

St John's VA C of E Primary School

NEWSLETTER

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



26/06/26

Summer Term 2

Value: Goodness

Welcome message from the Headteacher

Lots going on at St John's!

The past two weeks have been incredibly busy. The school have been very busy with many visitors, assessments and projects around the school. I want to say a huge thank you to everyone for working incredibly hard, to my staff, pupils and parents you have done an incredible job. We have had our EYFS AIR visit with some great feedback.

We have had our Writing moderated for Year 6, Phonics screening, Multiplication Timestables check in Year 4, reports been written for nearly all classes and transition meetings have already begun to prepare for the next academic year. Our staff have shown true resilience whilst the weather has begun to improve. I am very proud of our children and how hard they have worked during this busy period. I also want to say thank you for the cards and pictures that were given to our staff last Wednesday. This was great to see, and we all were very lucky to receive these.

There is a lot coming up in the next few weeks. We have Sports week which we are really looking forward to, transition day where we will spend the day with our new class teachers, the Summer Fair that the staff of the school are eagerly working on to help raise money for the school. Please see emails regarding these separately.

We have begun to slowly clear the front office and my office in preparation for the work going ahead for our new offices in the summer holidays. This will help the school run more smoothly as well as making access to the school easier. There will be change at the front of the school with the bike shed moving as well as new paths created. We are excited to see this after the Summer.

The weather has been incredibly hot this week, but I want to say a huge thank you to everyone for showing resilience in this heat. Children have adapted well, and we thank you for supporting the school during this warmer period.

As we get to over halfway of this half term, I want us to all reflect on how busy it has been. Not only has it been busy for the children but in today's society very busy. I always use this half term (whilst it is the busiest) to really reflect on what is going well and what next steps we need to put in place both for the school but for myself personally.

Let's hope the next two weeks are a little cooler!
Have a great weekend- Mr Worton-Geer

Pupil quote of the week - Sopha H (Year 4): We are having a really nice time at school, and it is really joyful. I like that the school is very inclusive, and everyone can take part in activities at school.

Quote from the bible- Psalm 34:8: "Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him."

Improvements to the school:

We have had several improvements so far:

- A new blind for the staffroom
- Thames Water as cleared the blockage causing the leak
- OPAL equipment – thank you to everyone who has donated
- We have got 8 new fans – one per class. We have also adapted our lunch times and learning times to use cooler areas outside e.g. the forest areas
- We are reviewing the layout of the classrooms in EYFS.
- The offices (including mine) are slowly being sorted and emptied ready for the Summer project.

Highlights

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

On Thursday, 18th June, we were delighted to welcome pupils and teachers from Knightsfield school to speak to the whole school about deaf awareness.

During the assembly, our visitors shared valuable insights into their day-to-day lives and experiences of being deaf, helping pupils and staff gain a better understanding of the experiences of deaf people. Their engaging presentation encouraged awareness, empathy, and inclusion throughout our school community.

The assembly was greatly appreciated by everyone and provided a wonderful opportunity to learn more about deaf awareness. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to our visitors for taking the time to share their knowledge and experiences with us.



Attendance: Week commencing 15/06/2026

Year	Percent	Place
Nursery	99.2%	1 st
Year 1	96.7%	4 th
Year 2	97.2%	3 rd
Year 3	95.8%	6 th
Year 4	95.3%	7 th
Year 5	95.2%	8 th
Year 6	96.5%	5 th
Year R	97.3%	2 nd

Open evening:

We are looking forward to welcoming you into school on Wednesday 1st July 2026 at 3:30pm, to celebrate the children's learning and the journey we have been on together this year. Open Evening is a wonderful opportunity for families to visit classrooms, meet your child's current teacher, and meet the staff who will be working with them next year.

During the event, each classroom will be open for you to explore. Teachers will be sharing a slideshow of photographs capturing key moments and activities from the past year, and children's books will be available for you to look through. You will also see examples of Art and DT projects, along with up-to-date displays showcasing current learning.

In addition, each year group from Reception to Year 6 will be performing a short song, rhyme, dance or Spanish piece in the hall. These performances are designed to be informal, joyful moments for the children to share something they have enjoyed learning this year.

