

St John's VA C of E Primary School

NEWSLETTER



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

20/03/26

Spring Term 2

Value: forgiveness

Welcome message from the Headteacher

Hello From Mersea!

Dear all,

It has been another busy fortnight at St John's with many activities happening. Year 6 are currently in Mersea on a residential and we have been enjoying taking part in lots of activities. Who needs sleep when you are having so much fun?!?

At school, we have held some incredible events including Science week where we had some fantastic experiments going on across the school. We have also had Year 1's History off the Page on Monday, archery for Year 3 and 4 and many more activities.

I want to say a huge thank you to parents for supporting the school during this busy period, from charity days to world book day; I am aware there has been a lot going on. It is always difficult to get the right balance of taking part in activities that are happening around the world whilst teaching the curriculum.

The school continues to thrive at lunch times with OPAL and the teaching of how to play with the equipment. Thank you everyone for the kind donations, we are very excited as the weather gets better, we will be able to use more equipment and dress up – my favourite. We are also going to create a new project to save our field. We are aware that from the dry summer to the wet winter, the field has seen better days. We are going to create a team of staff, governors and the Friends to come up with solutions to help allow our field to be useable all year round whilst protecting it all year round. Watch this space.

We have mock assessment week next week for Year 6 and many other assessments are happening throughout the school. In the summer term and moving forward, we will be having an assessment week to allow all staff, children and parents to know when we are assessing children for end of term data. This is a key week where we want to explore further outcomes of our children. We have reviewed our school development plan and feel we are going to accomplish all three objectives by the end of the year.

Finally, we have had an incredible few collective worships over the past several weeks, I remember reflecting with Selina about how far we have come as a school. Thank you to everyone for making our school wonderful.

Have a great weekend - Mr Worton-Geer

Pupil quote of the week- Theo (Year 2): I enjoyed doing Maths because I did some good learning. I like lunch times because the food is yummy!

Quote from the bible- Matthew 6:14-15: "For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses".

Improvements to the school:

We have had several improvements so far:

- The back up line for our internet has been put into place
- We have tweaked the use of the gates for some timing issues
- Updated breakfast club services for signing up
- We are looking at having a surplus budget for this financial year.
- We have got a new air quality checker machine outside the front of the school
- We have updated our behaviour tracking process to more regular meetings
- We are exploring the new OFSTED framework and preparing for 2027.
- We are exploring our new school development targets for 2026/27



Highlights

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

Amazon Wish list

We have created our amazon wish list if parents would like to buy items for the school – this would be greatly appreciated. The link is found [here](#). Throughout the year we will update the wish list.



Attendance:

Week commencing 9th March 2026

Year	Percent	Place
Nursery	100%	1 st
Year 1	96.7%	5 th
Year 2	99.7%	2 nd
Year 3	96.3%	7 th
Year 4	95.8%	8 th
Year 5	97%	4 th
Year 6	97.4%	3 rd
Year R	96.6%	6 th

Big Yellow Friday

We would like to say a big thank you to everyone for taking part in the Big Yellow Friday, we can confirm that a fantastic £359.00 was raised for wearing something yellow to school.

The 'NAME THE DUCK' competition also raised a further £170 and the winner of the competition is Callum in Year 1 for naming the duck 'Quakers'. The prize is football tickets for the Stevenage Borough vs Reading football match for a family of 4 taking place on Saturday 21st of March. Please come and collect your tickets from the school office.



Aimee Goulden and Liz Hawes would like to say a big thank you also for all the support the St John's families have given with this fundraiser which means so much to Theo and Isaac.

Summer Term – Forest School Dates

Friday 17th April - Year 1
Friday 24th April - Year 2
Friday 1st May - Year 3
Friday 8th May - Year 4
Friday 15th May Year 5
Friday 22nd May Year 6

Friday 5th June Year 6
Friday 19th June Year 5
Friday 26th June Year 4
Friday 10th July Year 3
Friday 17th July Year 2

Parent Consultations Schedule:

Please wait for the Arbor email to book your slots
Tuesday 24th March – Year 1 and Year 6

- **Format:** Face-to-face
- **Time:** 3:00pm–6:00pm
- **Location:** Library Mrs Scott and Miss Brady will be attending their National Professional Qualification training on Wednesday, so Year 1 and Year 6 will hold their consultations on Tuesday.

Wednesday 25th March – Nursery, Reception, Years 2–5

- **Format:** Face-to-face
- **Time:** 3:00pm–6:30pm (break 5:00–5:30pm)
- **Location:** Hall

Thursday 26th March – Reception to Year 6

- **Format:** Face-to-face and online
- **Time:**
 - 3:00pm–5:00pm face-to-face
 - 5:30pm–6:30pm online appointments only
 - (Break 5:00–5:30pm)

If you would like to arrange sibling appointments on the same day, Thursday may be the most convenient option. Throughout all consultation evenings, Mr Worton-Geer and Mrs de la Croix will be available and moving between spaces should you need to speak with them.

