

St John's School Weekly Newsletter

Issue 200



### From the Headmaster

Welcome to the 200th edition of the Lamb which continues to reflect the variety of events and activities at St John's. For those of you who were at the Arts Evening last night I am sure you would agree that all the boys excelled themselves, whether it be in Music, Drama, Art or D&T. The standard of musical performance was as high as ever and the acting in the second half was superbly executed. The interval display in the dining room showed just how committed our boys are to these subjects. I would like to congratulate everyone who was involved.

The Pre-Prep have got into the Christmas spirit by posting their letters to Santa and the Juniors had an excellent festive trip to the pantomime today in Watford. Our assemblies have focussed on seizing the day and making the most of every opportunity and on Monday Jamie gave a super presentation on his recent visit to Facebook's headquarters in the UK.

In sport I was able to watch the U8 team at the Gayhurst tournament and was very pleased with their commitment and determination. Congratulations to Tanay on receiving his special trophy. Elsewhere the U13 A team had a challenging match against a very strong Haileybury squad and the U9 teams enjoyed their mini tournament at Caldicott. The U13 hockey team reached the final of the THL league at Merchant Taylors' School.

I hope to see many of you at the Pre-Prep Christmas plays next week and again on Saturday for the St John's Association Christmas Bazaar which promises to launch the festive season.

### Celebrating the arts



Last night was a thoroughly enjoyable evening as we celebrated the arts in different guises. Firstly our musicians entertained us with no fewer than thirteen groups getting to the stage to perform a wide variety of genres from an old Welsh hymn to Colonel Bogey! The evening also included two poems read by Otto and Zac who were winners in the Hunter Jones Poetry Competition held earlier in the term, and during the interval the dining hall was alive with the most superb artwork from the Art department and Design and Technology displays created by boys in clubs and in their lessons. The second half production of 'Sparkleshark' told the traditional tale of love over hate but in an up-to-date setting. The boys performed with real maturity and commitment and the appearance of Sparkleshark (a dragon) at the end highlighted the theme of imagination and invention. Very well done to everyone involved, from the dragon creators and lighting crew to the main actors on stage.





## Arts Evening in pictures















## Arts Evening in pictures



















## Arts Evening in pictures

















## "Hurry up everyone! Its one minute to go!"





For the last half an hour I have been on duty overseeing the boys in the woods, watching as some charge around with sticks in hand playing role play games, some enjoy making dens and others love hunting down minibeasts or looking for other wildlife. The excited cries, rustling of leaves and charging wellies can be heard from far away, although I have to go deeper into the branches and pathways to find anyone. The boys report back to me at the end of the session, hearts a'thumping and grinning widely. They love their time in the woods and tell me it's the best thing ever! Having responsibility to freely roam and come back at the designated time puts them in a position of responsibility and I rarely have to remind them of this, in fear that they miss a chance to come again. As simple as it seems, a good blast out in the woodland at school or in our local areas can be a huge tonic to us all, especially as the last of the leaves disappear and winter settles in. A warm glow of happiness and sense of wellbeing as we head back to the routines back inside the classroom. Mrs McSween







## Dear Santa .....





The Pre-Prep boys were very excited to walk to the local post box to post their letters to Father Christmas. In their letters, the boys had written a few requests for Santa, in preparation for his visit on Christmas Eve. Some boys also wrote that they would leave some tasty treats for Santa and his reindeer. Have you been good this year? Will Santa visit you?











### Lambs welcome an unusual visitor



The Lambs are learning about old and new toys. Joshua brought in an old Rocking Horse it was made by Joshua's great uncle Dr Fred Archer who in his spare time loved carving. The horse was handmade around 1960, it has real horse hair and the leather stirrups were made specifically for the horse and would fit a real horse/pony of this size. The saddle is a real leather saddle and the horse was equipped with real tack. The Lambs were fascinated to see such an old toy.





