

# St John's VA C of E Primary School

## NEWSLETTER

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



10/07/26

### Summer Term 2 Value: Goodness

#### Welcome message from the Headteacher

##### Another great year at St John's!

This summer has been hot, busy and full of activities. As a school it is the busiest time of the year with so many activities taking place. We firstly want to say thank you to our parents and families for putting up with our range of events and emails. Whilst we are working hard at reducing the number of emails going out, it is sometimes very difficult when decisions have to be made and communication shared in a short period of time. We will continue to work on this. Additionally, we want to say thank you to being so adaptable over the past few weeks with the weather and sporting events across the school.

Sports day was a great success, with a great week of events. Thank you to Mr Draper for organising and running this event. It is not an easy thing to do but Mr Draper has allowed our children to have an incredible week. The sports day ran very smoothly, and the picnic lunch is always a highlight. I am glad to see so many families coming together and having a great time.

We have had transition day this week and our new teachers have been in and around the school. Not only have we been able to have transition meetings early but getting our new staff to come in several times has allowed children to see familiar faces. It is always a busy time to come to the end of one academic year and start another. We have decided that books will continue up throughout the school and only books that have been completed will be sent home. As we are expecting OFSTED next year, we will be holding some of these books as evidence for next year's inspection to help show progress over time.

We have also been working on end of term events including the leavers service and celebration. Year 6 have been incredibly busy with a mixture of leavers service practice – very secret – and the end of year show. Their resilience is shining through as they continue to push hard with their work. Additionally, we have had some fantastic results in the school grading. 90% of Year 1 passed their phonics, 80% of Reception children met their ELGs and over 55% of Year 4 got 25 out of 25 in their multiplication times table test. Unfortunately, the DFE are postponing KS2 results another week meaning we will not find out until next week. I know Year 6 and I are eager to find these out.

Finally, I wanted to say a thank you to my staff, governors, the Friends and to all families who have helped me this year. Without this great community we wouldn't have been able to achieve half the things we have.

Have a great end of term - Mr Worton-Geer

**Pupil quote of the week- Jarrod (Year 5):** At school I really enjoy it and I like that we have a football table. I like spending time outside with my friends.

**Quote from the bible- Romans 12:21:** "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

#### Improvements to the school:

We have had several improvements so far:

- The friends have raised £1100 from the sponsored bounce – this is an incredible amount of money! Thank you everyone for the support and help here.
- We have begun developing EYFS ready for September 2026 and making preparations for our new EYFS lead and team.
- We are recruiting a new member of staff for EYFS, we are excited to see our staff family grow.
- The builders have been in to review the work for the summer, my office has slowly been cleared out ready for the big move!
- The summer fête looks like it is going to be a great hit!
- We are developing an anti-racism charter that the governors and I are finalising. Additionally, our multicultural art project will be up shortly.

#### Our amazing new mural outside of the Year 5 Classroom!



# 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.

### Social Media:

We have begun to explore the world of social media in order to help support 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.

**Youtube:** <https://youtube.com/shorts/6OBtkSibRWM?feature=share>

**Instagram:**  
[https://www.instagram.com/digswellstjohns?igsh=MXB6Nm1qaHc3dHE2eQ%3D%3D&utm\\_source=qr](https://www.instagram.com/digswellstjohns?igsh=MXB6Nm1qaHc3dHE2eQ%3D%3D&utm_source=qr)

### Attendance:

#### Week commencing 29<sup>th</sup> March 2026

| Year    | Percent | Place           |
|---------|---------|-----------------|
| Nursery | 96.3%   | 6 <sup>th</sup> |
| Year 1  | 96.7%   | 5 <sup>th</sup> |
| Year 2  | 98%     | 3 <sup>rd</sup> |
| Year 3  | 91%     | 8 <sup>th</sup> |
| Year 4  | 95%     | 7 <sup>th</sup> |
| Year 5  | 98.3%   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> |
| Year 6  | 99.3%   | 1 <sup>st</sup> |
| Year R  | 97%     | 4 <sup>th</sup> |

## Sports day report

Sports day report: On sports day, we did quite a few races: sprint, egg and spoon, sack race and obstacle course. The contests were very close and there were races where some people tied. Everyone did really well in their races, and we thank everyone in Year 6 and 5 who helped with sorting out the equipment in between each race. Before sports day, all years did some preparation on the field sorting out their groups and practising each race. It was worth it because everyone did amazing. After all of the children had finished, the parents had a go at racing. They only did a sprint but had a lot of fun. Once everybody had finished their races, we had a lovely picnic outside on the field with our parents to finish of a fun day. The house winner of sports day was Cubitt, then Becket, Mimram and lastly, Bessemer. Everyone tried really hard and it was super close. Well done to everyone who competed.