Child Prayer:

Dear God, we pray that everybody can be good at school and also, we pray that nobody gets hurt or anything. We will always be forgiven for anything that we do wrong.

Amen (Year 2- Amelia)



Calendar

Monday 23 rd -Thursday 26 th March	Mock SAT's Week (Year 6)
Tuesday 24 th March	Rocksteady Concert
Tuesday 24 th March	Year 1, 2 and 5 visiting St John's church
Tuesday 24 th , Wednesday 25 th and Thursday 26 th March	Parent Consultations
Thursday 26 th March	Easter service @8:50am at St John's Church
Friday 27 th March	Forest School – Year 2
Friday 27 th March	Last day of term – finish 1:30pm
Monday 30 th March – Friday 10 th April	Easter Holidays
Monday 13 th April	INSET Day
Tuesday 14 th April	First day back for children
Thursday 23 rd April	Cricket Engagement Day
Tuesday 28 th April – Friday 1 st May	Year 5 Residential Trip to Fellowship Afloat
Monday 4 th May	Bank Holiday
Thursday 7 th May	School class photos
Monday 11 th May – Thursday 14 th May	Year 6 SATs
Friday 15 th May	Year 6 Party and Dress down day - £2 donation
Tuesday 19 th May	The Bishop visiting the school
Monday 25 th May – Friday 29 th May	May half term
Monday 1 st June	First day back
Monday 1 st -Friday 5 th June	MTC test – Year 4
Thursday 4 th June	Reception height and weight, hearing and vision – NHS
Thursday 4 th June	Year 1 and 2 Safari Stu
Monday 8 th – Friday 12 th June	Phonics Screening week
Friday 12 th June	INSET Day
Wednesday 17 th June	Spurs Football coaching Years 1 -6 -weekly
Thursday 25 th June	Year 4 trip to Knebworth
Monday 29 th June -Friday 3 rd July	Sports week
Wednesday 1 st July @3:30-5pm	Open evening
Friday 3 rd July	Sports Day and picnic lunch
Friday 3 rd July	Parent play with OPAL during picnic lunch
Thursday 9 th July	Transition day for Hertfordshire
Friday 10 th July	Reports due home

Academic Highlights

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

Nursery:



In Nursery, we have been reading 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' and watching our very own hungry caterpillars grow. We have been thinking about the different stages of a caterpillar's life and are very excited to observe our caterpillars change each day. In Maths, we have been looking at different lengths and ordering objects from smallest to biggest, thinking about other words we can use to describe the length, such as short and long.

Reception:



Reception have been enjoying the good weather and have been out in the garden as much as possible. We have been building towers and have enjoyed some 'risky' play by stacking the crates and seeing how tall we can make our tower. Don't worry, we all wore a hard hat!

Year 1:



Year 1 had a wonderful end to the Spring term with our *History Off The Page Toys from the Past* workshop. The presenter was excellent, and the children were fully immersed in a day of hands-on historical learning, showing great curiosity and exemplary behaviour throughout.

Our school hall was transformed into a **toy museum**, where the children explored toys from different periods including wooden, metal, paper and ancient toys, automata and dolls.

A big thank you to our **parent helpers** for supporting such an engaging and memorable day.

Year 2:



We had a fantastic time celebrating Science week! We did lots of activities that sparked our natural curiosity and attempted to think of and answer lots of questions through observations, creative activities and experiments. We created our own creatures that would survive in the arctic, found out about how germs are spread through conducting a 'glitter germs' experiment and investigated whether bubbles changed shape depending on the shape of the bubble wand. Our highlight was the Science workshop, we were amazed by being able to actually be inside a bubble!!

Our school hall was transformed into a **toy museum**, where the children explored toys from different periods including wooden, metal, paper and ancient toys, automata and dolls.

Year 3:



Here are Year 3 and 4 performing their Easter production of 'Roll Back The Stone.' On Tuesday afternoon the children did a dress rehearsal to the school then on Tuesday evening they performed at St Johns Church. It was a fantastic time demonstrating all the children's hard work, learning lines, acting and singing. Well done

Year 3 and 4. An amazing event!

Year 4:



We have had a very exciting couple of weeks in Y4 as we approach the Easter break. On 11th March, we welcomed Sparks2 who completed a workshop with the class as part of Science week. We experimented with creating huge bubbles and created a human-electrical circuit! On

17th March, we performed our Easter production at St. John's church in front of friends and family. We hope you enjoyed it, everyone did an incredible job performing so well and we are all very proud!