### British Values in Year 4





Year 4 in their PSHCEE lessons have been discussing British Values. In particular they learnt how the Union Jack flag came into existence in the early 1600's when James VI of Scotland became James I of England uniting the two countries. Ireland and the cross of Saint Patrick was added in 1800. A cross curricular lesson!

### WWI independent research



Two boys in 4M were inspired by a passage in 'The Butterfly Lion', which is our class reader. The hero, Bertie went willingly and with great excitement to take part in WW1, but the reality of living in the trenches and the terror of going 'over the top' was devastating. Darsh and Rian, particularly interested in the part about the trenches, made a wonderful PowerPoint in their spare time and presented it to the class last Friday. It was well thought out, carefully researched and presented with enthusiasm and clarity. The presentation gave us all a lot of interesting facts and included some insight into the lives led by soldiers in the trenches. Thank you Darsh and Rian.



### Colts rugby v UCS Friday 22nd November

Colts A v UCS

Try scorers: Thomas 1, Jacob 1, Blake 1

Outstanding performance: Zac

We knew this was going to be a tight match as we drew with UCS at the Belmont Festival two weeks earlier. However, we got off to a poor start, with a simple drop pass leading UCS to scoring the first try of the match. We reverted back to playing one out rugby and kept running back into contact. The match became an arm wrestle with lots of physical contact. We kept the ball well and certainly out rucked UCS. We did also manage to gain a lot of territory with one good cross field kick and Thomas scored a very good individual try, weaving his way across the park and scoring in the opposite corner. However, we did let in a few soft tries and we do need to improve our tackling. I was very pleased with our character in the second half. We really held the ball well and scored some great tries. Jacob scored the first, from 7 metres out, Zac latched onto Jacob and they drove over for a strong forwards try. Blake managed a similar try, bulldozing his way through a number of tackles and reaching out to score a try in the last play of the game. Despite rallying well, we need to make sure we are ready to play from the first whistle, make sure of our tackles and find different ways of scoring tries if we to enjoy success in our next matches.





#### Colts B v UCS

**Try scorers:** Ansh S 1, William 1

Outstanding performance: William

UCS is always a physical and competitive encounter and on this occasion it was no different. St John's started brilliantly with the first two opportunities to finish with tries but unfortunately one went over the dead ball line and the second was knocked on just before grounding. In the end we did manage to finish more clinically and UCS responded with their own brand of rugby trying to play a much wider game.





### Colts rugby v UCS Friday 22nd November

Colts C v UCS

Try scorers: Rakshaan 1, Aaron 1, Ansh 1

Outstanding performances: Aaron, Rakshaan

We played up the slope in the first half and the team played very well. We ran straight and kept onto the ball for most of the first half. However, the try of season was in our own half with Aaron cross-kicking superbly towards Rashaan's wing on the left hand side. Rakshaan ran and picked up the ball to score a great try. In the second half, we played down the slope but UCS picked up their game and tries were scored by either team. At times, we just need to move the ball a little earlier to outside players before taking contact. However, in the last game of the season all the boys should be congratulated on their performance against UCS.



**Try scorers:** Aarav 1, Leon 1

Outstanding performance: Anek

The team started slowly against UCS going uphill in the first half. We struggled to keep possession which UCS pounced upon by keeping the ball so kept getting over the try line for the first half. In the second half going down the hill, we increased our defensive pressure to stop them from using the ball quickly and also forcing handling errors to regain possession of the ball. Off our set piece we spread the ball to our hard-running wings making lots of metres with ball in hand. A big run by Kian down the pitch from a scrum drew in defenders and opened up holes in their defence for Aarav to go through for our first try. Our second try was as a result of sustained pressure in the opposition's half, lots of time was spent at the scrum trying to force the free kick but UCS wouldn't budge, they turned over the ball in the scrum and Anek and Michael drove their winger out into touch, resulting in a free pass just metres from their try line. We took the quick pass and gave it to Leon who was running onto it at full pace, he went clean through the defence and got us our second try of the game. This could have been our best performance of the season on a different day; however, we left a lot out on the pitch and really didn't get out of first gear. Well done boys, I hope you enjoyed this exciting season and take something forward to Year 7 next year.









