

# St John's VA C of E Primary School

## NEWSLETTER

Finding the light in ourselves and each other (John 8:12)



04/10/24

### Welcome message from the Headteacher

#### Working as a team!

Dear all,

Another great two weeks of learning and collaboration. I have seen a huge improvement in pupils writing over the past few days. It is great to be able to get into classes and teach lessons. I have spent some time in Year 5 for PE and Year 1 for Maths. I am aiming to get to every class to teach a lesson and continue to get children enjoying learning.

We have had our delivery of new PE equipment and so shortly we will see some new basketball nets and football goals – a polite reminder these are not to be used before or after school.

Additionally, we have had a visit from our Schools Effectiveness Advisor who said that our children's behaviour is outstanding. I am very proud of our school and to hear this for our first visit was incredible.

We have had the parent governors votes in and we welcome Victoria Robinson and Pri Mistry to the governor team.

We are continuing to develop the school further with our SIAMS due anytime this year and Mrs de La Croix and Mrs Miller (our RE leads) are working incredibly hard on this. I want to say a huge thank you to the parents and families for coming to church today for Harvest as well as all of the school's food donations.

Finally, the website is being updated daily and we hope to make it easier to navigate through. Year 6 have now gone live with Seesaw and Year 5 will be on training as soon as these devices are ready.

Best wishes

Mr Worton-Geer

**Pupil quote of the week:** Jarrod (Year 4) – "I am feeling happy at school. I like the new equipment and I am excited to play football."

**Quote from the bible:** Ecclesiastes 4:9-10: Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor; If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.

### Improvements to the school:

The website has now been updated with a few changes. The curriculum pages and class pages have their own separate sections. Religious Education and Finding the Light are new pages added to our website too. Please check these out!

PE equipment is being pumped, built and put together in preparation for a action packed sporting year. We are developing PE and the festivals that we take part in. The aim is to get all children in KS2 to an event this year.





# Academic Highlights

Here is some useful information that is happening in the school.

## Pupil Parliament:

Here are our Pupil Parliament pupils who will be meeting with Mrs de La Croix fortnightly.

**Year 1:** Alfie, Giulia and Emily  
**Year 2:** Vienna, Josie and Ofure  
**Year 3:** Viola, Chasin and Amy  
**Year 4:** Albie, Darcie and Eden  
**Year 5:** Maya G, Harry P and Max L  
**Year 6:** Max, Ava Shaw and Tegan

## Librarians:

Here are the pupils who will be helping Miss Brady with the library and checking in and out books.

**Year 1:** Orlagh.      **Year 4:** Penny  
**Year 2:** Mitchell.      **Year 5:** Imogen  
**Year 3:** Emily.      **Year 6:** Audrey

## Black History month:

Whilst we celebrate inclusion and diversity all year round, we are going to focus on black history this month. Each class will be looking at black history and the importance of inclusion. This year we are focusing on how to be curious about different cultures, countries and backgrounds learning from one another and to understand different ways of life. We encourage children to ask questions regarding cultures to help learn about different foods, traditions and communities.

## **EYFS team:**

Early Years would like to thank the parents who have kindly donated some of their unwanted toys and dressing up clothes. Nursery and Reception are always looking for additional toys to support the children's learning and develop the opportunities we can provide the children. If you have anything your child has outgrown, please think of donating to Early Years. Many thanks.

## **Help Wanted.**

The Nursery have been busy in the sensory garden and have begun to tidy it up. If anyone would like to volunteer some time to help with the pre-winter tidy all help will be gratefully received. Please see Mrs Blunden if you can volunteer anytime. Many thanks

The EYFS team

## Year 6 roles for 2024/25:

**Head Boy:** Frank      **Head Girl:** Gracie

	Beckett	Cubitt	Mimram	Bessemer
<b>Captain</b>	Cara D	Seth	Ruben	William
<b>Vice Captain</b>	Emily B	Emanuel	Megan	Ravi

**Prefects:** Eve, Audrey, Tegan, James, Precious, Thomas, Grayson, Isis, Maia, Henry, Eva, Lili, Robert, Eleanor, Eva, Adley, Ella, Ava, Zena & Ava

# School Policy Updates

Policies that are being updated in the next fortnight are:

- Accessibility policy
- Mental health and wellbeing policy
- RE Policy
- Collective worship Policy



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## Attendance:

**Unauthorised absences** are those which the school does not consider reasonable and for which no 'leave' has been granted. This type of absence can lead to the school referring the absence to the Local Authority for penalty notices and/or legal proceedings.

