

St John's VA C of E Primary School

NEWSLETTER



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

08/11/24

Welcome message from the Headteacher

What a great first half term!

Dear all,

Wow what a busy and hectic first half term. Not only did we get through 8 weeks of learning, but we also managed to take part in several festivals, competitions and events through sports. We had a complete full day of SIAMs inspection and parents consultations too.

I want to say a huge thank you to everyone for their hard work in the first half term, it was great to see teamwork and see our school family thriving. In particular, I want to say thank you to Mrs de la Croix and Mrs Miller for all the support I have had regarding the SIAMs inspection. It was a long day, but we did it together.

We continue to develop the school further and have begun to develop our IT resources further. We have updated the schools' systems to ensure speedier use of devices as well as access. Thank you to everyone for the donations towards our movie morning on the last day of school – this really has supported us.

I also want to say well done to Cubitt for winning the house award last half term. The next house reward will happen in the last week of this half term – keep doing amazing at school and win those house points!

We have been focusing on spirituality before and after half term, it is important that we consider more than just what we do but why we do it. Please continue to encourage our children to do the right thing and help them build their own spirit, working alongside others and the school.

Finally, I am looking forward to another action-packed 8 week half term. I am very excited for Christmas which seems to be approaching very quickly!

Best wishes

Mr Worton-Geer

Pupil quote of the week: *Josie (Year 2) - I really like the teachers and the headteacher because they are kind. I really enjoy how much fun we have at school and learning about different things.*

Quote from the bible: (Psalm, 25:5) *Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Saviour, and my hope is in you all day long.*

Improvements to the school:

We have begun to move our garden shed to the back of the playground in order to sort out the bike and scooter park.

We have had a gutter and drain survey completed.

Staff have now received their own PE tops to promote our PE ethos. We have also received new kits for pupils for their festivals too.

Finally, we are having our school gate comms sorted.

Reminder:

On Sunday at 12:20pm we will be heading up to the War memorial at Harmer Green. Please come along.



Academic Highlights

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

SIAMs:

Last half term we had our SIAMs inspection. It was a great day to reflect on how wonderful the school is and our working relationship with the Parish and local community.

Once the report has been released, we will share with you the outcome. We thank everyone who supported us on this busy day.

PE:

On Tuesday 22nd October 2024 St John's won their football match against Oakland's 6-1. Well done to all who took part.

Goal scorers: Hope, Gil x 2, Victor, Ruben and Max.

On Thursday 24th October 2024 we had two tough matches. The first one we lost to St Michaels School 6-2 however we then won our second game 4-0. Well done to all who took part and worked as a team through a busy few matches.

Diwali:

Mrs Mistry came into EYFS and taught us all about Diwali. It was a wonderful morning as usual.

Dressing up, stories, diva lamps, Indian snacks, rangoli patterns. We had so much fun. Thank you, Mrs Mistry.



Social impact award:

We are delighted to announce that we will be working towards the Social Impact Schools Award in 2024/2025. We know that our amazing students already carry out heaps of social action and are looking forward to recognising them for it and inspiring them to do more!

#SocialImpactSchoolsAward #SuperKind

This week we have been joining in with the NSPCC's Kindness challenge week, with all proceeds going directly to the NSPCC to fund 'Childline'.

School policies:

Policies that are being updated in the next fortnight are:

- Grievance Policy
- Flexible Working Policy
- Maternity Leave Policy
- Early Years Policy
- Pay Policy
- ECT policy

Child Prayer:

Dear God,
Thank you for our friends. Thank you for everything we need to survive. We are able to love everyone including our friends.

Marcus (Year 1)



Volunteer/ donation work:



Art week:

Dear Parents

On the week commencing 2.12.24 it is Art week at school. If any parents would like to come into school to talk to a class about the role art has in their lives, jobs etc, we would love to hear from you. Please approach your class teacher to discuss this further

Many thanks, Mrs Blunden

Movie morning:

Thank you to everyone who donated, we raised over £250 and will be updating further IT resources in the school. The children had a great time, and it was a great way to end the half term.

We may hold these mornings once a term so look out for this!

Donations:

As a school we are always grateful for donations to support the school either cost contributions or ideas. If you would like to donate to the school, please speak to the office or Mr Worton-Geer. We want to continue to develop our network around us to improve the school together.

Travel to school week:

The week commencing Monday 18th November is Road Safety week. We are working on sustainable ways to travel. Are you up for the challenge!

