



St John's School Newsletter

26th April 2024

Values of this half term Dignity and Respect

'Treat others as you like to be treated yourself'
Matthew 7:12



Grant Shapps Visit to St John's

Today we had a visit from Grant Shapps our local MP. He received a tour of the school led by three of our Year 6 Children; Charlotte, Teddy and Ellie. This was followed by question time with Classes 3 and 4. They asked some very insightful questions including "why did you want to become an MP?", "do you agree with the Rwanda Bill?" and "who had been the best Prime Minister to work with?". Have fun guessing the answers! As always the children were a credit to the school.



Collective Worship

Once again, we appreciated a Collective Worship service at St John's on Thursday morning. Jo Brooks led us through a series of stories about the people that Jesus helped and socialised with. The children found an exciting range of props in Jo's bag all symbolising the people in the story. Our present values of Respect and Dignity underpinned the service. Parents and younger siblings are welcome to come to our Thursday morning church Collective worship services which begin at 9.00 a.m.



Beacon Pupils

Class 1 - Rory - has been taking such care of his writing in our phonics lessons, building words with his sounds and is forming his letters really well. In our maths lessons he has been making really speedy observations in our doubles investigations. He is such a kind friend and so thoughtful when playing with other children. His wonderful smile always brightens up our day, so keep up the good work Rory.

Class 2 - Joey - for his great attitude to his learning. He has worked exceptionally hard in his English ensuring that he has used the correct punctuation and has even tried to complete the further challenge to really stretch himself. Joey has shown great knowledge of his 2's and 10 times tables and has used these practically in our repeated addition work. On the playground Joey has shown a kind and caring nature towards his friends and other members of the school community.

Class 3 - Nevena - has grown in confidence and this has shone this week, in her independent work in English employing conjunctions and prepositions to expand her sentences through to fantastic partnered work in maths converting fractions to decimals. She has a fantastic attitude to her learning, working hard and asking questions and continues to be a great friend with her caring and kind nature.

Class 4 - Violet - a lovely member of our class who radiates warmth and kindness. She has joined in with our discussions about our School Values brilliantly, and really puts those ideas into action - she is thoughtful towards others, always polite and appreciative, and hard working. We have been really pleased to see her grow in confidence and keep stepping up into roles of responsibility. She is laying fantastic foundations for secondary school and beyond. Well done!


"I came that they may have LIFE and have it abundantly"

John 10:10


Top Tips and Word of the Week

Favourite movie. Ask your child to retell a favourite movie. If this is too long, start on something simpler like a favourite story book. Talk about the beginning, middle and end. Draw pictures of the main characters and use these to act out scenes.

This week's word for younger children:

Word		Definition	Challenge
departed		Leave somewhere.	Where might you see the word depart a lot?

This week's word for our older children

Word		Definition	Challenge
darting		Move suddenly and quickly.	Do some darting across the playground. Which sports involve darting ?

Parking

Parents are not permitted to use the staff car park between 8.45 and 3.15 to turn around, drop off or collect their child, unless you have a pre-booked appointment with a member of staff. Parking is available by the Church or Village Hall. Please be considerate to other road users and also ensure that children stay on the paths and pavements rather than walk through the carpark. **Please also be mindful of those that need to travel through the village and park considerately at all times.**

Maypole and Country Dancing

There is a Parent Preview Performance on Friday 3rd May at 2:15pm. This is for parents who will be on stalls during the main performance on May 6th so it gives them the chance to see the Maypole and Country Dancing and the singing.

Lemsford Fete - Monday 6th May

Raffle tickets have been sent home with children. If you would like some more, please see Miss Lewis in the Office.

Please remember to bring back your ticket stubs and any money raised - into the school office.

Please bring your Lucky Bags to the school office. Remember to add your child's name, number of bags, age group they are suitable for, whether for a boy or a girl and if possible the House name.

Being Safe online - please follow [this link](#) to our website to see a great range of parent info posters on the various Apps and games your children might be using. At the bottom of this page are 2 different games your children can play to support their understanding of being safe online. This is also something we regularly cover in our PSHE lessons, see what you child is learning in PSHE this term [here](#). As always, if you are worried about your child's safety for any reason, please contact us straight away for support.

