

St John's VA C of E Primary School

NEWSLETTER

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



13/06/25

Summer Term 2 Value: Goodness

Welcome message from the Headteacher

A busy two weeks!

Dear all,

What a crazy two weeks. I want to apologise for not being on the playground for these two weeks. The first week was an amazing week with Year 6 on their residential trip. The fun and activities were incredible, and the children had a great time zip wiring, climbing and archery to name a few activities. The children's behaviour was impeccable, they were by far the most polite school on site. We also enjoyed evening entertainment of a disco, St John's Got Talent and a walk to the arcades.

Well done Year 6 for a great week.

The second week Mrs Wilkins and I have been completing part of our Level 3 forest school training so that we can take forest school to the next level. It was very interesting, and we now have plans for our next stage for the forest school.

The school has been busy as ever completing many assessments. Year 1 completed their Phonics assessment; Year 4 completed their MTC and Reception have completed their end of year assessment. Well done to everyone for giving it 100% effort. Whatever the scores, we are incredibly proud of you all.

Sporting events have continued with our weekly cricket sessions for Years 2-6 every Friday. We have taken part in district athletics and tennis including the district cricket for both boys and girls. On reflection it is incredible that our children want to represent the school in such a positive way sharing how great we are. We are also currently looking at the Maths challenge for next year for Year 6, Year 5 prepare for the challenge!!

We want to say a warm welcome to Mrs Pedley to the school who currently is working in Year 5. As a school we continue to train our staff in all areas of the curriculum and needs to support all children of the school.

This half term is the busiest with sports week, Year 6 show and leavers celebration to name a few events. On top of this we are eagerly planning for next year, writing reports for end of year and completing final assessments. I want to say a huge thank you to everyone who has supported the school during this year.

I look forward to seeing you all next week! Have a great weekend!

Mr Worton-Geer

Pupil quote of the week: Audrey (Year 6): I have really enjoyed the residential because the activities are fun. We want to say thank you to the staff for looking after us!

Quote from the bible: Mark 11:22-23: *"Have faith in God," Jesus answered. "Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them."*

Improvements to the school:

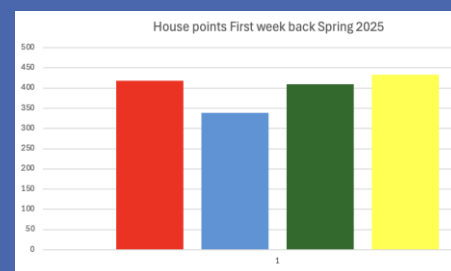
Our Inclusion playground has got a start day of the first week of the summer holiday. This will be ready for September 2025.

We are currently working on a bid to get some additional funding to update the KS1 Boys toilets. This will be completed as soon as we can.

The Nursery roof is having some work done over the Summer break.

We have had our fire safety inspection and passed with flying colours.

We will also be resurfacing the paving on the path to the back gate entrance of school, we are just waiting for our final quote.



Highlights

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

Attendance:

Week commencing 28th February 2025

Year	Percent	Place
Nursery	100%	1 st
Year 1	95%	4 th
Year 2	95.2%	3 rd
Year 3	94.5%	5 th
Year 4	93.1%	7 th
Year 5	93.6%	6 th
Year 6	97.8%	2 nd
Year R	90.4%	8 th

Cricket:

Year 2 to 6 have a very special treat taking place during their outdoor PE lessons. Each Friday morning, Hertfordshire Cricket are visiting St. John's to lead specialised cricket lessons to each class. Pupils will learn how to bowl, bat and field properly under the supervision of a specialised cricket coach!



District Athletics:

Years 3,4,5 and 6 went to an athletics event at Gosling. We had a great time and we got 3rd place 🏆 overall out of 11 small schools! We all did really well and came away with a lot of medals...well done everyone!



Cricket:



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 either to 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 open 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,

Thank you for a safe journey to and from Willersley Castle and having lots of fun activities during the day. We thank our staff who looked after us all week. They deserve some sleep now!

Amen (Year 6 - Elle)



Calendar

Friday's in June and July	Cricket training for Year 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 – PE kit please.
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
Wednesday 16 th July 2025	Rocksteady Concert
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 teamwork day!

A new mud kitchen & Year 1 play area

Huge thanks to Nathan and his family for organising, creating and making our fabulous new mud kitchen. The children are going to have hours of fun, while developing their creative skills, fine and gross motor skills as well as team work and role play. We are very grateful!

Also, to we want to say a huge thank you to the Year one parents who have worked incredibly hard on the outside of Year 1 area. They have donated soil and tyres to develop the outside area. Thank you for spending the time and money on developing our school. The kids are very excited to start using this area during learning time.