We are working towards the individual challenge this year: Walk, run, step, or wheel your way to school to cover 5 kilometres a day for 7 days.

Kindness week:

This week we have done many kindness activities including clearing the school of leaves.



Remembrance:

Andy Pettiford came to school today in EYFS, Year 1 and 2. He taught us about the poppy:
Red represents the blood
Black is the sorrow
Green is the body rising up to heaven
Poppies are worn at the 11 o'clock position
He taught us how to stand to attention, salute, and march.
We had a great time and learnt so much.
Huge thanks to Andy for coming to see us.





Calendar:

Autumn Term 2nd Half:

Monday 4th November 2024

First day back

Monday 4th – Friday 8th November 2024

NSPCC kindness week

Monday 11th – Friday 15th November 2024

Anti-Bullying Week

Tuesday 12th November 2024

Flu Vaccinations

Friday 15th November

Non School Uniform Day – Children in Need

Monday 19th-22nd November 2024

Road Safety Week

Monday 18th November 9am and 2pm 2024

Reception and Nursery new admission tour

Friday 22nd November 2024

Occasional Day

Monday 2nd to Friday 6th December 2024

Art Week

Wednesday 4th December 2024

Flu Vaccinations – catch up

Wednesday 11th December 2024 am

Reception Nativity – Christ the King

Thursday 12th December 2024- 6pm

KS1 Nativity – St John's Church

Thursday 12th December 9am 2024

Reception and Nursery new admission tour

Friday 13th December 2024 – 9am

Nursery Nativity – St John's School

Wednesday 18th December 2024

Christmas Jumper and Christmas Lunch day

Friday 20th December 2024

Last day of term – Carol Service at St John's Church

STOP MEANS STOP

If you are fortunate enough to have a School Crossing Patrol at your school, you may notice they are wearing a bright orange 'STOP MEANS STOP' tabard this November.

The 'STOP MEANS STOP' campaign is run to remind drivers how important it is to stop for a patrol, helping to keep you safe every time you cross the road.



If you are driving and your School Crossing Patrol requests that you stop, please remember they are there to keep your children safe and do a great job, turning out in all weathers.



The patrol stands central in the road until everyone is safely on the other side, so please wait until they leave the road and are safely back on the footpath before driving away. This may seem like ages but in fact it is usually less than a minute.

Now the clocks have changed the mornings and afternoons are darker. **Using the patrol is the safest place to cross**, as they can be seen from a distance in their bright coats and hats.

YOUR SUPPORT IS VERY MUCH APPRECIATED, THANK YOU

H & T and the Friends

Nut allergies:

We aim to be a nut free school, please can you ensure that food and snacks do not contain nuts as we have several pupils who are allergic. Please be careful of 'may contain nuts' items too.

ASDA CASHPOT FOR SCHOOLS

Parentkind, a charity that supports school PTAs have teamed up with Asda, who is making millions of pounds available to donate to primary schools across the UK through their 'Cashpot for Schools' initiative. To support our school, all you have to do is opt-in through the Asda Rewards app, shop and scan in store or shop online at Asda.com.

Between 2nd September and 30th November 2024, every time you shop with Asda using your Asda Rewards app, Asda will donate 0.5% of the value of your shop to your chosen school. Also, every time somebody opts-in to support our school, Asda will give an additional £1 to the school Cashpot. Plus, it doesn't stop there – Asda are also giving £50 to every school to get them started.

It's as easy as 1, 2, 3

1. Download the Asda Rewards app, register and opt-in to Cashpot for Schools (make sure you have the latest version of the app installed)
2. Choose St John's Digswell by searching the postcode AL6 0BX
3. Shop instore across Asda and George, or online at Asda.com and start filling your Cashpot as you shop

Asda does the rest, all money raised will be donated to schools to spend on the things they need the most. Remember, anyone can sign up, so start spreading the news and raising funds for our school.



Parish news

Remembrance Sunday

The school will be laying wreaths along with others on Remembrance Sunday at the war memorial at Harmer Green Lane at 12:30pm. Everyone is welcome to the short ceremony. If any children would like to volunteer to lay down their class wreath please speak to Mrs de la Croix.

November and Christmas

Please see below for dates for November and around Christmas.

Christmas Market - Saturday November 30th, 10am-1pm

Please pop along to the Parish Christmas Market - there are lots of stalls, coffee pot, outside breakfast BBQ, tombola and grand raffle. This is a super way to support the work of the parish. Some of our children will also be singing.

Please do support this if you can.

