

St John's VA C of E Primary School NEWSLETTER

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



14/02/25

Welcome message from the Headteacher

Another great half term!

Dear all,

What another brilliant half term where we have had another action-packed curriculum as well as wider curriculum including forest school and sporting events. This all couldn't be possible without the volunteers who have supported me, I have had support from our readers to forest school volunteers, to donations to the school from tree surgeons to governors. Without you guys, this wouldn't be possible. I just want to say a huge thank you to everyone who has been supporting the school this half of the year so far.

We have now got to the halfway mark, and I feel that we have developed a great learning culture for our children. I love being able to wander around our school and see some incredible learning happening especially when you see our children having that wow moment. Classes are preparing trips for the upcoming second half of the year as well as residential being planned for not only this year but also next.

The school's wider curriculum is developing nicely including the development of the forest, with new trees planted to create pathways. Thank you to the Year 2 parent who with his daughter came in over the last weekend and finished planting these trees!

We continue to develop our school and I have really enjoyed being out in the playground speaking to parents and families. Please come up to me if you wish to discuss anything.

We have had a few issues with parking outside the school over the past few weeks, please remember that we are unable to park outside the front of the school, the carpark by the viaduct is only a few minute's walk to school. We will be working on a fortnight of walking and wheeling next half term and how we can improve our sustainable travel to school. We are considering using the trains for school trips and other ways to develop travel for our children.

I want to finally say thank you for helping me feel like a family member of the school, together let's have another great second half of the school year for our children developing our school even further.

Best wishes
Mr Worton-Geer

Pupil quote of the week: Gill (Year 5): I like the school because it is very friendly, and everyone is really nice. I love the exterior of the school.

Quote from the bible: (1 Peter 1:8) Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory.

Improvements to the school:

We have been working on a new letterhead which includes the awards that we have achieved this year so far.

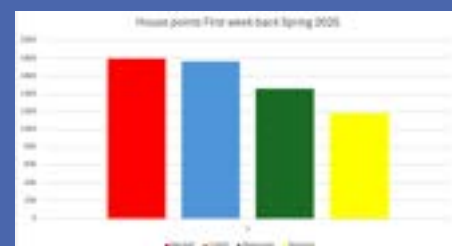
Trees have been planted in our forest area.

A team building day for staff and governors is being planned for the INSET day to improve the school.

GDPR and CCTV policies and systems have been updated.

Our health and safety walk went well with a few tweaks around the school.

Well done to Beckett for winning this half term reward.





Academic Highlights

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

Attendance:

Week commencing 20th January 2025

Year	Percent	Place
Nursery	96%	4 th
Year 1	99.33%	1 st
Year 2	99.26%	2 nd
Year 3	90.67%	6 th
Year 4	91.4%	7 th
Year 5	95.19%	5 th
Year 6	97.67%	3 rd
Year R	94.67%	5 th

Forest school:

Year 2 (Indie, Josie and Vienna) – Last week we had forest school and we planted silver birch trees and we had partners. We had to pot trees that already were growing, and we had to dig a hole in the ground and put the plant in. We had bamboo sticks to help them grow and we put ribbons. We then created posters for our trees and the forest area. It was a lot of fun.

RE with Father Rob:



Year 5 worked with Father Rob virtually to discuss what he thinks about Jesus, and we had many questions to ask him. We asked questions about Jesus and how he is so important. We learnt a lot and we asked a lot about Father Rob's opinion including what he thought were the top three teachings from Jesus. (Teddy, Gil and Maya – Year 5).

PE:

Football: Holy Family – 1 St John's 0

In our final league game, we narrowly lost out on a very muddy pitch. The game was very difficult, but the children were more active communicating with one another, we need to build on this for the rest of the year as they have made huge progress this year. Well done to all who took part.

Curling

Gold medals all around. 4 children (Amy, Ava, Ishaan and Albie) from Year 3 took part in their first competition at Monks Walk. They competed in Curling taking on 5 other schools. After the first two rounds it was getting closer until both the boy's team and the girls team smashed their 3 games winning 4 points each pushing them straight into first place. They continued to do this for the following rounds taking the win for our area. Congratulations to all. An additional award went out to the child who took on great teamwork and tactics, well done to Ava for winning this award.



Tennis:

Some of Year 3's also took part in a tennis event last week. This event was building skills and enjoyment for tennis. This inclusive festival saw 8 Year 3 children playing tennis and hitting many tennis balls. Miss Draycott shared how wonderful their behaviour was and how polite the children are representing the school. Well done all who took part.



Child Prayer:

Dear God,

We would like to pray for forest school to help us grow, we thank you for helping us help our partners and friends. We want everyone to have a good half term and make sure the silver birch trees grow.