Year 5:



Year 5 had a wonderful time during Science week. From taking part in a live lesson, learning from the SPARKS workshop, to experimenting with bubbles with Year 2!!!!

Penny: "Science week was interesting – we learnt lots of things. We made human bubbles as well as big and small ones. Making a whole class circle to pass electricity through each other to light a light bulb was great fun!"

Year 5 had a wonderful time during Science week. From taking part in a live lesson, learning from the SPARKS workshop, to experimenting with bubbles with Year 2!!!!

Year 6:



Year 6 have been having the time of their lives this week on our residential trip. We have completed zip lining, aerial adventure, archery, high ropes and lots more! Luckily, the weather has been kind to us and we have been able

to enjoy a little sun too!



Parish News

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

New Bishop of St Albans

Downing Street has announced that the Rt Revd Dr Andrew Rumsey, currently Bishop of Ramsbury in the Diocese of Salisbury, is to be the next Bishop of St Albans. Bishop Andrew returns to the Diocese in which he was born and baptised, describing the appointment as “a homecoming” and saying he is thrilled to be joining a “fine team”.

As a Canon of St Albans, Fr Rob was invited to robe and attend a special Choral Evensong at the Cathedral at 5 pm today to welcome the next Bishop, give thanks for the appointment, and offer prayers for their ministry and for the Diocese.

The official Election of the 11th Bishop of St Albans by the College of Canons will take place in April.

This is a vital role for the College of Canons to perform when a new diocesan bishop arrives, and Fr Rob will join other Canons as they gather in their respective stalls to do this.

Please pray for our new Bishop and his family as they prepare to move to the Diocese later this year.

The Church of England
Parish of Digswell
Welwyn Garden City

Compline/weekly worship available on Soundcloud Channel
Morning Prayer is via Zoom
Please ask us for details 260226

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER 2026: *Through Suffering to Glory*

- Sunday 29 PALM SUNDAY**
Audio Service for This Week [a link is sent](#)
9:20am Blessing of the Palm branches outside of St John's Digswell Parish Stations of the Cross & Parish Eucharist at St John's Church
- Monday 30 MONDAY IN HOLY WEEK**
8:30am Morning Prayer
2:00pm SILENCE at St John's Church ending with Evening Prayer in Church at 5pm
8:30pm Compline For Holy Week with address – [a link is sent](#)
- Tuesday 31 TUESDAY IN HOLY WEEK**
10:00am Eucharist at Christ the King Hub
2:00pm SILENCE at St John's Church ending with Evening Prayer in Church at 5pm
8:30pm Compline For Holy Week with address – [a link is sent](#)
- Weds 1 WEDNESDAY IN HOLY WEEK**
8:30am Morning Prayer
8:30pm Compline For Holy Week with address – [a link is sent](#)
- Thursday 2 MAUNDY THURSDAY**
11:00am Chrism Mass at St Albans Cathedral
7:30pm Maundy Thursday Eucharist at St John's
- Friday 3 GOOD FRIDAY**
8:30am Morning Prayer at Christ the King Hub
12 Noon St John's Church open for prayer and quiet reflection
2pm Holy Hour and Veneration of the Cross of Jesus
Coffee Pot is closed today
- Saturday 4 HOLY SATURDAY**
No services take place on Holy Saturday
1.30pm – 4pm Easter Cream Teas at St John's Church
The Hub Cafe is closed today
- Sunday 5 EASTER SUNDAY**
Audio Service for This Week [a link is sent](#)
9:30am Family Parish Eucharist at St John's Church
- Monday 6 EASTER MONDAY**
10:00am Morning Prayer
- Tuesday 7 TUESDAY OF EASTER WEEK**
10:00am Easter Eucharist at Christ the King Hub
8:30pm Compline – [a link is sent](#)

www.digswellparish.org.uk



The Friends News

Here is some useful information that is happening with the Friends.

