

St John's VA C of E Primary School

NEWSLETTER

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



10/10/25

Autumn Term 1

Value: Love

Welcome message from the Headteacher

Quiz night, forest school and windy weather!

Dear all,

It has been a great first two weeks back at school. I have met many parents over the last few weeks and we are continuing to develop the school. We are currently looking at some project ideas around the school and have also been busy with builders checking the site to see what improvements we can make.

Last Friday we had a very successful Quiz night. I wanted to say a huge thank you to the Friends for organising the event, sorting out the bar and helping set up as well as to all the parents who came and supported our quiz night. The quiz master was very grateful for such a good bunch of adults working together to raise money for the school including auctioning some great prizes.

We are also looking forward to our tidy up day next Friday where we are looking at sorting out a fence line and opening up the riverbank as part of our forest school learning. Any help with this would be incredible as there is a lot to do – I hope the weather is not as windy and rainy as last week!

We are enjoying our break times and lunch times with OPAL – music playing and exploring the woods. Thank you to everyone who has brought in their wellies and outside shoes. Children are enjoying being able to play across the school all year round.

We have fireworks coming up soon which is another exciting time for families to come together to take part in our local village display. Please make sure you get a ticket for this event.

Furthermore, I have been in to EYFS getting to know our newest members of the school and seeing them enjoy their learning in the classroom and outdoors. It is great to see some wonderful interactions and children working together to complete projects like making houses and building walls out of bricks.

We are beginning to put an Amazon wish list together – we will be sending this out in due course. We have had several donations recently, we thank the families for these. We are very grateful, and I know the staff are very pleased.

Finally, I hope you have all signed up to parents evening including the online slots that have been made available for parents on the Thursday. I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Mr Worton-Geer

Pupil quote of the week: Ava-Rose (Year 3): I am excited about my presentation this week on Friday. I am going to talk about Black history.

Quote from the bible: (Romans 13:8). Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.

Improvements to the school:

We have had several improvements so far:

- We are going to give the grass some time to bounce back after a busy last year
- We are looking at reviewing the front of school entrance system
- We continue to use music and some lunch times for children to enjoy
- We have cleared all school gutters and drains
- We have bought an industrial ball pump machine!
- We are looking into an easier calendar system



Highlights

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

Attendance:

Week commencing 29th September 2025

Year	Percent	Place
Nursery	98.1%	2 nd
Year 1	96.9%	3 rd
Year 2	94.4%	6 th
Year 3	94%	7 th
Year 4	96.8%	4 th
Year 5	93.8%	8 th
Year 6	95.9%	5 th
Year R	98.6%	1 st

Tag rugby



On Wednesday 8th October, 10 Year 6's competed in a Rugby event at Welwyn Rugby Club. Although it was not a competitive event, we still did incredibly well and scored a lot of great try's. Well done everyone!

Black History Month: Honouring Legacy, Inspiring Futures

THEIR SERVICE, OUR HISTORY

For generations, Black men and women have stood at Britain's frontlines – on land, at sea, and in the air – serving with skill, discipline, and pride. The six lives remembered here reflect a far greater story: one of courage, loyalty, and service that strengthened Britain and earned a lasting place in its history.



WALTER TULL
Professional footballer who became a commissioned officer in the British Army during the First World War. He led his men on the Western Front with courage until his death in 1918.



JOHNNY SMYTHE
RAF navigator in the Second World War who flew hazardous missions over Europe, survived being shot down and held prisoner, and later served Britain in distinguished public roles.



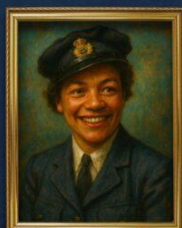
ULRIK CROSS
The most decorated West Indian serviceman of the Second World War, whose RAF missions preceded a diplomatic career that shaped newly independent African nations.



DAVID CLEMETSON
Cambridge-educated Jamaican who served as a commissioned officer in the First World War – a rare distinction at the time. He saw front-line service before his death in 1918.



RICHARD (DICKIE) BARR
Royal Navy veteran whose notable career reflects the long-standing tradition of Black sailors defending Britain at sea and proudly serving with skill across the world's oceans.



LILIAN BADER
Among the first Black women in Britain's armed forces, she trained as an instrument repairer in the WAAF during the Second World War, keeping aircraft ready for combat.

blackhistorymonth.org.uk

POWER IN PROTEST



ALTHERIA JONES-LECOATE
Scientist and leader in the British Black Panthers whose organising and medical health community programmes, defended Black Britain, and inspired a generation with the language of resistance.



