

St John's VA C of E Primary School

NEWSLETTER

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



11/09/26

Autumn Term 1

Value: Love

Welcome message from the Headteacher

Welcome back to St John's!

What a busy two weeks it has been at school! Not only have the children settled in so well, but the staff have also done an incredible job preparing the children for a new academic year. I am very proud of our school and the community that we have created. Not only do I feel that we are going to reach new goals, but we are also going to be able to develop our school further.

The new office systems are working well, and we thank all staff and parents for being patient with the changes. Additionally, the school grounds are improving each day and we thank our builders and site management for ensuring our school is kept safe.

The last two weeks I have been popping into classes and getting to know our new children as well as catching up with pupils about their summer holidays. All the children have had a great time and enjoyed the break but are also ready for a busy year. This year we are going to be focusing on three targets in school:

- To develop our EYFS knowledge and delivery including subject leaders' knowledge
- To develop oracy skills for children having better conversations and being able to unpick problems when they arise.
- To build on the strong foundations in essential skills such as handwriting and maths fluency skills.

We would like you to help your child practice these skills at home with handwriting opportunities and times to discuss our oracy question of the week. We share these each week on a Friday. This week's oracy question is: if you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?

Homework is now set up on Seesaw and on your class page on our school website. Reading, TTrackstars and Numbots must be completed to help build these fluency skills. Bingo style homework is found to be completed of which 5 must be completed for the autumn term.

The field will be a key project this year and we will be working on this soon, please look out for further information. We will need your help to ensure that we have grounds that are for all children to use all year round. We will be doing our tidy Friday events at the end of each half term with parents and children.

Finally, a reminder that I will be reading at the service this Sunday at St John's Church with a focus on reading. It would be great to see families including our newest reception and nursery families there for 10:30am.

Have a great weekend - Mr Worton-Geer

Pupil quote of the week- Jesse (Year 4): We have been learning about number lines, presenting numbers to 1000 and I have had a great time outside with our new equipment.

Quote from the bible- 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 – "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs."

Improvements to the school:

We have had several improvements so far:

- Our new front office, entrance and headteacher office is complete. We are working on a few bits around the entrance area including updating a PowerPoint to explore what the school is up to each week. Watch out for this to go live very soon.
- We have a new work surface in the EYFS intervention room
- Thunder mountain and the back gate have been fixed
- A new basketball hoop has been fitted and is being used on a daily basis
- A new window has been fitted in the Reception class.
- A new planting area at the front of the office is ready to go ahead



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

Attendance:

Week commencing 7th September 2026

Year	Percent	Place
Nursery	100%	1 st
Year 1	96.7%	5 th
Year 2	97%	4 th
Year 3	97.77%	2 nd
Year 4	97.3%	3 rd
Year 5	96%	6 th
Year 6	95.7%	7 th
Year R	100%	1 st

Autumn 1st half term -PSHE- Keeping safe

Across the school, from Nursery to Year 6, we will starting our new 'Jigsaw' topic called 'Being me in my world '.

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

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

Children from y1-y6 also started to learn the new song for the unit called 'side by side'.

If you wish to know more about our Jigsaw lessons, the programmes of study can be found on the school website page - under 'curriculum- keeping safe 'PSHE'.

Mrs Rachel de la Croix



Oracy:

This year, we are developing our children's oracy skills across St John's. Oracy is simply the ability to speak and listen effectively. We are helping children to express their ideas clearly, listen carefully to others, build confidence when speaking, and take part in meaningful conversations. These skills are an important part of learning and help children to communicate confidently both in school and in everyday life.

Safeguarding:

At St John's, the safety and wellbeing of our children is our highest priority. We want all parents and carers to feel that they can come and speak to us if they have any concerns about a child's safety, wellbeing or welfare. Our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is Mr Worton-Geer, supported by our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (DDSLs), Mrs De La Croix and Miss Brady. Please do not hesitate to speak to a member of the safeguarding team if you have a concern or simply need some advice - we are always here to listen and support you.

