

# St John's VA C of E Primary School

## NEWSLETTER



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

22/05/26

### Summer Term 1 Value: Faith

## Welcome message from the Headteacher

### SATs, the Bishop and more sun – most of the time!

Dear all,

It has been another busy two weeks, with the children working incredibly hard. I am so proud of how they approached last week during SATs week.

All classes supported our Year 6 pupils wonderfully by being extra quiet around the school, and Year 5 kindly allowed us to use their classroom as part of the exam arrangements. Collective worships and break times were also adjusted to help create a calm and supportive environment.

Thank you, children, for your hard work, thoughtfulness and cooperation throughout the week. We are very proud of you all.

To Year 6, I am incredibly proud of how hard you have worked, both last week and throughout the year leading up to SATs. Your resilience and determination truly shone through last week, and you should all be very proud of yourselves.

I am especially proud of the way you believed in your own abilities and trusted the support of the school and wider community throughout this journey. No matter the results or the scores, you have shown courage, commitment and maturity every step of the way. Well done, Year 6 — we are all very proud of you.

We have also had a visit from Bishop Jane. She came and took part of our collective worship this week. She wore her mitre, a lovely ring and held a crook. The children were in awe to see her, and it was great to welcome her to our school family.

Just a polite reminder, if you can update your Arbor photo permissions, to let the school know about online use of photography. This allows the school to know if you give permission for Instagram and Facebook. Currently our Youtube account remains closed to only those who receive the link. Please can you ensure this is only sent to family members.

The Parish will be having their summer breakfast on Saturday 4th July between 10am and 1pm at Christ the King Hub. We will be having a raffle and tombola and would be very grateful if you are able to donate a prize.

Please bring tombola items to any church service or cafe and speak to Heather for details as to how to donate a raffle prize.

Today we also had our lockdown procedure, the children were very mature about the process, and this was completed well. We will continue to do this annually as well as our termly fire drills. We continue to aim to work towards Martyn's law that needs to be in place ready for September.

Make sure you all have a great half term, one more busy half term to go with lots to do.

Have a great half term - Mr Worton-Geer

**Pupil quote of the week- Ishaan (Year 4):** The school is a great place to learn, to play and to become smarter in everything we do. We have new equipment including butterfly scooters and a new basketball net which we like to play with.

**Quote from the bible- 1 Corinthians 16:13** – 'Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong.'

## Improvements to the school:

We have had several improvements so far:

- We have a new football table for the school for children to use throughout the day. It is currently in the lobby and will be available for anyone to use
- We have had our surface of the playground redone – there was some areas that I was not happy with and these have now been sorted.
- Our main office work is going to be completed over the Summer holidays to reduce the schools routine.
- We have new lunch time equipment and PE equipment which came from the money raised from the Great Athletics event. We are very grateful to everyone who donated.
- Please note that the back school gate will be locked at 08:50 every morning.





# Highlights

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

<p><b><u>Amazon Wish list</u></b></p> <p>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 <a href="#">here</a>. Throughout the year we will update the wish list.</p>	<p><b><u>Attendance:</u></b> <b><u>Week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> May 2026</u></b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Percent</th> <th>Place</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Nursery</td> <td>100%</td> <td>Joint 1<sup>st</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Year 1</td> <td>98.3%</td> <td>3<sup>rd</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Year 2</td> <td>100%</td> <td>Joint 1<sup>st</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Year 3</td> <td>94%</td> <td>7<sup>th</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Year 4</td> <td>96.8%</td> <td>4<sup>th</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Year 5</td> <td>95.7%</td> <td>6<sup>th</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Year 6</td> <td>99.3%</td> <td>2<sup>nd</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Year R</td> <td>96.5%</td> <td>5<sup>th</sup></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Percent	Place	Nursery	100%	Joint 1 <sup>st</sup>	Year 1	98.3%	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Year 2	100%	Joint 1 <sup>st</sup>	Year 3	94%	7 <sup>th</sup>	Year 4	96.8%	4 <sup>th</sup>	Year 5	95.7%	6 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6	99.3%	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Year R	96.5%	5 <sup>th</sup>
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<p><b><u>Social Media:</u></b></p> <p>We have begun to explore the world of social media in order to help support and promote the school and share with our community including our podcast. Please can you update your photo and video consent for social media – found on Arbor.</p> <p><b>Youtube:</b> <a href="https://youtube.com/shorts/6OBtkSibRWM?feature=share">https://youtube.com/shorts/6OBtkSibRWM?feature=share</a></p> <p><b>Instagram:</b> <a href="https://www.instagram.com/digswellstjohns?igsh=MXB6Nm1qaHc3dHE2eQ%3D%3D&amp;utm_source=qr">https://www.instagram.com/digswellstjohns?igsh=MXB6Nm1qaHc3dHE2eQ%3D%3D&amp;utm_source=qr</a></p>																												

