

St John's VA C of E Primary School

NEWSLETTER

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



26/09/25

Autumn Term 1

Value: Love

Welcome message from the Headteacher

Workshops, Bikes and Achievements!

Dear all,

Thank you everyone for attending the various workshops that we have had over the past two weeks. It is great to see parents and families and answering any questions. Please always feel free to come and speak to us if you have any questions, we are more than happy to support.

We have been busy this week with Bikeability as well as sporting events over the past two weeks. We have some county runners who will be representing our area in a few weeks as well as some great achievements in football and basketball, see below for more details.

We have continued to work on our Maths curriculum this year, developing fluency sessions for all classes to practice their recall skills. It is essential for TTRockstars and Numbots to be done regularly for homework to really help with developing this target for the year. Mrs Levy and I have been working on Maths to ensure that every child leaving our school is confident in Maths.

I have had the luxury of working in Reception and Nursery over the last two weeks getting to know our children and how they are learning. They are very polite and always say hello! We have completed the Reception Baseline Assessment's and many of the children showed me how they count and begin to sound out words.

I have also been lucky to teach in Forest school on Friday's, teaching the children how to use bow saws and loppers. Children have been following the safety rules and tools talks perfectly to ensure all children are safe. Some classes even made shelters and learnt how to tie a clover hitch! I was very impressed!

We have introduced Drama classes on Fridays with Year 4 and 5 and our Drama teacher Sam has already had a great impact. I am excited to see this grow. We are also exploring OPAL at lunch times and it is great to see so many children bringing wellies and old shoes in order to use the field more. The forest is buzzing with children at lunch times – it has been a great start to our OPAL journey.

Finally, we are looking at the diary heading into Christmas (not long to go) and the events that come up during this busy period. Please keep an eye on the diary dates for all of the enjoyable activities that we will be taking part in.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.
Mr Worton-Geer

Pupil quote of the week: Dougie (Year 5): This week we have been doing bikeability. The first day was exciting and we learnt a lot about riding our bikes. The rest of the week we are allowed on the roads for the first time!

Quote from the bible: 1John 4:7-8: *Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.*

Improvements to the school:

We have had several improvements so far:

- Update on leadership structure of line management and communication
- Developing our travel to school systems and modeshift award
- Improvements on forest school equipment and tools
- Advertising for the school is developing
- Workshops completed for TTRockstars, Numbots, Phonics and Seesaw
- Developing the snack policy – Mrs Scott is working on this
- Drama sessions on Friday's for Year 4 and 5 this term
- Reviewing the marking policy



Highlights

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

Attendance:

Week commencing 15th September 2025

Year	Percent	Place
Nursery	100%	Joint 1 st
Year 1	99%	Joint 3 rd
Year 2	99.3%	2 nd
Year 3	99%	Joint 3 rd
Year 4	91.9%	6 th
Year 5	95.5%	4 th
Year 6	93.3%	5 th
Year R	100%	Joint 1 st

Sports

Cross country – 3rd overall

All of Year 5 & eight Year 6's went to a cross country event at Monks Walk last Thursday.

In total 6 schools took part. There were 2 races, competitive and fun. The competitive race was 1 mile and the fun race was half a mile.

The Y6's took part in a competitive race. Overall, for the girls and boys, Hope came 2nd and Max came 5th. Most of the Y5's also did the competitive race. Out of all the boys and girls there, Oliver placed 10th and Eden placed 12th - it was very hard and tiring - Everyone did amazingly!!



Football

Our football A team match against Commonswood was very close, Harry did many long balls up the field and played incredibly well. Hope made some very good crosses into the box and we were unlucky not to score from them.

After a 0-0 first half, we made some substitutions and came back stronger as Gil had many chances to score. A few got saved, a few narrowly missed and one even hit the bar! but then Commonswood made a quick counter attack and it flew past Oscar. So, we tried and tried to score but they were doing everything to defend and then the whistle blew, we had lost 1-0. But it was a tight game overall. Our man of the match was Harry for his amazing defending.

Black History Month: Honouring Legacy, Inspiring Futures

This October, we proudly celebrate **Black History Month** — a time to reflect on the achievements, resilience and contributions of Black individuals throughout history and today. At our school, we believe in the power of education to illuminate stories that have shaped our world. Throughout the month, students will engage in:

- Assemblies:** sharing powerful stories and perspectives.
- Library Spotlights** featuring books by Black authors and historical figures.
- Classroom Discussions** on civil rights, identity, and social justice.