Child Prayer:

Dear God, thank you for that we are here today and that we have clean water and food. Thank you for our lovely school where we get to learn and have a great time.

Amen (Year 4 - Amber)



Calendar

Wednesday 16th September

Year 1 Phonics Workshop – 8:50am – school hall

Wednesday 16th September

Year 1 Phonics Workshop – 14:50pm – school hall

Thursday 17th September

Year 3 TTrackstars launch – 8:50am – school hall

Thursday 17th September

Year 3 TTrackstars launch – 15:00pm – school hall

Thursday 17th September

Reception/ Nursery parent tour – 14:00pm

Friday 18th September

Year 4 forest School Day

Saturday 19th September

Reception/ Nursery parent tour – 10:00am

Monday 21st-Friday 25th September

Bike Ability level 1, 2 and 3

Monday 21st September

Reception/nursery Numbots workshop – 8:50am – school hall

Monday 21st September

Reception/nursery Numbots workshop – 15:00pm – school hall

Tuesday 22nd September

Safeguarding for volunteers training 9am and 2pm

Friday 25th September

Year 3 Forest School Day

Monday 28th September

Reception and Nursery tour 4pm

Tuesday 29th September

Monster Phonics day – dress up Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and 2

Friday 2nd October

Year 2 Forest School Day

Wednesday 7th October

Spanish Day

Thursday 8th October

Harvest Festival service @ st John's Church

Thursday 8th October

Reception/ Nursery parent tour – 2:00pm

Friday 9th October

Year 1 Forest School Day

Monday 12th October

Year 4 Swimming sessions week

Wednesday 14th October

Reception reading meeting 2:30pm

Friday 16th October

Year 6 Forest School

Monday 19th October

Reception/ Nursery parent tour – 2:00pm

Tuesday 20th October

Book look afternoon 2:30pm

Wednesday 21st October

Parents Evening

Thursday 22nd October

Parents Evening

Friday 23rd October

Year 5 Forest School Day

Academic Highlights

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

EYFS



In Reception, we have celebrated our very first week in school. The children have loved exploring the classroom and outdoors. We have been learning each other's names and what we like to do. We are so proud of how well the children are settling and we are looking forward to all our adventures coming up.



KS1



Year 1 have hit the ground running! We have been incredibly proud of how well the children have settled into their new classroom and embraced the transition to Year 1 - even if there are a few rather tired little faces by the end of the day! We have gently begun introducing our Year 1 subjects and routines, while making plenty of time to build our new class community. We shared *Our Class is a Family* and created friendship bands to celebrate the kindness and connections already growing between us. We also enjoyed *Not a Stick*, before letting our imaginations loose and creating our own wonderfully inventive versions of the story. In Maths, we have begun exploring place value within 10, including sorting and comparing objects in different ways. Above all, we have been so impressed by the children's resilience, enthusiasm and most importantly, the kindness they have shown one another. What a fabulous start to Year 1!

Lower KS2



Our Year 3 pupils have made a fantastic start to the new school year, settling into Key Stage 2 with maturity and enthusiasm. Our focus for indoor PE this term is gymnastics and in their first lesson they explored different ways of balancing.

Moving up to a new key stage can sometimes feel like a balancing act, but just like in the photo, the children have shown focus, control, and poise as they navigate this new chapter. Just like the paired balances they created, they have been working together and supporting one another as they navigate this new chapter.

We are so proud of how quickly they have found their feet and cannot wait to see them go from strength to strength this term.

Upper KS2



Year 5 and 6 have had a fantastic first week back. Lots of amazing learning! It's also been great to catch up and chat about what everyone has been up to over the summer. The children also enjoyed taking part in a tag rugby session earlier this week with Mr O'Neil from Monk's Walk School.