### Transition for next year:

We are working hard at planning our next year's staffing and we hope to share this information within the first two weeks of next half term. Once this has been shared, we will be booking in meetings for some children who are on our SEND register and to help with transitions. Additionally, we have our transition day coming up in July, there will be more information nearer the time. Please keep an eye out on the calendar to see when we are doing special events including celebration evening, sports days and transition day.

### How You Can Help Support OPAL Play



We are always looking to enrich our play provision with loose parts and open-ended materials. If you have any of the following items at home, we would love your donations:

<p> <b>Storage &amp; Building Materials</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plastic crates and trays (e.g. bread trays, milk/bottle crates)</li> <li>Lightweight plastic pallets</li> </ul>	<p> <b>Fabrics &amp; Den-Making Resources</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Duvet covers, bed sheets, curtains</li> <li>Old saris (especially silk – great for outdoor use!)</li> <li>Netting or gauzy materials</li> </ul>	<p> <b>Soft Loose Parts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tarpaulins</li> <li>Sofa cushions</li> <li>Soft suitcases</li> <li>Yoga mats</li> <li>Foam padding</li> <li>Pool noodles</li> </ul>	<p> <b>Sand Play</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Materials to help us create a temporary sand area such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tyres</li> <li>Tarpaulin</li> <li>Netting</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p> <b>Water Play</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Watering cans</li> <li>Pipes, gutters, and trays</li> <li>Items to combine with tyres and planks</li> </ul>	<p> <b>Messy &amp; Creative Play</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brushes, paintbrushes, and whisks</li> <li>Bubble bath or foam</li> <li>Tough trays</li> </ul>	<p> <b>Bubble Play</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bubble machines</li> <li>Bubble hoops and rings</li> </ul>	<p> <b>Construction Play</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lego, Duplo, or similar building toys for use in small, defined areas</li> </ul>

## Child Prayer:

Dear God, Thank you for the schools, our homes and everything that we have. Thank you for helping us to learn and to become better people.

Amen (Year 4 - Viola)



## Calendar

Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> May – Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> May	May half term
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June	First day back
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> -Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> June	MTC test – Year 4
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 6 Forest School
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	Reception height and weight, hearing and vision – NHS
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 1 and 2 Safari Stu
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> June	Phonics Screening week
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> June	INSET Day
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> June	Spurs Football coaching Years 1 -6 -weekly
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 5 Forest School
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> -Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> June	Assessment Week
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 4 trip to Knebworth
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> June -Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Sports week
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> July @3:30-5pm	Open evening
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Sports Day and picnic lunch
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Parent play with OPAL during picnic lunch
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 3 and 4 Forest School
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> July	Transition day for Hertfordshire
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> July	Reports due home
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> July	Rocksteady Concert – 9am
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 2 Forest School
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 Leavers Party
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	Leavers Service and Celebration at St John's Church 8:50am

