

St John's VA C of E Primary School

NEWSLETTER

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



14/11/25

Autumn Term 2

Value: Hope

Welcome message from the Headteacher

Heading into the winter period!

Dear all,

What a good couple of weeks back after a busy half term. We have been very busy with the school and the grounds, developing our learning across the core and non-core subjects. It was great to see many parents at the end of last half term for our parents evening and also the Big Tidy up on the Friday. I want to say a huge thank you to everyone who came in and to those who did some jobs around the school beyond this.

Last week we focused on online safety with the two John's which was very interesting to hear how much the children know about the online world. The key message from the workshop for parents is that we must get on board with our children and the online world. Although only 20 parents came to the workshop, we are hoping for more at our next event so that we can understand the value of what our children know about the online world and how we can support them.

I have spent some time across the school looking at reading and observing lessons, seeing how our children are learning and what assessment for learning has been going on – this is one of our key priorities as a school that we are working on. It is great to see classes using mini quizzes to identify gaps in learning and creating an adaptive teaching style.

Last Monday we had a visit from OFSTED for the morning from the local authority. As there is a new framework, they wanted to speak to myself regarding the first part of the framework and we also went on a learning visit. They observed how our children came into school and saw how quickly they settled. This has given me some next steps on how we can further develop our school.

We have also taken part in Remembrance Day with visits to the school from a parent as well as our collective worship. We also had a very good turnout at our remembrance parade last Sunday. Finally, we are working on some new equipment in the playground – watch this space.

Mr Worton-Geer

Pupil quote of the week: Sienna I (Year 4): It has been a great week. We have had forest school and it was amazing. We are very lucky.

Quote from the bible: Isaiah 40:31 ...but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Improvements to the school:

We have had several improvements so far:

- Unfortunately we are struggling with the front gates and awaiting some emergency funding and engineers to come out. We are very sorry for the inconvenience.
- We have had great support from some parents in the school helping out with some jobs including jet washing and painting a wall outside of Year 4, jet washing and painting the decking areas and helping with the big tidy Friday where we had 10 parents support the expansion of the inclusion playground laying liner and bark down.
- The riverside has been cleared and we are beginning to explore how we can develop the riverside in the near future.

Our fantastic Headteacher – for a day!



Highlights

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

Attendance:

Week commencing 3rd November 2025

Year	Percent	Place
Nursery	98.3%	2 nd
Year 1	95.5%	7 th
Year 2	95.3%	8 th
Year 3	96%	6 th
Year 4	96.8%	5 th
Year 5	99.7%	1 st
Year 6	98.1%	3 rd
Year R	97.8%	4 th

Autumn 2nd half term -PSHE- Keeping safe

Across the school we will starting our new topic called **'Celebrating Differences'**

The children will be involved in a weekly class lesson at their own level of understanding.

The children record their weekly discussions and learning in a class 'floor book', which is accessible to them in their classrooms.

The theme for the half term links closely with the 'anti-bullying week' taking place 10-14th November



SEND news

Every year Herts parent/ carer Involvement run our survey to find out what families with children or young people with SEND in Hertfordshire are experiencing. They want to know what works and what doesn't, so that they can concentrate on the things that matter most to you.

[The 2025 HPCI annual survey is open! - Herts Parent Carer Involvement](#)

Parking

We would politely ask all parents/carers to be considerate when parking for drop off and collection at school. Please avoid parking on double yellow lines and near the chicanes. Also, please do not park on our neighbours' driveways.

Dealing with Bullying

Bullying as defined by the Anti-Bullying Alliance, 'is the repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. Bullying can be physical, verbal or psychological. It can happen face-to-face or online.'

Definition of bullying

- Bullying can be defined as "behaviour by an individual or a group, repeated over time that intentionally hurts another individual either physically or emotionally". (DfE "Preventing and Tackling Bullying", July 2017)
- Bullying can include name calling, taunting, mocking, making offensive comments; kicking; hitting; taking belongings; producing offensive graffiti; gossiping; excluding people from groups and spreading hurtful and untruthful rumours.
- This includes the same unacceptable behaviours expressed online, sometimes called online or cyberbullying. This can include: sending offensive, upsetting and inappropriate messages by phone, text, instant messenger, through gaming websites, social media sites and apps, and sending offensive or degrading photos or videos.
 - Bullying is recognised by the school as being a form of peer-on-peer abuse. It can be emotionally abusive and can cause severe and adverse effects on children's emotional development.

Child Prayer:

Dear God, we are all so thankful that the world is here and there is loads of happy smiling kids here at school. I am grateful that we can have lovely food and lovely houses and a lovely world that we have today.

Amen (Year 4- Isla)



Calendar

Monday 17 th November	Reception and Nursery Open Day
Tuesday 18 th November	School Photographs – Photo Individual
Monday 17 th – Friday 21 st November	Maths Week
Monday 17 th – Friday 21 st November	Road Safety Week
Monday 17 th November	Reception and Nursery Open Day
Tuesday 18 th November	School Photo Day – Individual
Thursday 20 th November	Year 6 Whole Class – Tag Rugby @ Monk's Walk
Friday 21 st November	Flu Vaccination – Catch Up Session
Monday 24 th November	Year 6 Weight and Height Check - NHS
Thursday 27 th November	Year 3 Whole Class – Football @ Monk's Walk
Friday 28 th November	Occasional Day – No School
Monday 1 st -Friday 5 th December	Art Week
Monday 1 st December	Non-Uniform day – Donation of Chocolate and Wine
Thursday 4 th December	EYFS Nativity Dress Rehearsal
Friday 5 th December	KS1 Nativity Rehearsal
Friday 5 th December	The Friends – Christmas Fate
Monday 8 th December	Panto Day
Wednesday 10 th December	EYFS Nativity @ Christ the King
Friday 12 th December	Local MP Visit
Friday 12 th December	Forest School – Year 2
Tuesday 16 th December	Christingle – Year 3
Wednesday 17 th December	Christmas jumper and Dinner day
Friday 19 th December	Last day of school – finish at 1:30pm
Friday 19 th December	Carol service – whole school at church for 8:50am
Friday 19 th December	Forest school Year 1

