

St John's VA C of E Primary School

NEWSLETTER

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



07/03/25

LENT 2025

Welcome message from the Headteacher

First two weeks back!

Dear all,

It has been a very busy first two weeks coming back. The weather hasn't always been brilliant, but the children have worked incredibly hard both inside and outside of school.

The school is looking better every day, and I am very grateful for the support that parents and families as well as the local parish has given the school. Over half term, the Parish donated £1000 to the school to support our children. A few Year 1 parents came in and cleared the outside Year 1 area and a team of Year 1 parents have some great ideas of what needs to be completed. Working with the school, I am very excited to see how the project will progress.

We are busy planning trips for different year groups which will be coming up over the rest of the school year. We are excited for our Year 5 & 6 residential trips, thank you everyone for completing the paperwork for these.

A few reminders around parking, please do not park after the chicanes as this causes difficulty for on-coming traffic coming past our school. We want to encourage children to walk to school and scoot – I am in the process of looking into the WOW badges – something that children love to collect and helps promote walking, cycling and scooting to school.

Sport is thriving in the school, Year 5 are preparing for their upcoming dance show, it will be great to see them on stage. Further information will be going out shortly. Athletics have gone well for the school, it has been great to get through to the final for a district event.

Parent consultations are coming up in the next few weeks, we are excited to show the progress of the children and how far they have come. Please keep an eye on the diary for up-and-coming events.

Finally, any ideas of improvement for the school, please let me know, I am keen to work alongside our community to develop our school further. The potential that our school has is huge and I want to keep reaching for the stars to ensure our children have the best schooling experience.

Best wishes
Mr Worton-Geer

Pupil quote of the week: Jesse (Year 2): I like everything about the school. I like playing with my friends and I enjoy being in my class.

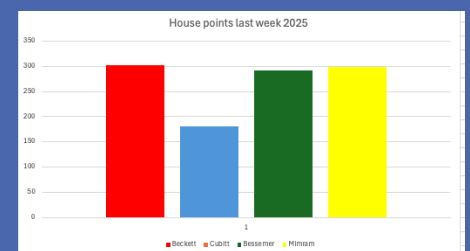
Quote from the bible: (Romans 15:13) May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Improvements to the school:

We have been given £1000 from the Parish which we are very grateful for. We are processing getting new resources in our main building sensory room. Mrs de la Croix is very excited to update this room. Thank you to the Digswell Parish.

The Year 1 parent team has worked incredibly hard with the outside Year 1 area. The pond area has been cleared and new sleepers have been ordered for this area. We are very grateful for the support from parents and families.

We are in the process of ordering new iPads for Year 3 and 4 to begin the Seesaw journey. A reminder that photos should not be shared on social media.



Academic Highlights

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

Attendance:

Week commencing 28th February 2025

Year	Percent	Place
Nursery	98.3%	2 nd
Year 1	98.3%	2 nd
Year 2	85.2%	8 th
Year 3	96%	4 th
Year 4	91.8%	7 th
Year 5	94.1%	6 th
Year 6	99.3%	1 st
Year R	94.5%	5 th

Forest school year 6 - 28th of February 2025

Today in forest school we started off by carrying a bunch of logs into a small log storing area. Once we had finished this we gathered in a little green tent and Mr WG taught us a few steps on how to make a small fire. The first step was grading sticks, we did this by ordering different size sticks, lots of us found this a bit tricky as we struggled with the layers but we still did great. Then he taught us different types of fires such as: Swedish house and a teepee hut house. We all grouped up into 3's and got to work. We set off to find a different range of twigs, sticks and small branches. Once we felt we had collected enough we found some more small twigs to use as kindling. We then started to build up our fires and they started to form shape really quickly. Soon afterwards we grouped all of our sticks together and made a huge fire that was a mix of the Swedish house and the teepee hut house. After we were sure that the fire would be safe then we all sat round and had delicious smores. All of us really enjoyed the smores as they were nice and toasted as we like them. We are all really grateful for this lovely experience and we thank Mr WG and Mrs Potter and Lauren our volunteer helper for letting us all do this. Cara and Tegan (Year 6)

PE:

Girls Football:

The girls in Year 5 and 6 took part in a district football event with 15 other schools. The team were incredible – particularly Hope who really supported the team. Together they won match after match however fell short at the shield match. Well done to everyone who took part.