PTA events:

Tuesday 10th & Thursday 12th - Father's day event.

Saturday 21st June- summer activity to be confirmed.

Friday 12th September 2025 - back to school disco

Friday 3rd October 2025- quiz night

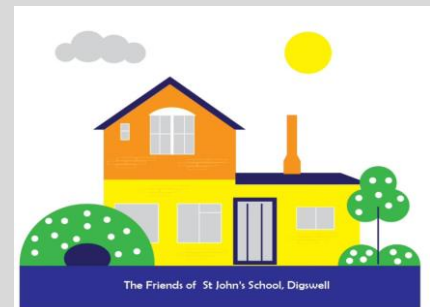
Saturday 8th November 2025 - fireworks

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:



To celebrate National bee day Nursery decided that one day wasn't enough to celebrate so we learnt about bees for the whole week. We have listened to 'flight of the bumblebee' and played a game about staying safe when bees are nearby. We have learnt songs about bees and can recall lots of facts.

We have learnt about patterns to make our own bees and hives, developing our cutting and creative skills too. The children wore their bee hats and pretended to be bees on the field - collecting the pollen and bringing it back to the hive to make honey. They really enjoyed drawing on a large scale in the garden too. Great murals were created.

We even had a honey treat 🍯 What a busy buzzy week 🐝 🐝 🐝

Reception:



Reception have just received their new caterpillars - we will watch them grow, change into chrysalis' and then into beautiful butterflies. More photos to follow...

Year 1:



Year 1 have launched straight into our Design and Technology unit with a challenge from Mr Ramsey himself: to design and build a working windmill that can help him tell whether it's a windy day or not. Of course, we were up for the task!

To begin, we put on our 'engineer hats' and explored how to create stable structures. Through hands-on investigations, we tested different construction methods to see what makes a structure strong and steady. We used plenty of teamwork, problem-solving and scientific thinking to make our ideas come to life.

Year 2:



'Year 2 have had a terrific May with many highlights, the most exciting of which was Safari Stu's visit to the school on Thursday 22nd. We spent an hour with Stu exploring different exotic creatures such as snakes, lizards, tortoises and more! The children were able to pet and hold these animals, we had a great time!' 🐍

Year 3:



In year 3 in Design and Technology we have been designing and making cushions. The children practised running stitch and cross stitch. They really enjoyed it!

Year 4:



This week we have been talking about people who are special to us. We made a collage of them with small pieces of paper and card. It was really fun! 😊

Year 5:



After several sessions of designing and making our pop-up books in D.T., the project has resulted in three pages (each having a different type of moving mechanism) and contained within a cover that we produced using vector

designs on ipads. They were based on our mythical adventure stories that we have recently completed.

Year 6:



Year 6 have had a fantastic start to Summer 2. Last week, we went on our residential trip to Wilersley Castle. We took part in many different activities including grass sledging, axe throwing, archery, rifle

shooting and many more. The children were incredibly sensible, and we had so much fun laughing and joking all week! We are now getting ready for our Year 6 production which is taking place in July.


SPOT THE SIGNS, SUICIDE PREVENTION WEBINAR

15TH SEPTEMBER 2025



FREE FOR ALL HERTS PARENTS

7 PM - 9 PM ONLINE

Contact us to discuss your training needs, or head to our website by scanning the QR code below:



Please contact cyp@hertsmindnetwork.org to book your space!

Angels
AUTISM & ADHD SUPPORT

MEET UP AND CHAT

HOME START, 5 BEDWELL PARK
STEVENAGE SG1 1NB

TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER.

Come along to our friendly group meetings and share what is difficult or what is going well. Have a cuppa and chat to other parents/carers.

Thursday 10am-12noon on:

15th May
12th June
3rd July

www.angelssupportgroup.org.uk

Angels
AUTISM & ADHD SUPPORT

Parent/Carer Evening Support Group

Talk about your child's needs in an open, caring and non-judgemental online environment.

Online Thursday evenings 7.30-8.30pm on the following dates:

22nd May
19th June
10th July

www.angelssupportgroup.org.uk





Supportive transitions for early years children with SEND needs.



Information webinar for parents & carers

Wednesday 11th June 2025
7pm – 8pm

Online webinar presented by the Early Years SEND team.

Meeting link:
[Early Years transitions starting school \(Parents\) | Hertfordshire County Council](#)

Join us for top tips, information, signposting and discussion to help promote a positive and successful transition for your child into school. Covering what to expect, provision and resources available and where further advice and support can be sought.



