

# St John's VA C of E Primary School

## NEWSLETTER

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



18/10/24

### Welcome message from the Headteacher

#### What a busy few weeks!

Dear all,

I just want to say what a lovely school we have! The parents, staff and pupils are incredible, and I am really enjoying my time as Headteacher for our school.

I have been working in many classes including teaching in EYFS, delivering sports sessions with Year 5 and 6 and taking part in sports festivals.

To know that we have such supportive parents is incredible – thank you for this. I have also been working hard on the Rocksteady front and we have now got Rocksteady all day after half term on a Wednesday. If you are interested, please use the QR code from the leaflet to sign up before half term. If you have lost your leaflet, please speak to the School Office.

We have been working on updating our website and completing policies. Once these have been reviewed by Governors, they will go onto the website.

I have enjoyed looking around our school and sharing our school with other Hertfordshire Headteachers. They are excited for our journey and the endless possibilities to making our school outstanding.

We have been working hard in writing and I have seen some fantastic work across the school including writing from Year 1 based on the book the Room on the Broom!

Best wishes  
Mr Worton-Geer

**Pupil quote of the week:** Alice (Year 4) – “I like being with my friends and I really like the new equipment. My favourite has been the basketball hoops.”

**Quote from the bible:** *Deuteronomy 6:5* Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

### Improvements to the school:

The new iPads have arrived and will be in place for Year 5. Training for staff and the class has happened and we will be sending out letters to parents soon with further information.

We have our new trophies that many classes are working towards including the Numbots, TTrackstars and House Point Cup!

New equipment has arrived in nursery and Reception classes. More equipment is coming for the whole school over the next few weeks.



# Academic Highlights

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

## Parent consultations

A reminder that parent consultations is on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2024. This is the slot that you have booked onto from the previous Google form. If you have forgotten your slot, please speak to the class teacher and/or the office who will have a copy.

I am also aware that there is the boys and girls Football event at Monks Walk between 3:30 and 4:30pm. Children do not have to come to parent consultation however it does benefit them coming. For this slot, I have informed the staff that the pupils will not be there. If you need support with collecting pupils for 4:30pm due to a clash with parents evening, please speak to Mr Worton-Geer.

## Black History Month:

Each class has been reading a book focusing on Black History that was shared by Ava in Year 2. Each Year group have focused on the concept of curiosity of different cultures and backgrounds. As a school, collective worships have focused on Black History learning of Rosa Parks and the importance of her story. We continue to explore Black History this month and this will continue throughout the year focusing on inclusion and how to ask curious questions of different cultures.

## Music:

Rocksteady and piano lessons have been a key part of our school for the past few weeks, more Rocksteady spaces have become available – please use the QR code on their flyer for further information. These are also in the office.

## PE:

Last week, Year 5 took part in Archery events while Year 6 took part in Athletics. Reception, Year 1 and 2 have also taking part in outside support from Gosling in tennis sessions.



Children are thriving in sports, and we have ordered a new sports competition kit and Tetra are sponsoring a new Football kit. We are also in the process of getting Netball kits for our pupils too. Any support with Sports from volunteers or donations would be greatly appreciated. Please speak to Mr Worton-Geer or Mr Draper.

## More Resources:

Over the past few weeks, we have continued to improve the equipment around the school including new gymnastic mats, new equipment for the EYFS area and an improved lunch time trolley. This will continue to develop over the next few months to have a range of equipment for children to play with at break and lunch times.

## School policies:

Policies that are being updated in the next fortnight are:

- Staff code of conduct
- Maternity policy
- Flexible working policy
- Pay policy
- Appraisal policy

## Child Prayer:

Dear God,  
Thank you for all of our food that we eat. Thank you for our friends and family. We are very happy at school and want to keep smiling when we come into school. Thank you for helping us.  
Amen.

Henry – Year 1.



