

St John's VA C of E Primary School

NEWSLETTER

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



20/12/24

Welcome message from the Headteacher

Have a great Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Dear all,

What an incredible first term of a brilliant school. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at St John's this term and I am glad that we are making huge progress together. I feel that we have made huge steps in the direction that I have envisioned and together we are growing well.

The forest area has developed nicely and will continue to improve. I have already booked forest school sessions for classes next year in January and we are excited to work with our children to make it incredible.

Christmas has been in full swing, Carol services, Nativities, Christmas jumper day and Christmas dinners – we have had it all and at such an amazing standard. The EYFS and KS1 Nativities were amazing. The lost animals in the EYFS show were a clear memory that I am sure I will have for years.

Our first Rocksteady concert was incredible! It was great to see our children rocking and rolling. Well done to all who took part and learning their music pieces. It is hard to play an instrument and even harder to play as a band!

The school continues to develop with improvements with IT connections and infrastructure. We are preparing for an action-packed Spring term which will be further improving our school grounds and developing our curriculum.

I want to say a huge thank you to my team of staff who have worked incredibly hard. Having a new headteacher coming in and shaking up the place can be difficult, but I really hope that the changes that have been made are all for the benefit of the children.

Thank you everyone for checking in on me and my progress – this is definitely one of the highlights of my day sharing how our school is improving. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy new year. See you then!

Best wishes
Mr Worton-Geer

Pupil quote of the week: Jack (Year 5): I like that it gives us nice food. The burgers are awesome. I really enjoy English because we get to do a lot of writing.

Quote from the bible: (Roman 15:13) "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Improvements to the school:

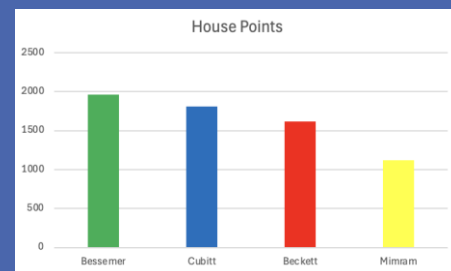
The forest has been cleared and our sensory element has been ordered.

Our nativity has arrived and is looking great in our lobby area.

The policies have all been agreed and will be reaching the website soon.

We have had a few leaks with the range of weather we have experienced, these have now been sorted.

We have ordered a range of wood for our forest area and we will be creating outside chalkboards.





Academic Highlights

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

Advent:

The four themes of advent (in the eyes of the children are) are:

Hope by Victor, Year 5

Hope is when you believe in something, and you should never give up on something. If someone says this is not cool, you should still believe in what you think, like and love.

Peace by Ethan L, Year 5

Peace means calm, relaxing, and quiet.

Joy by Cody, Year 5

Joy means that I am happy, you are calm. It makes you smile and feel joy.



Love by Imogen, Year 5

Love means caring for everyone equally, showing respect. There are different types of love, from parents to friends. We should always share love where ever we can.

Merit children:

Each term, the teacher will decide a merit child who will receive a framed merit and a St John’s badge. This is for pupils who have gone that extra mile this term. Additionally, there is a headteacher award too. Here is this terms winners:

Nursery: Beatrice S
Reception: Eloise
Year 1: Giulia
Year 2: Amber
Year 3: Gracie-Mae
Year 4: Violet
Year 5: Cody
Year 6: Ravi
Headteacher award: Imogen – Year 5

PE:

Netball:

Year 5 and 6 took part in a netball fixture on Wednesday 11th December 2024. They won all four of their games scoring: 4-1, 3-0, 6-0, 2-1. Miss Brady and Mrs Norris are very pleased after all their hard work this half term! Well done everyone! Netball club will not be on in Spring 1 due to weather. We will update parents when we will re-start practise sessions.

Chess:

What an incredible session of chess that took place last week. The competition was fierce. 4 pupils made it to the top tables winning their games. They were very impressive, particularly one pupil who defeated Mr W-G in less than 2 minutes. Well done to all who took part.

Football:

It was a tough a few matches, but team A and Team B played well. Whilst both teams lost, they gave it their all. We continue to look forward to events going ahead next term.

Nativities:

What great performances we have had! The Reception and Nursery nativity at Christ the King was brilliant, children said their lines clearly and they looked stunning. Mrs de la Croix also expressed how incredible the Year 1 and 2 performances were too. It is great that we can celebrate Christmas with such incredible spirit.

Attendance:

Year	Percent	Place
Nursery	95.3%	4th
Year 1	96.8%	1st
Year 2	95.7%	3rd
Year 3	95.7%	3rd
Year 4	94.9%	5th
Year 5	95.8%	2nd
Year 6	96.8%	1st
Year R	95.3%	4th

Child Prayer:

Dear God,
Thank you for my life and my home. Thank you for letting me have a school to learn in. Thank you for my friends, thank you for my family, thank you for my food
Amen (Max L, Year 5)

Volunteer/ donation work:

Christmas:

Thank you again for all the support from the parents and family who have donated items or money towards our schools Christmas. The friends have also supported the school with gifts for the children, crackers and table cloths.

Year 6 charity event:

The girls in Year 6 (Cara, Emily, Lili, Eva and Eva) have reached their goal of £50! What a brilliant achievement – and I am very proud of you all. Well done for making bookmarks, cards, stickers, Christmas decorations and many more. We are so very proud of you all.



