



St John's School Newsletter

19th January 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."



Yesterday we received a letter of congratulations from Rt Hon Damian Hinds MP, who is the government's Minister for Schools. In the letter he congratulates the school for our outstanding achievement in the recent Phonics Screening Check. 100% of pupils in Year 1 met the expected standard which puts us in the top 1% of all Primary Schools in the country. The entire letter will be on display in the entrance hall and outside noticeboard.

Feeling Good Week - Week beginning Monday 5th February

The School Council has suggested having an **animal theme** for our **Feeling Good Week**. Children love animals and it would be a lovely link with the Forest School activities we are intending to offer during the week. If any parent has a job that involves animals or knows someone who might be able to come into school to talk to the children about animals that would be much appreciated.

School Census

Thank you to you all for supporting us yesterday, the meal uptake was fantastic.

Forest School

Here are some photos taken by Mrs Maher of our beautiful school grounds. We are aiming to introduce more Forest School activities into our school day. Please let us know if you have a particular interest or expertise in outdoor activities.



Beacon Pupils

Class 1 - Freddie - has made a huge effort with his phonics so far and it is really showing in his sound knowledge. This week we have seen real confidence in his reading, blending words and recalling them to read his book fluently by the end of the week. He makes thoughtful contributions to class discussions and enjoys sharing his experiences with the class. We enjoy his creative ideas, keep up the hard work.

Class 2 - Harry - for an excellent week with his learning and his confidence. Harry has shown a great interest in our multiplication learning this week and has shown a great knowledge of all the multiplication facts. He has developed the confidence to share this knowledge with his learning partner. In English Harry has been able to take on the voice of the author in our story That Rabbit belongs to Emily Brown and has used a wide range of description. Harry continues to be a kind friend to others and we are enjoying his sense of humour and new found confidence.

Class 3 - Aarav - has shown a fantastic enthusiasm for his learning, really employing all the skills he has been learning and tackling tasks independently. He has shown excellent focus and is taking pride in his achievements, and we have really loved seeing his enjoyment of reading grow. He is confidently sharing ideas with the class and using lots of fantastic vocabulary to do so.

Class 4 - Matilda - A wonderful member of the class who is a brilliant role model! She is responsible, kind and caring. She has persevered well with our tricky maths topic and we have been very impressed with the links she has made between learning, her secure understanding, and how confidently she shares this with others. Matilda has loved diving into the crazy world of Alice in Wonderland, and shown brilliant understanding of humour and word play in her own writing.

Weather Forecast

It is expected to be warmer next week, however please could children continue to have appropriate clothing including suitable footwear, gloves and hats and ensure they have their sweatshirts and extra layers if they are necessary.


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

John 10:10


Word of the week

Talking is important. It is closely linked to reading, writing and learning. Did you know that research shows that spoken language abilities at 5 years of age predict their reading at 15? By playing simple speaking and listening games you may not think you are developing reading and writing, but you are. Get talking!

This week's word for younger children:

Word	Definition	Challenge
captive 	Not being able to get away.	How does the word captive make you feel? Why?

This week's word for our older children:

Word	Definition	Challenge
berserk 	Crazy and out of control.	Slip berserk into a conversation with a classmate or family member and see if they notice.

Big Garden Birdwatch

We would like to encourage families to take part in the Big Garden Birdwatch which will take place nationally between 26th and 28th January.

The link tells you more about the survey:

[Big Garden Birdwatch \(rspb.org.uk\)](http://rspb.org.uk)

Grant Shapps Visit to St John's

Grant Shapps will be visiting St John's on Friday 16th February. Grant will enjoy a guided tour of the school with some of our Year 6s, followed by a 30 minute Q&A session with Classes 3 and 4 where we hope to find out more about the role of an MP and what happens in Parliament. **Parents are welcome to join the Q&A session** from 1:40pm and share any questions or queries of their own.

Reminders

Absence Reporting

Please ring the School Office on 01707 322589 or email 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.

Water Safety

Due to a risk of slips or falls around water, the pond area must not be entered without a member of staff being present. Thank you

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.

TESCO Stronger Starts

Please vote for St John's next time you are in any of these stores...

Hatfield Extra AL9 5JY
Hatfield Rise Express AL10 8FH
Shire Park Express AL7 1TW
Welwyn Express AL6 9EQ
Welwyn Garden City Exp AL7 2BQ



The project that receives the most votes will receive £1,500, your support would really help us to create our School Garden and enhance Science, Design and Technology for all our pupils.

Governor's Visit

During the year our Governors visit school to see what is happening and to help our school development. Yesterday five governors came in and visited classes to see Maths being taught. They also met with a group of children to talk about their learning. They focussed on the children's strategies when they find the learning challenging, as this is one of the areas we are developing this year. There was some very worthwhile discussion and we are grateful for time and enthusiasm of our Governor team.

DIARY DATES

Thursday 25th January
Full governors' meeting

Wednesday 31st January
Class 4 and some members of choir going to the O2 to participate in the Young Voices concert

Week beginning Monday 5th February
Feeling Good Week

Week beginning Monday 12th February
Parents' Evenings (details on SchoolCloud)

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

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

Wednesday 7th March
World Book Day

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
End of the Spring term 1.30 p.m.

A message from Rev Kathryn..

Hello

I hope you're managing to keep warm. Soon be Spring!

In our not-overly-toasty church this week (it's warmer on Sundays I promise) we thought in Collective Worship about how Samuel was called by God and how God might communicate to us today. There was some confusion as to what a fax machine was... I now feel very old.

I know it's only January, but I thought I'd give you a few dates now for your diaries:

4th February, 11am - An All-together Service with a difference. During this less formal, interactive service, we'll be thinking together about what we'd like the church to be like in 5 years time. We'd love to hear the views of parents, carers and children at St John's, even if you've never been to church before.

11th February, 11am - Sunday Club with pancakes during the main Sunday service.

10th March, 11am - Mother's Day service for all ages.

24th March, 4pm - Connect@4 Lent extravaganza. Watch this space for more details of this fun service, which is particularly suitable for children of all ages.

Hope to see you soon.

Rev'd Kathryn