CLAUDIA JONES
Journalist, organiser and visionary who founded the West Indian Gazette and launched Britain's first Caribbean Carnival, blending culture with protest to empower communities' language of resistance.



MAVIS BEST
Grassroots leader who spearheaded the Scrap the Sex campaign, uniting communities to end racist stop-and-search laws and proving ordinary people could force national change.



OLIVE MORRIS
Radical organiser and member of the British Black Panther Movement who fought tirelessly for housing rights, women's liberation, and racial equality.



PAUL STEPHENSON
Leader of the 1963 Bristol Bus Boycott, a landmark protest that challenged colour bars and helped pave the way for race relations legislation.



ROY HACKETT
Civil rights leader whose direct action in Bristol transformed the city's transport policy and became a catalyst for national change.

Across Britain's modern history, Black activists have spoken out, stood firm, and demanded change. They organised boycotts, led campaigns, built networks, and challenged systems that denied justice. Their courage shifted opinion, reshaped laws, and inspired new generations to act. The six people remembered here are part of a longer tradition – one that shows protest is not only resistance, but power to remake the nation.

blackhistorymonth.org.uk

Child Prayer:

Dear God,

Thank you for the food that we are given at home and at school. Thank you for our teddies keeping us safe and making sure we do good things. Thank you for our families who we love.

Amen (Year 3- Violet)



Calendar

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
Monday 10th – Friday 14th November	Anti-Bullying Week
Monday 10th November	Flu Vaccination Day
Tuesday 11th November	Remembrance
Friday 14th November	Year 3 Forest School Day
Monday 17th November	Reception and Nursery Open day
Tuesday 18th November	School Photographs – Photo Individual
Monday 17th – Friday 21st November	Maths Week
Monday 17th – Friday 21st November	Road Safety Week
Friday 21st November	Children in Need – Non-uniform

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:



We have been continuing our theme of fairy tales, by reading Little Red Riding Hood and Goldilocks and the three bears. We have been practising re-telling the story using story masks and the language from the story, re-enacting it in our role-play area.

Reception:

Today we had a special visitor from our church. Selina came into EYFS and told us the story of The Creation and explained why we have harvest festival. We are so lucky to have such a great storyteller. Thank you Selina.



Year 1:

It's been another wonderfully busy few weeks in Year 1, full of energy, learning and a little bit of sparkle! Our Spanish WOW Day was magnifico - we baked delicious Magdalena's, perfected our flamenco moves, dressed up in vibrant colours and even crafted our own castanets to keep the rhythm going. The excitement continued on Thursday as we celebrated a joyful Harvest Festival in church, giving thanks and sharing smiles all around. To round it all off we spent Friday outdoors at Forest School, where we explored, discovered and got gloriously muddy in the name of learning. What a brilliant start to the season - ¡olé to that! 🍌🍌



Year 2:

Year 2 had a wonderful Spanish day! We made fans, tiles, learnt about the flag, songs, phrases and much more! One child even said 'I can't choose a favourite activity because they were all so much fun!'



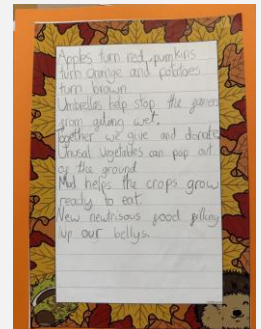
Year 3:



In Year 3 we enjoyed a trip to The Woodhall Estate. Here we are racing to find the mammal jigsaw challenge. We learnt lots of information about woodland animals and had fun building shelters.

Year 4:

Year 4 have had an incredibly exciting start to October! This week, we've written some poems about Autumn that we read at church during our Harvest service and we've also celebrated Spanish Day, where we learnt some phrases and more about Spain in general! We'd like to say a special thanks to our two wonderful parent volunteers who helped with our Spanish activities. Adios!



Year 5:



"The trip was super fun and exciting because we got to play lots of fun games. We built dens, went on a scavenger hunt, poked seeds into apples, completed giant puzzles and had to climb down a very steep hill with the help of a rope. "(Albie & Alice)

Year 6:

Year 6 have had a great couple of weeks - we finished our text in English, 'The Last Bear' which had fantastic themes about climate change. On Spanish day, we had so much fun singing, dancing, learning words and creating fact files with the Spanish language! We have also been learning the ukulele in music and learnt some Spanish songs on Spanish day!