**Unauthorised absence includes, (however this list is not exhaustive):**

- parents/carers keeping children off school unnecessarily e.g. because they had a late night or for non-infectious illness or injury that would not affect their ability to learn.
- absences which have never been properly explained.
- children who arrive at school after the close of registration are marked using a 'U'. This indicates that they are in school for safeguarding purposes, however, is counted as an absence for the session.
- shopping trips.
- looking after other children or children accompanying siblings or parents to medical appointments.
- their own or family birthdays.
- holidays taken during term time, not deemed 'for exceptional purposes' by the headteacher, including any arranged by other family members or friends.
- day trips.
- other leave of absence in term time which has not been agreed.

### National Framework for Penalty Notices

There is now a single consistent national threshold for when a penalty notice must be considered by all schools in England, of 10 sessions (usually equivalent to 5 school days) of

unauthorised absence within a rolling 10 school week period. The 10 sessions of absence do not have to be consecutive and can be made up of a combination of any type of unauthorised absence (G, O and/or U coded within the school's registers). The 10-school week period can span different terms, school years or education settings.

Sanctions will include issuing each parent (for each child) with a Penalty Notice for £160, reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days (for the first offence). A second Penalty Notice issued within a three-year period will result in a fine of £160 per parent, per child. If a third offence is committed the matter may be referred to the local authority for consideration of prosecution via the Magistrates Court. If

prosecution is instigated for irregular school attendance, each parent/carer may receive a fine of up to £2500 and/or up to 3 months in prison. If a parent/carer is found guilty in court, they will receive a criminal conviction.

### Summary:

**Gates open at 8:30am**

**School starts at 8:40am**

**Register starts at 8:40am**

**Doors close at 8:45 am**

**Register closes at 9:10am**

**After 9:10am – it will be unauthorised.**



# ATTENDANCE

## WHAT THE NEW RULES MEAN FOR ME

**1**

I'm a single parent of one child and we want to go on holiday for a week.

Your holiday will not be authorised and you must talk to the school before you book anything. Because your child will miss 5 school days you will be given a penalty notice fine.

The fine is £160 but if you pay it in 21 days it will be reduced to £80.

**£160**



**2**

FOR EVERY CHILD A PENALTY IS GIVEN.



+ £160 + £160 + £160 + £160

**4 children & 1 parent = £640**

Reduced to £320 if paid in 21 days

**IRREGULAR ATTENDANCE**

**10 IN 10**

**5**

If your child is absent for 10 or more sessions in 10 weeks and their absences are unauthorised. The school will consider prosecution.

**1 Day = 2 Sessions**

**3**

**FOR A FAMILY OF TWO PARENTS**



+ £160 + £160 + £160 + £160

**4 children & 2 parents = £1280**

Reduced to £640 if paid in 21 days



If in any period of not more than 3 years, your child has a 2nd and 3rd leave of absence or pattern of irregular attendance...

**4**

**2ND TIME**

2 parents and

1 child = £320

2 children = 640

3 children = 960

4 children = 1280

**No discount for early payment**



**3RD TIME**

A penalty notice fine will not be given. Instead, your case will be taken to court.

A magistrate can fine each parent £2500 for each child

**1 parent & 4 children = £10,000**

**2 parents & 4 children = £20,000**



# Calendar

## The rest of this half term:

Wednesday 9th October 2024	Spanish Day- information to follow
Thursday 10th October 2pm	Reception and Nursery new admission tour
Tuesday 15th October 2024	School Photographer – individual photos
Wednesday 16th October 2024 – 2:45pm – 3:25pm	Whole school-book look
Thursday 17th October 2024– 2:30pm	Reception and Reading parent workshop
Monday 21st October 9am	Reception and Nursery new admission tour
Tuesday 22nd and Wednesday 23rd October 2024	Parent Consultation Evening – face to face
Friday 25th October 2024	Last day of Term

## Autumn Term 2<sup>nd</sup> Half:

Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	Non School Uniform Day – Children in Need
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> November 9am and 2pm	Reception and Nursery new admission tour
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November	Occasional Day
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December 9am	Reception and Nursery new admission tour

## Our theme this half term is: Love.

Dear God,

Thank you for our teachers and our friends. Help us to aim high in all of our learning. Thank you for our food and water that we have each and every day and make sure we continue to be kind and loving.

© Amen

By Imogen (Year 5)