### U10 rugby v Claires Court Friday 22nd November

U10 A v Claires Court

Try scorers: Jimi 1, Rafi 1, Archie 1, Emeka 1, Shane 1

**Outstanding performances:** Emeka for his super try and Nishant for his super defensive work

This was a very tough performance against a powerful side played in heavy conditions. It took several minutes before the relentless attacking play of St John's finally resulted in a super try for Jimi, but it was quite demoralising that Claires Court replied with a try of their own straight from the restart. The game continued like this, with well-worked tries from Rafi and Archie being cancelled out by Claires Court's own efforts, which were equally impressive considering the difficult handling conditions. It took until the last few minutes before Emeka, with a wonderful sprint for the line around the home team's defence, and an impressive turn of pace from Shane, resulted in tries which settled St John's nerves. Ultimately though, this was a game which typified the team's incredible spirit, highlighted in the way they defended so courageously to the end, with fine performances in this regard from Oliver and a superb try-saving tackle from Nishant.

#### U10 B v Claires Court

Try scorers: George 1, Alistair 3, Adam 1, Mithil 1, Rehaan 1

Outstanding performance: Alistair

This proved to be a tremendous performance against a strong opposition. Going behind early on the team upped their effort levels with Daniel and George leading hard in defence and Adam and Mithil taking the team forward in attack. The support of all of the boys for each other was the best it has been all year and Rehaan and Alistair were able to finish off good play with well taken tries.

#### U10 C v Claires Court

**Try scorers:** Kian A 2, Jamie 1, Armaan 2, Remika 2, Kian J 1, Kabir 2, George 1, Kian P 1, Luke 1, Abdullah 4

Outstanding performances: The whole team

The boys started the game with great enthusiasm, passing the ball wide and finding the gaps in the defence easily. Everyone carried the ball hard with determination to give a platform for the rest of the team to play off. Our defensive line started off with a few holes appearing, but after a chat at half-time the boys took the advice on board and we didn't concede another try. A very impressive performance from all. Well done!









### U8 Gayhurst tournament 23rd November









We started well against the Gayhurst girl's team with most of the team scoring tries. We scored some very good individual tries and we started to pass the ball more to each other which helped our attacking game. Tanay scored 3 tries with Arnav, Aariz, Rafay, Zachariah and Henry all scoring but this was a good start.

Against Oratory Prep it was a much tougher game with the opposition running and passing the ball very well. We needed to push up as a line to help our defensive game. However, Aariz, Max and Yuvraj made some good tags and we managed to score some good tries.

Against Gayhurst both teams scored when they had the ball and Max ran very strongly to score 3 long range tries. We still need to get closer to the ball carrier which will help our attacking game. But the St John's boys scored 7 tries which was a great effort.

Against a strong Chesham team we started very well with Yuvraj scoring the first try of the match. All the team worked hard but Chesham had some very strong runners who could break from deep and score tries. However, Rafay, Arnav and Tanay all defended well and as a team we managed to stop Chesham scoring a number of tries near our try line.

In the final match against Davenies we scored 7 tries and Max scored a length of the field try beating a number of defenders on his way to the try line. Zachariah and Rafay both scored two good tries but what was most impressive was that we scored tries with a number of passes through the hands. The team must be congratulated and they played very well throughout the tournament and a huge thank you to all the parents for their fantastic support. Finally well done to **Tanay** for receiving the trophy for the best player of the tournament.

vs Gayhurst girls: Tanay 3, Aariz 2, Rafay 2, Zachariah 1, Henry 1, Arnay 1 vs Oratory Prep: Tanay 1, Zachariah 1, Max 1 vs Gayhurst B: Max 3. Aariz 1, Zachariah 1, Tanay 2 vs Chesham Prep: Tanay 2, Max 1, Aariz 1, Yuvraj 1 vs Davenies: Tanay 1, Zachariah 2, Max 2, Rafay 2



