

St John's VA C of E Primary School

NEWSLETTER

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



21/03/25

LENT 2025

Welcome message from the Headteacher

No electrics, no problem for us!

Dear all,

Another fantastic fortnight of events and meetings. It was great to see lots of you at parent consultations this week. A great time to reflect on what is working well and how together we can support our pupils.

It has been a busy half term with many projects being worked on around the school. Again, I would like to give a huge thank you to everyone who has supported the school in these projects, both staff and parents/ volunteers. Together this school is making huge progress.

Sports events over the past few weeks we have been seeing medal after medal. Athletics was very tough however, our girls team came 4th in the district. Footgolf, the girls came first, and the boys came second, Tag Rugby we are district winners and won the final 2-1.

We have sent off our art competition pieces of work and are now working on a writing competition. We have taken part in a chess competition too which was very competitive. It is great to see children thriving with all areas of the curriculum.

Governors and staff have worked incredibly hard on many (and I do mean many) policies and risk assessments. Please spend some time on the school website to navigate through them.

We are nearly coming to the end of this term with the next term having some exciting events. We have transition days, sports days, residentials, class trips and I am sure many more sporting activities.

Maths this half term has been a particular area of strength. I have been popping into classes with governors and discussing how incredibly talented our children are in Maths. We are looking forward to stretching all children in Maths. In particular, our Year 5 team have been put through to the final in the Maths challenge.

Thank you again for this collaboration of work. Together the school is flourishing. We made it through the day of no electrics as a team!

Best wishes
Mr Worton-Geer

Pupil quote of the week: Ella (Year 6): We have had MOCK SATs this week and I felt nervous but supported. I am now ready for the real SATs.

Quote from the bible: Romans 5:5 - 'And hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.'

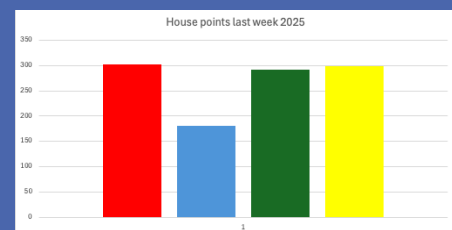
Improvements to the school:

We have installed a new bedding plant area on the pathway up to school completed by some incredible Year 4 diggers! Great job team!

We have continued to tidy containers in the school including trying to sort out a sit on lawnmower. If anyone is interested in buying this off the school, please let us know!

The outside Year 1 area is continuing to be developed by parents of Year 1 team. We are excited to see what this will look like.

After Easter, we have a few surprises of updates for everyone around the school – watch this space.



Academic Highlights

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

Attendance:

Week commencing 10th March 2025

Year	Percent	Place
Nursery	96.6%	3 rd
Year 1	91.7%	7 th
Year 2	86.3%	8 th
Year 3	97%	2 nd
Year 4	95%	4 th
Year 5	93.7%	6 th
Year 6	98.7%	1 st
Year R	94.3%	5 th

Netball:

Netball match report On the 27th of February a group of year fives and sixes (Eva.H, Emily, Eleanor, Eva.O, Zena, Cara, Immy, Maya and Deseree) attended a netball tournament at Stanborough school. The first match we played was against Green lanes and we won 4-3 as it was our first match so we had a lot of energy. On our second match we played against Welwyn St Mary's and won 4-0 and this is a very good achievement for us because Welwyn St Mary's are very good at netball and we don't usually win. On our third match we played against St John's Lemsford and we lost 3-2 Our player of the match is Maya because she fell over and really hurt her knee but sat on the side still cheering on us which was really kind. Well done Maya.

Written by the Netball team.



PE:

Footgolf:

On Monday Year 6 boys and girls took part in the foot golf tournament. The girls did an amazing job as they got first place. Unfortunately for the boys we came 2nd place, but we all enjoyed it, and we all had fun !

Written by the boys footgolf team.



Tag Rugby:

Year 5 and 6 Tag rugby tournament report.

Team A:

Made up of: James, Emanuel, Precious, Hope, Henry, Adley and Eva H.

The first match we played we were against Homerswood and we won 4-2!

The next match we were against Brook mans park and we won 7-2

Our third game we played was against St Michaels and won 7-3

We were in the semi-finals and played against Applecroft and won 6-2

For the last match we were in the finals against brooks mans park again and it a close match but Emmanuel scored in the last 30 seconds and made it 2-1! So our man of the match for the A team is Emanuel and our lady of the match is Precious for always taking the opposing teams tags.

B Team:

Made out of: Max, William(year 5), William(year6), Thomas, Frank, Cara, Eleanor, and Imigon.

On our first match we played Templewood and we lost 2-0

The next match we played Apple Croft and won 3-1

On our third match we played Welwyn St Mary's and lost 2-0

Our final game we played Green lane and we won 2-1

Our man of the match is William in year 5!

Our lady of the match is Eleanor!

Chess:

E: On 28th of February, 4 girls and 4 boys from year 5 and 6 went to a chess competition at Simon Balle in Hertford. We played 4 rounds each. The first round was against Broxbourne and Simon Balle.

A: They played really well. 2nd, we played St Anne's. Then we played against Simon Balle b and the boys against Broxbourne. The girls got their first stalemate which prepared us for the next game. Finally, we played a difficult final game. Eventually the boys came 4th and the girls (sadly) came last. We all tried our best, but our player of the tournament is... Eve!!! Well done Eve. Even though she was upset, she was still determined to try her best.