Parent & Carer Support Spring Term 2025



FREE to parents and carers living in Hertfordshire

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 7pm - 9pm
26th Feb – 2nd Apr
Face to Face: ID 707
Gade Community Room
Oakleaf Primary School,
Hemel Hempstead

Tuesdays 7.45 - 9.15pm
7th Jan – 11th Feb
Online Course: ID 708

TALKING ANGER in FAMILIES

6, weekly sessions for parents and carers of children aged **0-11**, supporting you to:

- Understand why teens and adults get angry.
- Develop strategies to handle anger in yourself and others within your family.
- Recognise the early signs of anger.
- Reduce conflict and arguments.
- Encourage positive behaviour.



Wednesdays 7.45 - 9.30pm
8th Jan – 12th Feb
Online Course: ID 705

TALKING DADS

6, weekly sessions for dads & male carers, 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.



Mondays 7.45 - 9.15pm
6th Jan – 10th Feb
Online Course: ID 710 0-19yrs

Thursdays 7.45 - 9.15pm
27th Feb – 3rd Apr
Online Course: ID 711 0-11yrs

Wednesdays 7.45 - 9.15pm
26th Feb – 2nd Mar
Online Course: ID 712 12-19yrs

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.



Tuesdays 9.45 - 11.15am
7th Jan – 11th Feb
Online Course ID 703

Tuesdays 8.00 - 9.30pm
7th Jan – 11th Feb
Online Course ID 704

Tuesdays 8.00 - 9.30pm
25th Feb – 1st Apr
Online Course ID 702

TALKING ANXIETY in TEENS

6, weekly sessions for parents and carers of children **12-19**, supporting you to:

- Understand why young people and adults get anxious.
- Develop strategies to handle anxiety in yourself and others within your family.
- Recognise the early signs of anxiety.
- Reduce stress and tension.
- Encourage resilient behaviour.



Mondays 7.45 - 9.30pm
24th Feb – 31 Mar
Online Course ID 706

TALKING ADDITIONAL NEEDS

A 6-week group for parents and carers of children with any additional need.

Your child does not need a diagnosis.

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



Tuesdays 9.45 - 11.15am
25th Feb – 1st Apr
Course ID 701 2-19yrs

Wednesdays 7.45 - 9.15pm
8th Jan – 12 Feb
Online Course ID 709 12-19yrs

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





AVA Against Violence and Abuse

A FREE 10 WEEK COURSE SUPPORTING PRIMARY-AGED CHILDREN WHO HAVE LIVED WITH DOMESTIC ABUSE

COURSE COVERS:

- VALIDATION OF CHILDREN'S EXPERIENCES
- SAFETY PLANNING
- UNDERSTANDING ABUSE AND REDUCING SELF-BLAME
- APPROPRIATE VERSUS INAPPROPRIATE EXPRESSIONS OF EMOTION

DATES:

**Tuesday afternoons from
12th November 2024 to
28th January 2025**

TIME: 15:30-17:15

**PROGRAMME CONSISTS OF
10 X WEEKLY SESSIONS**

**To book a place, please complete the online form below or click on the QR:
<https://forms.office.com/e/9ySnz3SSig>**

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Who's in Charge?

A FREE 7 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
7th November - 19th
December**

TIME: 9:30-11:30am

**LOCATION: Creswick
Academy**

**PROGRAMME CONSISTS OF 7 X 2 HOUR
WEEKLY SESSIONS**

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

<https://forms.office.com/e/TuArbw5m0r>

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The Church of England
Parish of Digswell
Welwyn Garden City
November 2024

