

St John's VA C of E Primary School NEWSLETTER

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



04/04/25

LENT 2025

Welcome message from the Headteacher

Have a great Easter break!

Dear all,

Another fantastic term of learning, church services, sporting events and productions. It has been great to see the school being developed with many areas improving weekly. I am very grateful for the support from volunteers and parents so far this year. From governors to parents, thank you for growing our school together.

The last two weeks we have been learning about the run up for Easter, considering the path that Jesus took and the sacrifices that have been made. We are learning together and growing as a family on our Christian values. Next half term, our value is Faith.

I have been around the classes looking at the teaching of Maths and the importance of assessment for learning. Whilst we have some incredible teaching going on, an area that I want to further improve is assessment for learning, knowing which gaps children have in their learning and what ways we can help keep children recalling information for a longer period of time. There is some exciting systems that are coming to develop this over the next year.

I want to say a huge well done to Year 6 who have worked incredibly hard for the run-up of Year 6 SATs. They have done incredibly well in their mocks and now have to keep the momentum going ready for their SATs in May. Keep practicing over the Easter break so that you can hit the ground running when we return.

Year 5 have their residential trip coming up the second week in the next half term, please remember to pack everything well I am sure that you will get wet and create some incredible memories. I am looking forward to going to see our children grow. Other year groups are booking trips and sorting out costings for transport. I look forward to seeing the trips and enjoyment of the children.

Finally, I really hope you have a good two-week break. If you have Seesaw set up, please take photos of the incredible things that you do. Sharing memories is such an important thing and we love to see what you are all doing too. Make sure you have a rest. We will have another packed term.

Best wishes

Pupil quote of the week: Oliver (Year 4): This week we showed the school our three little trees Easter play. It was a lot of fun and I had a great time.

Quote from the bible: Colossians 3:13 "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."

Improvements to the school:

We have replaced some piping for the KS1 toilets – very exciting!

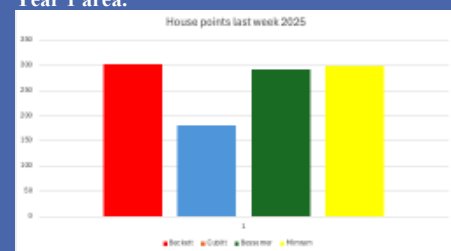
We have plans to develop a whole school mud kitchen area – this will take several months to complete.

We have a few window designs ready to go however we still need more window designs to come in.

We have begun looking at our school development plan for September 2025.

Year 3 and 4 iPads have been established for two weeks now and Seesaw is working well.

We raised just over £500 from the previous movie night which will go towards the outside Year 1 area.



Nursery and Reception class with their Easter Bonnets on.



Academic Highlights

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

Attendance:

Week commencing 24th March 2025

Year	Percent	Place
Nursery	98.4%	2 nd
Year 1	98.3%	3 rd
Year 2	94.8%	7 th
Year 3	99.3%	1 st
Year 4	97.9%	4 th
Year 5	94.8%	7 th
Year 6	96.5%	6 th
Year R	97.0%	5 th

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: Rudy O'Connor
Reception: Lylah Morey
Year 1: Luca Fanha
Year 2: Raeya Bharij
Year 3: Austin Chilcot
Year 4: Jonah Capra
Year 5: William Squire
Year 6: Eleanor Kemp
Headteacher Award: Emily Bowman

Football:

B teams' at Monks walk – Tuesday 25th March

There were two teams playing two games against local teams. They played well together building up experience for future events. Well done to both the Year 5 and 6 team who did very well.

Year 5 team won 2-0 and lost a game.

Year 6 team lost both games however Max was man of the match due to his incredible goal keeping skills – a future keeper for sure!

A team – district event

Well done to the A team who won the table round coming first only losing one game. Unfortunately, with short time restraints they were knocked out in the semi-finals with an overall score as 4th.

