



# St John's School Newsletter

## 24th November 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



### St John's School Choir

The choir has a busy couple of weeks ahead. On Thursday they took part in a workshop with member of the Welwyn Garden City Male Voice Choir and their conductor, this was in preparation for the joint concert taking place on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December in St John's Church. As well as their own items the school choir will be joining the Male Voice Choir for four songs and carols.



Next Tuesday the choir will be singing at Stanborough Lodge, a care home for the elderly. If any parents can help with transport to and from the care home in the afternoon we would be grateful.



On Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December the choir will be part of the Carols by Candlelight at St John's Church.

### Beacon Pupils



As there is no Friday Celebration assembly our Beacon Pupils will be named next week.

### Archery

Today we welcomed Jo Moxham of Stanborough School Sports Partnership to St John's for an Archery session with Class 4.

We have some budding Olympians and all who took part thoroughly enjoyed this.



### Stir Up Sunday

In Collective Worship today Rev Kathryn and the children made a start on a Christmas cake.



"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
astonished	 Being really surprised.	What could you do tonight that would make family members astonished?

This week's word for our older children:

Word	Definition	Challenge
anticipation	 Feeling excited about something that is going to happen.	When is the last time you felt anticipation? Describe how it felt in your body.

### **Christmas Jumper Sale**

There will be a sale of pre-loved children's Christmas jumpers after school on Monday, If you have any that you would like to donate please bring them into school on Monday. Thank you!

### **12 Days of Christmas**

12 Days of Christmas starts next Tuesday. The planned events are displayed on the playground noticeboard and is also attached to this email. Please ask if we can clarify anything!

### **Reminders**

#### **PE trainers**

Trainers for PE need to be suitable, they should not be 'Hi- tops' and preferably will be dark in colour. Thank you.

#### **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.

#### **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

### **Welcome to St John's**

This week we welcome George to Class 1. He has slotted in nicely with his peer group, already made friends and we look forward to his contribution to St John's. We are glad to have you with us George.

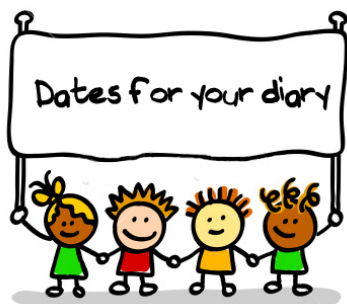
### **Carols by Candlelight at St John's Church Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December 4.00 p.m.**

If you would like your child to present one of the readings in the Carols by Candlelight service please let Mrs Boylan know.

### **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 1st December

Occasional Day-children not in school

Monday 4th December

Pre-loved Christmas Jumper sale at pick-up.

Tuesday 5th December

Choir singing at Stanborough Lodge Care Home

Wednesday 6th December

Class 3 last swimming session of the term

Thursday 7th December

Last Badminton club session of the term

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 (am)  
Carol Service (2.30pm)

Wednesday 20th December 2023

End of the Autumn Term - finish at 1.30pm

See the UPDATED attachment for full information about the 12 Days of Christmas Events organised by the LSA.

### A message from Rev Kathryn..

Hello

Have you made your Christmas pudding yet?! Last Sunday is traditionally called 'stir-up Sunday', so this week in Collective Worship we thought about how we could stir-up our 'good gifts', with the aid of some excellent Christmas pudding making chefs.

This Sunday, it's the start of Advent, and we'll be commencing the countdown to Christmas with our fun and interactive All-Together Advent worship at 11am. If you're starting to feel Christmassy, then you'll love our Carols by Candlelight for everyone on 10th December at 4pm. We'll be joining the school and church choir in singing some well-known carols, as well as hearing the 'Big' Christmas story in the magical atmosphere of a candlelit church.

Have a great weekend.

Rev Kathryn



### 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>

### HAPPY Camps

Happy Camps holiday clubs are available for children of families receiving benefits. Please follow this link to see what is on offer:

<https://thegrid.org.uk/news/happy-winter-camps>

## Parent survey relating to our school Values and RE

Many thanks to those parents who completed the survey. It was very interesting reading your responses and will help us to further develop these two important areas. Here are some quotes taken from your survey responses

### **Question:**

**Our school vision is based on 'I came that you may life, life in abundance,' what do you think this vision means for your child(ren) at St. John's?**

*"That they should live their lives to the fullest and to learn things on every level - mentally spiritually, socially ad academically, that life should be fulfilling on all levels."*

*"That their education is rooted in the teachings of Jesus Christ, encouraging them to have life in its fullest."*

### **Question:**

**How does St. John's help your child (ren) flourish?**

*"By being warm and nurturing, offering guidance and instruction. Offering opportunities to step out of their comfort zone and grow as a person."*

*"Giving the child freedom and belief."*

### **Question:**

**How are the school's Christian values reflected in the way you and your child(ren) are treated at St. John's?**

*"The school is a kind and safe environment. The staff, children and other parents are lovely people."*

*"Respect, love and understanding of one another."*

### **Question:**

**Is your child making good progress in RE?**

*"Yes, they enjoy learning about historical religions and other current world religions. A rounded view of varying beliefs is vitally important for their development."*

*"It increases the child's ability to think critically and do more research and know the facts by themselves."*