Here is the link to the latest online safety newsletter from Herts for learning: [hfl-online-safety-newsletter-spring-24-parents-or-carers \(the-grid.org.uk\)](https://the-grid.org.uk/hfl-online-safety-newsletter-spring-24-parents-or-carers)

Attendance

As you know good attendance at school gives children the best possible start in life. Being in school is important to your child's achievement, wellbeing and wider development. Evidence shows that the students with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the best GCSE and A Level results. We would encourage all families to aim for the highest attendance at school that is possible. Missing a few days here and there soon mounts up and impacts the children's ability to socialise, progress and achieve.

@StJohnsLemsford

Just a reminder to key an eye on our school X feed. Miss Ng frequently updates the feed with news about our latest ventures at St John's!

DIARY DATES

29th April - Lucky Dip Bag Week
3rd May - Maypole Dancing Parent Preview at 2.15pm
6th May - Lemsford Fete
8th May - Assembly led by students from Knightsfield School
13th May - SATs week
16th May - Census Week, help by having a school meal
23rd May - LSA Cake Sale (Class 2 to provide cakes)
27th-31st May - Half Term
3rd June - Inset
4th June - Children back to school
6th June - Class Photos & Whole School Photo
10th June - Phonics Screening Week
13th June - Class 1 trip to Mill Green (am)
17th June - Arts & Outdoor Learning Week
19th June - Class 4 Cathedral Away Day 10-2.30pm
21st June - Book Fair 3.15pm in Hall
12th July - Sports Day
19th July - Reserve Sports Day
23rd July - Last day of term (1.30pm finish)

Building work

Work is progressing well and we are looking forward to the project finishing soon.

Count down to the Lemsford Fete - Bank Holiday Monday 6th May

A huge thank you to all the families who have an Estate Agent board in their front gardens. This has raised an incredible £450.

Thank you for all the donations of chocolate, bottle and bric-a-brac. Please continue to pop things to the school. Please return permission slips for your child to take part if you have not already done so.

Important dates

Week beginning Monday 29th April Lucky Dip Bags donation week, please see the email attachment letter from Katie Wardle.

As part of the children's singing performance we would like the children that were in the choir for our performances in December to once again join with the Welwyn Garden City Male Voice Choir for the song 'This is why we sing.' This joint performance will take place straight after the school singing and dancing performances. We would appreciate parents' support with this, many thanks.

Hello

I'm away on holiday this week, I'm afraid I can't tell you what we've thought about in Collective Worship. But I do know it will be great because Mrs Brooks is leading it!

Last week in church, one of the children asked me why I hadn't taken down the huge cross draped with a white cloth after Easter Sunday. Great question! So that's what I thought I'd write about this week, just before I pack my suitcase.

Easter Sunday is a special time for Christians because it celebrates the resurrection of Jesus. But Easter doesn't stop at the end of this day, or after we've eaten our Easter eggs, or returned to school. Easter lasts for 50 days, which represent....

New Beginnings - The number 50 is important in the Bible. It represents freedom and new beginnings. So, the 50-day Easter season is a time for Christians to celebrate the new life that Jesus' resurrection brings.

Growing in Faith - During these 50 days, Christians focus on growing closer to God. They pray, help others, and learn more about their faith. It's like a spiritual adventure that starts on Easter Sunday.

Time to Celebrate! - Unlike Lent, which is a time of reflection, Easter is a time of joy and celebration. Churches use bright colours like white and gold to show happiness. There are also special feasts and events to make the season even more fun.

The Gift of the Holy Spirit - The Easter season ends with a special day called Pentecost. On Pentecost, Christians celebrate the Holy Spirit coming to help and guide them. It's like a big birthday party for the Church. We'll be celebrating Pentecost at St John's church with a special **Connect@4 service at 4pm on 19th May**. Join us for an interactive Pentecost outdoor 'trail', birthday cake and much more!

So, Easter isn't just one day - it's a whole 50-day celebration. Happy Easter!

Rev'd Kathryn