Schools out (nearly!) – hello May Half Term! As we head into the break next week, we're sending a big virtual high five to all our SPACE families – you've nearly made it through another busy half term. Whether you're planning days out, quiet moments at home, or a bit of both, we've got a packed programme ready to keep things engaging, inclusive and low-stress for everyone – please come and visit us at our Lending SPACE.

For many neurodivergent children, the change in routine can feel overwhelming. Try using a simple visual schedule to map out each day – even just a few pictures or icons – so your child knows what to expect. A little structure can go a long way in creating calm.

We're sharing our remaining summer term training and workshop schedule, Lending SPACE opening times over half term, news of one skydiving space left for any brave adrenaline-seekers, slots for our popular Gaming Club, one remaining ticket for our SPACE Exclusive Softplay at Rye-Assic Adventure Park, and a chance to kick off June with Online Cooking and a gentle Introduction to Golf.

Here's to a fun, flexible and supported Half Term – we're right here with you.

JUNE - JULY SUMMER TERM 2025 FREE ONLINE WORKSHOPS			Limited places available - book today
2nd June	18:30-20:30	ADHD in Girls and Women	
3rd June	10:00-11:30	Understanding Tics and Tourettes	
3rd June	19:00-21:00	Sensory Signs, Signals and Solutions	
4th June	10:00-12:00	Anxiety and SEND	
6th June	10:00-12:00	PDA, ODD and ADHD	
9th June	10:00-11:30	Encouraging Independence in Neurodivergent Young People Ages 8+	
9th June	18:30-20:00	Understanding Dyslexia	
10th June	10:00-12:00	Sleep	
10th June	18:30-20:00	Autistic Girls	
11th June	10:00-12:00	Understanding Behaviour as Communication	
13th June	10:00-12:00	Understanding Dual Diagnosis: Autism and ADHD	
16th June	10:00-11:30	Understanding and Supporting Emotional Regulation	
16th June	18:30-20:30	Navigating the SEND World Post-16	
17th June	10:00-11:30	Understanding OCD	
17th June	18:30-20:00	Understanding and Supporting Executive Function	
18th June	10:00-12:00	Therapeutic Thinking for Parent Carers	
19th June	19:00-20:30	EHCPs - Annual Reviews	
24th June	10:00-12:00	Navigating the SEND World	
25th June	10:00-12:00	ADHD in Girls and Women	
1st July	10:00-12:00	Sensory Signs, Signals and Solutions	
3rd July	18:30-20:30	Puberty and Neurodiversity	
4th July	10:00-12:00	Anxiety and SEND	
7th July	10:00-11:30	Understanding and Supporting Executive Function	
8th July	10:00-12:00	EHCPs - Submission to Finalisation	
8th July	18:30-19:30	Understanding Autism	
9th July	10:00-12:00	No two brains are the same: What is Neurodiversity	
11th July	10:00-12:00	Understanding Behaviour as Communication	
14th July	18:30-19:30	Understanding ADHD	
16th July	10:00-12:00	PDA, ODD and ADHD	



ADD-vance

The ADHD and Autism Trust

Passionate about Understanding, Embracing & Celebrating Neurodiversity

Our second half term of Summer 2025 Support Groups are now open for booking!

Summer 2025 Support Groups



Our Summer second half term Support Groups for parents and carers are now open for booking.



ADD-vance
The ADHD and Autism Trust



SUPPORT GROUPS
FREE ONLINE SUPPORT GROUPS
FOR HERTS PARENTS/CARERS

ABOUT THE GROUPS

ADD-vance runs regular support groups which provide an opportunity for you to meet other local parents and discuss individual concerns with two specialist ADD-vance coaches. We welcome parents and carers who have a formal diagnosis for their child, as well as those who do not have a formal diagnosis but would like to learn more about neurodivergence.

TIME AND PLACE

General Secondary Aged Children Support Group
Tue 3rd June 2025 - 1.30-2.30 pm
Tue 8th July 2025 - 1.30-2.30 pm
Sleep Support Group
Tue 10th June 2025 - 1.30-2.30 pm
PDA Support Group
Tue 17th June 2025 - 1.30-2.30 pm
Parents/Carers of 16 to 25 yrs Support Group
Tue 24th June 2025 - 1.30-2.30 pm
General Primary Aged Children Support Group
Tue 1st July 2025 - 7.30-8.30 pm
ALL ONLINE VIA ZOOM

01727 833963

herts@add-vance.org

http://www.add-vance.org/

Book your FREE ticket on <http://add-vance.eventbrite.com/> or visit our website <http://www.add-vance.org/>

These groups are open to residents of Hertfordshire only