

St John's VA C of E Primary School

NEWSLETTER

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



11/07/25

Summer Term 2

Value: Faith

Welcome message from the Headteacher

What a great year!

Dear all,

What a very busy two weeks we have had. Last week we had our sports week full of new activities, sports day, open evening and learning about new countries. It was great to see so many people attend sports day and (although the rain was there) we were able to complete the majority of events planned. Thank you to all parents and families for attending, in particular those who took part in the parents' races. You followed the rules well and we had no injuries. If parents who came first want to collect their sticker, please come and find me.

The children took part in many activities this week including: axe throwing, boccia, curling, archery, disc golf, tri-golf and dodgeball. For some children (and staff) this was a new activity that they haven't taken part in. It was great to see the children enjoying these activities.

The open evening was a great success with many parents attending. We have received high levels of positive feedback regarding the layout of the Sports day, picnic and open evening. We will be sending out a survey shortly if you could add any thoughts here.

We have also had a difficult month regarding the death of Mrs Wendy Philby. Whilst it has been an emotional period for all staff, children and parents, I want to say a huge thank you for supporting the school and Mrs Philby's family during this time. Her funeral is next Thursday and a reminder that the school will be shutting at 1:10pm. I want to say a huge thank you to all families who have worked together to sort childcare. If you have any questions please come and speak to me.

We also received our SATs results this week. Year 6 year not only met their target but also smashed my expectations. The results are phenomenal with 100% getting expected or above in Reading, 73% expected or above in writing, 93% expected in Maths or above and 97% expected or above in GPS. A great set of results being the highest record results we have seen for many years.

We have also had our transition day on Thursday this week. Classes have created new class rules for next year, had discussions on how things are going to run as a class and some writing has been completed to set up for next year's expectations.

Finally, I want to say a huge thank you to everyone who has supported me on this long year of new to headship. I have completed my new heads course, and I continue to develop in my masters. I could not have done this without the help of the governors, staff and the parents who have helped develop this school.

Mr Worton-Geer

Pupil quote of the week: Catherine (Year 4): The sleepover was really good. We played hide-and-seek in the dark. Played dodgeball, ate food and stayed up and watched Wicked. It was a great night.

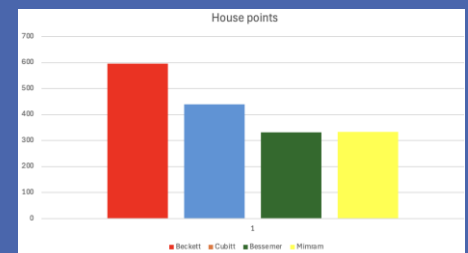
Quote from the bible: Hebrews 11:1-3: *Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for. By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.*

Improvements to the school:

School data has improved across the years, all years have made accelerated progress and Year 6 data is incredible.

The school development plan is continuing to be developed with the potential three areas for next year to be:

1. Maths and the recalling curriculum
2. Assessment for learning and adapting teaching throughout
3. Subject leadership to enhance and develop further creating a more rounded curriculum to meet our children's needs.





Highlights

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

Attendance:

Week commencing 30th June 2025

Year	Percent	Place
Nursery	100%	1 st
Year 1	97.7%	5 th
Year 2	95%	7 th
Year 3	98.4%	3 rd
Year 4	92.8%	8 th
Year 5	97.8%	4 th
Year 6	99%	2 nd
Year R	95.2%	6 th

Sports Day Wednesday 2nd July 2025:

Sports day was an incredible day. Not only did we battle through the rain, continue to run, duck and dribble in the obstacle race but we also have a winner. We again want to say thank you to everyone who supported, to Tetra for supporting running the event and their use of music. Any comments and feedback would be greatly appreciated on the survey that will be coming out soon.

1st place – Beckett (red) – 205 points
 2nd place – Cubitt (blue) – 124 points
 3rd place – Besemer (green) – 116 points
 4th place – Mimram (yellow) – 100 points

The Friends of St John's School Digswell has been picked for Tesco Stronger Starts!

Vote with your blue tokens to help us buy forest school equipment



From July to end of Sept 2025

- 📍 Hatfield Extra (AL9 5JY)
- 📍 Hatfield Rise Express (AL10 8FH)
- 📍 Shire Park Express (AL7 1TW)
- 📍 Welwyn Express (AL6 9EQ)
- 📍 WGC Express (AL7 2BQ)



Child Prayer:

Dear God,

Thank you for our food. Thank you for our school. We are grateful for our teachers and the amount of work they do and provide us each and every day. Thank you for our equipment and everything that you have given us.