Compline/weekly worship available on Soundcloud Channel

Morning Prayer is via Zoom

Please ask us for details 261024

Friday 1	ALL SAINTS DAY 8:30am Morning Prayer 9:00am Coffee Pot at St John's Church
Saturday 2	8:30am Morning Prayer 9:30am Extended Ministry Group at Rectory 9:30am Hub Café at Christ the King Hub
Sunday 3	ALL SOULS Audio Service for This Week <i>a link is sent</i> 10:00am ALL SOULS EUCHARIST at St John's Church 6:30pm Service of Healing and Quiet Reflection at St. John's Church
Monday 4	8:30am Morning Prayer 12 Noon Fr Rob visits Harwood Hill School for assembly
Tuesday 5	8:50am School Assembly at St John's School 10:00am Eucharist at Christ the King Hub 7:00pm Fr Rob teaching at St Albans tonight 8:30pm Compline – <i>a link is sent</i>
Weds 6	8:30am Morning Prayer
Thursday 7	8:50am Collective Worship at St John's School [Fr Rob] 9:00am Tea Toast and Toddlers at Christ the King Hub 8:30pm Compline <i>a link is sent</i>
Friday 8	8:30am Morning Prayer 9:00am Coffee Pot at St John's Church
Saturday 9	8:30am Morning Prayer 9:30am Extended Ministry Group at the Rectory 9:30am Hub Café at Christ the King Hub
Sunday 10	REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY Audio Service for This Week <i>a link is sent</i> 9:30am Shorter Parish Eucharist at St John's Church 10:40am Remembrance Sunday commemoration at St John's 10:50am Anglican-led Service at Digswell Village Church 12:30pm Commemoration and laying of wreaths at Digswell War Memorial
Monday 11	8:30am Morning Prayer 2:00pm DVC Bible Study on Matthew. 7:30pm Confirmation Service – see notices for details
Tuesday 12	8:50am Collective Worship at St John's School 10:00am Eucharist at Christ the King Hub 7:00pm Fr Rob teaching at St Albans tonight 8:30pm Compline – <i>a link is sent</i>
Weds 13	8:30am Morning Prayer
Thursday 14	8:30pm Compline <i>a link is sent</i>
Friday 15	8:30am Morning Prayer 9:00am Coffee Pot at St John's Church 10:30am Book Club at Coffee Pot at St John's Church
Saturday 16	8:30am Morning Prayer 9:30am Hub Café at Christ the King Hub
Sunday 17	2 BEFORE ADVENT Audio Service for This Week <i>-a link is sent</i> 9:30am ALL AGE Eucharist at St John's Church with First Communion 11:00am Anglican-led Service at Digswell Village Church
Monday 18	8:30am Morning Prayer 9:00am Homerswood School Assembly [Selina]
Tuesday 19	8:50am Collective Worship at St John's School 10:00am Eucharist at Christ the King Hub 7:00pm Fr Rob teaching preaching course in St Albans 7:30pm St John's Church Committee via Zoom [Selina] 8:30pm Compline – <i>a link is sent</i>
Weds 20	8:30am Morning Prayer 7:30pm Christ the King Hub Working Group via Zoom [Fr Rob]
Thursday 21	9:00am Tea Toast and Toddlers at Christ the King Hub 8:30pm Compline - <i>a link is sent</i>
Friday 22	8:30am Morning Prayer 9:00am Coffee Pot at St John's Church
Saturday 23	8:30am Morning Prayer 9:30am Hub Café at Christ the King Hub 5:00pm Installation of new Canons at St Albans Abbey [Fr Rob]
Sunday 24	FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING Audio Service for This Week <i>-a link is sent</i> 10:00am Patronal Eucharist at Christ the King Hub Followed by brunch
Monday 25	10:00am Morning Prayer 7:30pm Finance Committee via Zoom
Tuesday 26	8:50am Collective Worship at St John's School 10:00am Eucharist at Christ the King Hub



	7:00pm	Fr Rob teaching preaching course in St Albans
	8:30pm	Compline – a link is sent
Weds 27	8:30am	Morning Prayer
	12 Noon	Harwood Hill Assembly [Fr Rob]
Thursday 28	8:30pm	Compline - a link is sent
Friday 29	8:30am	Morning Prayer
	9:00am	Coffee Pot at St John's Church
Saturday 30	FEAST OF ST ANDREW THE APOSTLE	
	8:30am	Morning Prayer
	9:30am	<i>Hub Café closed today</i>
	10:00am	Christmas Market until 1pm



Some Key Dates to Note

CHRIST THE KING PATRONAL FESTIVAL

Sunday 24 November, 10am at Christ the King Hub followed by brunch.

PARISH CHRISTMAS MARKET

Saturday 30 November 10am-1pm at St John's Church

PARISH CRISTINGLE

Sunday 8 December 4pm, Christ the King Hub

PARISH CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

Sunday 15 December, 11am at St John's Church

In the presence of the Mayor and Mayoress of Welwyn Hatfield

PARISH CHRISTMAS DINNER

Tuesday 17 December, 6.30pm for 7.15pm at St John's Church

FAMILY BLESSING OF THE CRIB SERVICE

Christmas Eve at 4pm at St John's Church

MIDNIGHT MASS ON CHRISTMAS EVE

St John's Church at 11.30pm

PARISH CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

St John's Church at 10am