



St John's School Newsletter

4th 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



National Poetry Day

Thursday 3rd October

This week our focus in each class for English has been poetry as yesterday was National Poetry Day. The theme for this year's national event was 'counting.' At the end of Poetry Day we all gathered in the hall to share the poems that each class had been prepared. It was lovely to see the performances and the ways in which each class added actions.



Sandpipers - Cycling proficiency

The children in Sandpipers class have been developing their cycling skills. Bikeability is the government's national cycle training programme. It helps the children learn practical skills and understand how to cycle safely on the roads. Despite very mixed weather the children practised their cycling in the playground and then on the roads.



Beacon Pupils

Robins - Ireti has made a great start in Robin Class. She has shown careful listening in class and in her play with other children. Her confidence is growing as she shares her ideas with other children and adults and she is thoughtful in her approach to class challenges. We love her curiosity and ability to ask interesting questions. Keep it up Ireti!

Starlings - Poppy for her enthusiasm and love for learning. She is able to recall facts about Kenya as well as solving difficult maths problems rounding to the next 10. Her handwriting has come along leaps and bounds and her self correcting and editing has helped her to improve each piece of writing. Poppy is a kind hearted wonderful friend to all and a fantastic learning partner she contributes well to discussions as well as listening carefully to those she works with.

Kingfisher - Freya who has shown such confidence and enthusiasm in her work, joining in class discussions and offering fantastic reasoning in her answers - particularly in maths using mathematical language. She has been a great learning partner, researching and summarising from their findings in science to learn more about Mary Anning, and sharing their poem on National Poetry Day this week. Well done for all your hard work, Freya.

Sandpiper - Evie is a hardworking member of class who has really impressed us with her positive and resilient attitude to learning. She is a motivated learner who shows great interest across the curriculum. We love her thoughtful contributions to class discussions, and she always asks interesting questions. We have loved seeing her creativity and imagination shine in a number of ways already, including in her writing and art work. A really fantastic start to the year, well done!


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

John 10:10


Top Tips and Word of the Week

Keep on reading. Amidst the business of family life, it is hard to always find time to read to children. If you read to your child for 15 minutes a day, in a year they will have heard 1.5 million words.

This week's word for younger children:

Word		Definition	Challenge
shaky		Your body is wobbly because you are scared or ill.	Can you pretend to be so scared that you are shaky ?

This week's word for older children:

Word		Definition	Challenge
perilous		Very dangerous. Something bad might happen.	Do you know any fictional characters who have gone on perilous journeys?

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.

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.

Terminology

Phoneme: The smallest unit of sound that can be identified in words. We also use the term 'sound' but your child may use the word 'phoneme'. There are 44 phonemes or sounds in the English language.

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.

Holiday Clubs

We are running a Holiday Club in October half term 29th, 30th, 31st October.

If you wish to book please ask for a form from the Office.

Just a couple of reminders:

If the children are bringing in a **morning snack** then it must be fruit, vegetable or plain biscuits such as digestives.

Please use the school admin email to message teachers, your message will be forwarded to them by Miss Lewis

admin@stjohns561.herts.sch.uk

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.

Harvest

Harvest service at St John's Church - Sunday 6th October - 11.00 a.m.

The school choir will be joining the adult church choir to sing a Harvest anthem and our children will be leading the readings and prayers. Further information on this service can be found in Revd Kathryn's message at the end of this newsletter.

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 Sandpipers Class
Friday 22nd November Kingfishers Class
Friday 6th December Starlings Class
Friday 13th December Robins Class

Harvest Celebration at St John's Church Thursday 10th October

Next Thursday morning is our school Harvest celebration. Our collective worship will include a Harvest song or poem presented by each class. We would appreciate any donations of tinned or dried food on the day which will be given to a local food bank. It would be lovely to have parents and family members at the celebration which begins at 9.00 a.m.

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/>



Just One Tree

Our Eco council, led by Mrs Youngs, would like the school to take part in 'Just One Tree.' The aim of the charity is to encourage children to fundraise and to plant trees.

[JUST ONE Tree - £1 plants 1 Tree. Combat Climate Change through reforestation.](#)

National One Tree Day is on Friday 18th October. On that day we would like the children to add a green accessory to their uniform. This is instead of a non-uniform day, as suggested in last week's newsletter. We would appreciate a small donation which will be donated to the charity.

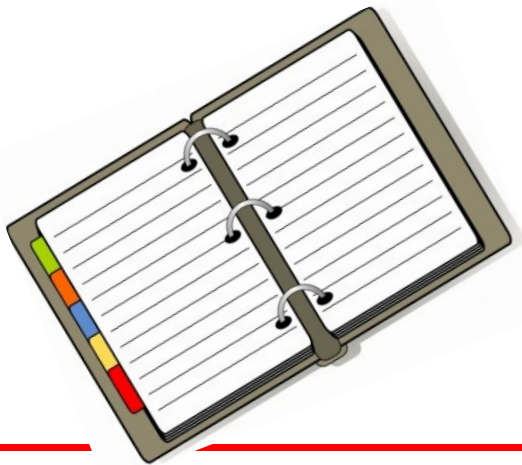


Digital cameras

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.

DIARY DATES

Harvest Service at St Johns Church - 6th October
St Albans Cathedral Service (Sandpipers) 9th October
School Harvest Service - 10th October*
LSA Silent Disco & Glow Party - 18th October*
Just One Tree - 18th October (see page 3)
On-Line (virtual) meet the teacher - 22nd October*
LSA Cake Sale - 24th October*
Face-to-face meet the teacher - 24th 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



Golf Skills Morning

In partnership with Brocket Hall, Mr Williams and Mrs Moxham led fun golf sessions for Sandpipers, Kingfishers and Starlings. Photos from the event will be on the website soon.



Hello,

One of the things I love about Lemsford is that there are actually some fields! If you time it right you can watch the Combine Harvester going up and down harvesting the crops. Last year, they harvested outside my house in the dark, which felt a bit like a scene from Lightning McQueen (google 'Lightning McQueen combine harvester' if you have no idea what I'm talking about!)

It feels good to remain connected to the land in this way, which is why I'm probably such a big fan of Harvest festival. And it's definitely all about harvest in church this week and next week.

This weekend, it's one of the main shared school-church services of the year, and we'd really love to see you at our All Together **Harvest Festival Celebration service on 6th October at 11am**

Everyone enjoys listening to the children leading different parts of the service, and singing the well known harvest songs.

After the service, we're gathering in the school hall for a bring and share lunch, to which EVERYONE is very welcome. If you can, please do bring something delicious to eat to the school hall before the service, or just pop in after the service to say hello.

There will be collection during the service for Thrive, a project in Sri Lanka providing those affected by leprosy with the means to grow their own food and raise their stand of living. Further details can be found here: <https://www.stalbansdiocese.org/parishsupport/growing-community/bishop-of-st-albans-harvest-appeal-2024>

And last, but not least, gifts of tinned foods and dried produce would very welcome and will be donated to the Foodbank.

Next week's Collective Worship in church will also be harvest focussed, and parents are really welcome to attend. The service takes place just after drop off.

Rev. Kathryn