## Calendar:

## The rest of this half term:

Monday 21st October 9am

Reception and Nursery new admission tour

Tuesday 22nd and Wednesday 23rd October 2024

Parent Consultation Evening – face to face

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2024

Girls and Boys football fixtures – Monks – team emailed

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2024

Best team football match – Ridgeway – team emailed

Friday 25th October 2024

Last day of Term

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

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024

First day back

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2024

NSPCC kindness week

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Anti-Bullying Week

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Flu Vaccinations

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November

Non School Uniform Day – Children in Need

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November 9am and 2pm 2024

Reception and Nursery new admission tour

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2024

Occasional Day

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Art Week

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Flu Vaccinations

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024 am

Reception Nativity – Christ the King

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024- 6pm

KS1 Nativity – St John's Church

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December 9am 2024

Reception and Nursery new admission tour

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2024 – 9am

Nursery Nativity – St John's School

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Christmas Jumper and Christmas Lunch day

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Last day of term – Carol Service at St John's Church



<b><u>Health and safety</u></b>	<b><u>Parish news</u></b>	<b><u>Helpful sites</u></b>
<p><b>Earrings:</b></p> <p>Please ensure earrings are taken out on PE days to reduce pupils putting down earrings and forgetting to collect them.</p> <p><b>Collection:</b></p> <p>Please inform the office if someone else is collecting your child if it is a change in the normal collection routine.</p> <p><b>Travelling to school:</b></p> <p>Please encourage children to walk to and from school and much as possible. Even better, scooting and cycling would be a great alternative. If I see pupils with bikes and scooters, they may even get some house points! We are working with the local Residents of Digswell Association (RDA) to support sustainable travelling to school. Please be considerate of parking and locations. The carpark by the viaduct is only a 3-minute walk away from school.</p> <p>Please ensure in the darker months, your children are wearing coats and are visible to help ensure their safety.</p>	<p><b>Remembering Loved Ones</b></p> <p>On Sun 3 Nov at 10am at St John's Church a special service takes place to remember loved ones. Names of family members are read out and candles are lit. If you would like any names read out please email <a href="mailto:info@digswellparish.org.uk">info@digswellparish.org.uk</a> and let the parish know how many family members might be attending for catering purposes. This reflects the Christian season known as All Souls.</p> <p><b>Remembrance Sunday</b></p> <p>The school will be laying a wreath along with others on Remembrance Sunday at the war memorial at Harmer Green Lane at 12:30pm. Everyone is welcome to the short ceremony. If any children would like to volunteer to lay down their class wreath please speak to Mrs de la Croix.</p> <p><b>Cafes</b></p> <p>Coffee Pot is at St John's Church every Friday - 9am-12 noon.</p> <p>The Hub Cafe is at Christ the King, Haldens every Saturday, 9.30-12.30pm.</p> <p><b>Christmas Market - Saturday November 30th, 10am-1pm</b></p> <p>Please pop along to the Parish Christmas Market - there are lots of stalls, coffee pot, outside breakfast BBQ, tombola and grand raffle. This is a super way to support the work of the parish. Some of our children will be singing.</p> <p>Please do support this if you can.</p>	<p>Here is a list of helpful sites that you may be interested in. There is a big focus about teeth hygiene too recently – see the last link.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">CEOP Online Safety</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Net Aware</a> - find out about the games your child is playing online</li><li>• <a href="#">Parentview</a> - share your views about our school</li><li>• <a href="#">National Literacy Trust</a> - ideas for helping your child's literacy</li><li>• <a href="#">Think! Road Safety</a> - Road Safety information site</li><li>• <a href="#">Barnados</a></li><li>• <a href="#">ChildLine</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Rainbow Trust</a> - provides support for families who have a child with a life threatening or terminal illness</li><li>• <a href="#">NSPCC</a> - provides support, advice and resources to help keep children safe</li><li>• <a href="#">NHS Oral Health Advice</a> - Information about oral health and tooth brushing</li></ul>