Netball:

On Thursday 27th of March the netball team went to a netball tournament. We had 5 matches to play that went really well. Everyone did excellent but our player of the match goes to Zena for an excellent goal in the 3rd match. It was very good to practise our netball skills for later in the year. Overall, we won 3 matches out of the 5 we drew one and lost the other. Next time when we do the district on Wednesday the 2nd of April we can improve to win more matches and do stronger passes.

Written by Cara, Elle, Emily, Eva O, Eva H, Lili, Zena and Imogen.

RE:

Selena came today with her special story mat to tell the children about The Easter Story. The children sat so well and listened really carefully. At the end they were able to join in with each part of the story when it was recapped.

At the end there was a special party in the story. Selena brought the children special party marshmallows for a celebration at snack time 🍌



Year 2

Year 2 have spent the last half-term learning about some very exciting topics. In English, we have been reading the book 'Grandad's Camper' by Harry Woodgate. In Maths, we've been learning about topics such as Volume & Capacity, Money and Length & Height. In Science, we've been studying how living things grow, and what humans need to survive! We also had the chance to take part in Forest School on Friday 28th March. We spent the morning de-weeding, clearing sticks and compost, before completing a Spring scavenger hunt in our woodland area!

Child Prayer:

Dear God,

Help this school keep them safe and protect them over Easter. Help us learn with the teachers and grow us to become good people of the world.

Amen (Year 4 - Vinnie)

Year 1

Year 1 have had a fantastic half term filled with hands-on learning, teamwork and creativity. To celebrate Shrove Tuesday, the children tested and voted for their favourite pancake toppings before taking part in energetic team pancake races! We really enjoyed spending a day dressed as aliens in preparation for our Year 1 Phonics Screening test and went on an exciting word hunt in the school. To celebrate world book day, we dressed up as our favourite characters, and made puppets, inspired by 'Little Monsters' by David Walliams. It has been a joy to watch the children flourish and grow this term, and we can't wait for more excitement in the Summer term!

Year 5

This half term in Year 5 has been full of excitement and learning! We took part in a dance festival, performing to "True Colours" with a beautiful rainbow-themed routine - it was absolutely awesome! We would like to thank Lily for choreographing our dance! Forest School was a highlight, where we learned how to make a fire safely and we made (and ate) s'mores. We celebrated World Book Day, Science Week, and planted sunflowers for Mother's Day. In History, we learned about Ancient Greece and studied "The Odyssey" in English. Our Maths Challenge team came 6th out of 200 schools—an amazing achievement! A warm welcome to Marcelina, who joined us this term!

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 and a Year 6 child – Seth, in July - 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>

PTA events:

Friday 9th May 2025 - Disco more information to follow

Father's day event. TBC

Saturday 21st June- summer activity to be confirmed.

Friday 12th September 2025 - back to school disco

Friday 3rd October 2025- quiz night

Saturday 8th November 2025 - fireworks

Saturday 29th November 2025 - Xmas fair

Feb 2026- Family Games night TBC



Calendar

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
Friday 25 th April 2025	Year 6 forest school
Tuesday 29 th April – Friday 2 nd May 2025	Year 5 – Fellowship Afloat Residential
Friday 2 nd May 2025	Year 4 – Forest school
Monday 5 th May 2025	Bank Holiday
Thursday 8 th May 2025	Class Photographs
Friday 9 th May 2025	Year 5 Forest School and PTA Disco
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 3 Forest School
Friday 16 th May 2025	Year 6 SATs reward afternoon
Friday 23 rd May 2025	Year 2 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
Friday's in June and July	Cricket training for Year 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 – PE kit please.
Future event - Wednesday 2 nd July 2025	Sports Day, Picnic Lunch and Opening Evening

Rocksteady performance

What a great show seeing Reception to Year 6 rocking out in the hall learning their songs and performing in front of a great audience.