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

Pupil-Led Collective worship

A fantastic group of Year 6 pupils worked collaboratively during the last few weeks to prepare for our first 'Pupil-led Collective Worship' which took place on Friday 3rd October. The children chose certain roles to play in the worship and covered the theme of 'Love', (our value of the half term). They did a fantastic job and spoke confidently.

We look forward to preparing for the next one in November
Mrs de la Croix

**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.

Harvest Service at at St John's Church

On Thursday 9th October pupils from Year 1 and Year 6 took part in the Harvest Thanksgiving Service at St John's Church.

The children shared some very thoughtful prayers, poems, bible story re-enactments and story telling as part of the service.

The church and school thank our families for their generous food donations which will go to the WGC food bank.



Cross Country Event



There were about 45 Y6 boys and 45 Y6 girls and then the same for Y5.

Max- 4th

Hope - 3rd

Julia - left before I could check.

Eden - 7th

Ollie - 25th

Monks Walk partnership got first overall for boys and girls!

They all did amazingly!

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	Tea Toast & Toddlers at Christ the King Hub
	8:30pm	Compline <i>a link is sent</i>
Friday 3	8:30am	Morning Prayer
	9:00am	Coffee Pot at St John's Café
Saturday 4	8:30am	Morning Prayer
	9:15am	A Moment of Healing at St John's Church
	9:30am	Hub Café is open today
	9:30am	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	Morning Prayer
	7:30pm	Bible Study via Zoom
Tuesday 7	10:00am	Harvest Eucharist at Christ the King Hub
	8:30pm	Compline – <i>a link is sent</i>
Weds 8	8:30am	Morning Prayer
Thursday 9	8:50am	St John's School Harvest Festival Service [St John's]
	10:45am	Homerswood Harvest Festival Service [St John's]
	2:00pm	Harwood Hill Harvest Festival Service [St John's]
	8:30pm	Compline <i>a link is sent</i>
Friday 10	8:30am	Morning Prayer
Saturday 11	8:30am	Morning Prayer
	9:00am	Diocesan Synod meets today
	9:30am	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	Morning Prayer
	12:00pm	Chapter Meeting
	2:00pm	Digswell Village Church Bible Study
Tuesday 14	8:50am	Collective Worship at St John's School
	10:00am	Eucharist at Christ the King Hub
	8:30pm	Compline – <i>a link is sent</i>

Weds 15	8:30am	Morning Prayer
	7:30pm	Deanery Synod at St Francis Church
Thursday 16	9:00am	Tea Toast & Toddlers at Christ the King Hub
	8:30pm	Compline <i>a link is sent</i>
Friday 17	8:30am	Morning Prayer
	9:00am	Coffee Pot at St John's Café
	10:30am	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	Collective Worship at St John's School
	10:00am	Eucharist at Christ the King Hub
	8:30pm	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	Morning Prayer
	9:00am	Coffee Pot at St John's Café
Saturday 25	8:30am	Morning Prayer
	9:30am	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	ST SIMON & ST JUDE	
	10:00am Eucharist at Christ the King Hub	
	8:30pm 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	Morning Prayer
	9:00am	Coffee Pot at St John's Café

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!

FRIENDS FANTASTIC FIREWORKS

St John's School,
Digswell

SAT 8TH NOVEMBER 2025



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.



Supporting a Child with ADHD



Challenge the stereotypes and get practical help

Tuesday 11th November 7 - 8:30pm

90 minute session. Recording available for 48hrs

£24.

Available to book now
facefamilyadvice.co.uk



DIGSWELL NATIVITY



Sunday 7 Dec 10am
at St John's Church
AL8 7NX

Fun for all the family as we
celebrate Jesus' birth

Carols · Readings · Drama · Surprises

Hatfield Town Centre
EVENTS 2025

TOWN CENTRE TOGETHER

SATURDAY 11 OCTOBER 2025 • 10am - 3pm
White Lion Square and Market Place Playground



FUN ENTERTAINMENT

Music by 'First Serve Music' • Kid's entertainment
Face painting • Disco • Bubbles • Balloon Art • Games

Arts & Craft workshop, 12pm - 1.30pm
In the Creator Space at the Library
(no booking required)



one.welhat.gov.uk/events

3 hours FREE parking in
The Common car park with a displayed ticket



Funded by
UK Government



**WELWYN
HATFIELD**