### Sports Day Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2026:

Sports day is going to be a busy day with lots planned – I am looking forward to it. Children will be asked to wear house group colours and will sit in their house groups (apart from Nursery) on the day. They will be cheering their house groups together for extra house points! Races will begin around 9:15am with the aim to be finished around 11:30am. Each child will take part in each race if they wish. Events include egg and spoon, obstacle course, sack race, running and relays. At the end of the event, children will be asked to go back to class at around 11:30am to prepare for our picnic lunch. If parents are unable to stay for the picnic lunch, they can decide either to take their children home at 12pm when they will come back out or stay with our MDAs and teaching staff. After the picnic at around 1pm if parents would like to collect their children for the afternoon, they are welcome to while the school continues to be open until 2:10pm as normal. This year, we will also be sharing where we are with OPAL and how the children play with the equipment across the whole site. We encourage you to join in with this event – please bring your wellies if it is looking wet!

# Academic Highlights

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

## Nursery:



Last week in Maths, the children measured each other's height and explored who was the tallest and shortest. They then used cubes to compare heights in a practical way, building towers to represent how tall or short they were. This week, the children continued learning about measurement by focusing on length.

They created towers and compared them using the vocabulary long, medium and short

## Year 1:



Year 1 have had a wonderfully busy few weeks and recently combined both science and art as we explored, sketched and - most importantly according to the children - taste-tested a wonderful selection of fruit kindly donated by parents, so a huge thank you for your generosity! It has been a joy to see the children beginning to write at greater length during Drawing Club sessions, whilst also developing their own individual writing styles and creative flair.

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## Year 3:



In Year 3 we had circle time during our PHSE lesson. Our lesson was all about keeping safe online. We shared with each other what we enjoy doing when we are online.

## Year 5:



Year 5 had a great PE lesson playing Dodgeball against the Year 6's!! It was competitive...but good fun!!!

## Reception:



In Reception, we have been thinking about how we are a tiny part of a big and beautiful world. We thought about what we could see and hear when we were outside, used magnifying glasses to observe nature closer and

mirrors to look up to the sky. We have also been thinking about techniques that we can use if we are feeling angry, such as stomping our feet, doing exercise, or using our 5 finger breathing.

## Year 2:

In DT, the children in Year 2 have been busy exploring clay. We have learnt to roll, mould/ sculpt, smooth and decorate. Using the techniques we have learnt, we create 'thumb pots'. We made clay slip to attach different parts to our pots. This week we painted them. Here are our masterpieces!



## Year 4:



Year 4 have continued to work very hard over the last couple of weeks. We've started a new book in English, 'Riddle of the Runes' by Janina Ramirez, and also concluded our Geography learning about the continent of Europe. A special well done to the children who took part in the Tri-Golf at Brocket Hall on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May - we finished 2<sup>nd</sup> out of 11 schools!

## Year 6:



Year 6 worked incredibly hard through their SATs week, we are so proud. On Thursday morning, the children competed in a dodgeball tournament where they showed fantastic

sportsmanship and some great skills! Well done children.

# Parish News

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

**Tracy and Lucy** were sworn in as Digswell Parish churchwardens by the Archdeacon of Hertford last night at St Catherine's Church, Hoddesdon.

In a lovely gesture, **Michael Barron** - who has faithfully served in the office over the past decade - was also present to wish Lucy every success in her new role and to support his colleague Tracy. Michael will continue to serve alongside Heather Yuill as churchwarden emeritus.

A **churchwarden** is a senior lay officer in the Church of England who helps oversee the practical life and administration of a parish church. Churchwardens are usually elected annually by parishioners and work closely with the parish priest.



