

St John's VA C of E Primary School

NEWSLETTER

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



31/01/25

Welcome message from the Headteacher

A cold and winter spell!

Dear all,

Another fortnight of fun and learning happening at St John's School. It has been great to see the children getting stuck in with their writing over the past few weeks as well as forest schools, PE and more.

These past few weeks I have seen the children discuss our value of Joy and sharing their thoughts in collective worship. Joy is something we all wish to have and in January after the highs of Christmas, joy is something that I treasure a lot to boost our spirits for the new year. Please continue to share joy with your family!

Over the next few weeks, Year 4 will be having Seesaw training and logins will be created for parents and home learning codes. We will run a Seesaw workshop for all in the near future. I encourage all users of Seesaw to take photos and allow children to write their own stories or draw pictures on here freely at home which is then sent into school to build their learning journey. Last week, a child went climbing and took some photos, this is a great example of bringing the school and home community together. It allows us to see the children grow and become incredible students when they leave at the end of Year 6.

I have also enjoyed seeing sports events that have happened over the past few weeks; the netball girls played incredibly well and had fantastic foot work. Wearing their new kits, they shone bright when they played over two nights of matches. The footballers also played in their new kits. Great results all around. Our Football team currently sit on top of the table.

Finally, I have seen our children work incredibly hard in their learning and engagement. Whilst the weather hasn't been kind, children are still enjoying PE, forest school and outdoor learning. I am very proud of the journey we have been on so far. As we head towards the summer, assessments will be completed. Next half term, we will be having our parents evening so please look out for the letters for these in the next few weeks.

Thank you for all the volunteers over the past few weeks with reading, sports events and forest school. Without all of you it will be a lot harder to run the school.

Best wishes
Mr Worton-Geer

Pupil quote of the week: Eleanor (Year 6): I like that we have a lot of equipment so that it is fun at break and lunchtime. I like going to sports events.

Quote from the bible: (John 16:24) Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

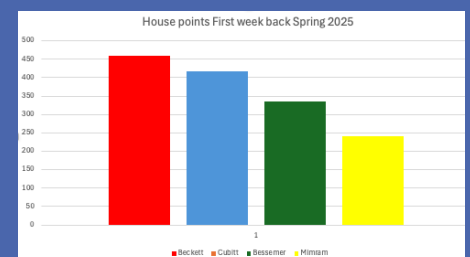
Improvements to the school:

The forest continuous to improve with new areas developed, new fence posts put in and our den box finally created.

We have new cleaners start at school who are doing an incredible job.

I have been able to secure some funding for NFL flag football equipment which will be embedded into our curriculum.

We have also had some electric work done for some lights outside the school and some plumbing work done too. The fun never stops!





Academic Highlights

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

Attendance:

Week commencing 20th January 2025

Year	Percent	Place
Nursery	94.5%	8 th
Year 1	96.8%	2 nd
Year 2	95.9%	3 rd
Year 3	95.3%	5 th
Year 4	94.9%	7 th
Year 5	95.8%	4 th
Year 6	96.9%	1 st
Year R	94.9%	6 th

PE:

Netball:

Netball Match Report: On the 22nd January, 6 Year Sixes and 1 Year 5 attended a netball festival at Stanborough. This was the first time we have worn our new netball dresses. The First match played was against St Michael's and sadly we lost 4 - 2 it was a tough game and everyone tried hard. The opposition player of the match was Cara and we chose their Wing defence because their defence was fabulous. The second match we played was against Welwyn St Mary's and we won 4-1. This was a great achievement as usually when we play them, they win. They have great defence, but our attacking was too good for them. The opposition player of the match was also Cara and we chose their goal defence as they got the rebound every time. Our last match was against Sherrardswood and we lost 6 - 0 which is better than normal. Our defence was great but sadly not enough to stop them from winning. The opposition player of the match was Emily. Mr Worton-Geer chose Emily as his player of the match. But well done to everyone in our netball team.

They were Emily, Eva, Cara, Elle, Zena, Imogen, Eva.H

Football:

See result table below. On Tuesday this week we played and drew 0-0 in our first match and lost against Welwyn St Mary's 3-1.