Hall performance times are as follows:

- 3:40pm – Reception
- 3:50pm – Year 1
- 4:00pm – Year 2
- 4:10pm – Year 3
- 4:20pm – Year 4
- 4:30pm – Year 5
- 4:40pm – Year 6

Child Prayer:

Dear God,

I pray for St John's school to continue to be safe during this heat wave. Please keep our friends cool and hydrated while it is really hot. Amen (Deseree – Year 6)

Calendar

Monday 29th June -Friday 3rd July

Sports week

Wednesday 1st July @3:30-5pm

Open evening

Friday 3rd July

Sports Day and picnic lunch

Friday 3rd July

Parent play with OPAL during picnic lunch

Friday 10th July

Year 3 and 4 Forest School

Thursday 9th July

Transition day for Hertfordshire

Friday 10th July

Reports due home

Tuesday 14th July

Rocksteady Concert – 9am

Friday 17th July

Year 2 Forest School

Friday 17th July

Year 6 Leavers Party

Wednesday 22nd July

Leavers Service and Celebration at St John's Church 8:50am

Tuesday 1st – Wednesday 2nd September

INSET Day's

Thursday 3rd September

First day back for Years 1-6

Sports Day Friday 3rd 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. Children will sit in their house groups (apart from Nursery). 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 be also sharing where we are with OPAL and how 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

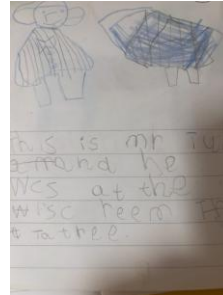
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Nursery:



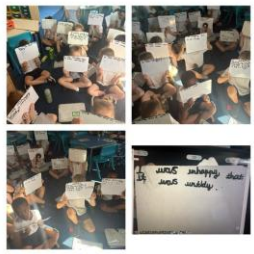
This week, the children have been thinking about their move to Reception. They listened to the story *First Day at Bug School* and discussed starting school and new experiences. They have also been developing their gross motor skills by practising writing and chalking their names outside.

Reception:



In Reception, we have been revisiting Miss Gee's childhood and looking at 'Button Moon' in Drawing Club. We watched the episode where they see Mr Tub and his ice cream factory. We drew Mr Tub and wrote some fantastic sentences to go with our pictures. We have also been doing our best to keep cool, having lots of water play in the shade and taking our construction and small world toys to use in our beautiful garden.

Year 1:



Despite the soaring temperatures, Year 1 have shown fantastic resilience and have continued to work incredibly hard – I'm so proud of them all! We had a brilliant time taking part in a rainbow treasure hunt in the woods as part of our Outdoor Adventure Activities in PE, where the children demonstrated excellent teamwork and problem-solving skills. We've also

begun joining our letters in handwriting and I've been so impressed with how enthusiastically the children have embraced the challenge.

Year 2:



In RE this week, the children have been learning about the Jewish festival of Sukkot. We even made our own Sukkah!

Year 3:



In our Year 3 PHSE lessons we have been learning about what a baby needs to live and grow. Here are some of our pictures of babies with labels showing what they need. We had some interesting conversations all about this.

Year 4:



It's been an extremely hot week in Year 4! As you can see, we wasted no time decorating the classroom to celebrate the beginning of the World Cup. Results for the MTC are now out, well done to the entire class who have worked so hard over the year to learn their times tables!

Year 5:



Year 5 had great fun during Forest School last week. They continued practising their flint skills to light a fire and then cooked and ate bananas and chocolate! Their adventures culminated with a game of hide and seek in the woods and climbing trees! They also learned how to whittle!

Year 6:



Year 6 have been working really hard on storytelling using bible stories, they have also been thinking about how it may have felt to have been part of a story using diary entries. The children have been doing amazing!

Parish News

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

Summer in Digswell Parish.

June

Synod.

Fri 26: Summer Digswell Digest is published.

Sat 27: 7.30pm Welwyn Garden City Music Society Summer Concert at St John's..

Purchase tickets via website

Mon 29: 12:30pm St John's School Governors Strategy Day at School.

8pm Standing Committee at the Rectory,

July

Thu 2: 7:30pm Parochial Church Council Meeting at the Rectory.

Sat 4: 9:15am A Moment of Healing

10am Parish Summer Breakfast at Christ the King Hub. Prizes are needed for the raffle and tombola.

Donations:

If you wish to contribute to a donation, please see the new link:

<https://givealittle.co/c/ba0580ac-0010-48cd-be88-35d9d2fdcd98>

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 prize.



