

# St John's VA C of E Primary School

## NEWSLETTER

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



02/05/25

### Summer Term 1

#### Value: Faith

## Welcome message from the Headteacher

### Summer time!

Dear all,

What a great first two weeks we have had. On the inset day, we have been very busy making our school look incredible. We have painted the outside of the front office and added our school logo. We have painted most of the early years building in a nice blue and also some benches. We have also updated some windows too but are aware that one didn't particularly stick well to the window and so this is already in the process of being redone. We have worked on planting around the school and painted some fences in the nursery too.

We have many future plans including resurfacing the pathway from the back gate to the school, our new inclusive playground has been approved and will be waiting for a start date – all very exciting.

We have put up the stage which is rather high – this is something we found in our store container. We will be selling this stage and replacing it with a lower stage for an all year-round area in due course. Please ensure with the higher stages in the mornings that the children do not play on it. If you have any dressing up clothes that you would like to donate to the school, we will be having a dressing up box for the stage area too.

This week I have been at residential with Year 5 – I want to say a huge thank you to parents, staff and children for supporting us on the trip. The trip was a huge success. They have done incredible work, and pictures have been put up on Seesaw for all to see. Additionally, Year 3 and 4 have had their letters sent for access for parents and pupils at home. Please feel free to send pictures of the children even over weekends and holidays of things they are learning or trying out. We want to celebrate all success – rock climbing for the first time, getting a badge in their brownies or scout groups. All successes are welcome.

This term we have a lot coming up, Year 6 SATs, phonics screening, Year 4 MTC, sports week, transition day and more. Please look further down in the newsletter regarding staff changes in the next few months.

Finally, I want to say a huge thank you to the Year 1 parent team and our governors for supporting developing areas of the school. Without this help it would take a long time to get our school to where we want it to be.  
Best wishes

**Pupil quote of the week: Oscar (Year 5):** I am really excited for the residential as we get to do lots of interesting things. It has been a great summer so far.

**Quote from the bible: 1 Peter 1:21** "Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God."

## Improvements to the school:

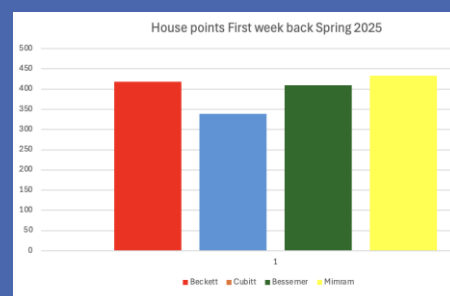
We have painted the Early Year's building which is looking amazing! We also have painted two benches.

We have new signs around the school including two posters made by children. We are aware that one didn't apply very well to the wall so we will be updating this in due course.

We have updated our flower pots around the school too – a kind donation from a parent governor.

The Year 1 outside area has had their plant plots completed. This looks great and we have great plans for this area.

I want to say a huge thank you to everyone who has helped with these improvements in the school. It really is looking amazing.





# Highlights

## Attendance:

### Week commencing 21<sup>st</sup> April 2025

Year	Percent	Place
Nursery	100%	1 <sup>st</sup>
Year 1	90.6%	8 <sup>th</sup>
Year 2	96.6%	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Year 3	97.8%	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Year 4	90.8%	7 <sup>th</sup>
Year 5	93.5%	5 <sup>th</sup>
Year 6	91.4%	6 <sup>th</sup>
Year R	96.1%	4 <sup>th</sup>

## Staffing:

We have a few staff changes coming up over this year.

We will be saying goodbye to Mrs Blunden who will be leaving the school at the end of the Year to go to a school more local to where she lives. We wish her the very best of luck.

We will be welcoming a new Teaching Assistant who will be starting later in May called Mrs Pedley. Mrs Pedley will be working in Year 5 for the remaining year.