Let's come together to **learn, celebrate, and honour** the richness of Black history — not just this month, but every day.

Playground cheque from Welwyn Hatfield Community Fund

We had our cheque presentation from the community grant scheme where a donation of £13,500 was given towards the inclusion playground. We are very grateful for the donation and the support from our local community. Our Head Boy (Harley) and Head Girl (Maya) were presented with the cheque.



Child Prayer:

Dear God,

Thank you for everything you gave us. Thank you for supporting us at school and looking out for us each and every day. We are grateful for your support and knowing you are there keeps us safe.

Amen (Year 5- Jessica)



Calendar

Monday 29th September Reception/Nursery Parent Tour – 16:00pm

October month Black History Month

Thursday 2nd October Year 3 & 5 Woodhall Estate trip

Friday 3rd October Year 2 Forest School Day

Monday 6th October EYFS Harvest Talk with Selina

Wednesday 8th October Spanish Day

Thursday 9th October Harvest Festival at St John's Church

Thursday 9th October Reception/Nursery Parent Tour – 14:00pm

Friday 10th October Year 1 Forest School Day

Monday 13th October Year 4 swimming starts (10 day block)

Wednesday 15th October Year R Reading Meeting – 14:30pm

Thursday 16th October Year 4 & 6 Woodhall Estate trip

Friday 17th October Year 6 Forest School Day

Friday 17th October Big Tidy Up

Friday 17th October 1:30pm Book look

Monday 20th October Reception/Nursery Parent Tour – 09:00am

Wednesday 22nd October Parents Evening

Thursday 23rd October Parents Evening

Friday 24th October School Disco

Monday 27th-Friday 31st October Half Term

Monday 3rd November First Day Back

Tuesday 4th November The 2 John's Online safety workshops

Friday 7th November Year 4 Forest School Day

Parent/ volunteer school tidy up on Friday 17th October

Hi all, we are going to have the Big Tidy up again on Friday 17th October for the morning. If you are interested, please can you sign up from the office. There will be some clearing jobs around the river, sensory garden, some building jobs and some work around the school to be completed. If you have any ideas, please come and speak to Mr Worton-Geer. We are also aiming to get resources to repair the fence line by the forest.

END OF TERM finish time

Just a reminder that every last day of the term will be finishing time at 1:30pm. This was introduced last year and we want to give you as much notice regarding the last day of each term. The end of term dates which will finish at 1:30pm for the whole school are:

Friday 19th December 2025

Friday 27th March 2025

Friday 22nd July 2025

2 John's Online Safety –

On Tuesday 4th November 2025, we will be having the 2 John's in all day to support our school with online safety including workshops for children.

Staff and Parents. The layout of the day is:

10:00-10:45am – Year 1 and 2 children workshop – early break

10:45-11:55am – Year 3 and 4 children workshop

1:30-3pm Year 5 and 6 children workshop

3:30-4:45pm – Staff workshop

6:00pm – 7:30pm Parent workshops – children will have films in classes supported by the PTA

Academic Highlights

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

Nursery:



Nursery have been reading the story of 'Little red riding hood'. We have read lots of different versions of the story and been using puppets and masks to re-tell the story. This week, we have loved getting messy making playdough, playing with water, mud and shaving foam. We have had such fun!

Reception:

In RE this week, we have been learning about The Creation Story. The children listened quietly and asked sensible questions around the topic. We met our Christian buddies, puppets Tom and Tess and painted some lovely pictures of the world, sun and moon, animals and plants. We are looking forward to Selina's visit in October.



Year 1:



Year 1 have hit the ground running these past two weeks as we built up to a full timetable and what a whirlwind it's been! Indoor PE had us perfecting our Teddybear and Egg Rolls, while practical maths kept minds whirring with place value within 10. Phonics is in full swing, producing some truly impressive writing. In English, The Hairy Toe has captured imaginations and in science our intrepid Weather Bear has already enjoyed several sleepovers to help us investigate all things meteorological. We may be happily exhausted, but it's been an absolute delight getting to know this enthusiastic class.

Year 2:

Year 2 had a great time in Science learning about materials that would be best suited to build a bridge. They tested a variety of materials such as cardboard, paper, foil and wood to find out which material would hold the weights without collapsing.



