



# St John's School Newsletter

## 6th 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



#### Welcome Back and Thank you.

A warm welcome back to everyone. It is so lovely seeing our school community back together again. A special welcome to our new children who have joined Robins and to their families. They are quickly settling into life at St John's. We have Jenson joining Kingfisher class and look forward to getting to know him and his family.

We would all like to thank parents for the gifts that we were given at the end of last term. It was so kind and generous of you all.

#### Book Bag Blessing

Yesterday the children brought their book bags to be blessed by Revd Kathryn, this is becoming one of our St John's traditions! We had a lovely Collective Worship in which the children reflected on the things that they were excited about at the start of the new school year.



#### Summer Birthdays

During the school holidays the following children celebrated their birthday, we hope they all had lovely days. We will celebrate their birthdays in next Friday's celebration assembly.

#### Beacon Pupils

**Starlings - Winter** for having a positive attitude to her learning. She has returned from the summer holiday with great confidence and readiness to learn. In our partner work she has been able to contribute to the discussion and share her ideas. In our English work she came up with brilliant descriptive words for her gingerbread house and then wrote these independently. In our classroom Winter has tried hard to look after resources and encourage others to do the same.

**Kingfisher - Skyla** has shown great enthusiasm and a positive and hardworking attitude all week, and has shown great care and responsibility in supporting the year 3's in their new setting. In class, Skyla has shared her insightful and carefully considered ideas in whole class discussions and has produced some fantastic writing to reflect this.

**Sandpiper - Teddy** has made a fantastic start to Year 5. We have been really impressed with his positive and enthusiastic attitude to learning, as well as a clear growth in maturity. Teddy has put lots of effort into his learning already and has been keen to step up to the increased challenge! He has shared brilliant ideas in our lessons and has been a brilliant learning partner. He is already being a great role model as one of our older pupils - well done and 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

Big Brain. Big Brain is a variation of I-Spy but rather than seeing something you need to think of an object and the letter it starts with. For instance: 'I think with my big brain something that is cold and starts with an I'

### This week's word for younger children:

Word	Definition	Challenge
exclaimed	Speaking suddenly or loudly as you are excited, angry or shocked.	Listen and look out for the word. Where might you see it or hear it? Books often have this word.



### This week's word for older children:

Word	Definition	Challenge
Flinch	If you <b>flinch</b> , you make a small sudden movement, especially when something surprises or hurts you.	At the doctors you might <b>flinch</b> . Why?



### Many Thanks

Katie Wardle has decided it is time to step down from being the Chair of the LSA. She has been an amazing lead and has given so much of her time and energies to organising events, raising money and generally helping the school in any way that she can. We are very grateful and thank you her very much. Fortunately for us she will not be stepping back entirely but will continue to work with the LSA. Faye Dave has agreed to take on the role of Chair which is fantastic! She will be supported by a group of parents:

### Individual School Photos

These are being taken on Thursday 12th September. We will also do sibling groups for children at St John's.

### Class meetings - Next week

Earlier this week you will have received information about our class meetings. These are a useful way to find out about what is happening in each class and an opportunity to ask the class teacher any questions. The times are as follows:

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2.45pm - Sandpipers (Class 4)  
 Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2.45pm - Starlings (Class 2)  
 Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2.45pm - Kingfishers (Class 3)

The arrangements for Class 1 are different and are as follows:

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September - Robins (Class 1)

2.30 pm Informal meet the staff and LSA event in the school hall.

3.15 - 3.45 pm Class meeting with the Miss Mockford and Mrs Redmond.

### INSET day Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

On Monday the governors provided lunch for all the staff as part of our INSET day. The food had an Italian theme and was delicious! Thank you to the governors for providing the treats - such a great way to start the school year!

### 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.

## DIARY DATES

Swimming Begins (Kingfishers) - 11th September  
School Photos - Thursday 12th September \*  
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

### Building Resilience

Each year we write a School Development Plan which highlights and looks to develop many aspects of our school. One of the areas on our School Development Plan this year focuses on resilience in our children. This builds on the work that we did last year, exploring ways to enable the children to be independent learners.

Here is a link to a useful parent leaflet, paper copies are available in the school entrance foyer:

[NESSie-Confidence-Resilience-Bite-size-PDF.pdf](https://www.nessieined.com/NESSie-Confidence-Resilience-Bite-size-PDF.pdf)  
([nessieined.com](https://www.nessieined.com))

### 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 <sup>nd</sup> October	1.30 - 2.30 p.m.
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	10.00 - 11.00 a.m.
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> November	1.30 - 2.30 p.m.
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> 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.

Hello

Welcome back to school! I hope everyone is settling in well and enjoying being back in a routine.

It was great to see the children and teachers on Thursday again, as we blessed everyone's school bags for the year ahead.

A particularly big hello to any new parents. I'm the vicar of St John's church next door and have the joy of sharing collective worship with the children each week on a Thursday morning at 9am, as well as seeing them at lots of other times. You are always very welcome to attend collective worship in church, or anything else that's going on at St John's.

We have lots happening for children and families this half term. Here's a quick run down...

8th September, 11am - Sunday club meets for the first time again this week during the 11am service on 8th September. The service will be followed by a 'back together' BBQ. We'd love to see you.

20th September - Tea, Coffee and Cake from 2:30 - 4pm (eat in or take away) to raise funds for Macmillan.

22nd September, 4pm - Connect@4 An informal, interactive gathering for all ages. If the weather's fine, we'll be outside, creating, exploring, chatting and eating!

6th October - it's our All Together Harvest Festival, which we're looking forward to lots of the children participating in. More details to follow soon.

If you ever need to contact me about anything please drop me an email at [revkathrynalford@gmail.com](mailto:revkathrynalford@gmail.com). Here's what I look like (I'm the one with a collar!).

Have a great weekend.

Rev Kathryn