## Child Prayer:

*Dear God, Thank you for a really nice term and allowing me to learn lots in my school. Thank you for always looking out for me and protecting me.*  
*Amen (Year 5 - Ruby )*



## Calendar

|                                                               |                                                            |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| 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 |
| Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> – Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September | INSET Day's                                                |
| Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September                            | First day back for Years 1-6                               |
| Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> Septmeber                            | Home visits for Nursery and Reception                      |
| Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> Septmeber                              | Year 6 Forest school                                       |
| Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> September                              | Home visits Nursery and Reception                          |
| Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> September                              | Home visits Nursery and Reception                          |
| Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> September                              | Year 6 Job Interviews                                      |
| Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> September                              | Year 6 Meet the teacher (3pm) in the hall                  |
| Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> September                             | Year 5 Meet the teacher (3pm) in the hall                  |
| Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> September                             | Nursery and Reception first whole day                      |
| Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> September                           | Year 4 Meet the teacher (3pm) in the hall                  |
| Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> September                           | Year 3 Meet the teacher (3pm) in the hall                  |
| Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> September                             | Year 2 Meet the teacher (1:30pm) in the hall               |
| Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> September                             | Eucharist service (8:50am)                                 |
| Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> September                             | Year 5 Forest School                                       |
| Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> September                          | Year 1 Phonics Workshop – 8:50am – school hall             |
| Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> September                          | Year 1 Phonics Workshop – 14:50pm – school hall            |
| Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> September                           | Year 3 TTrockstars launch – 8:50am – school hall           |
| Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> September                           | Year 3 TTrockstars launch – 15:00pm – school hall          |
| Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> September                           | Reception/ Nursery parent tour – 14:00pm                   |
| Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> September                           | Reception/ Nursery parent tour – 10:00am                   |
| Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> September                             | Reception/nursery Numbots workshop – 8:50am – school hall  |
| Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> September                             | Reception/nursery Numbots workshop – 15:00pm – school hall |

# Academic Highlights

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

## Nursery:



Last week, for Sports Day, the children focused on the country of Brazil. They enjoyed learning interesting facts about famous landmarks such as Copacabana Beach and the Amazon Rainforest. As part of their activities, the children had fun creating

Brazilian flags and colourful carnival masks.

They also thoroughly enjoyed taking part in Sports Day events, including an obstacle course, the egg and spoon race, and the sprint race, making for a fantastic end to Sports Week.

## Reception:



Well done for all of our Reception children for taking part in Sports Day and our sports week activities. We particularly loved the sponsored bounce, and competing to see who could bounce the most. This week, we used our abundance of tomatoes left over from snack to make some delicious tomato soup together.

## Year 1:



Year 1 have had a fantastic and very busy couple of weeks! Last week, the children loved all the Sports Week activities, including the Friends of St John's sponsored bounce and sessions supported by teachers from Monks Walk School. Our Opening Ceremony focused on Somalia and we were incredibly

lucky to welcome Jabari's family for a wonderful day of interactive learning about Somali culture, traditions, food and music. The week ended with a brilliant Sports Day, where the children showed fantastic resilience and sportsmanship, followed by a lovely, family picnic.

This week, Miss Chloe Coldeman came in to meet the children and spent a fun Transition Day with them on Thursday.

## Year 2:



The highlight of the week was Transition Day, which was an exciting opportunity for the children to spend time in their new classroom with their new adults and begin preparing for the year ahead. In English, the children wrote their reflections

of their time in Year 2, sharing their favourite memories and what they are most looking forward to in Year 3. They also created self-portraits for their new lockers, which they were especially excited about!

## Year 3:



Year 3 really enjoyed Sports week. On activity day we took part in Axe throwing, Archery, Penalty Shoot Out, Dodgeball, Tri-golf, Curling. Here we are enjoying Dodgeball!

## Year 4:



It's been a very busy time in Year 4 as we head towards the end of the academic year. Firstly, we want to a huge well done to all who participated in Sports Week and Sports Day, it was great to see everyone competing in races and giving their best effort! We have also been looking at balanced diets as part of our D&T learning, where we rustled up our own salad! Pupils practiced cutting vegetables putting together their mini-salad portions and eating them!

## Year 5:



Year 5 had a wonderful taster day at Monks Walk School. They investigated a murder in Science, learnt some Spanish, showed their talent on various musical instruments and played netball and pickle ball!!!

## Year 6:



Year 6 have been hard at work practicing for their Year 6 Leavers show. We can't wait to share with families what they've been working on. It's been so great for them to grow more in confidence each day!