League 1									
#	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	St John's Digswell	4	3		1	16	8	8	9
2	Welwyn St Mary's Primary School	2	2			22	2	20	6
3	St Michael's Woolmer Green	3	2		1	18	18	0	6
4	Holy Family Primary School	3	1	1	1	8	12	-4	4
5	Templewood Primary School	4	1	1	2	13	18	-5	4
6	Waterside Academy	3		2	1	7	9	-2	2
7	Sherrardswood School	3			3	2	19	-17	0

Forest school:

In forest school, we learned about different types of fires. We also learned about the dangers of fire. The types are: Swedish, tepee and Lean to. A Swedish fire is a fire that looks a bit like Jenga with a tepee in the middle. A tepee fire looks a bit like a cone. A Lean to fire is a fire with one stick wedged in the ground leaning to one side, with others leaning on it. For our class fire, we collected different sized sticks (that were dry) to go in our Swedish fire. Although it was fun, sadly it didn't work. Every time the fire started; the teachers put sticks on it to try make them catch fire so it could get bigger. There was lots of smoke but sadly no flames. Some of us did painting and some of us sawed some wood for stools. The rest of us made seats out of chopped up tree stumps. Everyone made a pathway out of long, thin logs, but we all got very muddy.

It was great fun, and we all look forward to doing it again! Year (4)

- "I like finding snails in the woods they are my favourite bug" - Alani - Reception
- "I like the woods because its swept." Alex - Reception
- "I like playing in the woods with my friends." - Gracie - Reception



Child Prayer:

Dear God,

Let's pray for our school and the people within. Help us with Maths and our learning when we find it hard. Keep looking out for us in everything we do.

Amen (Eva H, Year 6)

Volunteer/ donation work and competitions:

PTA:

Join us for a fun evening of drinks and a little bit of "official stuff" at our Friends Drinks Night. We'd love to get to know you better and to share with you our event ideas for 2025. **Mr Worton-Geer will also be here at this.**

📅 When: 12th February

🕒 Time: 1930

📍 Where: The Stable Bar, Tewinbury Farm

For transparency we need to complete a couple of AGM tasks on the night. Let's face it – no one's sprinting to an AGM, but pair it with a glass of wine (or two) and good company, and suddenly it's a whole lot more appealing! Come for the drinks and a chance to unwind with other parents, and we promise to keep the "AGM bits" short, sweet, and relatively painless.

We'd love to see you there, whether you're curious about what we do, or just fancy a well-earned evening out!

Many thanks

Kelly Butler
Chair

Friends of St John's School, Digswell
Registered Charity 1077943

Race for Life:

19 members of staff are going to run/walk the 5k muddy run at Welwyn on Saturday 17th May 2025. Cancer is happening right now, which is why I'm taking part in a Race for Life Pretty Muddy to raise money and save lives. 1 in 2 people will be diagnosed with cancer in their lifetime. Every single pound you donate makes a difference to Cancer Research UK's groundbreaking work, so please sponsor me now.



We would like to raise an ambitious £1000 for race for life. Many families have been affected by Cancer and we want to support research into looking into fighting it. Please help the school raise money for charity.

Please donate here: <https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/stjohns-race-for-life-10326>

Art competition:

Artists are at the heart of everything we do at the Royal Academy of Arts — we believe in nurturing and celebrating the next generation of artists. Taking inspiration from the Summer Exhibition, the Young Artists' Summer Show is a free, open submission exhibition for young artists aged 4–18 years studying in the UK. The project is generously supported by Robin Hambro, a passionate advocate for the importance of access to art, and the benefits of encouraging the arts, for children and young people.



The school will be signing up the whole school to take part. If children want to create work from home and bring them in, they will go towards this competition. Class teachers will also be adding to the portfolio from lessons in school. This will be needed by the end of Spring term – before the Easter break. These artworks are then judged by a panel of artists and arts professionals with selected artworks displayed online and on-site at the Royal Academy of Arts.