### Senior rugby v St Martin's 25th November

U13 A v St Martin's Lost 50-0

**Try scorers:** Zac R 2, Louis 2, Charlie 1, Yusuf, Rohan 2, Bradley 1, Kamsi 1

#### Outstanding performance: Rohan

The match was keenly fought for the first 10 minutes especially at the breakdown. Defence was good and as the team got better ball Rohan distributed well and we achieved better width in our play and harder carries. This lead to tries for Kamsi supporting a very good run from Oliver, Bradley and Yusuf. In the second half the team produced constant pressure on the St. Martins defence which resulted in 7 more tries, most pleasing were 2 tries from Zac who finally delivered on his promise he has shown in practice. Mention should be made of Edmond, Zain and Saam who provided last minute cover for absent players. All did their bit and contributed well.

#### U12 A v St Martin's Lost 40-10

Try scorers: Raffi 2

Outstanding performances: Nishil,

Jaidev, Rodrigo

We gave too much space to St Martin's who had some very talented runners who could score at distance. We lost the ball a lot in contact and we knocked the ball on which gave St Martin's opportunities to attack. They had a number of players who could break through and only great defence stopped from scoring tries. In the second half, we closed down the space of the opposition runners and this made a great difference. We were able to keep the ball and Raffi scored two very good tries. Charlie and Rodrigo were stopped just short of the try line. However, the second half was a massive improvement and they need to play like this at the start of the match.









### THL final v Merchant Taylors' Prep 26th Nov



We started very well against Merchant Taylors' Prep and in the first ten minutes we had a number of opportunities to score. Good saves by the MTP keeper kept us scoreless. Louis made a number of outstanding saves to keep us in the game. In the mid-field Arian played very well and made many telling passes for the front players to have a shot on goal. When MTP broke we really needed to get more players back and mark much more tightly. At half-time we were 2 goals down. In the second half MTP started to pass the ball much more and in the 'D' they created a number of 2 v 1 and 3 v 1. This enabled the MTP players to score more goals. Although we lost the final the team as a whole improved and we have learnt some valuable lessons for the future. Well played!

Lost 6-1

Scorer: Arian 1

Outstanding performances: Louis and Rohan



### U9 teams v Caldicott & Gayhurst 26th Nov

### U9 A v Caldicott and Gayhurst

Try scorers: Neel 2, Aubrey 1

Outstanding performance: Neel

Fantastic rugby from the U9A team against two strong rugby schools. The team is looking so much better in their attacking and defensive organisation. The defence were brilliant on this occasion in both matches and a clear step up from their previous match. With ball in hand the team is starting to make better and more creative decisions based on proper team play. The confidence, belief and determination they showed on the day is something I would like them to hold onto going forwards in terms of mind-set.

Occasionally we can still cut inside to maximum traffic when having ball in hand but I am confident with more time this will continue to improve. Wingers need to remember to mark the opposite winger and to call the inside person/centres across in defence. Quality rugby, keep enjoying it!

#### U9 B v Caldicott, Gayhurst & St Bernard's

Try scorers: Match 1 Dries, Thomas, Match 2 Dries, Alex, Otto 2, Match 3 Mustafa, Alex, Dries

#### Outstanding performance: Dries

The U9 B team played 3 lively and at times frenetic matches. They struggled to maintain defensive alignment but did, through Alex W, Otto, Mustafa and Dries produce solid tackling. In attack Dries and Otto were electric supported well by Mehul, Alex W and Thomas.

#### U9 C v Caldicott, Gayhurst & St Bernard's

**Try scorers:** Ebi 1, Kyhan 4, Zain 3, Rohan 3, Joshua 3, Ananda 3, Ali 4

#### Outstanding performance: Zain

On Tuesday we played 3 games against Caldicott, Gayhurst and St Bernard's. Every game we played we got better and better, there was a lot of impressive running on display from everyone running into space and then offloading the ball to create more scoring opportunities.

Our defensive line was the best I have ever seen, closing down the space and forcing the opposition to make mistakes. We need to work on our spacings in attack to have better chances of scoring, overall a very promising performance.









