

St John's VA C of E Primary School

NEWSLETTER

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



16/05/25

Summer Term 1

Value: Faith

Welcome message from the Headteacher

SATs are over!

Dear all,

Firstly, I want to say a huge congratulations to Year 6 for absolutely smashing SATs week! and also, to the whole school for being so adaptable, moving break times and classes around to accommodate myself and the year 6 class. The SATs were tough but I am incredibly proud of everyone taking part. I have never seen so much determination from children, the hours they have put in with their teachers is incredible. I want to say a huge thank you to my staff for working hard this week and prior to the test, in particular Mrs Potter and Miss Brady who week in and week out have pushed our children to their best ability. I am not worried about the result because numbers on a page doesn't truly reflect how incredible our children are in Year 6. Year 6 children, remember how amazing you are even when you decide to throw water over the headteacher!

This fortnight has been incredibly busy with interventions and booster classes starting across the school. Furthermore, we have been working on our calendar for the rest of the year. I am very excited for the sports day, picnic and open evening. I am looking forward to seeing everyone and share how well our children have come on this year. We are aiming to add some fun elements to the open evening – further information to follow.

Last Thursday's VE day was a great success. We have had some incredible sharing opportunities during the pupil parliament collective worship. I am proud of our school and our head boy and head girl supporting the local community by ringing the bell at 12pm.

We have been very busy preparing for the end of year festivities as well as staffing for next year, this will be shared at the end of June. The calendar is busy so please have a look at the newsletter further down. I have been chasing our website creator to be able to merge our calendar with emails – this is a feature that we are eagerly awaiting, I will share this once completed.

We are aiming to get a whole school calendar out in Summer 2 for the following year. We want to give you as much notice as possible for events. Tomorrow we will be doing our sponsored run raising money for Cancer research. Please sponsor us for this event - see below. Finally, we are having a whole school tidy up on Friday 20th June – please inform the office if you would like to support with this. Further information is below.

Mr Worton-Geer

Pupil quote of the week: Florence (Year 4): The learning is incredible. The teachers are really nice and kind. I am enjoying the school very much.

Quote from the bible: John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

Improvements to the school:

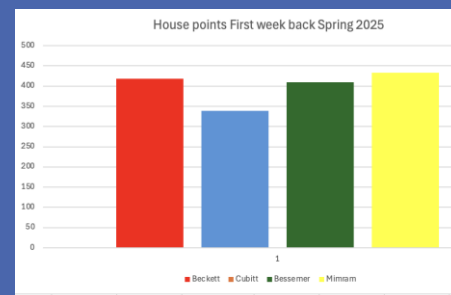
More signs are being made to go around the school, these will be up in due course.

We have been granted funding to replace parts of the Nursery roof that needs some attention.

We have had our energy certificate updated with some future project ideas to help develop the schools sustainability.

We have been benefitting in KS2 with support from Tetra on Monday's and Wednesday's within our PE sessions – this has been very successful. We are aiming to extend this provision in the near future.

A huge thank you for a parent who has donated some computer screens and a laptop -this has been very helpful.



Highlights

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

Attendance:

Week commencing 5th May 2025

Year	Percent	Place
Nursery	98%	4 th
Year 1	98.8%	3 rd
Year 2	99.1%	2 nd
Year 3	97.2%	5 th
Year 4	95.2%	8 th
Year 5	99.6%	1 st
Year 6	95.2%	7 th
Year R	96.6%	6 th

Pupil parliament – VE Day – Thursday 8th May

Pupil parliament helped to lead a celebratory collective workshop for VE day. They created posters, shared information and fact files about VE day. They also shared family stories. It was a beautiful day with the bunting flying high. We are very proud of Pupil parliament and the work they put into this collective worship. Well done to everyone who took part.



Swimming gala

This was a very tough competition where several of our Year 5 and 6 pupils took part representing Mid Hertfordshire swimming against some incredible teams around Hertfordshire. Whilst Mid Hertfordshire came 5th in the competition, a huge congratulations to Maya in Year 5 who with 3 other girls in our area came third in the relay race. This is a great example of teamwork. Children enjoyed the after swim celebrations too!



Multisport athletics:

A group of Year 5 and 6 children took part in the multisport athletics at Gosling. From tug of war to dodgeball, running and throwing, the children took part and showed fantastic team work. I am very impressed with their attitude towards sports and a huge congratulations to Eve for winning a medal. Thomas also won the super pineapple award for some great team work and determination.

We will continue to take part in the activities for the remaining summer so please look out for the emails.



Sports Day Wednesday 2nd July 2025:

Sports day is going to be a busy day with lots planned – I am looking forward to it. Children will be asked to wear house group colours. This year children will sit in their house groups (apart from Nursery). They will be cheering their house groups together for extra house points! Races will begin around 9:15am with the aim to be finished around 11:30am.

Each child will take part in each race if they wish. Events include egg and spoon, obstacle course, sack race, running and relays. At the end of the event, children will be asked to go back to class at around 11:30am to prepare for our picnic lunch. If parents are unable to stay for the picnic lunch, they can decide to either take their children home at 12pm when they will come back out or stay with our MDAs and teaching staff. After the picnic at around 1pm if parents would like to collect their children for the afternoon, they are welcome to while the school prepares for the opening evening at 3:30pm.