The children have worked hard with practising ready for this performance and each time I see them, they become stronger, louder and more to the beat. Thank you to Roberto for supporting the Rock Steady pupils this half term.



Year 3 and 4 production:

Written by Jessica (Year 4)

The Easter production is about three trees dreaming about what they want to be when they grow up. They don't get what they want but when they meet Jesus they realise that dreams can come true. Year 3 and 4 have worked really hard over the past few weeks in preparation for this show. We really hope you have enjoyed it and we want to say thank you for everyone who has helped us learn the lines, help with costumes and props. We hope you have a good Easter!





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

Compline/weekly worship available on Soundcloud Channel
Morning Prayer is via Zoom
Please ask us for details 300325

Tuesday 1	8:50am	Collective Worship at St John's School
	10:00am	Eucharist at Christ the King Hub
	6:30pm	Easter Play (St John's School) at St John's Church
	7:30pm	Lent Group via Zoom led by Ally Munro
	8:30pm	The Hub Cafe Next Phase planning meeting via Zoom
	8:30pm	Compline – a link is sent
Weds 2	8:30am	Morning Prayer
Thursday 3	8:50am	St John's School Approaching Easter Service
	10:30am	Homerswood School Approaching Easter Service
	1:45pm	Harwood Hill Approaching Easter Service
	8:30pm	Compline – a link is sent
Friday 4	8:30am	Morning Prayer
	9:00am	Coffee Pot at St John's Café
	10:30am	Lent Group at Coffee Pot led by Fr Rob
Saturday 5	8:30am	Morning Prayer
	9:15am	A Moment of Healing at St John's Church
	9:45am	Extended Ministry Group at St John's Church
Sunday 6	LENT FIVE	
	Audio Service for This Week a link is sent	
	9:30am	Parish Eucharist at St John's Church
Monday 7	8:30am	Morning Prayer
	2:00pm	Lent Group at Digswell Village Church
	7:30pm	Christ the King Hub Working Group via Zoom
Tuesday 8	10:00am	Eucharist at Christ the King Hub
	7:30pm	Lent Group via Zoom led by
	8:30pm	Compline – a link is sent
Weds 9	8:30am	Morning Prayer
	7:30pm	St John's Church Committee via Zoom
Thursday 10	7:30pm	Finance Committee via Zoom
	8:30pm	Compline a link is sent
Friday 11	8:30am	Morning Prayer
	9:00am	Coffee Pot at St John's Café
	10:30am	Lent Group at Coffee Pot led by Julie
	1:15pm	Funeral Service at Crematorium [Rose]
Saturday 12	8:30am	Morning Prayer

Palm Sunday to Easter Day is Holy Week 2025.
See separate date list

Monday 21	10:00am	Morning Prayer
Tuesday 22	10:00am	Eucharist at Christ the King Hub
	8:00pm	Standing Committee via Zoom
	8:30pm	Compline – a link is sent
Weds 23	8:30am	Morning Prayer
Thursday 24	8:50am	Easter Service at St John's School.
	8:30pm	Compline a link is sent
Friday 25	8:30am	Morning Prayer
	9:00am	Coffee Pot at St John's Café
Saturday 26	7:50am	Fr Rob presents Thought for the Day on BBC Radio 4
	8:30am	Morning Prayer
Sunday 27	EASTER 2	
	Weekly Audio Service a link is sent	
	9:30am	Parish Eucharist at St John's Church
	11:00am	Anglican-led All Age Worship at DVC
Monday 28	8:30am	Morning Prayer
	9:00am	Homerswood Assembly [Selina]
	7:30pm	PCC Via Zoom
Tuesday 29	8:50am	Collective Worship at St John's School
	10:00am	Eucharist at Christ the King Hub
	12:30pm	Fish and Chips Lunch at the Cowper Arms for St George
	8:30pm	Compline – a link is sent
Weds 30	8:30am	Morning Prayer





Delivering Special Provision Locally

DSPL5 Parent/Carer Newsletter Spring 2025 (Term 2)

About DSPL5?