## SUMMER BREAKFAST Saturday 4th July 10 - 1, Christ the King Hub

We will be having a raffle and tombola and would be very grateful if you are able to donate a prize. Please bring tombola items to any church service or cafe and speak to Heather for details as to how to donate a raffle



*Bishop Jane of Hertford has been visiting the parish today She started the day at St John's school and then visited some of the other schools in the parish to see the range of work we are doing. Pictured below is Nick Johnson - Chair of Governors, Arnie Worton-Geer - Headteacher, Bishop Jane and Mrs Rachel De La Croix - Deputy Headteacher. Thank you to all our schools for their warm welcome,*

## Midweek Eucharist

Need a bit of peace and quiet - some time for reflection.

**Every Tuesday** at 10am at Christ the King Hub there is a short Eucharist followed by refreshments to which everyone is welcome.



# FEAST OF PENTECOST

SUNDAY 25 MAY 2026  
9.30AM

ST JOHN'S CHURCH, DIGSWELL

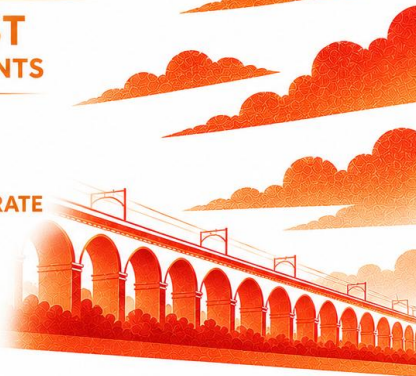
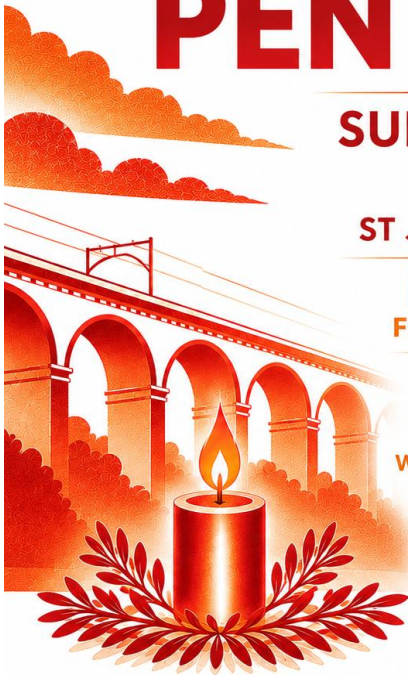
FAMILY EUCHARIST  
FOLLOWED BY REFRESHMENTS

BE BATHED IN  
THE SPIRIT!

WEAR SOMETHING RED TO CELEBRATE  
THE SPIRIT AMONGST US  
WHO SETS US FREE!

ALL WELCOME

[www.digswellparish.org.uk](http://www.digswellparish.org.uk)  
[info@digswellparish.org.uk](mailto:info@digswellparish.org.uk)



## Tonight's Compline NEW

<https://soundcloud.com/user-844410332/compline-tues-19-may-26-m4a>

Compline tonight is led by The Revd Selina Evans

Sunday's All Age worship seemed to go really well.  
It was lovely to see some of our younger and "teen" members present.  
The next one is on **Sunday 14 June** - save the date,

Thank you to Fr Mike for celebrating **the Eucharist at Christ the King** today.  
And to those who prepared the refreshments.

Do refer to Saturday's **At Your Service** for all the up to date news this week.

Prayers for our churchwardens **Tracy and Lucy** as they are commissioned tomorrow evening by the  
Archdeacon.

## Listen Again

This week's Audio Service

<https://soundcloud.com/user-844410332/audio-service-17-may-26-m4a>

Compline for every night in Eastertide during May

<https://soundcloud.com/user-844410332/gen-compline-may-26-m4a>

Have a good evening. It's going to become a bit warmer for the Bank Holiday  
The Ministry Team