We are looking forward to seeing you on this day. We will be adding a survey in July to see how the year went and how this particular day has gone. It would be great to hear from you all.

Child Prayer:

Dear God,

I pray for everyone at the school to be nice and that everyone would be kind. Pray for the school to continue to grow and be wonderful. We love being here and want to continue to grow as a family.

Amen (Year 4 - Darcie)



Calendar

Tuesday 20 th May 2025	Mud Kitchen fitting in EYFS
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
Friday's in June and July	Cricket training for Year 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 – PE kit please.
Monday 2 nd June – Friday 6 th June 2025	Year 6 Residential
Friday 6 th June 2025	Forest School Year 1
Monday 9 th June – Friday 13 th June 2025	Phonics assessment week – KS1
Friday 13 th June 2025	Forest School Year 6
Wednesday 18 th June 2025	Class photograph
Friday 20 th June 2025	St John's BIG TIDY-UP
Monday 23 rd June 2025	Transition day letter out
Thursday 26 th June 2025	Reception Trip
Thursday 26 th June 2025	Forest School Year 5
Friday 27 th June 2025	INSET Day
Monday 30 th June 2025	Sports Day Ceremony
Tuesday 1 st July 2025	Sponsored Bounce
Wednesday 2 nd July 2025	Sports Day, Picnic Lunch and Opening Evening
Thursday 3 rd July 2025	New Activity day
Friday 4 th July 2025	Forest School Year 4
Friday 4 th July 2025	Year 3 Trip
Friday 4 th July 2025	Year 4 sleep over
Tuesday 8 th July 2025	Sports Day Reserve
Thursday 10 th July 2025	Transition day
Friday 11 th July 2025	Forest School Year 3
Friday 11 th July 2025	Reports out
Thursday 17 th July 2025	Forest School Year 2
Thursday 17 th July 2025	Year 6 performance
Friday 18 th July 2025	Whole school reward morning
Wednesday 23 rd July 2025	Leavers Celebration – St John's Church
Wednesday 23 rd July 2025	Last school day for the summer

Volunteer/ donation work and competitions:

Works Party Around the School:

We have moved our work party to the Friday 20th June 2025 during the day where staff, parents and children can work together. This will be called ST John's Big Tidy-Up where we aim to complete a few projects around the school. Having a whole school approach would be amazing, please let the office know if you are able to help and what things you may like to support. We have gardening, painting, building, weeding, and many other jobs that need to be completed. We are looking forward to this incredible team work day!

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:

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



Fancy dress box:

We are going to be changing our stage to a lower decking stage in a few months time however we want to begin to improve our dressing up box. Any donations of old costumes would be greatly appreciated. Next year we are looking to develop outdoor learning time. More to follow.



Academic Highlights

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

Nursery:



The Nursery children looked fantastic in their red, white and blue. We made special bookmarks to commemorate the day and made our own Union Jack flags too. We talked about why we celebrate VE Day and why the Union Jack flag is important for us. We also learnt a special song. In the afternoon we joined the whole school for a special assembly about VE Day.

Reception:

Reception went on a trip to Christ the King in order to learn about the special areas within the Christian Church. Selina told us all about the font, the prayer area which has candles and the altar. We are so lucky to have such a lovely church so close to our school.



Year 1:

Year 1 have embraced a hands-on approach to mathematics this week, engaging in practical outdoor learning to deepen our understanding of multiplication and division. By using natural objects to form equal groups within hoops, the children have been enthusiastically sharing their reasoning and engaging in rich mathematical dialogue.



Year 2:



'Year 2 have enjoyed a wonderful week at St. John's! On Wednesday 7th May we visited Appleby Farm in Cheshunt for our school trip. Pupils had the chance to groom ponies, collect chicken eggs and feed bananas to the cows. The baby goats were particularly popular! The fun continued into Thursday 8th May, as we celebrated VE Day by listening to Churchill's speech and writing a diary entry, pretending that we were there celebrating in 1945.'

Year 3:

In Year 3 we had a spirituality lesson where we were thinking about connecting with God. We recognised that not everyone has the same beliefs and that some people might believe in God and some may not or may not know what they believe in. The children wrote a prayer or drew a picture to God. If the children didn't believe in God they wrote what they would like to say to God if they did believe. All our prayers/pictures were put in our class book.



Year 4:

Year 4 had a fantastic morning at Forest School, we went on a bug hunt, and found beetles, worms, slugs, ladybirds, ants, snails, bees, centipedes and spiders, sadly we didn't spot any frogs or snakes... yet!! We also undertook a mammoth weeding task, Myra was star weeder and got stuck in, she thoroughly enjoyed using the large spade and digging the weeds out from their roots, determined to get them out and clear the way.



Year 5: Forest School – 9/5/25

We cleared away so many stinging nettles, brambles and lots of Himalayan Balsam from our woodland area. By the end of the morning there were 3 decent-sized weed piles. Halfway through the morning, we visited our little allotment patch in the Nursery Garden and cleared the weeds, ready for the planting and growing that we hope will happen soon. Many children also made artwork inspired by British artist, Andy Goldsworthy



Year 6:

Year 6 have completed their KS2 SATs this week - they have worked so hard and made us so incredibly proud. Our next steps will be our Y6 residential after half term and beginning practice our Y6 production! Here is a photo of some of us having fun after SATs!



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

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.