



# St John's School Newsletter

## 2nd February 2024

### Values of this half term Wisdom and Truth

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life.  
No one comes to the Father,  
except through me."



### Beacon Pupils

**Class 1** - Benjamin - has been spotted putting in some extra effort this week. He chose to do some writing about Goldilocks eating the Three Bear's porridge in his free choice time and he used his phonics so carefully. He is such a kind class member and shows great concern for any friends who are upset or lonely. We are proud of his hard work and kind actions in the class.

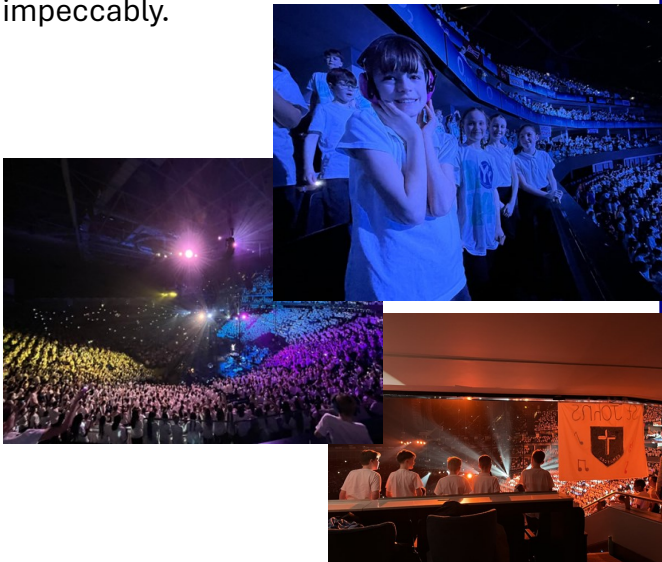
**Class 2** - Julia - for her fantastic attitude towards everything she does. She is a great friend to everyone in our class and a knowledgeable learning partner. In our Design Technology topic we are making fire engines and Julia has shown great perseverance in adapting materials to create the different parts of her fire engine.

**Class 3** - Ronnie - has shown focus and determination in his learning, participating in class discussions with thoughtful contributions. This was particularly shown this week in the writing of his own myth, taking on the skills and devices he has been learning and employing them in his writing. Equally, in his completion of his Viking stick weaving, where he carefully followed instruction and worked independently. It has been fantastic to see Ronnie settle so well in Class 3, working alongside his peers and developing an enthusiasm and confidence in his learning.

**Class 4** - Livia - has an infectious positive energy! A great role model in class and around school. We have been really impressed with what a brilliant learning partner she is, taking time to carefully explain things and being kind and patient. Livia is interested in all of our learning and always shares thoughtful ideas and questions. She impressed us at the O2 with her fantastic singing, dancing and listening skills during rehearsals and the show.

### Young Voices at the O2

Children from years 4-6 had a fantastic time taking part in the Young Voices event on Wednesday. After months of rehearsals, we were so excited to arrive at the O2 and join a choir of 9,500 children! We sang a selection of songs, including ones from Moana and Matilda, pop medleys and gospel tunes. The children sang beautifully, danced with joy and behaved impeccably.



For parents who were unable to come to the evening event (or for those who want to relive it!), please join us on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February at 9am to hear a few songs.

### Word Aware

As you know oracy is one of the areas that we are developing this year. Part of our development has been the introduction of Word Aware which is a programme aiming to promote vocabulary in children's speech. Further information about the programme has been added to school's website. Please follow this link to find out more: [word-aware.pdf \(primarysite\)](#)


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


John 10:10

## Word of the week

Keep on reading. Amidst the business of a family life, it is hard to always find time to read to children. If you read to your child for 15 minutes per day, in a year they will have heard 1.5 million words. Reading slightly more challenging books to your child than they can read will help boost their reading too.

This week's word for younger children:

Word	Definition	Challenge
clench 	Holding tightly because you are angry.	<b>Clench</b> your fists and your jaw and make a face to go with how you might be feeling.

Word	Definition	Challenge
cantankerous 	Someone who is always finding things to argue and complain about.	Look <b>cantankerous</b> up in a thesaurus. Find a synonym that you know well and ask someone from your family about how the two words are the same and

### Reminders

#### **Absence Reporting**

Please ring the School Office on 01707 322589 or email [admin@stjohns561.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stjohns561.herts.sch.uk) BEFORE 8.50am if your child is absent from school. We ask that you ring or email **daily** until your child returns.

#### **Lateness**

Please note, if the gates are closed, and your child needs to come through the main entrance, they will be marked as late.

#### **Requests for Absence**

Please collect a request form from the office and return it giving at least two weeks notice of any planned absence.

#### **Parking**

Morning drop off is a particularly difficult time. Please do not park on the yellow zig zags. So traffic runs smoothly, ensure adequate gaps are left between cars for traffic to pass around you safely. Parking is available by the Church or Community Hall.

Parents are not permitted to use the staff car park between 8.45 and 3.15 unless they have a pre-booked appointment with a member of staff. Children should not be dropped off or collected in the car park.

### Free School Meals

To check your eligibility and register please visit...

