



St John's School Newsletter

28th 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



Rock Steady

On Monday afternoon, we were treated once again to performances given by the children who have been part of Rock Steady this term. The two groups performed with confidence, singing and playing guitar, drums and keyboards.



Piano Concert

It was lovely to hear our eleven pianists play for us on Wednesday. The pieces ranged from Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D minor to Abba's Dancing Queen. Well done to everyone that played.



Choir to Stanborough Lodge

Thursday afternoon the school choir visited a local care home to sing to the residents. Some of the children also played a piano solo. The residents joined in some of the singing and after the performance the children were treated to cake and chocolate. It was lovely to see the children chatting with the residents at the end of the afternoon. Thank you to parents for providing lifts.



Beacon Pupils

Robins - Ireti has been growing in confidence this term. She has lovely, thoughtful ideas and we are pleased she is sharing these more confidently in our whole class sessions. She has been working hard in our phonics sessions and is gaining confidence with her writing, which is such a joy to see. In her play we have loved seeing her making more suggestions and enjoying role play games with her friends. Keep up the good work Ireti.

Starlings - Joey for his fantastic attitude and patience in all he does. This week he has shown good leadership skills when modelling how to measure volume. He was able to share his knowledge confidently and ensure that everyone in his group had a turn with measuring. Joey has developed his poetry skills this week and has used beautiful adjectives, thinking carefully about the topic of his poem. He has improved his handwriting to ensure his presentation is excellent. Around school and in the classroom Joey is a polite, kind and thoughtful individual who has grown in confidence. It is wonderful to hear his thoughts during group and class discussions and we are really impressed with the knowledge he shares.

Kingfishers - Astrid has shown real determination in her maths, using known facts to support her, excellent partnered work and confidence in putting her hand up to share her ideas. We've also completed lots of work that has shown her real creativity and empathy, sharing thoughtful ideas in RE and PSHE. She always has such thoughtful questions to explore the world around her, particularly when thinking about the rainforest and its inhabitants in geography over this unit.

Sandpipers - Gitish has really impressed us with his hard-working attitude and enthusiasm for all of our learning. In maths in particular, he has shown a brilliant understanding of our learning in decimals and finding complements to one, and made great progress in this. He has applied his learning well when tackling tricky maths tasks and has been able to clearly and confidently explain his reasoning to the class and his partner. Gitish is always polite, kind and friendly to others and we have really noticed him going out of his way to be extra helpful in class and on the playground. Very well done!

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

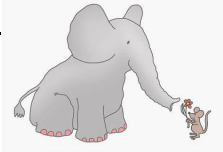
John 10:10

Top Tips and Word of the Week


Encourage Reading Skills

Encourage your child to read labels, street signs, shop names, posters and even bus timetables.

This week's word for younger children:

Word		Definition	Challenge
Immense		Really big.	What things can you think of that are immense ?

This week's word for older children:

Word		Definition	Challenge
Relentless		Something that never stops.	Slip relentless into conversation with a family member and see if they notice.

Making Biscuits in Starlings

Starlings were very busy making delicious biscuits, helping to weigh ingredients, mix the dough and decorate them.



Netball Event

A familiar face joined the team at Stanborough School! Many thanks to Mrs Ching for taking time to support the children.



Lemsford Fete

Bank Holiday Monday 5th May 2025

Thank you for participating in the first and second 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 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.

Fete Preparations Raffle Tickets and Posters

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.

Let the school office know if you need any more posters to advertise this event locally.



Red Nose Day

We raised an amazing £82 for Comic Relief. Well done to you all.

There is a fascinating history of Red Nose Day on the official website - take a look...

[History of Red Nose Day | Comic Relief](#)

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.

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.

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

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

TreeTops Bookings

Last day of term is the 4th April, school ends at 1.30pm however TreeTops can be booked up to 4pm on a first come first served basis.

Please speak to Mrs K or Miss Lewis in the Office to make a booking.

Building work at St John's

Work is now 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 outdoor 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 consider 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 explains 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.

Hello

This Sunday we're looking forward to celebrating **Mothering Sunday** with many of St John's school families, at a special **All-Together Communion at 11am**.

It's a service with something for everyone, as we give thanks for all those who care for us, love us, and help us grow. That might be mums, dads, grandparents, carers, teachers, friends, or members of our community.

There'll be lots of chances for the children to get involved—and whether you've been to church many times before, or it's your first visit, we'd love to see you.

We're also looking ahead to the **School Easter Service on Thursday 3rd April at 9am**, which will take place in church.

It's always a really special moment in the school year—a chance to pause, hear the Easter story in a creative way, and celebrate the hope it brings. Parents and carers are really welcome to come long and join in the fun. Have a lovely weekend!

Rev. Kathryn



All-Together Holy Communion for Mothering Sunday

A service with something for everyone aged 0-100+

**A celebration of
love and care!**

30th March 2025
11am

All Welcome - always