2 John's Online Safety

Dear Parents/Carers,

Please find below the link to the online parent's event from the 2 Johns. The 2 Johns have asked that this is not downloaded or stored in any format.

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/m8aHZX6C-AYKR8cpZN_fJKIPyGyiN8i6IIofOLGq8JrCv_5vlfQeKejHI4DWByGc.4eteSkc9pgtJgExT?startTime=1762458671000

Academic Highlights

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

Nursery:



In Nursery, we have been doing lots of activities for Remembrance Day, with a visit from Mr Pettiford, explaining why we remember, and doing drill practise with us in the playground! We are also excited to have our new painting area, where the children are learning to be independent and set up to paint a picture by themselves, by getting the paint pallet, paint brush and piece of paper and then choosing the colours that they want and getting these out of our makeshift paint bottles.

Year 1:



We have been time-travelling through History, learning about the origins of Bonfire Night and the significance of Remembrance Day. We were lucky enough to have Zach's dad visit, putting the infants through some proper drills and teaching us all about the meaning of poppies and remembrance. Our special service was a moving reminder of why we remember – a moment of calm reflection amid our lively learning.

Year 3:



Forest School for Year 3 began outdoors, where the children made shelters and planted a few saplings. When the rain refused to relent, we headed back inside to dry off and continued our session by learning how to tie different knots.

Year 5:



Year 5 have been busy this week with fractions! They are enjoying converting between mixed numbers and improper fractions. "Good fun learning improper and mixed fractions – also quite easy!" - Raffy

Reception:

For Science/Understanding the World, Reception have been learning about floating and sinking. Every child was given a piece of aluminium foil and asked to create a boat for some little people to sail in.



Once we had worked out the best design that could float, we estimated how many little people could lay in the boat before it sank. Cara's boat held over 15 people! Well done everyone.

Year 2:



Year 2 have been taking part in a range of learning about anti-bullying. They have learnt about what the definition of bullying is and ways we can tackle this. We have learnt about the importance of kindness and how we can

show kindness to others. We created odd socks to support celebrating differences in preparation for odd sock day!

Year 4:



Year 4 have had great fun settling back into school following the half-term break. We have started new units of learning in Maths, where we are learning about

Area and English, where we are reading *Granny Came Here on the Empire Windrush* by Patrice Lawrence. We have also discussed the meaning and importance of Bonfire Night, Remembrance Day and Anti-Bullying week!

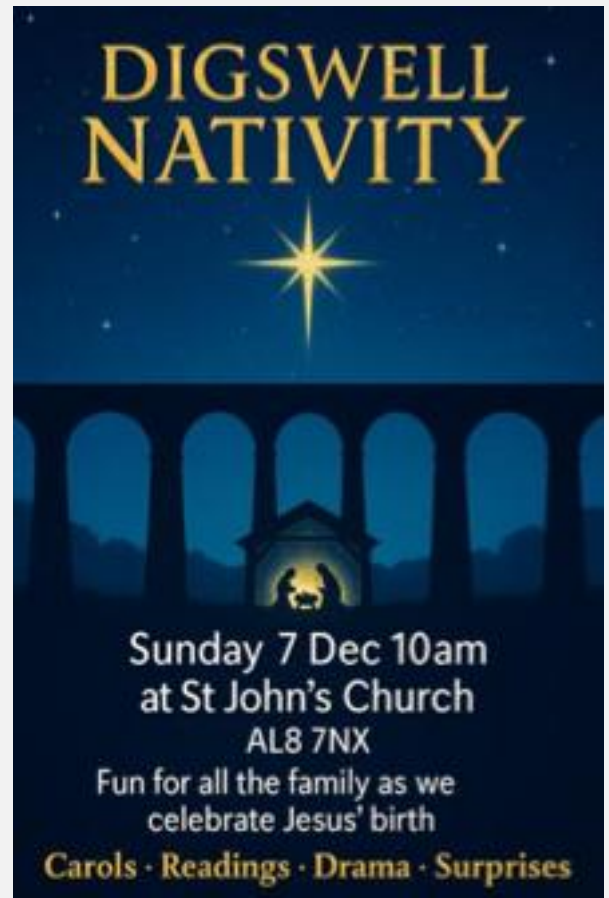
Year 6:



Year Six have been having fun getting creative this week- in DT we have been creating model playgrounds. For Anti-Bullying week we have created a 'kindness chain' together as a class which we have written encouraging, kind and anti-bullying messages on to display in our classroom.

Parish News

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



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 Christmas carol service. We invite family and friends to this event where we celebrate the end of term and Christmas.



Congratulations to Deseree on her recent confirmation



Digswell Village Hall Community Café

The school are supporting the Digswell Village Hall Community Café. Please see the banner at the front of the school.



Remembrance Day



Some lovely outdoor work from the Reception children