Year 3:



In Geography for Year 3, we are learning about settlements. As part of our learning, we learned how paths become lanes, and some can eventually be roads linking settlements. Some of those roads can become dual-carriageways and motorways. We made hamlets that grew into villages. Those villages increased in size and became towns and some of those towns got bigger and bigger to develop into cities.

Year 4:

We are continuing to settle in to the new academic year in Year 4! We were very fortunate with the warm weather at the end of last week - we participated in forest school and had a go at using bow saws and loppers to cut wood! After that, we created dens by using rope to practice tying hitch knots between trees, before hanging tarpaulin over the top! We were very happy with the results.



Year 5:



Year 5 have had their first Forest School where they learnt how to use a bow saw safely. The children also cleared out their planter and planted a variety of flowers – fingers crossed we see some fruit of our labours!

Year 6:

Year 6 have had a fantastic few weeks filled with engaging learning experiences. In Religious Education, we've been exploring the concept of creation, sparking some thoughtful and respectful discussions. We revisited the Christian creation story and also considered scientific perspectives on how the world began. It was wonderful to see so many children actively listening, sharing their ideas, and showing great curiosity and open-mindedness





Parish News

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

Parents of Year 6 pupils

The Confirmation Service will take place on Wednesday 5 November, 7:30pm at All Saints, Stevenage.

If you would like further details please email info@digswellparish.org.uk

Harvest Festival Thursday 9th October – 8:50am

Harvest festival is fast approaching, and we will be again donating food to our local food banks. Please can you bring any food items (tins and dry goods only) on the day of the festival which will be at St John's Church. Families and friends are welcome to come. This will be for Years 1-6. The school will be open for Reception and Nursery as normal. We will send out reminders nearer the time.

Parish Nativity –

HOLD THE DATE SUNDAY 7th DECEMBER 10am - This will be the first Nativity made up pupils of the schools of Digswell and the surrounding area and the local church. More details to follow in the upcoming weeks.

Christmas Market Saturday 29th November 2025

St John's Church is having its annual Christmas Market where there will be food, stalls and many Christmas festivities. We welcome all families to attend and enjoy the start of the Christmas period. We look forward to seeing you there.



St John's School Carol Service Fri 19th Dec 8.50am

This is the last day of school where we be inviting all children (including Reception and Nursery) to the Christmas carol service. We invite family and friends to this event where we celebrate the end of term and Christmas.

The Church of England
Parish of Digswell
Welwyn Garden City
October 2025

Compline/weekly worship available on Soundcloud Channel
Morning Prayer is via Zoom
Please ask us for details
as at 090925

Weds 1	8:30am	Morning Prayer
Thursday 2	9:00am 8:30pm	Tea Toast & Toddlers at Christ the King Hub Compline <i>a link is sent</i>
Friday 3	8:30am 9:00am	Morning Prayer Coffee Pot at St John's Café
Saturday 4	8:30am 9:15am 9:30am 9:30am	Morning Prayer A Moment of Healing at St John's Church Hub Café is open today The Big Church Clean at St John's
Sunday 5		HARVEST FESTIVAL Audio Service for This Week <i>a link is sent</i> 9:30am Parish Eucharist at St John's Church
Monday 6	8:30am 7:30pm	Morning Prayer Bible Study via Zoom
Tuesday 7	10:00am 8:30pm	Harvest Eucharist at Christ the King Hub Compline – <i>a link is sent</i>
Weds 8	8:30am	Morning Prayer
Thursday 9	8:50am 10:45am 2:00pm 8:30pm	St John's School Harvest Festival Service [St John's] Homerswood Harvest Festival Service [St John's] Harwood Hill Harvest Festival Service [St John's] Compline <i>a link is sent</i>
Friday 10	8:30am	Morning Prayer
Saturday 11	8:30am 9:00am 9:30am	Morning Prayer Diocesan Synod meets today Hub Café is open today
Sunday 12		TRINITY 17 Weekly Audio Service <i>a link is sent</i> 9:30am Parish Eucharist at St John's Church 11:00am Anglican-led Service at Digswell Village Church
Monday 13	8:30am 12:00pm 2:00pm	Morning Prayer Chapter Meeting Digswell Village Church Bible Study
Tuesday 14	8:50am 10:00am 8:30pm	Collective Worship at St John's School Eucharist at Christ the King Hub Compline – <i>a link is sent</i>