# 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>



## 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](mailto:info@digswellparish.org.uk)  
Tel: 07775 882011



## Digswell Parish FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION 2026

Sung Eucharist at St John's, Digswell

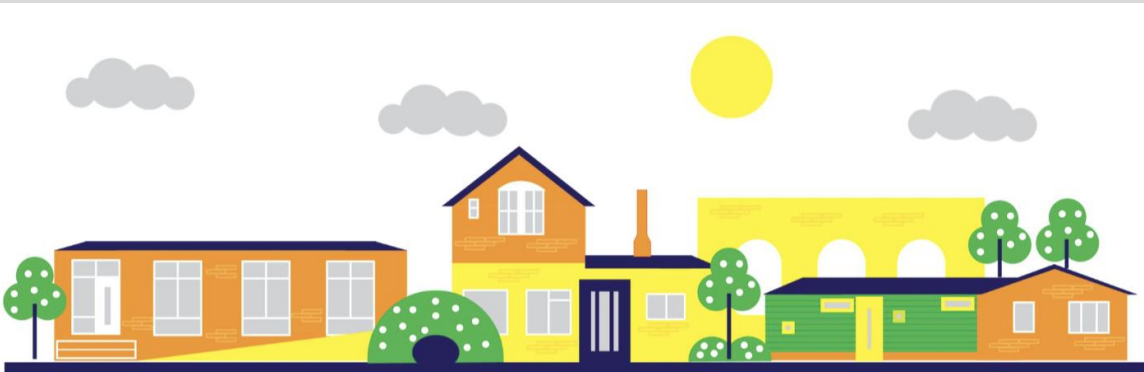
**Thursday 6th August 2026 at 7pm**  
followed by Chinese Buffet Supper  
at the Rectory at 8pm  
with a glass of prosecco.  
Tickets for the supper are £15.

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](http://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: £8566.50     |  |  |               |         |         |                 |           |                 |                    |        |                 |              |        |                  |              |        |               |             |        |             |           |        |                 |              |        |               |                                |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | World Book day             |  |  |               |         |         |                 |           |                 |                    |        |                 |              |        |                  |              |        |               |             |        |             |           |        |                 |              |        |               |                                |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Sport's day                |  |  |               |         |         |                 |           |                 |                    |        |                 |              |        |                  |              |        |               |             |        |             |           |        |                 |              |        |               |                                |
| <p>Dates for the diary for half termly meetings are:</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <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 | Sponsored Bounce event - £1100 |
| 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              |  |  |               |         |         |                 |           |                 |                    |        |                 |              |        |                  |              |        |               |             |        |             |           |        |                 |              |        |               |                                |
| <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> | <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>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Christmas bizarre £1966.50 |  |  |               |         |         |                 |           |                 |                    |        |                 |              |        |                  |              |        |               |             |        |             |           |        |                 |              |        |               |                                |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Fireworks £2200            |  |  |               |         |         |                 |           |                 |                    |        |                 |              |        |                  |              |        |               |             |        |             |           |        |                 |              |        |               |                                |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Anonymous Donations £1000  |  |  |               |         |         |                 |           |                 |                    |        |                 |              |        |                  |              |        |               |             |        |             |           |        |                 |              |        |               |                                |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Tesco Grant £1000          |  |  |               |         |         |                 |           |                 |                    |        |                 |              |        |                  |              |        |               |             |        |             |           |        |                 |              |        |               |                                |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Quiz night £1300           |  |  |               |         |         |                 |           |                 |                    |        |                 |              |        |                  |              |        |               |             |        |             |           |        |                 |              |        |               |                                |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                            |  |  |               |         |         |                 |           |                 |                    |        |                 |              |        |                  |              |        |               |             |        |             |           |        |                 |              |        |               |                                |

**Beezee**  
in Hertfordshire



## Step up to Secondary

Our free Step up to Secondary programme\* helps Hertfordshire Year 6 children build healthy habits, grow in confidence, and make independent choices.



Interactive weekly  
live sessions  
(online or in  
person)



Fun activities led  
by experienced  
health coaches and  
nutritionists



Simple progress  
tracker



Family  
challenges

## Weekly topics

- Week 1** New school, new choices
- Week 2** Building healthy habits
- Week 3** Healthier drinks and snacks
- Week 4** Staying active every day
- Week 5** Making better food choices outside school gates
- Week 6** Celebrating progress and preparing for transition



## When and where

You can choose the best 6-week\*\* option for you:



Mondays,  
from 27 July 2026  
(online webinars):  
6:30–7:30pm



Tuesdays,  
from 28 July 2026  
(online webinars):  
6:30–7:30pm



Tuesdays,  
from 28 July 2026  
(in person):  
5:00–6:30pm,  
at Breaks  
Manor Youth &  
Community Centre,  
Hatfield, AL10 8TP



Wednesdays,  
from 29 July 2026  
(online webinars):  
5:30–6:30pm

Join for **FREE** today



[hrt.maximusuk.co.uk](http://hrt.maximusuk.co.uk)



01707 248648



Hertfordshire

\*Our group programmes are for children above their ideal weight. \*\*You need to attend a minimum of four weekly sessions. See our website for more information.

26-6155