DSPL (Delivering Special Provision Locally) is a Hertfordshire-wide partnership approach where parents, staff in early years settings and schools, further education colleges, local authority officers and representatives from other agencies, work together as part of an Area Group, reviewing and developing the range of provision and support services available to their local community that:

- Meets the needs of children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), aged 0-25, as close to home as possible
- Improves outcomes for wellbeing and attainment
- Widens choice for children and parents/carers
- Removes barriers to learning
- Uses resources more effectively

What's on this Summer for parents/carers and families?

For updates on workshops and courses on offer to families in Hertfordshire, visit our website <https://www.dspl5.co.uk/training-workshops-1/>

EASTER FUN

TUE 8 APRIL: EASTER EGG HUNT, COOKING & CRAFTS
AT COMMUNITY & LEARNING GARDEN (AGES 4+) - £6
TIME: 10.00-11.00AM & 11.30-12.30PM

THU 10 APRIL: GO WILD FOREST SESSION AT HUDNELL PARK (AGES 10-14) - £10
TIME: 13.00-15.00PM

FRI 10 APRIL: TRAMPOLINING AT GOSLING (AGES 5+) - £6
TIME: 18.30-19.30PM

MON 14 APRIL: PONY DAY AT DANECROFT STABLES (AGES 6-11) - £25
TIME: 10.00-12.00PM & 13.00-15.00PM

TUE 8 & 15 APRIL: DONUTS AT GOSLING (AGES 8+ OR IF ACCOMPANIED ON SLOPES) - £6
TIME: 14.00-15.00PM

WED 16 APRIL: NINJA WARRIOR WATFORD (AGES 8+) - £13.50 TIME: 19.00-20.00

THU 17 APRIL: INFLATABLE ZONE AT HATFIELD LEISURE CENTRE (AGES 8+) - £8.95
TIME: 17.00-18.00PM

POTENTIAL KIDS

BOOKINGS:
potentialkids.org/events
Further event details can be found on our website.

Happy Easter

Promoting social inclusion, new friendships, physical activity, life skills, learning and social skills

the galleria

Autism-ADHD-Syndrome-Dyspraxia-Tourette's
www.potentialkids.org.uk



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

PROGRAMME CONSISTS OF 8 X 2 HOUR WEEKLY SESSIONS

DATES:

Wednesday mornings
from 30th April - 25th
June (no session during
half-term)

TIME: 9:30-11:30am

LOCATION:

Panshanger Primary
School

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



*Please note that this course is only available for free to our partner schools, details of which can be found here: <https://www.welwynhertfordshire.sch.uk/schoolpartnership.com/our-schools/>



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- COOPERATIVE FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

PROGRAMME CONSISTS OF 8 X 2 HOUR WEEKLY SESSIONS

DATES:

Mondays from 12th May
- 7th July (no session
during half-term)

TIME: 6:30-8:30pm

LOCATION:

Monk's
Walk

To book a place, please use the QR code or go to this link: <https://forms.office.com/e/56y5yv5BkP>



*Please note that this course is only available for free to our partner schools, details of which can be found here: <https://www.hatfield.sch.uk/schoolpartnership.com/our-schools/>





Handling anger of children with Autism & ADHD

(and those on assessment pathways)

Our award winning online, interactive course for parents of children aged 4 to 11 will: help parents to increase understanding of children's behaviours and provide tried & tested strategies for a calmer and happier family life or all.

Tuesday mornings 9.30am to 11.30am
April 22, 29 & May 6, 13, 20

Email Francine and Lesley today:
bookings@familiesinfocus.co.uk



Funded by Hertfordshire CC with limited free places available for Hertfordshire parents



A complete guide to parenting children with Autism & ADHD

(inclusive of those on assessment pathways)

Our award winning, online, interactive courses for parents of children aged 2 to 11 years will: Increase understanding of Autism, ADHD, Sensory Processing and children's behaviours.