Amen (Year 2 - Indie, Josie and Vienna)



Volunteer/ donation work and competitions:

Works around the school:

Over the Easter break, we have some plans around the school. We are aiming to do some painting of some outdoor wood in early years in red, blue, yellow and green (house colours). We are looking to do some felting of the EYFS roofs. We are also looking at rebuilding plant beds around the Year 1 outside area and create new beds around our forest area gates. If anyone has any contacts for railway sleepers, please could you speak to Mr Worton-Geer, we would really appreciate any donations or discounts to support the school. We also are deciding what colours to paint around the front office. If anyone has any great ideas, or inspiration, please speak to Mrs Draycott or Mrs Cole as we would love your views.

We are still in need with the following items:

Railway sleepers	Pallets
Flowers and plants for our bedding areas	Old pots and pans
Fence posts	Fence post spikes
Roof felt	Flower ceramic pots

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 us 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 **February**. 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 17 th – Friday 21 st February 2025	Half- term
Thursday 27 th February 2025	School Family Worker Coffee morning for all parents
Friday 28 th February 2025	Forest School Year 6
Monday 3 rd March 2025	Science day
Thursday 6 th March 2025	World book day
Friday 7 th March 2025	Forest School Year 4
Monday 10 th – Friday 14 th March 2025	Science week
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
Future event - Wednesday 2 nd July 2025	Sports day, picnic lunch and opening evening
Future event - Tuesday 8 th July 2025	Sports day, picnic lunch and opening evening reserve

Coffee morning

On Thursday 27th February we will be hosting a coffee morning for all parents and carers at our school.

The coffee morning will be hosted in the **school hall** from **8:45am**.

At 9am we will be joined by our School Family worker - Sarah Cafferty, who will be coming to explain the support and direction her team can give to families.

We look forward to welcoming you then.

Parish News

Parish Pancakes

Shrove Tuesday - Tuesday 4th March

The Cowper Arms - Digswell Village

12 Noon - late

Do join us this year for a range of pancakes all served at the ridiculously low price of £1.50 per pancake.

Hot and cold drinks and bar food are available as normal.

This year electronic payment will be accepted.

All proceeds go to the parish's work with schools.

Please do support it.

Thanks

Rob



The Church of England Parish of Digswell Welwyn Garden City February 2025

Compline/weekly worship available on Soundcloud Channel

Morning Prayer is via Zoom

Please ask us for details

300125

Saturday 1	8:30am Morning Prayer 9:30am Extended Ministry Group at Rectory 10:30am Christmas Debrief at Rectory
Sunday 2	FEAST OF PRESENTATION Audio Service for This Week <i>a link is sent</i> 9:30am Parish Eucharist at St John's Church
Monday 3	8:30am Morning Prayer
Tuesday 4	8:50am Collective Worship at St John's School 10:00am Eucharist at Christ the King Hub 2:00pm RE Lesson for Year 5 at St John's School Yr 5 [Fr Rob] 8:30pm Compline – <i>a link is sent</i>
Weds 5	8:30am Morning Prayer 2:30pm Governor Visit to St John's School [Fr Rob]
Thursday 6	11:30am Governor Visit to Knightsfield [Fr Rob] 8:00pm Standing Committee at Rectory 8:30pm Compline – <i>a link is sent</i>
Friday 7	8:30am Morning Prayer 9:00am Coffee Pot at St John's Café 11:00am Welwyn Garden City Church leaders meet with local MP
Saturday 8	8:30am Morning Prayer 5:00pm Fr Rob attends Installation of new Canons at St Albans Abbey
Sunday 9	4 BEFORE LENT Audio Service for This Week <i>a link is sent</i> 9:30am Parish Eucharist at St John's Church 12 Noon Holy Baptism at St John's Church 11:00am Anglican-led Service at Digswell Village Church
Monday 10	8:30am Morning Prayer 11:00am Funeral Service at St John's [Fr Rob] 1pm Meeting with Head of Harwood Hill School [Fr Rob]
Tuesday 11	8:50am Collective Worship at St John's School 10:00am Eucharist at Christ the King Hub 8:30pm Compline – <i>a link is sent</i>
Weds 12	8:30am Morning Prayer 12 Noon Meeting with Head of Knightsfield School [Fr Rob]

Thursday 13	8:00am Chapter Meeting for Breakfast 7:30pm PCC Meeting via Zoom 8:30pm Compline <i>a link is sent</i>
-------------	--

Friday 14	8:30am Morning Prayer 9:00am Coffee Pot at St John's Café
-----------	--

Saturday 15	8:30am Morning Prayer
-------------	-----------------------

Sunday 16	3 BEFORE LENT Weekly Audio Service <i>a link is sent</i> 9:30am All Age Service at St John's Church
-----------	--