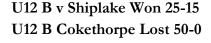
### U12 teams v Shiplake 27th November

U12 A v Shiplake Lost 10-0 U12 A v Cokethorpe Lost 25-0

Outstanding performances: Hilkesh & Rodrigo

Our first match was against Shiplake and we played well and put pressure on the opposition. We held onto the ball and dominated the ruck area which enabled us to attack the opposition's try line. Good defence from Shiplake held Charlie up and just stopped him from scoring. They had two break outs which lead to tries by Shiplake but this was an excellent start by the side.

The second match was against Cokethorpe who were very skilful and they had some big runners. We were a little slow and before we knew it we were four tries down by half-time. However, in the second half we played some of the best rugby this term with Ethan at fly half we moved the ball and supported each other very well. A great way to finish the match.



**Try scorers:** Jesse1, Vish 2, Darius 1, Alex 1

#### Outstanding performances: Vish

This was a triangular tournament. . We played well in the first match against Shiplake. We made some good runs in this game and our backs linked up well. In the second half we showed a solid defensive line and competed well in the break-downs. We struggled in the second game against Cokethorpe; we found it hard to contain them and missed a lot of tackles. Well done everyone on our first win of the season.









### U13 A v Haileybury Wednesday 27th Nov





U13 A v Haileybury Lost 50-0

#### Outstanding performances: The whole team

The scores were mainly conceded towards the end of each half. At the beginning St John's fought hard, did well at the scrum and put Haileybury under pressure. Unable to get decent territory it was always going to be a tough ask to get some scores. Yusuf and Oliver did make good breaks and Bradley, Charlie and Louis fought hard to gain some metres only to face a solid wall of defenders. There is no shame in losing when you try your hardest which is really the story of todays' match.











### U8 teams v UCS Thursday 28th November

U8 A v UCS

Try scorers: Aariz 2, Zachariah 2, Tanay 1, Arnav 1

#### Outstanding performance: Zachariah

The last match of this term was against UCS who had some talented individual runners. We ran well with the ball and the support play improved but we still need to pass the ball closer and quicker to each other. We scored some good tries and the side is beginning to link more passes together. On occasions, when we did pass the ball we needed more support players on hand and in the wider channels. Our defence was much improved but we still need to keep a wider line when the opposition play the ball quickly. Well done to all the boys who played for the team today.



#### Outstanding performance: Aary

A very challenging match this afternoon, we struggled to get any form of structure going forward with the ball. However, the boys persevered by continuously trying to create phases going forward, but the opposition's defensive line created a lot of pressure causing us to make mistakes. Our defensive line was looking stronger than last weeks' but we still need to work on going up as a line. A lot of things to work on but the display of determination was very respectable.

#### U8 C v UCS

Try scorers: Liam 2, Abbas 2, Caiden 2, Enzo

#### Outstanding performances: The whole team

The boys did lots of defending in the first part of the game gradually adapting to the opposition's speed and width. Enzo and Iraj shone out wide while Abbas with Liam covered the middle areas well. Their attack developed well by the second half with Caiden, Taarun and Saavan making good runs. All the team improved their passing resulting in many more tries and a good finish to the match.









### U8 teams v UCS Thursday 28th November

U8 D v UCS

Try scorers: Dhilan 1, Arun 1

#### Outstanding performances:

Aarush

A well fought game from both sides. A lot of the tries scored were created by the boys running supporting lines and having quick hands out of tackles which was great to see. As well as this, both sides pressured well in defence and did so as a team which is really good for the boys to have learnt this early in their rugby career. Aarush is being awarded man of the match for his willingness to earn and his ability to implement skills he is taught quickly.

#### U8 E v UCS

**Try scorers:** Liam H 1, Neil K 1, Milan 1

### Outstanding performances: The

whole team

A good match and the team learned about 'rush defence' which, especially in the last ten minutes, forced UCS backwards for the first time and forced more errors too which meant more possession for St John's. There are glimpses of more forwards running and running into space. Neil K did a beautiful dash down the left wing to score his try. Liam H with a great little break through the middle and some solid footwork to run into space scored his try for the squad. Milan and Ansh made lots of metres for the team. The whole squad worked tirelessly in defence, UCS did have some pacy boys for sure. Well done to the U8 Mighty Elephants!