Badminton:

We did fantastic at badminton and children took part in all events. Well done to the Year 5 and 6's who did a fantastic job in matches.

Athletics:

Congratulations to this team who have got through to the district final. They have done an amazing job getting a very high score of 168 compared to the first place at 172.



Year 1 Phonics day

Year 1 had a fantastic day dressing up as aliens. We all thought of an alien name and wore our costumes for the day. We had a real alien word hunt in the sensory garden and library and had to work out where each word belongs. We had such fun!



Child Prayer:

Dear God,

Thank you for all the food that you bring us. Thank you for the water we have. Thank you for helping us at school and everything that we do.

Amen (Year 3 - Sophia)



Volunteer/ donation work and competitions.

Works Party Around the School:

We continue to develop our school and are considering having a working party weekend as the weather is getting better. We will be aiming for the summer term. If you are able to give up a morning over a weekend (potential date is Saturday 10th May 2025) please could you speak to Mr Worton-Geer. The aim is to do some jobs around the school and prepare it for the summer events together. We are always looking for pallets, plants, tools and anything that can help our school look beautiful. The staff are working during the next INSET day around the school to develop the school further including painting the office, creating some flower beds near the forest school and many more projects.

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>

Parish News:

A reminder that Coffee Pot is a great place to meet friends and enjoy breakfast treats every Friday between 9am-12noon at St John's Church.

For the next five weeks there is an optional Lent discussion Group led by Julie at Coffee Pot at 1030am for an hour. It's always an interesting chat.

It would be great to see families join in the Parish Mothering Sunday Service at St John's on Sunday 30 March at 9.30am - everyone is welcome with flowers distributed.

And a date for your diary - on Holy Saturday (19 April) Cream Teas are served at St John's between 1,30pm-4pm and once again all are welcome.

Regular Services

Tues, 10am Christ the King Hub Eucharist

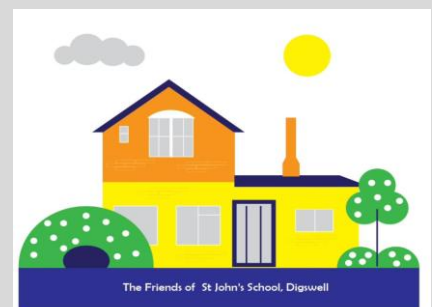
Sun, 9.30am St John's Church Eucharist

Volunteers:

I am very grateful for all the parents and families who have supported myself and our school over the past half a year. I can't thank you enough for everything that you have been doing and supporting the school. From reading helpers to sports events, putting in a garden fence to helping me with forest school. We have also had a recent influx of new volunteers too which is very helpful. Thank you. We are working closely with staff to ensure we can give our children the best experience at school. If you can volunteer in any capacity, we would be very thankful.

PTA:

Please continue to support the PTA with any ideas and ways to raise money for the school. We are working alongside the PTA in collaboration to support the school meeting regularly together. Keep an eye out from the PTA on what is going to be happening in the next few months.