Amen (Year 4- Florence)



Calendar

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
Wednesday 3 rd September	Inset Day
Thursday 4 th September	First day back at school
Friday 5 th September	Year 6 Forest School
Monday 8 th September	Year 6 Job Interviews
Monday 8 th September	Year 6 meet the teacher (3pm) in the hall
Tuesday 9 th September	Year 5 meet the teacher (3pm) in the hall
Wednesday 10 th September	Year 3 meet the teacher (3pm) in the hall
Thursday 11 th September	Year 2 meet the teacher (3pm) in the hall
Friday 12 th September	Year 4 meet the teacher (1:30pm) in the hall
Friday 12 th September	Eucharist service at school
Wednesday 17 th September	Year 1 Phonics Workshop – 08:50am (School Hall)
Wednesday 17 th September	Year 1 Phonics Workshop – 14:50pm (School Hall)
Thursday 18 th September	Year 3 TT Rockstars Launch – 08:50am and 15:00pm (School Hall)
Thursday 18 th September	Reception/Nursery Parent Tour – 14:00pm
Saturday 20 th September	Reception/Nursery Parent Tour – 10:00am
Monday 22 nd September	Year R Numbots Workshop – 08:50am and 15:00pm (School Hall)
Tuesday 23 rd September	Safeguarding training for volunteers 09:00-10:00am and 14:00-15:00pm (Hall)
Thursday 25 th September	Year 4 & 6 Woodhall Estate trip
Monday 29 th September	Reception/Nursery Parent Tour – 16:00pm
Thursday 2 nd October	Year 3 & 5 Woodhall Estate trip
Wednesday 8 th October	Spanish Day
Thursday 9 th October	Harvest Festival at St John's Church
Thursday 9 th October	Reception/Nursery Parent Tour – 14:00pm
Monday 13 th October	Year 4 swimming starts (10 day block)
Wednesday 15 th October	Year R Reading Meeting – 14:30pm
Monday 20 th October	Reception/Nursery Parent Tour – 09:00am
Wednesday 22 nd October	Parents Evening
Thursday 23 rd October	Parents Evening

Staffing:

Mrs Philby –

Wendy was not only a dedicated professional but also a special friend. Her strength of character and unwavering commitment to her role was truly inspiring. She supported countless children throughout her time at St John's, and we will always be grateful for the love and care she gave so freely.

She touched the hearts of pupils, staff, and families alike. For most of her career, Wendy worked in our nursery, where she was an integral part of the Early Years team. With calmness and patience, she nurtured our youngest children, helping them grow and thrive during one of the most formative stages of their lives.

In memory of Mrs Philby we will be doing several things. Firstly, a just giving page will be set up and shared out on Arbor. We will also be putting a tree and a plaque together in our school to allow all children and staff to have somewhere to go and reflect. We will be naming one of our offices that Mrs Philby worked in after her, her dedication to the school over the 25 years is incredible.

Teaching structure change:

We are delighted to share that Mrs de la Croix went to interview last week and has now been appointed as the new Deputy Headteacher of St John's VA CofE Primary School. We congratulate her on this next step on her education journey.

We also have broken our leadership team into two sections to help run the operational side of the school more smoothly.

SLT – Mr Worton-Geer (Headteacher), Mrs de la Croix (Deputy Headteacher) and Miss Draycott (Business Manager)
MLT- Mrs Athill (EYFS Lead), Mrs Levy (KS1 Lead), Miss Brady (KS2 Lead) and a vacant Deputy SENCo that will be appointed shortly.

Finally, we have also appointed two new TAs who will start in September called Mrs Johnson and Miss Szita. Classes for these new TAs will be decided in September once we have settled in.



FRIENDS FANTASTIC FIREWORKS
St John's School, Digswell
SAT 8TH NOVEMBER 2025

CRAZY COLOUR RUN
13TH SEPTEMBER 1-3PM
ST JOHNS SCHOOL, DIGSWELL
END OF SUMMER FUN
£10 PER FAMILY ENTRY
Sponsored colour run, obstacle course, food vans, bar

Academic Highlights

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

Nursery:



Performing Arts for providing such a great time for the children.

Nursery had such a fabulous day when they had a special visit from Elsa. She taught them dances, acting, singing and whole host of additional skills. The children had a fabulous time and didn't want the experience to end. It was totally amazing. A Huge thanks to Iconic

Reception:



'magical' fairy fishing wand.

This week we have been making leaf crowns as part of our forest school session. The children also learnt how to tie a special knot called a 'clove hitch'.