Sporting successes out of school







Zachariah (3H) and the U8 Middlesex County Team become U8's Tennis Champions of the South East. Last weekend, Bromley Tennis Centre hosted the inter-county tournament between Kent, Middlesex, Surrey and Sussex. Zachariah and his team mates played some highly competitive matches beating favourites Surrey, and then Sussex to lead the winner's board with Kent. Entering into a 5-match play-off against Kent, Zachariah and his County Team held off a brilliant Kent team to win the U8's South East England 2019 Trophy. Well done! Mehul (4B) came 3rd place in the Taekwondo Association Of Great Britain Sparring Championships which took place at University of Worcester on Sunday. Many congratulations to him on this considerable achievement.



# Exhibits at the Art's Evening yesterday









## Exhibits at the Art's Evening yesterday







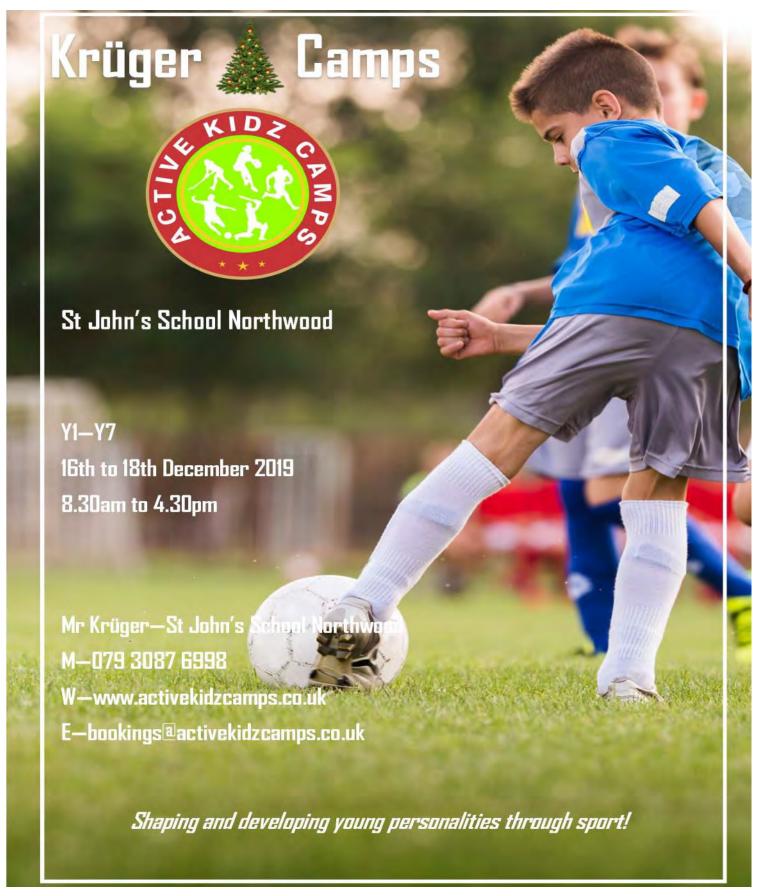


















## ALL DONATIONS WELCOME

WE NEED CHOCOLATES AND BOTTLES DONATIONS FOR THE TOMBOLA

PLEASE DONATE ONLY GENTLY USED, GOOD CONDITION OR NEW TOYS, BOOKS, UNWANTED GIFTS

Please drop all chocolates and bottled items at the school office and all toys and books into the boxes in the car park

Contact: Gaby at gaby222@me.com or 07970954521





Lucky tree - Santa's Grotto - Secrets Room

Bottle Tombola - Chocolate Tombola - Guess the Teacher
Rudoph's rings - Second hand books and toys
Guess the sweets - Golden Cracker - Name the teddy
Mince pies and Hot chocolate - Raffle - Lucky Dip
Tin Can Alley - Bauble Decorating - Scalextrix - Olaf's Carrots