<p>The Friends of St John's School, Digswell</p>		Target: £10,000																								
		Total so far: £7466.50																								
<p>Dates for the diary for half termly meetings are:</p> <p>Wednesday 25th March 2025</p> <p>Wednesday 29th April 2025</p> <p>Wednesday 24th June 2025</p>		World Book day																								
		Sport's day																								
		Father's day projects																								
<p>Reps for each class</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Roshni Bharij</th> <th>Nursery</th> <th>Vacancy</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Natalie Burnett</td> <td>Reception</td> <td>Nicola Pattison</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fiona Hetherington</td> <td>Year 1</td> <td>Sarah Box-Hashem</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Claire Dixon</td> <td>Year 2</td> <td>Chantelle Newman</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kelly Butler</td> <td>Year 3</td> <td>Lauren Bowman</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jo Jamieson</td> <td>Year 4</td> <td>Lisa Robson</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lee Pocha</td> <td>Year 5</td> <td>Natalie Burnett</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sarah Dolton</td> <td>Year 6</td> <td>Roshni Bharij</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Roshni Bharij	Nursery	Vacancy	Natalie Burnett	Reception	Nicola Pattison	Fiona Hetherington	Year 1	Sarah Box-Hashem	Claire Dixon	Year 2	Chantelle Newman	Kelly Butler	Year 3	Lauren Bowman	Jo Jamieson	Year 4	Lisa Robson	Lee Pocha	Year 5	Natalie Burnett	Sarah Dolton	Year 6	Roshni Bharij	Mother's day projects
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Christmas bazaar £1966.50																										
<p>These are the cake sale dates</p> <p>Yr 1 - 17/4/26 R - 8/5/26 N - 22/5/26</p>		Fireworks £2200																								
		Anonymous Donations £1000																								
		Tesco Grant £1000																								
		Quiz night £1300																								
		Our future events that we would like to run and will need support are:																								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Christmas Fair - Christmas Cards - Mother's Day project - Father's Day project - Sports Day - Year 6 Show - Odd shoe day 																										



Supporting Boys & Men

Networking Event

ALL Professionals Welcome

An event which is designed to help professionals assist young boys & men with building healthy relationships, discussing domestic abuse, masculinity and much more.



The event will look at services that support boys and men in Hertfordshire (focusing on St Albans and Dacorum) but not limited to this space. This is the first of hopefully many in the future the team will be organising.

DATE: Thursday, 26 March, 10:00am

VENUE:
Grovehill Adventure Playground, Hemel Hempstead
Redbourn Road
Hemel Hempstead
HP2 7BA

Scan the QR code or [book here](#)



Further information or any questions please contact either:
ifst.dacorum&stalbans@hertfordshire.gov.uk or
call 01442 453842



INCREDIBLE YEARS PARENTING PROGRAMME

A program for parents and carers of children aged 4 - 11 years in Welwyn and Hatfield, who are struggling with their child's behaviour at home.

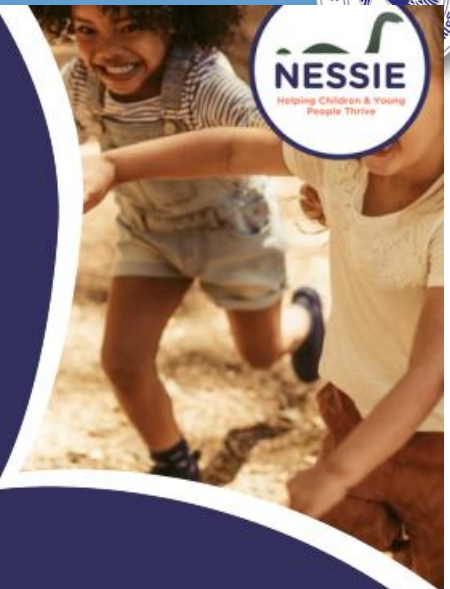
Does your child display anxious, aggressive, argumentative, destructive behaviour and or refusal to follow instructions? Then this course is for you. This supportive program aims to develop parenting strategies tailored to you and your individual family's needs.

"This program is transformational in helping coach, support and gently challenge unhelpful thoughts or behaviours. Could not recommend more for parents of children of any age or background"

8th January - 26th March '26
Every Thursday
10am -12pm
(apart from half term)

Swallow Dell School,
Blackthorn Road, Welwyn
Garden City, AL7 3JP

Scan the QR code to book now!





The Incredible Years - 11 Week Parenting Programme



For dads and male carers of children aged 4-11 in Welwyn and Hatfield whose children display anxious and aggressive behaviour at home.



"I would recommend the Incredible Years to any dads, especially who have neurodivergent children. I am now in touch with dads with children with similar needs"

Swallow Dell School, Blackthorn Road,
Welwyn Garden City
AL7 3JP

Monday's
5:45pm - 7:45pm
13th April 2026 - 13th
July 2026

Scan to book >>



The Incredible Years - 11 Week Parenting Programme



For parents and carers of children aged 4-11 in Welwyn and Hatfield whose children display anxious and aggressive behaviour at home.



'This course is great, and has helped me to change my mindset and work differently with my children'

Applecroft School Applecroft Road,
Welwyn Garden City
AL8 6JZ

Friday's
10am - 12pm
17th April 2026 - 10th
July 2026

Scan to book >>

