



St John's School Newsletter

8th December 2023

Values of this half term

Peace and Understanding

'Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth to those with whom he is pleased.'

Luke 2: 14



Singing at Stanborough Lodge

On Tuesday afternoon the school choir sang for residents of the Stanborough Lodge Care Home. They sang a range of Christmas carols and Christmas songs with The 12 Days of Christmas and Rudolf the Red-nosed Reindeer going down especially well! The residents joined in with the singing energetically and it was lovely seeing the children chatting to them whilst enjoying the refreshments that were provided.



A message from the organiser of the singing at the care home:

"Just to say again a big thank you to the choir for their singing yesterday at Stanborough Lodge and to you for all the preparation and rehearsal. The residents and staff were so pleased with the singing and in particular that the children went to talk to them afterwards."

Christmas Jumper Sale

Many thanks for donating Christmas jumpers to the sale on Monday. Several were sold and £37 was raised by the LSA. On National Christmas Jumper Day on Thursday £87.16 was raised for Save the Children.

LSA - Hampers Raffle Draw

The Raffle draw for the hampers will take place during next week's Celebration Assembly on Friday 15th December, return sold raffle tickets to the school office as soon as possible. Many thanks.

Amazon Wishlist

To those parents who have donated amazing and useful books and other gifts to the school, thank you for thinking of us.



Beacon Pupils

Class 1 - Winter - has been such a star in our class this week. She is really growing in confidence to share her ideas and explore the activities in the classroom. She is working hard in our play rehearsals and being such a sensible role model. In our phonics she is reading with more and more confidence each day. Keep up the good work Winter.

Class 2 - Danny - has worked hard on building his resilience and patience when working on his class tasks. This week in English he has created lovely poems using a range of adjectives to describe winter. When writing he is able to use his phonics confidently and use a range of resources to aid him with his spellings. During maths this week he has been able to create 3D shapes out of polydron, naming the 2D shapes that make up the faces. In our Nativity play rehearsals this person knows his lines off by heart and makes sure he is joining in with all the songs too. Since starting with us this person has built great friendships in the class and is joy to teach..

Class 3 - Varshini - always shows such great enthusiasm for her learning and has shown fantastic perseverance in tackling activities independently drawing on the resources available. She was able to make well informed inferences from our class text, using evidence to support her ideas. She is a thoughtful, kind and caring member of our class, whose positive attitude always brightens our classroom.

Class 4 - Ellie - could be Beacon Pupil every week! She is incredibly helpful, hard-working, and always kind to others. Ellie impresses us with her commitment to her learning across the curriculum and her willingness and determination to not only do well but to exceed. She pays close attention to her work and is always keen to improve and to challenge herself. A fantastic role model to all at St John's - thank you!



"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
bellow 	To shout with an angry, loud, deep voice.	Think of another word that is a bit like bellowed . Do others at home agree with you? Can you think of other words with similar meanings?

This week's word for our older children:

Word	Definition	Challenge
ashamed 	To feel embarrassed or guilty because of something you have done.	Is someone feeling ashamed , what might they have done?

Christmas Performances

As well as the performances of the Christmas Nativity that classes 1 and 2 will be sharing with everyone on Tuesday 12th December there are number of other short Christmas concerts to which parents are warmly invited.

Wednesday 13th December

11.00 a.m. Piano Concert

Parents of children who have piano and keyboard lessons with Jelena in school are invited to come along to a short concert in the school hall. Children who learn the piano with a different teacher will also perform.

Thursday 14th December

10.00 a.m. Rock Steady Concert

Parents of children who take part in the Thursday morning Rock Steady workshops are invited to come along to a performance in the school hall.

Tuesday 19th December

9.15am Christmas Concert

Each class will be performing a Christmas song that they have been working on in their weekly music lessons with Mr Rapson. As well as singing they will also be playing instruments which the LSA have so kindly funded for us this term. The concert will begin at 9.15 a.m. and will last approximately 30 minutes. Refreshments will be served in the school dining room between drop - off and the concert itself.

Clubs

There will be no more lunchtime and after school clubs this term. They will begin again on the week of 15th January. Information about the range of clubs being offered will be shared with parents at the start of the new term.

Local Information

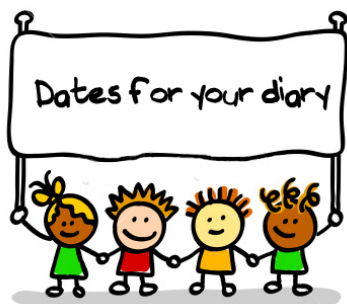
Childcare Choices is a website that brings together existing childcare offers and information in one place. Are you getting the right help? Do you know what you are entitled to? What schemes are available?

Don't miss out on getting the support you are entitled to. Visit: <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk>

Young Voices at the O2- update

Arbor will shortly be updated for those children attending this event. Please keep an eye out for your coach, ticket and/or t-shirt invoices.





Academic Year 2023/24

Friday 8th December
Christmas concert at St John's Church given by the school choir and Welwyn Garden City Male Voice Choir.

Sunday 10th December
School choir taking part in the St John's Church Carol Service.

Tuesday 12th December
Nativity performances given by class 1 and 2
2.30 p.m. and 5.30 p.m.

Wednesday 13th December
Pantomime at Campus West

Thursday 14th December
Rock Steady Concert

Friday 15th December
Last day for school clubs for the term

Tuesday 19th December (change of date)
Christmas Lunch

Tuesday 19th December
Christmas concert (9.15 am)
Carol Service (2.30pm)

Wednesday 20th December 2023
End of the Autumn Term - finish at 1.30pm

Thursday 4th January 2024
Start of Spring Term, Children back to school

A message from Rev Kathryn..

Hello

We're now in the full swing of Advent, and on Sunday it's the first of our Christmas services - Carols by Candlelight for EVERYONE at 4pm on Sunday 10th December.



This service is brilliant for families and is a wonderful chance to think about the meaning of Christmas, with the help of a beautiful candlelit church; popular carols sung by St John's school and church choirs and the congregation; and short, accessible readings read by the children. All followed by festive refreshments!

Hope to see you there.

Rev'd Kathryn



Emergency Contacts

Please ensure that we have up-to-date contact details for your child(ren.) We would prefer to have at **least 3 contacts**. Please check Arbor to see that the information we have is current and amend if necessary.

Lateness

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

Medicines in School

Medicines must be handed to a member of staff and not given to children to look after. Parents will need to complete a consent form to enable staff to administer meds.

School Attendance - Illness

We understand that it can be difficult to know whether your child should come to school if they are feeling poorly. Of course, it depends on how poorly they are and the nature of their illness. The following information from the NHS is very helpful when determining whether your child should come to school, if you are in doubt please phone us:

[Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

Good attendance at school is essential for children for so many reasons including developing social skills, making and maintaining friendships as well, of course, as developing their full potential in order to ensure their present and future success.