Also included, how to understand and support siblings, understanding EHCP's, and up to date information on local service's and how to access them.

We provide tried and tested strategies to increase understanding for a calmer and happier family life for all.

Wednesdays

April 23, 30 & May 7, 14, 21 & June 4, 11, 18, 25
from 9.30am to 11.30am

or

From 6.30pm to 8.30pm

Email Francine & Lesley:
bookings@familiesinfocus.co.uk



Funded by Hertfordshire CC and free places for Hertfordshire parents

I have
AUTISM & ADHD

Please be patient

Get the right help at the right time



early help, brighter futures

Need advice and support for your family?

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Relationship support | Money advice |
| Parenting Advice & Courses | Services for Young People |
| Emotional & Mental Health | SEND Local Offer |
| Staying healthy | Search local services |
| School attendance/anxiety | and much more |



Families First

Early help, brighter futures

SCAN



Visit Hertfordshire's Families First website:-
www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/familiesfirst

Parent & Carer Support Summer Term 2025



FREE to parents and carers living in Hertfordshire

All courses are 6 weeks with a break for half term 26th-30th May

TALKING TEENS

6, weekly sessions for parents and carers of children aged **12-19**, covering:

- The Teen Brain: physical and emotional changes taking place and why behaviour changes.
- The link between behaviour and communicating difficult feelings.
- How to maintain your relationship with good communication.
- Understand risk taking behaviour around drugs, alcohol and gang culture.
- How to negotiate and reduce conflict.



Wednesdays
7.45 - 9.15pm
7th May to 18th Jun
Online Course: ID 759

Tuesdays
7.45 - 9.15pm
3rd Jun to 8th Jul
Online Course: ID 760

TALKING ADDITIONAL NEEDS

A 6-week group for parents and carers of children with any additional need aged **2-19**. Your child does not need a diagnosis.

- Understand your child's behaviour.
- Develop strategies that really work.
- Reduce conflict and increase co-operation.
- Improve emotional regulation.
- Explore sensory needs.
- Increase your child's resilience.
- Manage different needs in your family.



Tuesdays
9.30 - 11.30am
3rd Jun to 8th Jul
Face to Face: ID 755
Gade Community Room
Oakleaf Primary School,
Hemel Hempstead

Tuesdays
8.00 - 9.30pm
6th May to 17th Jun
Online Course ID 756

Summer Term 2025



TALKING FAMILIES

6, weekly sessions for parents and carers of children aged **0-12** sharing tips on:

- Managing challenging behaviour with consistency.
- Encouraging positive behaviour.
- Building your child's self-esteem.
- Setting and maintaining boundaries.
- Responding to tantrums and difficult feelings in children.
- Developing a strong parent/child relationship now and for the future.



Thursdays
9.45 - 11.15am
8th May to 19th Jun
Online Course ID 757

Tuesdays
8.00 - 9.30pm
6th May to 17th Jun
Online Course ID 758

TALKING DADS

6, weekly sessions for dads & male carers of children **0-19** sharing information on:

- Improved listening and communication skills.
- A healthy dad-child relationship now and for the future.
- Effective strategies for dealing with anger and conflict.
- How to enforce boundaries.
- Being the dad, you want to be.



Wednesdays
7.45 - 9.15pm
4th Jun to 9th Jul
Online Course: ID 761

All courses are 6 weeks with a break for half term 26th-30th May

Booking essential. Please Quote the Course ID

To check eligibility and book a place, please contact Supporting Links on: **07512 709556** or bookings@supportinglinks.co.uk

These courses are provided free to parents by Hertfordshire County Council's Targeted Parenting Fund. Information taken on booking will be used to process your booking, check your eligibility, identify any access needs and will be stored in accordance with our GDPR policy which is available on request.