The children listened to the instructions, and all had a go. It was quite tricky but with a bit of help and encouragement, everyone had a

Year 1:



playing together in the fort, the day was packed with fun and laughter.

What a brilliant few weeks we've had in Year 1! Sports Week was a real highlight, with the children showing fantastic resilience, determination and sportsmanship - especially on Sports Day. To round things off, our end-of-year trip to Knebworth House was full of adventure and discovery. From counting lime trees in the beautiful formal gardens to getting lost (and found!) in the maze, marvelling at the dinosaurs and

Year 2:



Year 2 had a wonderful time celebrating Sports Week at St. John's! We began by learning about the country of Germany, looking at some of their favourite food, sport and even learning a bit of their language. On Tuesday 1st July, we completed the PTA's Sponsored Bounce on a bouncy castle! On Wednesday 2nd July, we participated in Sports Day and on Thursday 3rd, we took part in 'new activity day'. This included sports such as archery, curling, dodgeball, axe throwing and boccia!

Year 3:



Year 3 had a lovely time on a leaf scavenger hunt as part of Forest School. They were able to look for different leaves and use the classification sheet to able to identify which tree they might have come from! We especially enjoyed staying cool in the shade of the trees!

Year 4:



Year 4 had a wonderful sleepover at school last Friday, full of activity: dodgeball, rounders, toasted marshmallows over an open fire, curling, hide and seek in the dark!!! A lot of fun was had by all, and I am very proud of the children's comradery and impeccable behaviour. (Eloise : It was so fun!!! We played rounders-team 1 won-roasted marshmallows and watched 'Wicked')

Year 5:



In year 5, we had lots of great ideas for developing our story starters. A detailed picture sparked our imagination, helping us to come up with creative plots. We used adventurous vocabulary and took care to check our writing carefully before sharing our finished stories with the children in Year 1.

Year 6:



Year 6 have had a great few weeks. Our Year 6 leavers play and assembly is coming on really well. The acting skills have been developing everyday - we can't wait to show our families! Year 6 were also amazing at our sports day where they helped all morning, from holding the finish line to keeping score and much more! Thank you Year 6.



SPOT THE SIGNS, SUICIDE PREVENTION WEBINAR

15TH SEPTEMBER
2025

FREE FOR ALL
HERTS PARENTS

7 PM - 9 PM
ONLINE



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

VJ DAY COMMEMORATION

Celebrate Victory and Remembrance

BRING A PICNIC AND ENJOY THE DAY
Join in with games, activities for kids, and much more!

FRIDAY 15TH AUGUST 2025
12:00 PM - 15:00 PM
WELWYN PLAYING FIELDS, OTTWAY WALK

Victory over Japan Day marks the end of World War II in the Pacific on August 15 1945, celebrating peace after years of conflict. It's a day to remember the bravery and sacrifices of those who served and to celebrate freedom and hope.

Organised by
 Welwyn Parish Council

For more information, contact:
✉ office@welwyn-pc.gov.uk
☎ 01438 716667

YOU'RE WELCOME TO BRING A TENT OR MARQUEE, JUST SECURE IT WELL.
PLEASE BRING NO GLASS ITEMS FOR SAFETY.

Milk, pistachio, peanut & soya alert – Wall's Mini Milk Vanilla Strawberry & Chocolate Ice Cream

Product name: Wall's Mini Milk Vanilla Strawberry & Chocolate Ice Cream Lollies

Pack size: 10x35ml

Best before: 05/2027

Batch codes: L5123, L5126, L5127, L5128, L5129, L5141 and L5142



We have been alerted by **Unilever** that it is recalling **Wall's Mini Milk Vanilla Strawberry & Chocolate Ice Cream Lollies** from sale following a labelling error which means product information, including ingredients and allergens (**milk** and may contain **soya**, **pistachio** and **peanut**), are in Spanish rather than English.

The product is therefore unsuitable for and should be avoided by anyone with an allergy or intolerance to **milk**, **soya**, **pistachio** and **peanut**.

If you have bought the above product and have an allergy or intolerance to **milk**, **soya**, **pistachio** and/or **peanut**, do not eat it and **contact the Unilever careline team** at ukicare@unilever.com for further guidance.

Please note the product and ingredients are the same as the UK product and it is only a limited number of **Wall's Mini Milk Vanilla Strawberry & Chocolate Ice Cream Lollies** packs that feature the incorrect Spanish label.

We would like to thank **Unilever** for covering the cost of this alert.

Best wishes,
Anaphylaxis UK



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