Parish News

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

Donations:

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

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



Here is the collective worship list for school visits on Tuesday's:

Sept

11 Church Eucharist Fr Rob Selina

15 Selina (Holy Cross)

22 Lee - governor (St Matthew)

29 Ben- governor (St Michael and All Angels)

Oct

8 Harvest Service in Church Selina Fr Rob

13 Fr Rob (Stewardship)

20 Selina (Value - Love)

Nov

3 Bibles Fr Rob

11 Remembrance Selina

19 Fr Rob (Value -Hope)

24 Lee - governor (Feast of Christ the King)

Dec

1 Advent Eucharist Fr Rob

10 Selina Advent

THIS WEEKEND

CREAM TEAS at St John's

Saturday 12 September

1:30-4:00pm

Come with family friends to enjoy a delicious cream tea as we celebrate St John's patronal weekend

Sunday 13

Patronal Eucharist at St John's

TIME-10:30 am

Speaker- Mr Arnie Worton-Geer

followed by BBQ

After a summer break

All AGE SERVICE resumes

Sunday 20 September

9:30am

Songs, Prayers, Story, Eucharist

Followed by refreshments

Sunday Oct 4

9.30am

Harvest Festival

Join us once again to support our local food bank as we pray for all farmers and those in the food industry

Save the Date

Sunday Nov 1

10.30am Memorial Service for the departed.

We will be remembering our loved ones once again during All Souls and All Saints. Do join us and note the time.

Don't forget there is always a warm welcome at either of the Parish Cafes.

Coffee Pot

Fridays

9:00-12 noon

St John's Church, Monks Rise

The Hub Cafe

Saturdays

10:00-12:30pm

CtKHub, Haldens

TEA, TOAST and TODDLERS

Time: 9:00-10:30 am

Toys, craft activity, messy play and plenty of toast!

When: First and Third Thursday of the Month

Where: The Hub at Christ the King, Haldens

We are looking for volunteers to help once a month with refreshments, setting up the toys, helping with the craft activity and welcoming all who come along.

Please email us at info@digswellparish.org.uk for more information.

The Friends News

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

 The Friends of St John's School, Digswell		Target: £20,000																											
		Total so far: £0																											
		Summer Fate																											
		World Book day																											
		Sport's day																											
		Sponsored Bounce event -																											
		Christmas bizarre																											
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="3">Reps for each class</th></tr> <tr> <th>Vacancy</th><th>Nursery</th><th>Vacancy</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Roshni Bharij</td><td>Reception</td><td>Vacancy</td></tr> <tr> <td>Natalie Burnett</td><td>Year 1</td><td>Nicola Pattison</td></tr> <tr> <td>Fiona Hetherington</td><td>Year 2</td><td>Sara Box-Hashem</td></tr> <tr> <td>Claire Dixon</td><td>Year 3</td><td>Chantelle Newman</td></tr> <tr> <td>Kelly Butler</td><td>Year 4</td><td>Lauren Bowman</td></tr> <tr> <td>Jo Jamieson</td><td>Year 5</td><td>Lisa Robson</td></tr> <tr> <td>Lee Pocha</td><td>Year 6</td><td>Natalie Burnett</td></tr> </tbody> </table>		Reps for each class			Vacancy	Nursery	Vacancy	Roshni Bharij	Reception	Vacancy	Natalie Burnett	Year 1	Nicola Pattison	Fiona Hetherington	Year 2	Sara Box-Hashem	Claire Dixon	Year 3	Chantelle Newman	Kelly Butler	Year 4	Lauren Bowman	Jo Jamieson	Year 5	Lisa Robson	Lee Pocha	Year 6	Natalie Burnett	Fireworks
Reps for each class																													
Vacancy	Nursery	Vacancy																											
Roshni Bharij	Reception	Vacancy																											
Natalie Burnett	Year 1	Nicola Pattison																											
Fiona Hetherington	Year 2	Sara Box-Hashem																											
Claire Dixon	Year 3	Chantelle Newman																											
Kelly Butler	Year 4	Lauren Bowman																											
Jo Jamieson	Year 5	Lisa Robson																											
Lee Pocha	Year 6	Natalie Burnett																											
Our future events that we would like to run and will need support are: - Christmas Fair - Christmas Cards - Mother's Day project - Father's Day project - Sports Day - Year 6 Show - Odd shoe day		Anonymous Donations £1000																											
We have updated our webpage on the school website. Please come and visit to see how we have spent the money so far: https://www.digswell.herts.sch.uk/the-friends-association		Grants																											
		Quiz night																											