E: We all did well especially as some schools didn't have very good sportsmanship. Although some people were really nice and were strangely but kindly giving us advice.

Written by Eve and Ava (Year 6)

Child Prayer:

Dear God,

Thank you for all the learning that takes place at our school this past week. Thank you for helping us grow. Keep us learning as we finish our time at this school and prepare us for secondary school.

Amen (Year 6 - Elle)

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:

Mother's Day- Thursday 27th and Friday 28th March - £2 for decorating plants pots.

Odd shoe day- Tuesday 1st April 2025- Pay a £1 donation to wear odd shoes/non uniform

Monday 28th April Friday 25th April TBC - Sponsored bounce.

Friday 9th May 2025 - Movie night Years 1-6 information to follow

Father's day event. TBC

Saturday 21st June- Summer Fair

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

Monday 24th March to Friday 4th April 2025	Walk and Wheel Fortnight
Wednesday 26th March 2025	Year 1 and 2 Church Visit - Easter
Friday 28th March 2025	Forest school Year 2
Tuesday 1st April 2025	Year 3 and 4 Easter Production
Wednesday 2nd April 2025	Rocksteady Concert for Parents
Thursday 3rd April 2025	Service at St John's Church – whole school
Friday 4th April 2025	Last Day of Term, Forest School Year 1 and Merit Assembly
Tuesday 22nd April 2025	INSET day
Wednesday 23rd April 2025	First day back for children
Thursday 24th April 2025	In school – Collective worship – Easter 8:50am
Tuesday 29th April – Friday 2nd May 2025	Year 5 – Fellowship Afloat Residential
Friday 2nd May 2025	Year 6 – Forest school
Monday 5th May 2025	Bank Holiday
Friday 9th May 2025	Year 5 Forest School
Monday 12th May – Friday 16th May 2025	Year 6 SATs Week
Friday 16th May 2025	Dress down Day - £2 donation and Year 4 Forest School
Friday 16th May 2025	Year 6 SATs reward afternoon
Friday 23rd May 2025	Year 3 forest School
Monday 26th- Friday 30th May 2025	Half Term
Monday 2nd June 2025	First day back after half term
Monday 2nd June – Friday 6th June 2025	Year 6 Residential
Future event - Wednesday 2nd July 2025	Sports Day, Picnic Lunch and Opening Evening



Celebrating Holy Week 2025 with Digswell Parish as at 070225

Palm Sunday, 13 April

An audio service is available.

9:20am Blessing of the palm crosses outside St John's, procession into church, Digswell Stations of the Cross and the Eucharist followed by refreshments.

Monday in Holy Week, 14 April

8:30am Morning Prayer *via Zoom*.

8:30pm Compline with Address – *a link is sent*.

Tuesday In Holy Week, 15 April

10am Parish Eucharist at Christ the King Hub.

8:30pm Compline with Address – *a link is sent*.

Wednesday in Holy Week, 16 April

8:30am Morning Prayer *via Zoom*.

8:30pm Compline with Address – *a link is sent*.

Maundy Thursday, 17 April

11am Chrism Eucharist at St Alban's Abbey.

7:30pm Maundy Thursday Eucharist and Vigil at St John's Church.

Good Friday, 18 April

8:30am Morning Prayer at Christ the King and *via Zoom*.

12 noon St John's open for silent prayer and reflection.

2:00pm Good Friday Service and Veneration of The Cross.

Holy Saturday, 19 April

1.30pm-4pm Easter Cream Teas available at St John's Church.

8:00pm Confirmation Service at St Albans Abbey.

Easter Day 2024, 20 April

An audio service is available.

10:00am Parish Eucharist for Easter Day followed by refreshments.

www.digswellparish.org.uk



Spring 2025 Newsletter

FACE delivers online support via zoom for parents across the UK
Talks are 90 minutes long, £24 each - Book Online at facefamilyadvice.co.uk



Schools can now buy a
FACE School Annual Membership
which means **ALL parents** and **ALL staff**
get unlimited **FREE access** to **ALL 16** parent talks

Thursday
24th April
19:00 - 20:00
FREE



Responding to Angry Behaviour

What can we do in the moment?

Tuesday
18th March
10:00 - 11:30
£24



Anxiety Explained

Anxiety, especially in our young is rising.
This session explains what it is, why it happens and how you can help.

Thursday
3rd April
10:00 - 11:30
£24



Supporting a Child with ADHD

Challenging the stereotypes and giving practical interventions. Clear explanation of the condition in all its forms and extremely useful advice.

Tuesday
3rd April
19:00 - 20:30
£24



Improving Family Communication

How to reduce the shouting and arguing and start the talking.

facefamilyadvice.co.uk

info@facefamilyadvice.co.uk



Spring Timetable

all sessions delivered live online via zoom £24 each 90 minutes long
book online at facefamilyadvice.co.uk

Anxiety Explained	18 MAR 7pm
What is ACT?	20 Mar 7pm
Understanding the Teenage Brain	24 MAR 10am
Supporting Healthy Sleep	24 MAR 7pm
Decreasing Depression	25 MAR 10am
Raising Self-Esteem	25 MAR 7pm
AUTISM: Improving Communication	2 APR 10am
Supporting a Child with ADHD	3 APR 10am
Improving Family Communication	3 APR 7pm
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	7 APR 10am
Facing Defiance	7 APR 7pm
Anxiety-Based School Avoidance	8 APR 10AM
Understanding Anger	8 APR 7pm
Anxiety Explained	14 APR 10am
Cannabis & Ketamine Awareness	14 APR 7pm