



St John's School Newsletter

20th 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



Collective Worship at St John's

As you know every Thursday our Collective Worship takes place in St John's Church. The children are often invited by Revd Kathryn to participate in the story telling part of the worship. This week the focus was Jesus' words 'Follow me.' After a fun whole school attempt to follow Revd Kathryn's instructions some children literally picked up their cross and walked around the church.

Do please come along to our Thursday morning Collective Worship at the church, it is usually thought provoking and fun!



Young leaders training

This week our year 6 children took part in Young Leaders training. Jo Moxham, a member of staff from Stanborough School, led the session. Year 6 learnt lots of new games which they were able to try out with our very willing Starlings class!



Beacon Pupils

Robins - Vianna has settled beautifully into Robin Class. She has picked up our routines and follows them carefully, helping with tidying and listening carefully in learning times. She enjoys a creative game and is happy to include other children in her play. A great start, keep it up Vianna!

Starlings - Otilie for being such a great and positive role model in our class. She shares her ideas with confidence both in groups and to her learning partner. She has modelled lovely story ideas and details to her learning partner. In English Otilie wrote a fantastic version of Jack and the beanstalk with great detail. As always she is a positive light in our classroom and a great friend to all.

Kingfisher - Lillia has shown real enthusiasm and confidence moving up to year 4 and enjoying the new topics we have begun. She has shared her ideas and reasoning with the class during our place value topic, and shown real determination in her work. In English, Lillia has thought carefully about extending her adjectives to describe and this was also shown in fantastic science contributions to describe the properties of rock. Well done Lillia

Sandpiper - Anna is a calm and positive member of our class who is always hard-working and quietly determined. We have been really impressed with Anna's approach to learning and engagement in all our lessons, and how well she has made links and recalls learning. She works well with a partner and joins in our class discussions well. Anna has shown brilliant independent learning skills, using resources and displays to move her learning forwards and make progress. A wonderful start to the year, keep it up.


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

John 10:10


Top Tips and Word of the Week

Explore your local library. As well as books they have audiobooks and events to develop speaking and listening. Our nearest library is Welwyn Central Library, at Campus West in Welwyn Garden City.

This week's word for younger children:

Word	Definition	Challenge
guzzle 	To eat or drink quickly. You are being greedy!	When you see someone drinking quickly, think of the word guzzle (you don't need to tell them!)

This week's word for older children:

Word	Definition	Challenge
Motionless 	Not moving.	When would it be a good time to be motionless ?

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.

School Clubs

Clubs began on Monday 16th September, children who requested places, have been given a confirmation letter. There are a few spaces available in a few of the clubs, please contact the office for details.

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.

A letter and a booking form have been given to your child to bring home today.

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.

LSA News

Treasurer needed.

As you know our LSA are an important part of our school life. At the moment, the LSA is looking for a treasurer to support their work.

If you would like to find out more about the role, please do contact one of the leaders of the LSA or the school office. Thank you.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM for the LSA is on Wednesday 25th September at 7.30 p.m. in the school hall. Everyone is invited to attend to review last year and to plan for the coming one. So please come along if you can.

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

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. We would appreciate donation by each class on the following days this half term please:

Friday 20th September Sandpipers
Friday 27th September Kingfishers
Friday 4th October Starlings
Friday 18th October Robins

Christmas cards!

Entirely unseasonal at this point in the year we know but the children have been designing cards in preparation for Christmas! With support from the LSA the cards will be professionally produced by a company called Cauliflower Cards. The children will be bringing home their designs next week. Please do look out for them, we will also send an accompanying letter and email reminder. It is important that the children's artwork plus accompanying paperwork is returned to us by **Wednesday 2nd October at the latest**, so they can be sent to the publishing company. Please also return everything even if you are not intending to make any orders.

Thank you for your support with this, any orders you are able to make will raise funds for the school.

Our canine visitors

Once again we are fortunate to have regular visits from our two canine friends Hattie and Charlie

Together with their humans they hear some of our children read or are simply there to have a chat. They are a very popular part of our school life. To find out more about the charity that support these visits please follow this link:

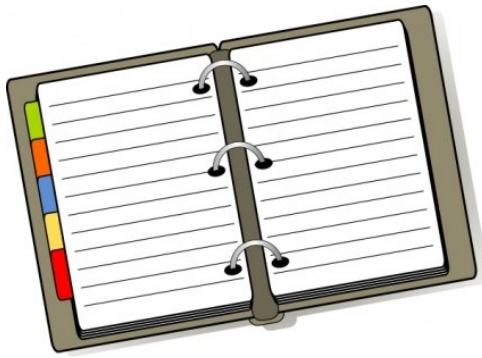
[Canine Concern | Care Dog Charity | Covering England and Wales](#)

Asda Cashpot for Schools

Parentkind - a charity that supports school PTAs - have teamed up with Asda, who is making millions of pounds available to donate to primary schools across the UK through their 'Cashpot for Schools' initiative.

To support our school, all you have to do is opt-in through the Asda Rewards app, shop and scan in store or shop online at Asda.com. Between 2nd September and 30th November 2024 - every time you shop with Asda using your Asda Rewards app, Asda will donate 0.5% of the value of your shop to your chosen Primary school. Also, every time somebody opts-in to support our Primary school, Asda will give an additional £1 to the school Cashpot.





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*
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



Hello,

It's been wonderful to see the children twice this week. On Tuesday, we held our first St John's 'Faith Explorers' group, where the children created some fantastic living sculptures to help us explore the meaning of the story of Adam and Eve. Next week, we're moving on to our next big Bible character—Noah. I've promised some kind of craft for this session, and perhaps we'll even see if we can build a life-sized ark in 30 minutes! If you'd like to sign up to this club for next half term, let your teacher or the school office know.

On Thursday, we played a game of Follow My Leader in church to kick off our exploration of what Jesus might have meant when He said, "Take up your cross and follow me." We discovered that what can sound like a tough message is actually one of 'hope'—our theme for this half term.

As if that wasn't enough, we're also looking forward to our **Connect@4** gathering this weekend. If you haven't tried it before, this is a periodic Sunday gathering at 4 pm for anyone looking to connect with God, each other, the community, and creation in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere.

There are no pews, not many words, and no pressure to 'sit still!' This is a space for all ages to have fun, explore, create, pray, worship, and eat together in a way that suits them.

For this gathering, we'll meet outside the Church Annexe (if the weather is fine) to reflect on how God is always with us as we journey through the many changes in our lives.

Have a great weekend!

Rev. Kathryn