The Incredible Years Parent Programme

The Incredible Years Programme is for parents and carers of children aged 6-10 years, in Welwyn and Hatfield, whose children display distressing behaviour. This may include conduct disorders, oppositional defiance disorder or where ADHD might be suspected or diagnosed.

Swallow Dell Primary School,
Welwyn Garden City, AL7 3JP

16th January '25 - 3rd April '25

10:00am to 12:00pm

BOOK HERE



https://procfu.com/nepubbooking?pf-context=screen_27&pf-clicked-id=2976830012

The forest area:

We are working very hard on the forest area and we need your help. Here is a donation list that we would love your support with:

- Pots
- Pans
- Pallets – the bigger the better
- Trash can lids
- Waste tubes
- Plastic pipes
- Logs of all sizes
- Big stones

Each year group will spend a Friday morning with Mr Worton-Geer on forest schools. Please look out for your classes email for when it is their turn. On these days, please ensure children are wearing old clothes that will get dirty and a spare pair in case we need to get changed. They will be outside for the morning session.

Grayson(Year 6) is the voice of Eddie in Ready Eddie Go!

They have created their own Christmas song! Silent Night Gentle Light shines a light on the challenges of the festive season for those of us who are neurodivergent. It's such a meaningful project, and working with the incredible @palomafaith, @readyeddiego_tv @skytv and @nrsaundersbooks has been so much fun.

The song is available now for just 59p. All proceeds go to the incredible



@caudwellchildren autism charity. Let's spread some festive joy while supporting a wonderful cause!

Saturday 21st December 2024– Sunday 5th January 2025

Christmas break

Spring Term 1st Half:

Monday 6th January 2025

INSET Day

Tuesday 7th January 2025

First day back

Wednesday 15th January 2025

SATs (Year 6) Workshop: 8:50am and 2:45pm

Wednesday 22nd January 2025

Phonics (Year 1 and 2) Workshop 8:50am and 2:45pm

Wednesday 29th January 2025

MTC (Year 4) Workshop 8:50am and 2:45pm

Monday 17th – Friday 21st February 2025

Half- term

Christmas!

I just want to say huge thank you for this past two weeks of Christmas festivities. From nativities to carol service, it is great to feel like a family during this period of the year. I want to just take a moment and reflect the journey that we have taken so far. SIAMs, raising over £500 for various charities, improvement of the school, developing our house group system, the list is endless. Together we have made a huge impact for our children, the connection of the church is ever-growing, and it is great to see families at the church. We will continue to grow, and I am always up for ideas of things we would like to do in the future together. I may not be able to promise to do them all however we can work together in developing our school to be great. Our latest charity drive currently is at £185 for Save the Children charity. Next year, we will continue to work with charities and donation work including for our school. Thank you to everyone for their kind contributions and support. As a new headteacher, this is incredibly helpful.

Parish News

Sat 21 7:45am Fr Rob presents *Thought for the Day* on BBC Radio 4

Sun 22 9.30am Sung Eucharist for Advent IV at St John's

11am Digswell Village Church Carol Service led by Selina and Fr Rob (all welcome of course)

1pm Holy Baptism at St John's

Looking Ahead: all of our families are welcome to all of our services over Christmas.

Fr Rob and Selina would be delighted to see the children and their families.

Tue 24 - Christmas Eve

10am Christmas Eve Eucharist at CTK Hub

4pm **Blessing of the Crib Family Service at St Johns**

1130pm **Midnight Mass at St Johns**

Wed 25 10am **Parish Family Service for Christmas Day** at St John's

Tue 31 10am New Year's Eve Eucharist at Christ the King Hub

Wed 1 10am The Naming of Jesus New Year's Day Eucharist at St John's

Nursery availability:



We continue to develop our school and still have spaces available for nursery slots for the morning and the afternoon. If you are interested in extending your child's hours or know a family who is interested in joining our school family, please send them to this link [here](#) or contact the school office. We want to continue to develop nursery.



Saturday 21	8:30am	Morning Prayer
	9:30am	Hub Café at Christ the King Hub
Sunday 22	ADVENT 4	
	<i>Audio Service for This Week -a link is sent</i>	
	9:30am	Parish Eucharist at St John's
	11:00am	Anglican led service at DVC
	1:00pm	Holy Baptism at St John's Church
Monday 23	10:00am	Morning Prayer
Tuesday 24	CHRISTMAS EVE	
	10:00am	Eucharist at Christ the King Hub
	4:00pm	Blessing of the Crib service at St John's
	8:30pm	Compline – a link is sent
	11:30pm	Midnight Mass of the Nativity at St John's Church
Weds 25	CHRISTMAS DAY	
	10:00am	Parish Christmas Eucharist at St John's Church
Thursday 26	FEAST OF ST STEPHEN	
	10:00am	Eucharist at Christ the King
	8:30pm	Compline - a link is sent
Friday 27	8:30am	Morning Prayer
Saturday 28	HOLY INNOCENTS	
	10:00am	EUCHARIST at St John's
Sunday 29	CHRISTMAS ONE	
	<i>Audio Service for This Week -a link is sent</i>	
	11:00am	Joint Service at DVC
Monday 30	8:30am	Morning Prayer
Tuesday 31	10:00am	Final Eucharist of 2024 at Christ the King Hub
Wednesday 1	10:00am	New Year's Day Eucharist at St John's Church Followed by fizz

Merry Christmas to you all!
Have a great New Year!
Love St Johns' Family.

