



St John's School Newsletter

21st March 2025

Values of this half term

Love & Forgiveness

'A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.'

So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other.'

John 13: 34



WH Primary School Dance festival 2025

Many congratulations to Sandpipers Class who took part in the School Dance Festival at Campus West on Wednesday evening. The theme of the show was 'A Splash of Colour', our children danced to '5 Colours in her Hair' by McFly and looked very colourful. They danced with enthusiasm and energy and made staff and parents proud. Many thanks to Miss Ng for working with the children to choreograph and produce the performance and many thanks also to parents for supporting the children in their preparation for the performance. An enjoyable time was had by all!



Fete Preparations Raffle Tickets and Posters

Raffle tickets came home this week. Please check your child's bag in case the tickets are lurking in the bottom of them! Additional tickets are available in school so please do ask for them if you need them. Please fill out raffle tickets details with adult names only, NOT children's names. Payment can be made via the QR code or cash at the school office.

Beacon Pupils

Robins - Rupert has been such a helpful friend this week. Looking out for people who need a hand with little things and showing real care. He has been working hard in our class session and is not afraid of a challenge, persevering when he finds something tricky in his writing, maths or playing with his friends. His thoughtful listening skills help him to make lovely contributions to all of our lessons and his creative ideas in his play are wonderful.

Starlings - Pippa for her increased confidence; volunteering her views during small group work and with the whole class. Each day Pippa comes into school with great energy and readiness to learn. She is a kind and caring learning partner and has developed her oracy skills, relaying information clearly and taking the time to listen to her partner. Over the course of the term Pippa has worked hard on her spellings ensuring that she has used key word vocabulary mats. In addition to this she has also taken the time to practise and recall our spelling rules and apply these not only in our spelling lessons but in her independent English writing.

Kingfishers - Lily has wowed us this week with her focus in lessons and contributions in class. In Maths, Lily has been able to spot rules and patterns with fractions which she has carefully explained to the class, and in English, she worked fantastically with her learning partner to create dialogue from a scene. Her confidence to demonstrate Maypole dancing to the whole class was fantastic as our preparations for the May fete are underway. Well done Lily.

Sandpipers - Sofia is a caring and kind member of class who is a lovely friend to everyone. We have loved seeing her grow in confidence, both personally and in her learning. Sofia is hard-working and this shows in everything she does. She is a fantastic learning partner who always takes the time to carefully explain her ideas and her knowledge, as well as offering them helpful advice to move their learning on too. Well done for being a brilliant member of our school community!

"I came that they may have life, life in all its fullness."

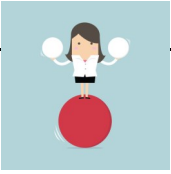
John 10:10

Top Tips and Word of the Week


Encourage Number Skills

Encourage your child to help measure ingredients for a recipe you are making.

This week's word for younger children:

Word		Definition	Challenge
steady		Not moving or shaking.	Who in your house has the stadiest hand? Build a tall tower of bricks to prove it or play Jenga.

This week's word for older children:

Word		Definition	Challenge
manicured		If something is manicured it is neatly trimmed or well cared for.	Look manicured up in the dictionary. Now talk to someone about what things can be described as manicured .

Reminder

Next Fete Donation Day Friday 28th March Non-uniform Day in exchange for bottle donations.

Red Nose Day

Thank you to you all for the donations today. We will share the total raised as soon as we have that.



TreeTops Bookings

Last day of term is 4th April, school ends at 1.30pm however TreeTops can be booked upto 4pm on a first come first served basis. Please speak to Mrs K or Miss Lewis in the Office.

Lemsford Fete

Bank Holiday Monday 5th May 2025

Thank you for participating in the first of our Fete donation days today!

As always please keep the fete date free as the children will be singing and dancing as part of the event. If you would like to be involved in the planning and organising of the fete please let us know. The dates of future meetings will be on the school diary once they are decided.

This year it is the fete's 75th anniversary as the first one was held in 1950. After the Easter holidays there is a week and a half of school before the day itself - Monday 5th May!

Don't forget to return your reply slip confirming children's attendance on the fete day.

Here are some dates for your diaries:

Friday 28th March - Non-uniform day in exchange for bottle donations

Friday 25th April - Non-uniform day in exchange for bottle or chocolate donations.

Wednesday 23rd April to Wednesday 30th April - Bric a Brac donations into school please.

Monday 28th to Friday 2nd May - Lucky dip bags to be brought into school

Friday 2nd May children performing their dances and songs for parents who will be looking after stalls on the day of the fete.

Parent help

On-going maintenance of the school and its grounds is an important part of managing St John's. Recently we have had fantastic help from parents and families with this which has included beginning to create a pathway and a log circle in the spinney area, painting exterior windowsills and supporting with plumbing issues.