Monday 17	8:30am Morning Prayer
-----------	-----------------------

Tuesday 18	10:00am Eucharist at Christ the King Hub 8:30pm Compline – <i>a link is sent</i>
------------	---

Weds 19	8:30am Morning Prayer
---------	-----------------------

Thursday 20	8:30pm Compline <i>a link is sent</i>
-------------	---------------------------------------

Friday 21	8:30am Morning Prayer 9:00am Coffee Pot at St John's Café 10:30am Parish Book Club at Coffee Pot
-----------	--

Saturday 22	7:45am Fr Rob presents <i>Thought for the Day</i> on BBC Radio 4 8:30am Morning Prayer
-------------	---

Sunday 23	3 BEFORE LENT Weekly Audio Service <i>a link is sent</i> 9:30am Parish Eucharist at St John's Church 11:00am Anglican All Age Worship at Digswell Village Church 12:00 Noon Holy Baptism at St John's Church
-----------	---

Monday 24	8:30am Morning Prayer 12:15pm Lunch and assembly at Harwood Hill School [Fr Rob]
-----------	---

Tuesday 25	8:50am Collective Worship at St John's School 10:00am Eucharist at Christ the King Hub 8:30pm Compline – <i>a link is sent</i>
------------	--

Weds 26	8:30am Morning Prayer 12:00 Noon Preparing for Lent lunch at the Rectory [Soup and cheese provided – <i>please let us know if you are coming</i>]
---------	--

Thursday 27	8:30pm Compline <i>a link is sent</i>
-------------	---------------------------------------

Friday 28	8:30am Morning Prayer 9:00am Coffee Pot at St John's Café
-----------	--



Is your children's arguing getting you down?

Sign up to our **Sorting Out Family Arguments** online group

Join our 6-week online group that will help improve family communication, reduce the reactions which lead to arguments and create a culture of teamwork in your family.

Date, time and venue

- Wednesday 26th February to 2nd April 2025
- 9.30am - 11.30am
- This course will be delivered online via MS Teams

To book your place, call **Louise** on **0204 522 8700**, email **services@familylives.org.uk** or scan our QR code to use our online referral form



Scan Me!

We build better family lives together

www.familylives.org.uk

@familyLivesHertsandBeds



Family Lives is registered as a company limited by guarantee in England and Wales No. 3877762. Registered charity No 1077722. Registered address: The Annex, York House, Salisbury Square, Hatfield, AL9 5AD.

DSPL5

Delivering Special
Provision Locally

DSPL5 Parent/Carer Newsletter Spring 2025 (Term 1)

What's on in February?

FEBRUARY & HALF TERM 2025 ACTIVITIES

Sessions for Neurodivergent children/young people and Siblings

Date	Sessions	Time
1st Sat	FREE Family Football - Drop In	16:00-17:00
6th Thu	Bushcraft/Stem Home Ed 4+	10:30-12:00
6th Thu	Trampolining 5+ yrs	17:20-18:30
7th Fri	Welcome Space Community Drop-In	10:00-12:30
7th Fri	**NEW** Therapeutic Gardening Home Ed Group 8+ yrs	12:30-14:00
8th Sat	Soft Archery 7+	16:00-17:00
13th Thu	Bushcraft/Stem Home Ed 4+	10:30-12:00
14th Fri	Welcome Space Community Drop-In	10:00-12:30
14th Fri	**NEW** Therapeutic Gardening Home Ed Group 8+ yrs	12:30-14:00
15th Sat	**NEW** Archery 7+ yrs	16:00-17:00
18th Tue	Half Term Cooking and Seed Planting 6+ yrs	10:30-12:30
18th Tue	**NEW** Roller Skating 8+ yrs	18:00-19:30
21st Fri	Teeth Group Games and Crafts 10-12 yrs	18:00-19:30
22nd Sat	FREE Family Football - Drop In	16:00-17:00
27th Thu	Bushcraft/Stem Home Ed 4+	10:30-12:00
27th Thu	Trampolining 5+ yrs	17:20-18:30
28th Fri	Welcome Space Community Drop-In	10:00-12:00
28th Fri	**NEW** Therapeutic Gardening Home Ed Group 8+ yrs	12:30-14:00

For further information on any of our Activities or Educational Services please email us at info@potentialkids.org

POTENTIAL KIDS

CCN

PK Hub & Garden



Communication, Learning & Social Support for everyone through our inclusive programmes

TUTORING



Potential to Grow

Dancecraft Stables



Therapeutic Gardening 11+ Group Sessions. Volunteers Needed

11 Horsesriding Returning in Spring

Contact us for details of our PK offer:

Tutoring
Teaching
Mentoring
Therapies
11+ Group Work
Alternative provision
EOTAS
DoE

Visit us here