The Church of England Parish of Digswell Welwyn Garden City September 2026

Compline/weekly worship available on Soundcloud Channel
Morning Prayer is via Zoom
Please ask us for details 170826

Tues 1	10:00am 2:00pm 8:30pm	Eucharist at Christ the King Hub An afternoon in Corinth Bible Study at the Rectory Compline – a link is sent
Weds 2	8:30am 2:00pm	Morning Prayer WGC Anglican Incumbents meeting.
Thu 3	7:30am 8:30pm	Christ the King Hub Working Group via Zoom Compline – a link is sent
Fri 4	8:30am 9:00am 5:00pm	Morning Prayer Coffee Pot at St John's Café Book Launch at the Rectory – all welcome
Sat 5	8:30am 9:15am 9:45am 10:00am	Morning Prayer A Moment of Healing at St John's Church Extended Ministry Group at Christ the King Hub Hub Café at Christ the King Hub
Sunday 6	Trinity 14 9:30am	Audio Service for This Week a link is sent Parish Eucharist at St John's Church
Mon 7	8:30am 2:00pm 7:30pm	Morning Prayer DVC Bible Study Group Licensing of Revd Tricia Reed at Priest on Charge of St Francis, Welwyn Garden City [Fr Rob]
Tues 8	BLESSED VIRGIN MARY 10:00am 7:30pm 8:30pm	Eucharist at Christ the King Hub St John's Church Committee via Zoom Compline – a link is sent
Weds 9	8:30am	Morning Prayer
Thu 10	7:30pm 8:30pm	Finance Committee via Zoom Compline a link is sent
Fri 11	PATRONAL WEEKEND 8:30am 8:50am 10:00am	Morning Prayer Patronal School Eucharist at St John's Church Coffee Pot at St John's Café
Sat 12	PATRONAL WEEKEND 7:45am	Fr Rob presents Thought for the Day LIVE on BBC Radio4

	8:30am 10:00am 1:30pm	Morning Prayer Hub Café at Christ the King Hub Patronal Weekend Afternoon Teas
Sunday 13	PATRONAL WEEKEND Audio Service for This Week a link is sent 10:30am Patronal Eucharist at St John's Church jointly with Digswell Village Church followed by BBQ	
Mon 14	8:30am 7:30pm	Morning Prayer Parochial Church Council via Zoom
Tues 15	HOLY CROSS DAY 8:50am 10:00am 8:30pm	Collective Worship at St John's School Eucharist at Christ the King Hub Compline – a link is sent
Weds 16	8:30am 4:00pm	Morning Prayer Knightsfield Trustees Meeting
Thur 17	9:00am	Tea Toast & Toddlers at Christ the King Hub 8:30pm Compline a link is sent
Fri 18	8:30am 9:00am 10:30am	Morning Prayer Coffee Pot at St John's Café Parish Book Club at Coffee Pot
Sat 19	8:30am 10:00am	Morning Prayer Hub Café at Christ the King Hub Today is the Installation of Bishop Andrew Rumsey at Bishop of St Albans Our parish is represented by Churchwarden Emeritus Heather Tull and Reader Rose Lloyd
Sunday 20	Trinity 15 9:30am	Audio Service for This Week a link is sent All Age Worship at St John's Church followed by refreshments
Mon 21	8:30am	Morning Prayer
Tue 22	ST MATTHEW THE APOSTLE 8:50am 10:00am 8:30pm	Collective Worship at St John's School Eucharist at Christ the King Hub Compline – a link is sent
Weds 23	8:30am	Morning Prayer
Thu 24	8:30pm	Compline a link is sent
Fri 25	8:30am 9:00am	Morning Prayer Coffee Pot at St John's Café
Sat 25	8:30am 10:00am	Morning Prayer Hub Café at Christ the King Hub

