



St John's School Newsletter

27th September 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



Macmillan Tea & Cake Event

A huge thank you from St John's Church to all the school children and parents who helped to raise an amazing £421.40p at the Macmillan Tea and Cake last Friday.

Thank you to Julia and Sophia!

On Monday morning Sophia and Julia gave the school a bag of cash amounting to more than £200. They had been fundraising for the school by holding a cake and bath bomb sale, even managing to receive contributions from their family in America. What an amazing achievement, we are very grateful! We will let you know what the money has been spent on.

Warm welcome

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Rei who joins year 5 in Sandpipers class. We look forward to getting to know her and her family in the coming weeks. Welcome!

Year 5 Fun Run

Well done to all Year 5 who showed great sportsmanship when taking part in both long and short distance races on Wednesday! A special congratulations to Teddy for placing 3rd out of all the runners present - we wish you luck in the big final!



Beacon Pupils

Robins - James has made such a wonderful start in Robin Class. He is polite and helpful, listening carefully to what adults suggest and taking notice of what friends are saying in their games. He has shown great interest in the start of our phonics learning, practising our sounds after the sessions and at home as well. He is so helpful in our the classroom, looking after our resources and being kind to everyone.

Starlings - Julia as she brightens up our classroom every day. Her positive attitude is reflected in her work and it has been great to see the maturity during class activities. She is a great role model to the Year 1's and a great learning partner. In our English work this week she has written a lovely story opener and showed a great understanding of the humour with the text. In her reading she has shown great expressive reading and sharing her understanding of the text with her group. Julia has great mathematic skills and has been exploring number bonds with a great confidence.

Kingfisher - William P. has made a brilliant start to year 3 and Kingfisher class, showing a real enthusiasm in all his learning. He has shown great focus and conscientiousness both in class and outside, extending himself to challenge questions in maths and thinking carefully about how to express ancient Egyptian symbols in art. William shared a wide range of vocabulary in English to compile a word bank of verbs and adverbs. Well done William.

Sandpiper - Daisy is a calm and gentle member of class who is thoughtful and kind towards others. She has been a fantastic buddy - she has helped to settle her buddy into class, looked after her on the playground, and helped her to make friends and grow in confidence. We have been so pleased with Daisy's resilience and perseverance in her classroom learning, especially in maths when faced with challenging decimal and negative number work. She has already produced some beautiful artwork using techniques practised in class, and shown great care and consideration towards her learning. Well done!

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

John 10:10

Top Tips and Word of the Week

Cooking. Do some cooking with your child. It involves co-operation, planning, reading, listening and lots of vocabulary. Visit [Recipes for Children to Cook \(cookuk.co.uk\)](http://cookuk.co.uk) for some easy to make ideas.

This week's word

for younger children:

Word	Definition	Challenge
tug	A quick, strong pull.	Why shouldn't you tug a dog's tail? How does it feel when someone tugs your hair?



This week's word for older children:

Word	Definition	Challenge
incognito	In disguise.	What fictional characters go incognito ?



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 22 nd October	1.30 - 2.30 p.m.
Wednesday 23 rd October	10.00 - 11.00 a.m.
Tuesday 5 th November	1.30 - 2.30 p.m.
Thursday 7 th 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.

Holiday Clubs

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

If you wish to book please return the form that was handed out last week.

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.

Our School rules

As part of our revising of the School Vision and Values we have had a think about our school rules. Last year the school council helped us to write them and to relate them to the paired values that are the focus of each half term. Many thanks to Mrs Gammon for supporting this and creating our lovely new School Rules posters. A copy is attached to our email today.

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

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

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.

Just One Tree

This week our new eco-council took part in our first meeting. During our time together we discussed our participation in the Eco-schools programme. The programme is delivered in more than 70 countries around the world and in England is operated by the environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy. The programme not only positively impacts our planet (for example schools participating in the programme planted 54,591 trees during the last academic year), it also benefits young people, building teamwork and leadership skills whilst increasing confidence and reducing eco-anxiety. You can find out more on the Eco-Schools website here: <https://www.eco-schools.org.uk/>. We completed a review of current practices and began to think about our ideas for the school, community and globally.

As part of our first action of global citizenship, Eco-council voted to participate in 'Just One Tree' day, taking place on the 18th October. Children will be invited to attend school in non-uniform for a donation, and be part of 620 other schools taking part to raise much needed funds for reforestation. There has never been a more urgent need to revive damaged ecosystems than now. JUST ONE Tree are committed to restoring life on land, in the oceans and shaping the next generation of planet-conscious thinkers. More information here : <https://www.justonetree.life>.



Harvest

An email was sent home yesterday about the harvest celebrations that are coming up.

School Harvest celebration - Thursday 10th October - 9.00 a.m.

Donations of non-perishable food would be much appreciated. During the celebration in St John's church class will be presenting a Harvest poem or song. Parents and family members are warmly invited to come along.

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.

CAKE SALE



Cake Sale

Every half term one class donates cakes to be sold to raise funds for the school.

Our next cake sale will be on 24th October, after school in the Dining Hall. Everyone is welcome.

Cakes to be donated or made by Sandpipers (Class 4) please.

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/>



Food Bank Donations

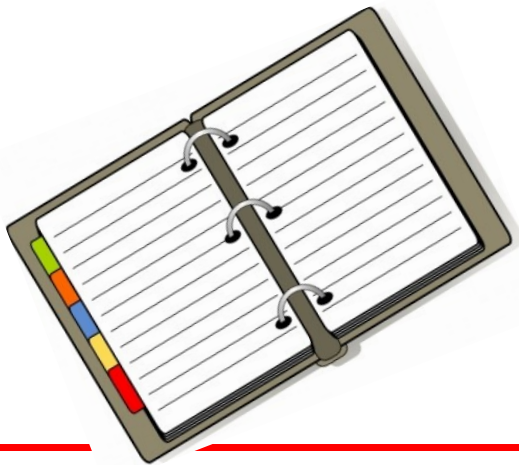
We would like once again to make donations to a local food bank. Tinned, dried foods or toiletries would be much appreciated. Next time it is the turn of children from Robins class.

Friday 18th October Robins



DIARY DATES

Bikeability Week (Year 5/6) w/c 30th September
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
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



National poetry day Thursday 3rd October

Next Thursday is National Poetry Day. During the day each class will be focussing on poetry through writing, speaking and performing. The theme for this national event this year is 'Counting.' We will share with you some of the children's poetry learning next week.



Hello,

I've had a great week with the children this week!
On Tuesday, our wonderful **Explorers** groups made boats and rainbow spinners, whilst thinking about the next 'big character' in the Bible - Noah

Then on Thursday, the whole school thought about having the hope that God 'calls' each us of us to do something special.

We're definitely firmly in Autumn now, which means it must be Harvest Festival time. Don't miss out on our joyful All Together **Harvest Festival Celebration service on 6th October at 11am**

We're really excited to be joined in our worship by children from the school, who will singing, reading and leading us in prayer. After the service, we'll be 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.

We really hope to see you at this special celebration for all ages.

Whatever you're doing this weekend, I hope you have a good one!

Rev. Kathryn

