



# 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



#### Word aware

As mentioned in last week's newsletter one of the areas we are developing this year is Oracy, including developing the children's spoken vocabulary. Mrs Meola is leading aspects of this initiative in school and as one of the activities to support this one break time this week the children wrote their favourite words in chalk on the playground. Words included 'love,' and 'discombulated.'



#### Congratulations to our Beacon Pupils

**Class 1 - Tilly** - has really blossomed in confidence this week. Making thoughtful contributions to our lessons, blending well in phonics and singing beautifully in our Nativity practices. Tilly is a kind and thoughtful friend and enjoys playing with a range of children in the class. It has been lovely to see her share her smile and lovely ideas with us more this week and we cant wait to see more of this in the weeks to come. Well done .

**Class 2 - Mason** - for his enthusiasm and effort that he has put into learning his lines for the nativity play. This enthusiasm has extended into his learning and he has been working so hard using a wide range of adjectives in his writing about the lonely Christmas tree. Mason is a kind and caring friend ensuring that all his friends are included in games that he plays.

**Class 3 - Naomi** - has been incredibly thoughtful, kind and determined, working hard throughout her lessons and really pushing herself to extend her reasoning. She has used different strategies to tackle multiplication, has really listened carefully and applied herself to the aims in English - using fronted adverbials to add more detail. She is always so helpful in class and is a caring friend.

**Class 4 - Alexander** - a really kind and thoughtful friend who has been very welcoming to our newcomers. He has impressed us when sharing his interesting ideas in class, and we have loved seeing his self-confidence grow this term. Alex has blown us away with his fantastic understanding of areas such as prime and square numbers and the way he applies this knowledge well to problem solving. A really lovely and valued member of class.



#### Congratulations

Congratulations and thank you to Mrs Gammon who has successfully submitted a bid for funding for our Feeling Good week in February 2024. We are intending to use the money to support our developing Forest School Provision.

#### Welcome to St John's

This week we welcome Vinnie to Class 4. 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 Vinnie.



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


John 10:10

## Word of the week


One of the areas of focus this year on the School Development Plan is the developing of oracy across the school. We are aiming to build on a range of areas linking to Communication and Language including correct grammar and the inclusion of a wide range of vocabulary when speaking.

Continuing on from last wee, here is a new Word of the Week as a challenge for families to use at home! We will also be sharing top tips to help parents in extending spoken vocabulary.

### **This week's word for younger 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.

### **This week's word for our older children:**

Word	Definition	Challenge
anxiously 	Being worried as you do something.	Imagine you are anxiously waiting for something to happen. You are worried about it. What might you be anxious about?

### **Values and RE Parent Survey**

Thank you to all the parents who have completed our Parent survey about our Values and RE. The responses are and will be helpful in developing this area of our school life further. If you have not yet completed the survey, would you please spare a few minutes to do so. Your responses are anonymous. The link is:

<https://forms.gle/xeeVWKH52UreiAU6>

### **Mrs Redmond's Netball Report**

On Tuesday our fantastic team took part in an event at Stanborough School. Our first match was against Green Lanes - we won 1-0! Our second match was against St Mary's and we drew 4-4.

Overall the children read both games well, intercepting and deflecting their opponent's passes and attacking to win back possession. The speed and quality of passing was evident as was the implementation of skills gained at our lessons such as returning to centre. Well done to you all and thank you to the parents who continue to support us.

### **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.

### **Safeguarding**

**Staffing**— 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.

### **Choir**

Today choir members will be bringing home a letter giving further information on the events they are participating in.



### **Hamper Donations**

Thank you to all parents who have given so generously again this year. The draw will take place on 15th December - look out for more information and tickets.



## Diary Dates:

### **Academic Year 2023/24**

Wednesday 29th November

Singing workshop for members of the school choir led by members of the Welwyn Garden City Male Voice and their conductor.

Wednesday 29th November

On-line Fete meeting 8.00 p.m.

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

## **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.

## **A message from Rev Kathryn..**

I don't know about you, but it feels a bit like the year has suddenly sped up and it's nearly Advent! In addition to scrabbling to find Advent calendars, we're getting ready for the season with our new Connect @ 4 informal worship gathering at 4pm this Sunday. See attached leaflet for more details.

We'll then be celebrating the start of a new church year, and the build up to Christmas at our Advent All-Together service at 11am on 3rd December.

Hopefully, these events will help you keep a sense of 'peace' in the busyness of the season (the school value for this month!)

This week in collective worship, we thought about two brothers who had to really work on making peace - Esau and Jacob. Hopefully there will be a lot less family conflict in our own Christmas preparations, and this will be a peaceful, reflective, joyful time for you all.

Have a great weekend.

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 Camp**

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>