We are busy at the moment trying to map out next year's staffing and we will be sharing this with all children on a special assembly on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2025 who their new teachers will be. We will also send out the transition letter to parents too. The transition day will take place on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2025

## Child Prayer:

Dear God,

*I pray for the school and all the hard work that is going on and the staff. I pray for all the pupils in the school. I pray for everyone to be safe over the summer term and that they are blessed.*

Amen (Year 5 - Deseree)

## Calendar

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Bank Holiday

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Year 5 Forest School and PTA Disco

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Year 6 SATs Week

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Dress down Day - £2 donation and Year 3 Forest School

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Year 6 SATs reward afternoon

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025

Year 2 forest School

Monday 26<sup>th</sup>- Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Half Term

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2025

First day back after half term

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> 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<sup>nd</sup> July 2025

Sports Day, Picnic Lunch and Opening Evening

# 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 (Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June 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.

## 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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



The Nursery would like to create a fairy Garden - unfortunately we can't find any fairies or gnomes at school. We wondered if anyone had any at home that they no longer need and would like to donate them to a new home.  
Thank you in advance.



# Academic Highlights

## Nursery:

The Nursery have been very excited about the growth the strawberry plants have made. They have been busy gardening and tending to them in this hot weather ensuring that our crop of strawberries will be bigger.



## Year 1:



Year 1 have had a lively and enriching start to the Summer Term. In Computing, we've been exploring keyboard functions to build confidence and accuracy. Our Maths lessons have introduced multiplication and

division—extra counting in 2s, 5s and 10s at home would be great practice! In Science, we've been investigating plant life cycles and planting seeds outdoors. Athletics has taken centre stage in PE, helping us develop stamina and teamwork. We were also delighted to welcome Celina, who came in to teach us about the Eucharist.

## Year 3:

This half term in Year 3 we are developing our Gymnastics skills. We are incorporating apparatus into our lessons. Here we are finding different ways to travel across the apparatus. We were



also considering how to move smoothly and use controlled landings.

## Year 5:



What a great week Year 5 have had, taking part in many activities including: Crabbing, climbing? Sailing kayaking, dodgeball, vertical ropes and learning about the boat. They have been incredibly well behaved and resilient being away

from home. Well done to every child for taking on their own challenges. Some just being away from home, others climbing high on the vertical poles. We are very proud of them all.

## Reception:

Reception is going 'wild' in class. We have been looking after stick insects and tadpoles and are waiting for a delivery of caterpillars. The children have loved learning about animals and have been taking their learning outside into the garden where they are building habitats and collecting minibeasts. Thank goodness the sun is shining.



## Year 2:



This week in Art, Year 2 pupils have been learning how to create 3D sculptures using paper and card! The pupils then decorated their paper cylinders to make them lovely and colourful.'

## Year 4:

Now that the rehearsals for our wonderful Easter performance have finished, the children in Year 4 have settled back into our normal school routine. They have been working hard on their times tables and seeing great results.....including winning the Times Tables Rockstar trophy this week!



## Year 6:



Year 6 have been hard at work practising and focusing for KS2 SATs which are coming up soon. But we have also spent lots of time outdoors enjoying the lovely weather and taking care of our forest area and school plants. On forest school day, we planted new plants / flowers, did lots of weeding and created some forest school art. They were amazing!

## **Eucharist lessons in the EYFS**

On Wednesday 30th April Selina came to visit to tell us a special story about Jesus.  
We talked about special meals  
We learnt about a special meal Jesus had with his 12 disciplines.  
He broke the bread and said remember me  
He shared the wine and said remember me





# This Girl Can

## Artwork Competition

The Welwyn Hatfield Youth Council encourages schools to get involved! Show your creative side by designing a piece of work based around the theme of 'get more girls into sports'.

This work could include art, photography, poetry, collage and textiles

If your school is interested in submitting work, please email [youthcouncil@welhat.gov.uk](mailto:youthcouncil@welhat.gov.uk)

The deadline for completion is Monday 2 June



Autism | ADHD  
Neurodiverse Conditions

## Understanding Dyslexia (SPACE)

Monday, 9 June, 6:30pm

Online

Free event

Click [here](#) for the link.