Please donate any second hand books, DVDs or toys
Please let us know if you would like to hire a stall
space to sell any of your own products
Contact: Gaby on gaby222@me.com or 07970 954 521



## Calendar and important dates

Monday 2nd December: Lambs, Robins and Squirrels Dress Rehearsal

**Tuesday 3rd December:** Lambs, Robins and Squirrels Christmas Plays (9.30am) Musicians Visit to Erskine Hall (3.45pm-5.00pm)

**Wednesday 4th December:** Otters, Owls, Badgers & Eagles Dress Rehearsal Musicians Visit to Homehayes House (1.10pm-2.00pm)

**Thursday 5th December:** Otters, Owls, Badgers & Eagles Christmas Plays (9.30am) Musicians to Sunshine House (1.15-2.00pm)

**Friday 6th December:** Christmas Bazaar Set-Up (all day)

Last Swim at Merchant Taylors' Rugby v Greshams: U13 A (h) (2.30pm)

Hockey v Merchant Taylors' School: U11 A, B (h), U10

A, B (a) (2.30pm)

Pre-Prep Open House (2.40pm)

Saturday 7th December: St John's Association

Christmas Bazaar (10.30am-2.00pm)



Jamie (5C) visited Facebook and told us all about it in assembly on Monday.

### Contact details

**Updates:** please continue to visit <a href="https://www.st-johns.org.uk">www.st-johns.org.uk</a> for all the latest information on sports fixtures and results.

The website will have announcements in case of emergency. You can also follow us on twitter @stjsnorthwood.



**Mailings:** if you have received The Lamb from someone else and would like to be sent your own copy direct each week, please email: <u>Lamb Editor</u>. Let us know your contact details and you will be added to the list.

**Photographs:** Do please continue to send in any photographs which could be included in The Lamb.

### Notices and Reminders

Christmas Bazaar. This fantastic school occasion is only one week away on Saturday 7th December, starting at 10.30am. This hugely popular annual event offers something for all the family including Rudolph's Rings, Golden Cracker, Olaf's Carrots, Santa's Grotto, Pin the Nose on Rudolph and much more! The food this year will be a small selection of breakfast pastries at the start, jacket potatoes with various fillings for lunch and then stalls with mince pies, cakes, tea/coffee and hot chocolate and the raffle will give you a chance to win some great prizes. The St John's Association looks forward to seeing you there!

Christmas Jumper Day. Thursday 12th December is Christmas Jumper Day at St John's and all boys are encouraged to take part to raise money for Children In Need. You should have received an email with details of the day but do contact <a href="mailto:jsavage@st-johns.org.uk">jsavage@st-johns.org.uk</a> with any questions.



**St John's Carol Service.** This important event is on Monday 9th December at 7.00pm at Emmanuel Church in Northwood. Parking is limited so please car share where possible. This is a compulsory event for Years 3-8 unless you have been given permission to be absent by the Headmaster.

The famous St John's Christmas Quiz is on sale now from Mr Taylor, priced £2.00. It will also be on sale at the Christmas Bazaar. It is fiendishly difficult and totally unique but you are allowed to use any resources you like including the internet, books, friends and family. The competition closes at the end of January and there are prizes for the best scores. It is for a charitable cause so don't be shy about having a go!

Erskine Hall Visit. A reminder to parents that pick-up between 5.00-5.15pm on Tuesday 3rd December is from Erskine Hall and not from St John's. Please try to car share if possible as the area around the care home can get very congested.

Votes for Schools. Last week's question: Is fake news always bad? Yes 64.2%, No 38.5%. New question: Are disabilities still misunderstood? Please discuss at home over the weekend.

House Point Totals. Lincoln: 51.97, Churchill: 50.38, Oates: 49.36, Lawrence: 46.62

Enjoy the weekend. Only fourteen days until the start of the Christmas holidays.