There are a couple of further tasks that we were wondering if parents could help with. We have a couple of apple trees which need a trim and a dead ivy-covered tree that needs taking down. If anyone is able to plaster we have an interior wall that needs some patching up! If you are able to help with these jobs, would you please let Mrs Boylan or Miss Lewis know, many thanks.

Music Concerts

Rock Steady Concert 24th March at 2.00 p.m.

Piano Concert 26th March at 9.00am

The children having piano lessons in school will be giving a short concert on 26th March—if any other children who have piano lessons would like to perform please let Mrs Boylan know.

Choir at Stanborough Lodge 27th March at 1.45-2.45pm

The choir have been invited to sing at Stanborough Lodge on Thursday 27th March, Thank you to those

Payments / Balances

**Trips/Events/Workshops/Swimming/
Meals & Milk**

We have a number of outstanding balances showing on Arbor and these need to be cleared by the end of the Financial Year (by 31st March 2025).

Please check your account(s) and clear any unpaid invoice.

If you have difficulty making payment, and have not already contacted Mrs Boylan, please do so.

Parking

The safety of our children is paramount. Parents are not permitted to use the staff car park between 8.30 and 3.30 to turn around, drop off or collect your child.

Staff, deliveries and emergency vehicles must be able to access the car park at all times of the day.

Parents must use the pavement alongside Lemsford Road and into the side gate by Treetops - not walk through the car park at any time.

Children that are late should come to the main office using the pavement only, never through the main gate/car park.

Finer Diner

Children with exemplary manners during lunchtimes are given a Best Behaviour slip.

Those slips are put into a hat and four children are then invited to have lunch with Mrs Boylan on a Friday.

This is a lovely way to end the week with a chance to share their news with Mrs Boylan in person.

Today the children were

Elisabeth - Robins Kalia - Starlings
Lily - Starlings Bernadette - Sandpipers



Attendance

As you know good attendance at school is vitally important for children's' development - social, emotional as well as academic. Good attendance is viewed nationally as being 95% or above.

We appreciate that this is the time of year when there are all kinds of illnesses going around but at present we have many children whose attendance is considerably lower than 95%

Our aim is to work with families to support them to ensure good regular attendance for their children. The following link is a blog on the subject of attendance produced by the DfE.

[DfE external document template](#)

Nut Free School

A gentle reminder that we are a nut free environment, packed lunches and snacks must not contain nuts. Pesto is often overlooked but contains pine nuts and so is not allowed. Many thanks

Grapes in School

A gentle reminder that grapes are to be cut in half lengthways.



DIARY DATES

Rocksteady Concert - Monday 24th March 2.00 p.m.
(please note the change of day and time.)

Piano Concert - 26th March 9:00am

Choir at Stanborough Lodge - 27th March 1.45-2.45

Non-uniform Day in exchange for bottle donations—
28th March

Last Day for Clubs - 28th March

Class Music concert led by Mr Rapson - Tuesday 1st
April 9.00 a.m.

Easter Service at St John's Church - 3rd April 9.00
a.m. Parents are warmly invited to attend.

Easter Egg Hunt - 3rd April*

End of Term - Friday 4th April (1.30pm finish)

*more information to follow

Inset: 22nd April

Children Back for Summer Term - 23rd April

Non-uniform day in exchange for bottles and/or chocolate -
Friday 25th April

W/C 28th April - Lucky Bags to be brought in*

Dress Rehearsal of dancing and singing for parents who will
be helping at the Fete - Friday 2nd May

Lemsford Fete - Monday 5th May

Hello

Happy Spring! I hope you've managed to grab
a moment of sunshine this week.

In Collective Worship on Thursday, we con-
sidered how caring for each other in our
school, church or other community, is part of
our spirituality.

Using Jesus as an example, we thought about
what it means to care for one another,
and how small acts of kindness help us feel
loved and supported. There was some bril-
liant miming by the children!

This theme links beautifully with Mothering
Sunday, which we'll be celebrating on 30th
March at St John's Church at 11am.

This all age service, is a brilliant chance
to give thanks for mums, carers, and all
those who look after us—whether in our fam-
ilies, at school, or in our wider community.

We'd love you to join us for a special all-age
service full of warmth, celebration, and the
chance to get involved!

Whether you come to St John's every week
or have never been before, you're very wel-
come!

Rev Kathryn



Building work at St John's

Work is almost complete on the external steps
that lead to the hall and to Sandpipers Class. The
St Alban's Diocese will be funding the project in
the same way that they have funded recent school
developments (replacing the flat roof at the front
of school and the fence and tarmac in Robins out-
door area.) As a school we must provide 10% of
the overall cost which even with the support of
the diocese for the remaining 90% is still a huge
cost to a school of our size, To support with this
and other projects we would like parents to con-
sider making donations to our Governors' Fund. We
held parent consultations about this last summer
term and would now like to proceed with it, with
the support of parents.

Here is a link to the school website which also ex-
plains the reasons and process further.

[governor-fund.pdf](#)

Many thanks for your support with this, once you
have read the information, please to contact us if
you have any queries.