



St John's School Newsletter

13th 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



Brocket Hall - Golf visit

Last Friday, Sandpiper Class were kindly invited to Brocket Hall. We practised our golf skills on the green, including putting, chipping and swinging. We then enjoyed watching professional players from around the world playing in the Rose Ladies Cup. The children were thrilled to meet Billie-Jo Smith and ask her about her career and hopes for the competition.

We look forward to growing our partnership with Brocket Hall in the months and years to come, with more golfing opportunities across the school and local history links, and were very appreciative of their kind invitation and hosting.



LSA/treasurer

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

Beacon Pupils

Robins - The entire class were given an award this week. Well done everyone, you are all fantastic.



Starlings - **Rory** for having a wonderful positive attitude to learning. He has taken all the new routines in his stride and shown us great focus on his class tasks. During his reading and phonic time Rory is trying hard to learn new sounds and recap the previous ones. He has developed his segmenting and blending for reading and is doing so with great confidence. Rory is a great friend to those in our class and has a great attitude, brightening up our class.

Kingfisher - **Danny** has settled fantastically into Kingfisher class with real determination and confidence. He has been making some brilliant contributions to class discussions, tackling tricky place value questions in maths and sharing ideas with his talk partner. He set a fantastic example at our first swimming lesson; listening, following instructions and joining in enthusiastically. Well done Danny.

Sandpiper - **Suzy** has had a brilliant start to Year 6! We have been really impressed with how confident she has been in her learning, showing great focus and concentration, and taking feedback on board. She has also been a fantastic buddy and helped to settle all the Robins into school. Suzy took the initiative to set up a brilliant obstacle course for the younger children and showed amazing leadership skills, calmly leading them all and ensuring all were joining in. Very well done!

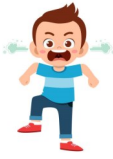
"I came that they may have life, life in all its fullness."

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
furious		Really angry	Can you think of a time when someone was furious ? What did they look or sound like? Act out being furious .

This week's word for older children:

Word		Definition	Challenge
illuminated		Lit up, usually by electric lighting.	At night-time see if you can spot any budlings or places which are illuminated . What do they look like.

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.
 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.

School Clubs

These start again 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.

Class meetings

Many thanks to those parents who were able to attend the class meetings. We hope that you found them useful. The PowerPoints will be made available on Google classroom and on the class pages on the school website. We hope that you found scheduling these meetings before pick up helpful.

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.

Many thanks - LED Lighting

The new LED lights that were fitted during the school holidays have made a tremendous difference to the quality of light in school and will also, hopefully, have a positive impact on our electric bills in the future! Sincere thanks go to the Aurora Lighting for donating the lights, we are very grateful for their generosity.

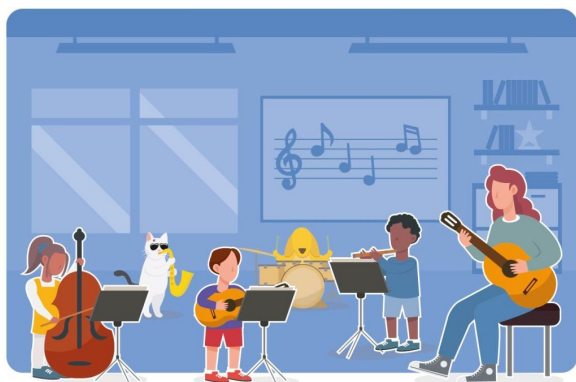
Want to learn to play an Instrument?

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. 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

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.

Plus, it doesn't stop there - Asda are also giving £50 to every school to get them started. ☑ The supermarket has joined forces with Joe Wicks to support the initiative - look out for the TV advert, radio ads and social media coverage!



It's as easy as 1,2,3

1. Download the Asda Rewards app, register and opt-in to Cashpot for Schools (make sure you have the latest version of the app installed)
2. Choose our Primary School - either searching by name or postcode
3. Shop instore across Asda and George, or online at Asda.com and start filling your Cashpot as you shop Asda does the rest, all money raised will be donated to schools to spend on the things they need the most.

Remember, anyone can sign up - so start spreading the news and raising funds for our school.

DIARY DATES

School Clubs Begin - w/c 16th September*
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

Cake Sale

Every 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.

Starlings - Can you help?

Mrs Ching is after some Puzzles for children aged 5-7. If you have any complete puzzles suitable for this age range, please pop them into the School Office.. Thank you.



Another photo from our Book Blessing



Hello

It was wonderful to see so many St John's school families at our Flourishing and Feasting service last Sunday morning. After a fun time at Sunday Club and learning about our new Church Flourishing Strategy, we enjoyed plenty of sausages and burgers together in the sunshine (see below!).

Next week, I'm really looking forward to coming into school to launch our new St John's lunchtime 'Explorer Club.'

Each week, a small group of children will dive into a Bible story, discover something new about Christian beliefs, and have the chance to ask questions about life, faith, and everything in between!

In Week 1, we'll explore the story of Adam and Eve, and how it conveys the message that God created humans to have a relationship with Him, each other, and the whole of creation. It's a big topic for 30 minutes!

This is very much an exploration group, so children don't need to think of themselves as Christians to get involved.

Finally, I'd like to highlight

that **Connect@4** meets again at 4pm on 22nd September. **Connect@4** is a new informal, interactive gathering for all ages. If the weather's fine, we'll be outside—creating, exploring, chatting, and eating! We'd love school families to join us as we continue to build this new community for all ages.

And one last thing—keep an eye on your book bags next week for a postcard listing what's on at St John's Church for children and families. It's part of our new vision to make St John's a truly multi-generational church, so please do get involved in any way you can.

See you soon!

Rev Kathryn