Calendar

Monday 10 th – Friday 14 th March 2025	Science week
Wednesday 12 th March 2025	Book look afternoon 2:45 - 3:25pm
Friday 14 th March 2025	Forest School Year 3
Monday 17 th – Friday 21 st March 2025	Neurodiversity Week
Monday 17 th – Thursday 20 th March 2025	MOCK SATs Week (Year 6)
Monday 17 th March 2025	Dance Show Year 5 – 3pm – 7pm – Details to follow
Tuesday 18 th and Wednesday 19 th March 2025	Parent Consultation 3:00pm – 6:30pm
Friday 21 st March 2025	Forest School Year 5
Monday 24 th March to Friday 4 th April 2025	Walk and Wheel Fortnight
Wednesday 26 th March 2025	Year 1 and 2 Church Visit - Easter
Friday 28 th March 2025	Forest school Year 2
Tuesday 1 st April 2025	Year 3 and 4 Easter Production
Wednesday 2 nd April 2025	Rocksteady Concert for Parents
Thursday 3 rd April 2025	Service at St John's Church – whole school
Friday 4 th April 2025	Last Day of Term, Forest School Year 1 and Merit Assembly
Tuesday 22 nd April 2025	INSET day
Wednesday 23 rd April 2025	First day back for children
Thursday 24 th April 2025	In school – Collective worship – Easter 8:50am
Tuesday 29 th April – Friday 2 nd May 2025	Year 5 – Fellowship Afloat Residential
Friday 2 nd May 2025	Year 6 – Forest school
Monday 5 th May 2025	Bank Holiday
Friday 9 th May 2025	Year 5 Forest School
Monday 12 th May – Friday 16 th May 2025	Year 6 SATs Week
Friday 16 th May 2025	Dress down Day - £2 donation and Year 4 Forest School
Friday 16 th May 2025	Year 6 SATs reward afternoon
Thursday 22 nd May 2025	Reception – Shepreth Wildlife Park Trip
Friday 23 rd May 2025	Year 3 forest School
Monday 26 th - Friday 30 th May 2025	Half Term
Monday 2 nd June 2025	First day back after half term
Monday 2 nd June – Friday 6 th June 2025	Year 6 Residential
Future event - Wednesday 2 nd July 2025	Sports Day, Picnic Lunch and Opening Evening



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

Compline/weekly worship available on Soundcloud Channel

Morning Prayer is via Zoom

Please ask us for details

260225

Saturday 1 8:30am Morning Prayer
9:15am A Moment of Healing at St John's Church
10:00am Safeguarding Seminar at St John's Church

Sunday 2 SUNDAY BEFORE LENT
Audio Service for This Week *a link is sent*
9:30am Parish Eucharist at St John's Church

Monday 3 8:30am Morning Prayer
7:30pm Deanery Synod meets at St Giles Codicote

Tuesday 4 10:00am Eucharist at Christ the King Hub
12 Noon Parish Pancakes at the Cowper Arms until late
8:30pm Compline – *a link is sent*

Weds 5 ASH WEDNESDAY
8:30am Morning Prayer
8:50am Collective Worship at St John's School
12:30pm Ash Wednesday Service at St John's Church

Thursday 6 8:30pm Compline – *a link is sent*

Friday 7 8:30am Morning Prayer
9:00am Coffee Pot at St John's Café

Saturday 8 8:30am Morning Prayer
Diocesan Synod Meets today at Putteridge

Sunday 9 LENT ONE
Audio Service for This Week *a link is sent*
9:30am Parish Eucharist at St John's Church
11:00am Anglican-led Service at Digswell Village Church

Monday 10 7:45am Fr Rob presents *Thought for the Day* on Radio 4
8:30am Morning Prayer
2:00pm Lent Group at Digswell Village Church
6:30pm Full Governors meeting at St John's School

Tuesday 11 8:50am Collective Worship at St John's School
10:00am Eucharist at Christ the King Hub
7:30pm Lent Group via Zoom led by Fr Martin (Mark 11.1-10)
8:30pm Compline – *a link is sent*

Weds 12 8:30am Morning Prayer

Thursday 13 8:30pm Compline *a link is sent*

Friday 14 8:30am Morning Prayer
9:00am Coffee Pot at St John's Café
10:30am Lent Group at Coffee Pot led by Julie

Saturday 15 8:30am Morning Prayer

Sunday 16 LENT 2
Weekly Audio Service *a link is sent*
9:30am Parish Eucharist at St John's Church

Monday 17 8:30am Morning Prayer
2:00pm Lent Group at Digswell Village Church

Tuesday 18 ST JOSEPH
8:50am Collective Worship at St John's School
10:00am Eucharist at Christ the King Hub
7:30pm Lent Group via Zoom led by Lesley (Luke 22.8-39)
8:30pm Compline – *a link is sent*