Weds 15	8:30am 7:30pm	Morning Prayer Deanery Synod at St Francis Church
Thursday 16	9:00am 8:30pm	Tea Toast & Toddlers at Christ the King Hub Compline <i>a link is sent</i>
Friday 17	8:30am 9:00am 10:30am	Morning Prayer Coffee Pot at St John's Café Parish Book Club at Coffee Pot
Saturday 18		ST LUKE THE EVANGELIST 8:30am Morning Prayer 9:30am Extended Ministry Group at St John's Church 9:30am Hub Café is open today 11:00am Confirmation Class at St John's Church
Sunday 19		TRINITY 18/STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY Weekly Audio Service <i>a link is sent</i> 9:30am Parish All Age Eucharist at St John's Church 1:00pm Holy Baptism at St John's
Monday 20	8:30am	Morning Prayer
Tuesday 21	8:50am 10:00am 8:30pm	Collective Worship at St John's School Eucharist at Christ the King Hub Compline – <i>a link is sent</i>
Weds 22	8:30am	Morning Prayer
Thursday 23	8:30pm	Compline <i>a link is sent</i>
Friday 24	8:30am 9:00am	Morning Prayer Coffee Pot at St John's Café
Saturday 25	8:30am 9:30am	Morning Prayer Hub Café is open today
Sunday 26		TRINITY 15 Weekly Audio Service <i>a link is sent</i> 9:30am Parish Eucharist at St John's Church 11:00am Anglican-led All Age Worship at Digswell Village Church
Monday 27	8:30am	Morning Prayer
Tuesday 28	10:00am 8:30pm	ST SIMON & ST JUDE Eucharist at Christ the King Hub Compline – <i>a link is sent</i>
Weds 29	8:30am	Morning Prayer
Thursday 30	8:30pm	Compline <i>a link is sent</i>
Friday 31	8:30am 9:00am	Morning Prayer Coffee Pot at St John's Café

QUIZ NIGHT

Rally your team, test your trivia skills, and enjoy a brilliant evening out. There'll be plenty of laughs, a touch of competition, and it's all in support of our school. Who will take home the glory?

»»» **FRIDAY 3RD OCTOBER** «««
QUIZ STARTS AT 8PM

**ST JOHNS SCHOOL
DIGSWELL**

**TICKETS COST £10 PER PERSON
TEAMS OF UP TO 8 PEOPLE**

BAR WILL BE OPEN



The Friends of St John's

GLOW DISCO

**FRIDAY 24TH
OCTOBER**

DISCO TIMES:

Nursery & Reception	3pm - 4pm
Years 1, 2 & 3	4:15pm - 5:45pm
Years 4, 5 & 6	6pm - 7:30pm

**GET YOUR TICKETS
NOW!**



Family Lives Free Autumn Term Parenting Groups

Bringing Up Confident ADHD/ASD Children (6 weeks) Online group
Friday 26th September to 7 November 9.45am to 11.45am OR

Tuesday 14 October to 25 November 7.00pm to 9.00pm

If your child has ADHD/ASD, or you think they might, join our free online group where you will receive support from other parents and gain a comprehensive understanding of ADHD/ASD and learn strategies to improve life at home and at school.

Less Shouting, More Cooperation (6 weeks) Online group
Thursday 2 October to 13 November 9.30am to 11.30am

Do you feel you are constantly nagging or shouting at your child to get what you need? Are you tired of losing your cool and want a calmer house? Join our free online group to learn how you can change the way you communicate with your child, respond better, and feel more in control.

Dads Together (6 weeks) Online group

Wednesday 5 November to 10 December 7.00pm to 9.00pm

Calling all Dads - join our free online group, come along and receive support from other dads and learn how to change the way you communicate with your child, respond better and feel more in control.

Anxiety around ADHD Online Workshop

Autumn term dates to be confirmed

Reducing Conflict Online Workshop

Autumn term dates to be confirmed

Sibling Rivalry Online Workshop

Autumn term dates to be confirmed



SCAN ME!

For more information, please contact Louise on **0204 522 8700/8701**, or email services@familylives.org.uk. Please scan our QR code for our referral form.



FRIENDS FANTASTIC FIREWORKS

**St John's School,
Digswell**

SAT 8TH NOVEMBER 2025