Sunday 27	Trinity 17 9:30am	Audio Service for This Week a link is sent Parish Eucharist at St John's Church
Mon 28	8:30am	Morning Prayer
Tues 29	ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS 8:50am 10:00am 8:30pm	Collective Worship at St John's School Eucharist at Christ the King Hub Compline – a link is sent
Weds 30	8:30am	Morning Prayer

Youth Mental Health First Aid Training

FREE



1 day Champion course designed specifically for school professionals working with 8 to 18 year olds.

You will learn:

- An understanding of common mental health issues and how they can affect young people
- The ability to spot the signs of mental ill health in young people, and guide them to a place of support
- Knowledge and confidence to advocate for mental health awareness
- Skills to support positive wellbeing

Friday 12 June 2026 9.30am to 4pm	Hertfordshire County Council, Robertson House, Stevenage, SG1 2FQ	School Professionals	Parking available on site
Friday 10 July 2026 9.30am to 4pm	Hobbs Hill Wood Primary School, Hemel Hempstead, HP3 8ER	School Professionals	Parking available on site
Friday 13 Nov 2026 9.30am to 4pm	Peartree Spring Primary School, Stevenage, SG2 9GG	Parents/Carers	Parking available on roads near venue
Friday 15 Jan 2027 9.30am to 4pm	Springmead Primary School, Welwyn Garden City, AL7 2HB	School Professionals	Parking available on roads near the venue
Thurs 21st Jan 2027 9.30am to 4pm	The Hub, Fleetville Junior School, St Albans, AL1 ALW	School Professionals	Parking available on site
Friday 12 Mar 2027 9.30am to 4pm	Hobbs Hill Wood Primary School, Hemel Hempstead, HP3 8ER	Parents/Carers	Parking available on site

2 day First Aider course suitable for everyone who teaches, works, lives with or cares for 8 to 18 year olds.

You will learn:

- An in depth understanding of young people's mental health and factors that affect wellbeing
- Practical skills to spot the triggers and signs of mental health issues
- Confidence to reassure and support a young person in distress
- Enhanced interpersonal skills, such as non judgemental listening
- Knowledge to help a young person recover their health by guiding them to further support
- How to engage with parents, carers and external agencies
- How to support a young person with a long term mental health illness to thrive
- Tools to look after your own wellbeing

Thursday 26 & Friday 27 Nov 2026 9.30am to 4pm	Hobbs Hill Wood Primary School, Hemel Hempstead, HP3 8ER	School Professionals	Parking available on site
Thursday 4 & Friday 5 Feb 2027 9.30am to 4pm	Peartree Spring Primary School, Stevenage, SG2 9GG	School Professionals	Parking available on roads near venue

To book your place please email schoolsmh@hertfordshire.gov.uk
Places are limited to two representatives per education setting

Made with AI



Welwyn Parish Council
to serve and respond to the needs of the community

Digswell Needs You!

Could you make a difference in your local community?

Welwyn Parish Council has a vacancy for a Parish Councillor to represent the Digswell Ward.

This is your chance to have a real say in the future of Digswell, represent local residents, and help make a positive difference!

Why become a Parish Councillor?

-  **Represent Digswell residents**
Listen to local people and ensure Digswell's voice is heard.
-  **Help shape the future**
Influence planning, transport, and development.
-  **Support your community**
Work with local groups on projects that matter.
-  **Protect what makes Digswell special**
Help protect our green spaces, environment, heritage and distinctive character.
-  **Turn ideas into action**
Make a real difference with your ideas.
-  **Learn and develop**
Gain new skills and experience.

You don't need to be a politician. What matters most is that you care about Digswell and want to make a positive impact!

Could you be Digswell's next voice?

Closing date: 19th October

 clerk@welwyn-pc.gov.uk
 **01438 716 667**