# The Church of England Parish of Digswell Welwyn Garden City October 2024

Compline/weekly worship available on Soundcloud Channel

Morning Prayer is via Zoom

Please ask us for details 210924

<b>Tuesday 1</b>	8:50am 9:15am 10:00am 8:30pm	<b>Assembly at St John's School</b> <b>Homerswood Harvest Festival Service at St John's Church</b> <b>Eucharist at Christ the King Hub</b> <b>Compline – a link is sent</b>
<b>Weds 2</b>	8:30am	<b>Morning Prayer</b>
<b>Thursday 3</b>	9:00am 1:30pm 8:30pm	<b>Tea Toast and Toddlers at Christ the King Hub</b> <b>Harwood Hill Harvest Festival Service at St John's Church</b> <b>Compline a link is sent</b>
<b>Friday 4</b>	8:00am 8:30am 8:50am  11:30am	<b>Coffee Pot at St John's Church (closes 11am)</b> <b>Morning Prayer</b> <b>St John's School Harvest Festival Service at St John's Church</b> <b>Funeral Service in St John's Church followed by Cremation at Harwood Park [Fr Rob]</b>
<b>Saturday 5</b>	8:30am 9:30am	<b>Morning Prayer</b> <b>Hub Café at Christ the King Hub</b>
<b>Sunday 6</b>	<b>HARVEST</b> <b>Audio Service for This Week a link is sent</b> 9:30am 6:30pm	<b>PARISH EUCHARIST at St John's Church</b> <b>Service of Healing and Quiet Reflection at St. John's Church</b>
<b>Monday 7</b>	8:30am 9:00am 7:30pm	<b>Morning Prayer</b> <b>Fr Rob Trustee Visit to Knightsfield School (AM)</b> <b>Bible Study via Zoom</b>
<b>Tuesday 8</b>	10:00am 8:30pm	<b>Eucharist at Christ the King Hub</b> <b>Compline – a link is sent</b>
<b>Weds 9</b>	8:30am	<b>Morning Prayer</b>
<b>Thursday 10</b>	<b>Fr Rob teaching at St Stephen's House Oxford today</b> 8:30pm	<b>Compline a link is sent</b>
<b>Friday 11</b>	8:30am 9:00am	<b>Morning Prayer</b> <b>Coffee Pot at St John's Church</b>
<b>Saturday 12</b>	8:30am 9:00am 9:30am	<b>Morning Prayer</b> <b>Diocesan Synod Meeting</b> <b>Hub Café at Christ the King Hub</b>



<b>Sunday 13</b>	<b>TRINITY 20</b> Audio Service for This Week <i>a link is sent</i> 9:30am Parish Eucharist at St John's Church 11:00am Anglican-led Service at Digswell Village Church
<b>Monday 14</b>	8:30am Morning Prayer 2:00pm DVC Bible Study on Matthew. 7:30pm Deanery Synod Meeting at St John's Hatfield
<b>Tuesday 15</b>	8:50am School Assembly at St John's School 10:00am Eucharist at Christ the King Hub 8:30pm Compline – <i>a link is sent</i>
<b>Weds 16</b>	8:30am Morning Prayer 11:00am Digswell Unity Group at St John's Church
<b>Thursday 17</b>	9:00am Tea Toast and Toddlers at Christ the King Hub 8:30pm Compline <i>a link is sent</i> 12 Noon Clergy Chapter at Datchworth
<b>Friday 18</b>	<b>FEAST OF ST LUKE THE EVANGELIST</b> 8:30am Morning Prayer 9:00am Coffee Pot at St John's Church 10:30am Book Club at Coffee Pot at St John's Church
<b>Saturday 19</b>	8:30am Morning Prayer 9:30am Hub Café at Christ the King Hub
<b>Sunday 20</b>	<b>TRINITY 21/STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY</b> Audio Service for This Week <i>-a link is sent</i> 9:30am ALL AGE Eucharist at St John's Church
<b>Monday 21</b>	8:30am Morning Prayer
<b>Tuesday 22</b>	8:50am School Assembly at St John's School 10:00am Eucharist at Christ the King Hub 1:00pm Welwyn Garden City church leaders meet at Christ the King Hub 7:00pm Fr Rob teaching preaching course in St Albans 8:30pm Compline – <i>a link is sent</i>
<b>Weds 23</b>	8:30am Morning Prayer
<b>Thursday 24</b>	8:30pm Compline - <i>a link is sent</i>
<b>Friday 25</b>	8:30am Morning Prayer 9:00am Coffee Pot at St John's Church
<b>Saturday 26</b>	7:45am Fr Rob presents <i>Thought for the Day</i> on BBC Radio 4 8:30am Morning Prayer 9:30am Hub Café at Christ the King Hub
<b>Sunday 27</b>	<b>TRINITY LAST</b> Audio Service for This Week <i>-a link is sent</i>

	9:30am Parish Eucharist at St John's Church 11:00am Anglican-led Worship at Digswell Village Church
<b>Monday 28</b>	<b>ST SIMON AND ST JUDE</b> <i>Fr Rob on retreat this week until Friday</i> 10:00am Morning Prayer
<b>Tuesday 29</b>	8:50am School Assembly at St John's School 10:00am Eucharist at Christ the King Hub 8:30pm Compline – <i>a link is sent</i>
<b>Weds 30</b>	8:30am Morning Prayer
<b>Thursday 31</b>	8:30pm Compline - <i>a link is sent</i>

### EYFS visit:

We were very lucky today as Selina came in to tell us all about harvest and why we celebrate it. She told us about Squeak the mouse and what happens during harvest time. The children were mesmerised by the interactive story!