Digswell Parish Cafes

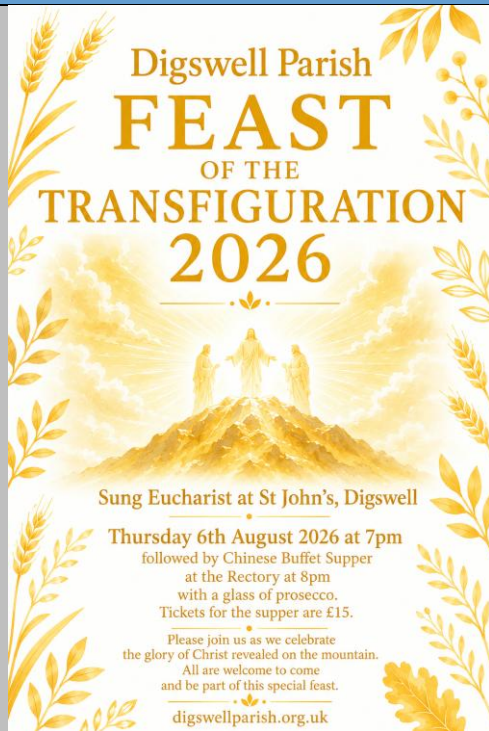
Coffee Pot at
St John's, Monks Rise
Open Every Friday
9:00am -12 Noon

The Hub Cafe
Christ the King Hub, Haldens
Open Every Saturday
10:00am-1:00pm

- Fresh Coffee
- Teas
- Toasted treats
- Bacon Sandwiches
- Weekly Specials

For more details
email info@digswellparish.org.uk
Tel: 07775 882011

Digswell Parish FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION 2026



Sung Eucharist at St John's, Digswell

Thursday 6th August 2026 at 7pm
followed by Chinese Buffet Supper
at the Rectory at 8pm
with a glass of prosecco.
Tickets for the supper are £15.

Please join us as we celebrate
the glory of Christ revealed on the mountain.
All are welcome to come
and be part of this special feast.

digswellparish.org.uk

DIGSWELL PARISH SUMMER BREAKFAST



SATURDAY 4 JULY
10AM-1PM
CHRIST THE KING HUB HALDENS

WITH BREAKFAST

**COLLEEN'S
TOMBOLA
EXTRAVAGANZA**

**FR ROB'S
CRAZY BINGO
(12 NOON)**

**GRAND RAFFLE
DRAW AT 12.45PM**

AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!

ADMISSION £1. CHILDREN FREE
www.digswellparish.org.uk
DO JOIN US

SAVE THE DATE PATRONAL FESTIVALS 2026



ST JOHN'S

SUN 13 SEP 10.30AM

SPEAKER.
MR ARNIE WORTON GEER
HEADTEACHER OF ST JOHN'S SCHOOL

FOLLOWED BY BBQ.
(JOINTLY WITH DIGSWELL
VILLAGE CHURCH.)

CHRIST THE KING HUB

SUN 22 NOV 10.30AM

PREACHER.
BISHOP ROB GILLION
FOLLOWED BY BRUNCH.

www.digswellparish.org.uk

TAPAS & PROVENCE



AN EVENING OF FINE ROSÉ WINE
& ROGER'S HOME MADE TAPAS

WEDS 22 JULY
7PM-9PM

THE RECTORY, KNIGHTSFIELD
AL8 7NG
WELWYN GARDEN CITY

TICKET £15
INCLUDES TWO
GLASSES OF WINE

PROCEEDS IN AID OF
OUR WORK WITH
OUR SCHOOLS

PLEASE PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS BEFORE JULY 1ST

www.digswellparish.org.uk

The Friends News

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

 The Friends of St John's School, Digswell		Target: £10,000																											
		Total so far: £7466.50																											
		World Book day																											
		Sport's day																											
		Father's day projects																											
		Mother's day projects																											
		Christmas bazaar £1966.50																											
		Fireworks £2200																											
		Anonymous Donations £1000																											
		Tesco Grant £1000																											
		Quiz night £1300																											
Dates for the diary for half termly meetings are:	<table><tr><th colspan="3">Reps for each class</th></tr><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>	Reps for each class			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	
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We have updated our webpage on the school website.	Our future events that we would like to run and will need support are:																												
Please come and visit to see how we have spent the money so far:	- Christmas Fair - Christmas Cards - Mother's Day project - Father's Day project - Sports Day - Year 6 Show - Odd shoe day																												
https://www.digswell.herts.sch.uk/the-friends-association																													