Calendar

Monday 3 rd to Friday 7 th February 2025	Children's Mental Health week
Tuesday 4 th February 2025	Collective worship -Candlemas (in school)
Friday 7 th February 2025	Forest School Year 2
Monday 10 th – Friday 14 th February 2025	Year 6 MOCK SATs week
Tuesday 11 th February 2025	Safer Internet day
Tuesday 11 th February 2025	Collective worship -What is Baptism (in school)
Thursday 13 th February 2025	Year 1 parent performance 8:50am and 3pm
Friday 14 th February 2025	Forest School Year 1
Monday 17 th – Friday 21 st February 2025	Half- term
Friday 28 th February 2025	Forest School Year 6
Thursday 6 th March 2025	World book day
Friday 7 th March 2025	Forest School Year 4
Friday 14 th March 2025	Forest School Year 5
Monday 17 th March 2025	Dance Show Year 5 – 3pm – 7pm – TBC
Tuesday 18 th March 2025	Parent Consultation 3:30pm – 6:30pm details to follow
Wednesday 19 th March 2025	Parent Consultation 3:30pm – 6:30pm details to follow
Friday 21 st March 2025	Forest School Year 3
Monday 24 th March to Friday 4 th April 2025	Walk and Wheel Fortnight
Friday 4 th April 2025	Forest School Year 2
Friday 4 th April 2025	Last day of term
Tuesday 22 nd April 2025	INSET day
Wednesday 23 rd April 2025	First day back for children

Mental Health

On **Thursday 27th February from 9-10am** our School Family Worker Sarah Cafferty will be visiting our parent coffee morning which is open to all parents and carers at the school.

The coffee morning will take place in the school hall . Sarah will be sharing the support and advice she can provide to families in all number of ways i.e. children's behaviour patterns, sleeping and eating difficulties to name a few.

Rachel de la Croix (our Inclusion lead) will also be at the coffee morning should you have any questions regarding SEN , children's medical and mental health questions.

To find out more please look at the following website:-
[Welwyn Garden City & Hatfield Schools Partnership](#)

No need to pre- book a place , please just turn up and enjoy a coffee and chat

Parish News

Save the Date

Tuesday 4 March. 12 Noon onwards

Parish Pancakes at the Cowpers Arms.

Everyone welcome all day.

Pancakes £1.50 each.

In aid of our work with schools

Next All Age Service Dates

At St John's

Sundays 19th Jan and 16th February

9:30am

All the family welcome followed by refreshments.

Parish Book Club

Friday 21 Feb. 10.30am-11.30am

At Coffee Pot at St John's

Horse by Gerladine Brooks



UNDERSTANDING ANXIETY IN CHILDREN 2-WEEK COURSE

* 2 x 2-hour sessions *

TO HELP YOU SUPPORT CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WHO MAY BE EXPERIENCING ANXIETY

A FREE COURSE FOR PARENTS/CARERS

- TO UNDERSTAND THE CAUSES OF ANXIETY
- UNDERSTAND PHYSICAL SYMPTOMS AND HOW THEY MAY PRESENT IN CHILDREN
- STRATEGIES TO HELP A CHILD MANAGE THEIR STRESS AND BUILD RESILIENCE

DATES: Thurs 6th & 13th March

TIME: 9:30-11:30am

VENUE: Howe Dell Primary School

To book a place, please use the QR code or go to this link:
<https://forms.office.com/e/8briKj8jR8>



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Who's in Charge?

A FREE 8 WEEK COURSE FOR PARENTS/CARERS LIVING WITH A STRONG-WILLED CHILD

COURSE COVERS:

- ENTITLEMENT VERSUS RESPONSIBILITY
- CONSEQUENCES
- ANGER
- ASSERTIVENESS
- SELF-CARE
- COOPERATIVE FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

DATES: Thursday mornings from 6th Feb - 3rd April 2025 (no session during half-term)

TIME: 9:30-11:30am

LOCATION: St Philip Howard Catholic School

PROGRAMME CONSISTS OF 8 X 2 HOUR WEEKLY SESSIONS

To book a place, please use the QR code or go to this link:
<https://forms.office.com/e/CXWrLWY2XE>



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PROGRAMME CONSISTS OF 8 X 2 HOUR WEEKLY SESSIONS

DATES:

Wednesday evenings
5th Feb - 2nd April (no session during half-term)

TIME: 18:30-20:30

LOCATION: Ridgeway Academy

To book a place, please use the QR code or go to this link:

<https://forms.office.com/e/GF6FKraGdt>



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SAVE THE DATE

FRIENDS OF ST JOHNS SCHOOL

Join us for drinks and share your thoughts on future fundraising events.

Please also help us vote in the 2025 committee as part of our AGM - we promise this part will be quick!

12 FEBRUARY 7.30PM

THE STABLE BAR, TEWINBURY FARM