper report. She loved being involved in the performance of Macbeth by the YSC and added great ideas to the discussions. We really appreciated her efforts in learning not only the words but the Makaton actions to the Harvest Samba and she performed with real gusto in Church! We can't wait to see her continue to flourish as the year continues.


"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
 screech	A loud high noise. It isn't very nice.	If someone was screeching how would it make you feel? Why?

This week's word for older children:

Word	Definition	Challenge
 gnaw	Keep biting at something.	Think of three animals which gnaw . What do they gnaw on?

Harvest Celebration at St John's Church



10th October
2024



We had a super Harvest celebration at St John's Church on Thursday. Each class performed a Harvest poem or song - it was so lovely to see them all at the front of church performing together. Revd Kathryn gave a talk and children from Sandpipers class led the prayers.

It was fantastic to see so many parents sharing this celebration with us - thank you for coming along and for all the donations that the children brought in.

Terminology

Grapheme: A letter or group of letters used to represent a phoneme in writing. The way graphemes are used to represent phonemes in our written language is known as the alphabetic code.

Phoneme was explained in our last newsletter.

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.

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

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.

Christmas cards

Many thanks to parents who ordered their child's Christmas card design via Cauliflowers cards. You raised a total of £126 for our school. Thank you also to the LSA for organising this for us, they will be in touch when order have been dispatched to school.

Careers

The values that we have been focusing on this term are Hope and Aspiration. This week in Monday's collective worship we had a visit and performance by Andrew Watkins, a retired professional violinist. The children asked him lot 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.



Foodbank Donations

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

Friday 18th October Robins Class
Friday 8th November Sand pipers Class
Friday 22nd November Kingfishers Class
Friday 6th December Starlings Class
Friday 13th December Robins Class

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.



Meet the teacher

Our parent/teacher meetings are fast approaching: On-line appointments are on Tuesday 22nd October and face-to face meetings are on Thursday 24th October. Most face-to-face meetings are booked up but some on-line ones are still available. 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

LSA Silent Disco & Glow Party - 18th October
Just One Tree - 18th October - children to add a **Green** accessory to their uniform and to bring a donation.
On-Line (virtual) meet the teacher - 22nd October*
LSA Cake Sale - 24th October*
Face-to-face meet the teacher - 24th October*
Careers Morning - 25th October
Half Term Monday 28th October - Friday 1st November
Fireworks Display - 15th November (5.15 for 6.30 display)*
Occasional Day - Friday 29th November
Nativity Rehearsal - 11th December*
Nativity Performance (1) - 12th December (2.15pm tbc)*
Nativity Performance (2) - 12th December (5pm tbc)*
Music Concert - 17th December (morning)*
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,

It's been such a joy to celebrate **Harvest**—not once, but twice—with the children of St John's. I've received so much positive feedback on the children's singing, reading, and general participation in both the Sunday and Thursday services. Thank you for your support. The contributions towards the bring-and-share lunch after Sunday's service were amazing—I didn't need any dinner that night! And your generous harvest gifts are hugely appreciated. We'll make sure they reach the foodbank very soon.

This week marked the end of our first half-term of **Explorer Group sessions**. We've had a great time exploring the first four big characters in the Bible—Adam and Eve (we counted them as one!), Noah, Abraham, and Isaac. Our lunchtime sessions include a fun opening activity, an interactive Bible story, and a craft or other hands-on activity to dig a bit deeper. While we're 'doing' and 'making,' we've been having some really great exploratory discussions.

We have one space in next half-term's group, for children in Year 1-6, so if your child would like to give it a go on a Tuesday lunchtime at 12:40 pm, please contact the school office.

Rev Kathryn