Weds 19 8:30am Morning Prayer
4pm Trustees Meeting at Knightsfield School

Thursday 20 8:30pm Compline *a link is sent*

Friday 21 8:30am Morning Prayer
9:00am Coffee Pot at St John's Café
10:30am Lent Group at Coffee Pot led by Julie

Saturday 22 8:30am Morning Prayer

Sunday 23 LENT 3
Weekly Audio Service *a link is sent*
9:30am Parish Eucharist at St John's Church
11:00am Annual Meetings at St John's
1:00pm Holy Baptism at St John's Church

Monday 24 8:30am Morning Prayer
2:00pm Lent Group at Digswell Village Church

Tuesday 25 FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION
8:50am Collective Worship at St John's School
10:00am Eucharist at Christ the King Hub
12 Noon Welwyn Garden City Church leaders meet
4pm Knightsfield Trustees Meeting
7:30pm Lent Group via Zoom led by John (Mark 14.32-42)
8:30pm Compline – *a link is sent*

Weds 26 8:30am Morning Prayer
8:40am St John's School Visit to St John's Church
10:00am Stations of the Cross for Year 6 Pupils of St John's School

Thursday 27 8:30pm Compline *a link is sent*

Friday 28 **8:30am Morning Prayer**
9:00am Coffee Pot at St John's Café
10:30am Lent Group at **Coffee Pot** led by Julie

Saturday 29 **CLOCK GO FORWARD TONIGHT**
8:30am Morning Prayer

Sunday 30 **LENT 4/MOTHERING SUNDAY**
Weekly Audio Service *a link is sent*
9:30am Parish Eucharist at St John's Church
11:00am Anglican led All Age Service at Digswell Village Church

Monday 31 **8:30am Morning Prayer**
2:00pm Lent Group at Digswell Village Church



INTRODUCING THE

WELWYN SKATE PARK PROJECT

We are a small committee of local parents working in partnership with Welwyn Parish Council to enhance the play facilities at Ottway Walk (AL6 9AS). Our intention is to provide a new basketball hoop and surface (Phase 1) and a skate park (Phase 2).

We are at the early planning stages of the project during which we want to engage with members of the community, our stakeholders, to understand how well utilised the existing facilities at Ottway Walk are and what stakeholders hope to see from a new skate park. Please let us know what you think by completing our short survey - link below.

We are also keen to encourage more parents to join our committee - if you are interested in getting involved please contact welwyskatepark@hotmail.com

LINK TO SURVEY - [HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/O8AQMQAJD5TLDDMM7](https://forms.gle/O8AQMQAJD5TLDDMM7)

Closing date for responses is Friday 21st March 2025

Are you worried about the rising cost of food and how to eat healthily on a tight budget?

Then join one of our free, fun cooking courses. Learn how to make delicious, healthy meals from all over the world whilst saving money.



All you need is a kitchen and a phone!

About the course

FREE

- Cook tasty, healthy meals, cheaply
- Get tips on how to budget and save money when you're shopping
- Learn how to waste less

How does it work?

- We deliver 3 step-by-step recipes and all the ingredients you need, straight to your door
- Your personal mentor will support you by phone or WhatsApp with lots of tips and advice along the way
- At the end, you'll get a free gift of wallet-friendly recipes

What do I need to do?

All we ask is that you cook the three recipes and send us photos of your lovely food!

How long does it take?

About two weeks, but you can work at your own pace

How do I join?

- Register online: www.bagsoftaste.org/students
- Call/Whatsapp: 07813 678660
- Email: adele.buckland@bagsoftaste.org

Once we've confirmed your registration, we'll contact you to arrange your delivery

* Free for participants in receipt of benefits



LEARN TO COOK



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HAVE FUN



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...all you need is a kitchen and a phone!



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COOK BETTER
THAN THE
TAKEAWAY

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AT HOME
Cook great food
in just 2 weeks!
Impress your friends
& family

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MIDDLE EASTERN PILAF



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