



St John's School Newsletter

12th 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."



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.

Big Garden Birdwatch is the world's largest garden wildlife survey. Every year, hundreds of thousands of nature lovers like you take part, helping to build a picture of how garden birds are faring.

The link tells you more about the survey:

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

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.



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

Stronger Starts

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.

Beacon Pupils

Class 1 - Isabella - has been really helpful this week, settling back into our classroom routines, being ready to learn and supporting new friends in the class. She also chose to do two of the writing challenges in the classroom yesterday when she had only been asked to try one, brilliant self motivation. She always listens well and maintains great focus in our lessons, which shows in her learning.

Class 2 - Hargun - for her excellent efforts in all areas of learning. We have seen a great confidence in her ability to join in with class discussions and has offered sensible contributions to both phonics and history lessons. Hargun is a great, active learning partner and has made lots of friends in our class since joining us.

Class 3 - Layomi - has shown a fantastic attitude to her learning, asking questions, extending her learning and applying this in her work. She has thought carefully about the structure of her newspaper report, using paragraphs to group her information and punctuating her quotations. She has been a fantastic learning partner, sharing ideas and explanations.

Class 4 - Ethan - We have been really impressed by his growing confidence and positive mindset. Ethan is keen for challenge in the classroom, and it's been wonderful to see him so engaged and enthusiastic in our fraction learning and when learning tricky vocabulary. He is hardworking and always wants to improve - we've loved seeing him recognise areas that he's made progress in his learning and seeing him feel proud of himself, as well as thinking about his next steps. Ethan is really flourishing in the class-

Bad weather protocol

Further cold and possibly snowy weather is forecast for next week. We would ask that children continue to wear appropriate clothing including suitable footwear, gloves and hats. Please ensure that the children have their sweatshirts and extra layers as necessary.

We will contact parents via email and class WhatsApp groups should school be closed as early as we can.

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


John 10:10

Word of the week


Top tip:

As adults we need to know at least 30,000 words. Most of these words are learnt in childhood which means children need to learn seven new words every day. Reading to your child is one way to expose your child to more words. If you come across an interesting word in a book, try and use it again in a conversation with your child.

This week's word for younger children:

Word	Definition	Challenge
boom 	A loud, deep sound.	Do you know anyone that has a booming voice? Say your name in a booming voice.

This week's word for our older children:

Word	Definition	Challenge
beckoned 	To use your hand to ask someone to come to you.	Show how you can beckon someone to come to you. What do you need to beckon ?

Signs of Spring Survey

Field Studies Council is working in partnership with the Royal Society of Biology to bring you the Signs of Spring survey 2024. Please visit...

<https://www.field-studies-council.org/signs-of-spring/>

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.

School Census

18 January 2023 - Class 2/3/4

The school census is coming up and our budgets are determined by a number of things, one of which is the number of meals taken up on Census Day. It would be really beneficial to us all if children could have a school meal on Census Day. Choices are:

Beef Burger in a Roll
Ham Baguette
Cheesy Pasta

There is nothing you need to do in advance, just leave the packed lunch at home and your child can make their choice on the day. An invoice is automatically added to Arbor.

Thank you for supporting us.

Reminder

Clubs start again on Monday 15th January. For Netball and Football please ensure your child has the appropriate kit for the weather conditions.

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.

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.

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 to follow)

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
Art exhibition of children's work (details to follow)

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!

Happy New Year to you all. I hope you all had a wonderful break over the Christmas holidays. It was fantastic to see so many of you at our Christmas services, as well as our Epiphany service on Sunday morning, and our Christingle and pizza party on Sunday afternoon. Big thanks to Jo Brooks for organising the latter, which offered us all a wonderful way to bring light into a dark January afternoon.

This week in Collective Worship, we thought about our New Year's Spiritual Resolutions - how might we decide we're going to meet more with Jesus this year? There were some great ideas from the children. Personally, I'm trying to spend 10 mins of silence with God each morning with a cup of tea. I can highly recommend it, although you have to get up very early in my house to find silence!

On Sunday at 11am it's our monthly Sunday Club during the main Sunday service, and we'd love new children from St John's of all ages to join this thriving group. This week's we're thinking about Jesus calling his first disciples with the aid of games, stories, conversations and much more. Come along and have some fun!

Have a great weekend whatever you get up to.

Rev'd Kathryn