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/at-school/free-school-meals/free-school-meals.aspx#reception>

**Safe Staff** - Mrs Boylan, Miss Ng and Mrs Gammon are our Safeguarding Leads, ensuring all staff are well trained in safeguarding matters. Our strong emphasis on nurture means that we have a very joined-up approach to keeping our children safe - the same staff support our children from Breakfast Club, through lunchtimes and at ASC so information is easily shared and we know our pupils well. Our Safeguarding policy is [here](#), and Mrs Boylan is always at the gate in the morning if you would like to talk.

### Hall Hire

If you are thinking of holding a party or gathering do consider hiring our school hall. It is a great space with everything you need to hold a lovely event. Please contact the school office for further details.

### Planned LSA events

The following school events are being planned by the LSA:

#### **Friday 9th Feb**

LSA cafe with cake donations given by Class 3

#### **Sunday 11th Feb**

Movie afternoon (classes 1&2 - 1:30-3:30) (classes 3&4 - 3:45-5:45)

#### **Tuesday 27th Feb**

Art show of the children's work in the hall 3.15 – 4.00 p.m

#### **Thursday 28th March**

Easter egg hunt after church service

## CAN YOU HELP?

### Hall kitchen cooker

Our kitchen in the school hall no longer works. If anyone could donate an electric cooker to replace it that would be much appreciated. So long as it is in working order we would happily accept it. Thank you!

Currently we have a Whirlpool Type: FCSP6  
230v-50Hz  
Dimensions needed: H59.5 W59.5 D56.4

### Eco Council

Does any parent have a wooden pallet going spare please?

We need 5-7 for various projects including our Bug Hotel.



### Parent Consultations

School Cloud is open for booking your appointments with teachers. Please do book your appointments if you have not already done so. Thank you.

### Grant Shapps Visit to St John's

Grant Shapps will be visiting St John's on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February. **Parents are welcome to join the Q&A session** from 1:40pm and share any questions or queries of their own.

### Measles

You are likely to be aware of the increase in Measles cases in other parts of the UK. A letter has been prepared and is attached from the Director of Public Health within Hertfordshire County Council. Please take a few minutes to read this important information.

## COMING SOON...

### Feeling Good Week – Week beginning Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February

Next week is our feeling good week. Each day one of the classes will be taking part in Forest School activities led by Mrs Maher. On Wednesday we have a range of exotic animals visiting school, with each class participating in a workshop.



### Mothering Sunday – 10<sup>th</sup> March

The school choir have been invited to sing in St John's Church as part of their Mothering Sunday service. We will also be inviting all children to lead prayers and readings. More information to follow.



### Men United In Song

At Christmas the school choir sang in a joint concert with the Welwyn Garden City Male Voice Choir at St John's Church. The MVC are now involved in a project for Prostate Cancer called Men United in Song. If you know of any gentleman who would love to join this group, no singing experience required, please see the flyer attached.

The project runs from March until May.



## DIARY DATES

Week beginning Monday 5th February  
Feeling Good Week

Friday 9th February  
LSA cafe with cake donations given by Class 3

Sunday 11th February  
Movie afternoon (classes 1&2 - 1:30-3:30) (classes 3&4 - 3:45-5:45)

Week beginning Monday 12th February  
Parents' Evenings

Wednesday 14th February  
Assembly led by staff and pupils from Knightsfield School - **Postponed**

Friday 16th February  
Visit to St John's by Grant Shapps

Week beginning Monday 19th February  
Half term break

Monday 26th February  
Children return to school

Tuesday 27th February 3.15-4pm  
Art exhibition of children's work in the Hall

Wednesday 7th March  
World Book Day— we are not dressing up as book characters this year—a letter will be sent out soon with information about the day's activities.

Sunday 10th March  
Mothering Sunday

Wednesday 13th March  
'Rhyming Bible' performed by Saltmine Theatre

Thursday 21st March  
Rock Steady Concert

Tuesday 26th March  
School concert

Thursday 28th March  
9am Easter Service as St John's Church - all parents welcome.  
Easter Egg hunt after Church Service

Thursday 28th March  
End of the Spring term 1.30 p.m.

## A message from Rev Kathryn

Hello

It's finally starting to get lighter, which is very 'on theme' for the subject of this week's Collective Worship - Candlemas.

This Thursday in church, we acted out the story of `Jesus' presentation in the temple as baby and the moment when the elderly Simeon and Anna recognised him as the one who would become the saviour - the light - of the world. We had a lovely moment of quiet whilst we all watched the flame of a candle and reflected on how we can shine as lights in our school and communities.

This brings me neatly on to an exciting event in St John's church this Sunday! During our All-Together worship at 11am we'll be working out how we can be a light in Lemsford and beyond. We'd love you to join us for a fun, interactive hour of thinking about God's vision and plans for St John's. In particular, we'll be thinking about these questions:

- How does God want us to flourish and grow in 2024 and beyond?

- How can we be a church that welcomes, includes and nurtures the faith of people of all ages and backgrounds?

Come and have your say on these exciting questions, and join us for a glass of something lovely afterwards.

We want to hear the views of everyone - from 2 - 102!

If you can't make it, please do email me your thoughts at [revkathrynalford@gmail.com](mailto:revkathrynalford@gmail.com).

Finally, a little reminder that on 11th February it's Sunday club during the main 11am service and **WE WILL BE HAVING PANCAKES!**

Have a great weekend.

Rev Kathryn

