



St John's School Newsletter

4th April 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



Easter Service

We had a lovely Easter service led by Revd Kathryn yesterday morning. Sandpipers provided the readings and Starlings led the prayers. Revd Kathryn's talk managed to link different kinds of chocolate to each part of Holy Week and the children sang the Easter songs with energy and enthusiasm. It was great to have parents joining us.



Music Concert

On Tuesday morning we were treated to another concert of music presented by each class. Mr Rapson has been working hard with each class to create their own composition. In their composition Robins class took us on a journey into space, Starlings took us on a literary journey, with Kingfishers we journeyed into the rainforest and Sandpipers created a combination of exciting rhythms. Each class demonstrated their music skills in the way that they performed and listened to one another.

Beacon Pupils

Robins - Elijah is such a ray of sunshine in our classroom. We love his curiosity and natural interest in learning. He has been asking really thoughtful questions in our class sessions and he can recall what we have been learning about through our topics and beyond. Elijah is a kind friend and has wonderful, creative ideas in his play. His use of our maths language has particularly impressed us over the last few weeks. Keep up the good work Elijah!

Starlings - Emma for her continued positivity in everything she does. This week she has been a focused learner assisting her learning partner in thinking up adjectives for their Easter shape poem. Emma has presented great ideas in both whole class and small group discussions sharing her ideas confidently whilst also listening to others. During our time learning about the Easter Story Emma showed a mature understanding. Emma has a kind and caring way with all her friends and those in the younger classes. She has a great responsible attitude both in class and around school.

Kingfishers - Sophia has shown real determination and enthusiasm in her learning, tackling fraction conversions independently and carefully planning a well-structured news report which she was able to type up skilfully. It has been fantastic to see Sophia engaging so confidently in our geography topic, sharing thoughtful ideas about the impact of humans on the rainforests and also taking part in the Maypole dancing for this year's fete. Well done Sophia

Sandpipers - Samuel W is a thoughtful and caring friend to all, and we have really noticed his kindness towards others. Samuel is lovely to have a chat with as he is so interested in the world around him and asks brilliant questions. He shows great enthusiasm for all of his learning, and we love hearing his wealth of general knowledge! He takes pride in his work, and we have really seen his efforts and focus increase throughout Year 5. We have also been super impressed with his musical talents and expression recently and it is wonderful to see his confidence continue to grow. 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

Try poetry, books in verse are a popular choice and are a good choice for reluctant readers.

This week's word for younger children:

Word		Definition	Challenge
stiff		Something that does not bend easily.	Pretend you are stiff and cannot bend. How will you walk?

This week's word for older children:

Word		Definition	Challenge
venture		To go somewhere that might be dangerous.	What place would you like to venture to?

Goodbye to Mrs Fletcher

We are very sorry to be saying goodbye to Mrs Fletcher today. She has been with us since 2020 and in that time has been a teaching assistant, midday supervisor and our finance assistant. Mrs Fletcher has been a very much valued member of the staff team. Her warm personality, kindness, sense of humour and professionalism made her a pleasure to work with. We will miss her very much but wish her and her family all the very best in their move to Norfolk.

Cake Sale

Thank you to Kingfishers for providing an amazing array of cakes. A fantastic £136 was raised - well done everyone.



House Cup

Congratulations to **Brocket House** for being the House Cup winners this term

Cowper	130
Brocket	142
Melbourne	122
Palmerston	100



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](#)

School Uniform

Over the Easter holidays would you please check that your child has the correct uniform ready for the beginning of the summer term, this includes appropriate school shoes. A reminder too that jewellery, including smart watches, should not be worn to school. Please ensure items of uniform

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.

House Names Competition

You may have noticed a new house point container which is in the reception area at the front of school. We would like to change the names of the school house teams which are presently Brocket, Cowper, Melbourne and Palmerston. We are challenging the children to come up with new names and to share them with their class teacher when they come back at the start of the summer term. Maybe local links or something that compliments the names of our classes? We look forward to hearing the children's suggestions

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](#)

Breaktime snack

A reminder that breaktime snacks should only be a piece of fruit/vegetable or plain biscuit. Chocolate or crisps are no allowed.

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

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

Easter Fun

Thank you to the LSA for providing the eggs for our Easter Egg Hunt, as you can see from the photo there were plenty to find! The children had a lovely time!



Mothing Sunday service at St John's

It was fantastic to have so many children and their families join the service at St John's on Sunday. Thank you to the children who read, led the prayers, helped with the communion and who sang with the choir.

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. We are delighted to say that our bid to update the children's toilet areas has been successful.

Hello

A huge thank you to all the children who took part in our Mothering Sunday service last weekend. Their brilliant singing, reading and prayers made it a truly joyful All-Together service. Together, we celebrated mums and the many different kinds of families we see in the Bible, in our church, and in our school. As part of the service, we built God's family tree, adding characters from the Bible to show how love is what really holds a family together.

Our next All-Together service is on Easter Sunday – 20th April at 11am. I'll be finding another interactive way to unpack the meaning of Easter, and the whole service will be packed with resurrection joy – as will the Easter egg hunt immediately afterwards! We'd love to see you at one of the most special services of the year.

The children also brought our end-of-term Easter service to life on Thursday with their music, Bible stories and prayers.

We had great fun telling the story of Holy Week and Easter with the help of everyone's favourite Easter treat – chocolate!

I hope you have a wonderful Easter holiday, whatever you're up to. And remember – if anyone ends up with chocolate they can't finish, I'm always happy to help out!

Rev. Kathryn