# 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 24<sup>th</sup> June 2025</p>		World Book day																								
		Sport's day																								
<p>Reps for each class</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Roshni Bharij</td> <td>Nursery</td> <td>Vacancy</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Natalie Burnett</td> <td>Reception</td> <td>Nicola Pattison</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fiona Hetherington</td> <td>Year 1</td> <td>Sara 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> </table>		Roshni Bharij	Nursery	Vacancy	Natalie Burnett	Reception	Nicola Pattison	Fiona Hetherington	Year 1	Sara 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	Father's day projects
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<p>We have updated our webpage on the school website.</p> <p>Please come and visit to see how we have spent the money so far:</p> <p><a href="https://www.digswell.herts.sch.uk/the-friends-association">https://www.digswell.herts.sch.uk/the-friends-association</a></p>		Mother's day projects																								
		Christmas bizarre £1966.50																								
<p>Our future events that we would like to run and will need support are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Christmas Fair</li> <li>- Christmas Cards</li> <li>- Mother's Day project</li> <li>- Father's Day project</li> <li>- Sports Day</li> <li>- Year 6 Show</li> <li>- Odd shoe day</li> </ul>		Fireworks £2200																								
		Anonymous Donations £1000																								
<p>Tesco Grant £1000</p> <p>Quiz night £1300</p>		Quiz night £1300																								

We are excited to present SENDsational Mornings at Tring, Hertfordshire.

Our SENDsational mornings offer children with neurodiverse conditions, including autism and other sensory processing difficulties, the chance to take part in activities and enjoy our galleries with their families and siblings away from the hustle and bustle of the general public.

This event is best for children aged five to 15 and siblings are welcome.

### What can you expect from the experience?

- Visitors have access to a few activities including specimen handling, crafting and a gallery trail.
- All activities are supported by experienced, autism-aware facilitators.
- A sensory space will be available for those children needing a quieter and calmer space.
- All of the galleries, outdoor spaces and the shop will be accessible throughout the event.
- Each event has a different theme. In February it's Deserts, in May it's rainforests, in August it's Oceans and in November it's Autumn.

Walk-ups are not possible - you must have a ticket. Adult tickets are limited to three per group.

We will email more information about your visit a week in advance, to help you prepare for your visit. On the day you will be given a programme and map to let you know what you can do.

The Museum in South Kensington has been successfully running a similar event called [Dawnosaurus](#) for the past four years.

[https://www.nhm.ac.uk/events/sendsational-mornings-at-tring.html?dm\\_i=5ESZ,1ELUT,6NSP8R,5SSK6,1,0,0,0](https://www.nhm.ac.uk/events/sendsational-mornings-at-tring.html?dm_i=5ESZ,1ELUT,6NSP8R,5SSK6,1,0,0,0)



8<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Dear Parents, teachers and children of our parish schools

### Welwyn Street Parade – Saturday 27 June 2026

Welwyn Festival 2026 is warmly inviting your school to join in our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration Family Fund Day! The theme this year is **'GOLDEN'**

Get your group together, put on your thinking caps and come together in the spectacular parade. This is your chance to win the coveted individual best dressed trophy and fabulous GOLD CUP for your school.

As usual, everyone needs to be lining up in their amazing costumes at **12.45pm on Saturday 27 June**, in the car park of the civic centre.

If there are parents that would be able to volunteer to help with the road closure that would be fantastic as we are always short of volunteers for this. Please email the address below to offer your help if you can.

See overleaf for parade guidelines. Please do not hesitate to contact the team with any questions, [committee@welwynfestival.org](mailto:committee@welwynfestival.org)

Looking forward to seeing you on Saturday 27 June 2026.

Best Wishes

The Welwyn Festival Team

## Sporting Highlights

Pupils in Years 5 and 6 recently took part in an exciting swimming gala at Monks Walk School, competing against 10 other local schools. Every swimmer represented the school brilliantly, taking part in an individual race, a relay event, and the final whole-team squadron race. They finished in 1st place overall. Congratulations to all involved on a fantastic achievement.



A group of Year 4 and 5 pupils attended the District Tri Golf event at Brocket Hall on Monday 18<sup>th</sup>. They were competing against 11 other schools and came a fantastic 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Well done everyone!

