

THE LAMB



St John's School Weekly Newsletter

Issue 256



From the
Headmaster

This week we have been able to reflect on the sacrifices that our armed forces have made to give us the freedom we enjoy today. Across the School the teachers and boys have led assemblies and our Year 7 and 8 trumpeters, Daniel, Aryan, Rehaan and Rahul played the Last Post before the two minute silence on Thursday 11th. It was a fitting tribute that the whole School observed this moment together on the playground.

I was delighted to welcome so many families, old boys and local residents to our long-awaited Fireworks Evening. We enjoyed mild, dry weather and it was wonderful to see the boys enjoying all the excitement while behaving sensibly. I am sure you will agree that the fireworks were spectacular. A huge thank you to the St John's Parents' Association for another fabulous event!

In sport the teams have had another busy week of fixtures. I was really pleased to see the U13Bs play with such determination in their match against Shiplake. This followed strong performances from both the U13A and U11A teams at the Belmont Festival last weekend. We received an update from the Moor Park Fun Run team which can be seen on page 5.

I look forward to seeing some of you at the Northwood Remembrance Service on Sunday where I shall be joining our Head and Deputy Head boys.

Have a super weekend.

S. Russo

We will remember them



Mr Russo led the Armistice Day assembly on Thursday during which he reminded us that the 1918 Armistice was signed on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. He was assisted by Year 7 boys Ahaan, Aarav, George G, George L, Kabir, Rafi and Mihir who presented carefully selected readings to help us understand the importance of this special day. Later in the morning, the whole School gathered on the playground for our Act of Remembrance. Our Head Boy, Ansh opened by reading the very moving epitaph "When you go home, tell them of us and say, for your tomorrow we gave our today." At precisely 11.00am Daniel 8J, Aryan 8H, Rehaan and Rahul in 7B played the Last Post, after which we observed the two minute silence and heard the guns firing at Northwood barracks. Mrs Luke served in the Intelligence Corps in the Armed Forces for ten years and she wore her medals awarded for the tours she served in Northern Ireland, Bosnia (Former Yugoslavia) and Iraq. Armistice gives us time to reflect on past and present conflicts and it is extremely important that we remember the enormous sacrifices made by all members of the armed services. This week, poppies have been sold in school in aid of the Royal British Legion and we have all worn our poppies with pride.

THIS WEEK



Remembrance Assembly

On Tuesday, Year 3 -8 assembly explored the significance of Remembrance Day. The boys listened to George, 4L, recite John McCrae's 'In Flanders Fields' before learning about the roles of two women, Moina Michael and Anna Guérin. They were the first to promoting the poppy as a symbol of remembrance and to raise money for military charities. The Royal British Legion adopted the symbol in 1922 and poppies are made at their factory in Richmond to raise vital money.

However, the key message of the assembly was to ask, 'Who should we remember?' A century has passed since the end of the war 'to end all wars' but the boys learned that the Act of Remembrance is still important today. We thought about

those people from around the Commonwealth and the British Armed Forces who have served their countries and counted the cost in lives lost in every decade since WW1 (apart from the current decade). Visiting a Royal Navy Cemetery in Portland (near Weymouth) this weekend, Mrs Luke came across the grave of Jack Mantle who won the Victoria Cross in 1940 when he was fatally wounded by enemy aircraft. We also reflected upon others that have been killed in service up to the most recent conflicts. Armed with this knowledge, the boys were better able to comprehend the importance of standing in silent contemplation for 2 minutes thinking about the sacrifice paid by these brave men and women. We will remember them.





A spectacular Fireworks Evening

There was great excitement on Tuesday night as we all gathered for the St John's Association Fireworks Evening. The whole event was organised by our wonderful St John's Association and included a bonfire night supper in the dining room, the opportunity to buy novelties, sweets and popcorn from the well-stocked stalls, a raging bonfire with two very creative guys and a beautiful display of skilfully carved illuminated pumpkins. Congratulations to Ieuan in the Owls who won the pumpkin competition and Nikhil in 4H, the runner-up. The Guy competition was won by Alistair in 7M and the runner-up was Amay in the Otters. Well done boys. It was wonderful to welcome so many families, more than ever before and we were also very pleased to see some local residents and past pupils, some of whom left the School five years ago. A big thank you goes to the St John's Association for their enormous hard work and commitment and to George in 7B for taking some amazing firework photos.





A spectacular Fireworks Evening cont...





Aiden delivers your stationery donations

Last half-term I was overwhelmed by the amount of stationery we collected and I thank you all for your contributions. In August when I heard of the awful predicament the Afghan refugees were in, I was devastated. They had nothing, just the clothes on their back and a carrier bag of belongings. I felt I wanted to help and I am glad that you all felt the same.

With your donations, my brother and I (with some help from my parents) assembled paper bags with a pencil case, pencils, rulers, rubbers, sharpeners, pens, colouring pencils, pens, reading books, writing pads. Some of the larger bags had hoards of stationery in them, including calculators for older children. Overall there were 50 full stationery bags, which was astonishing! There were ample pencils and pencil sets to add to the 32 full pencil cases we received. My car boot was so cramped, it barely all fitted!

We set off to the Hilton London Metropole Hotel in Paddington to deliver your donations to the refugees as we had arranged to meet the Westminster Council refugee co-

ordinator who was stationed there. She was joined by two volunteers who helped us move the bags onto a trolley ready for distribution.

I was amazed by the number of Afghans that were living at the hotel as I learned that they had occupied a few floors there. The children were riding scooters skillfully, and darted around the hallway like they were Usain Bolt. Some adults were sitting down leisurely and having a chat, and from hearing what they said and talking to one of them, I established that they struggled to speak English.

I can't express enough how sorry I was for them for being in such a sad situation, as they had left their families behind and come to an unfamiliar home. I was incredibly anxious for them.

The refugee co-ordinator thanked us and St. John's for the stationery donations and mentioned that Westminster Council is still collecting items and looking for volunteers. I thank the generosity of you all for giving so much to these helpless refugees who have left a lot behind in their parent country.





Thanks for Moor Park Fun Run fund raising

This week we received this certificate and a letter of thanks from Mount Vernon Cancer Centre recognising the contribution of St John's friends and family at the Moor Park Fun Run. Whether you ran, raised money, donated or came along to cheer on our runners on the day, the Mount Vernon Cancer Centre is very grateful for your support.



**WE DID IT FOR
MOUNT VERNON CANCER CENTRE!**

THIS CERTIFICATE IS PRESENTED TO:

St John's School team

WHO RAISED A WONDERFUL

£ 2,672.25

Thank you so much!

Joe Dunster
Community Fundraiser



VOTES FOR SCHOOLS



Votes for Schools climate change and refugees

Votes for Schools is a way of connecting us to what is going on in the world around us, through topical debate. Use the Votes for Schools Google Classroom to access the material and discuss at home and at school. Please on the Google Form as well as make a comment in the Class Stream. We love your video responses! If you have any queries, please contact Mrs McSween vmcsween@st-johns.org.uk

Last week's question Your thoughts Results

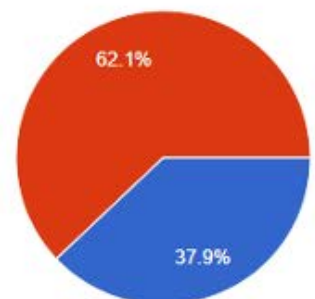
Are protests necessary for change?



@votesforschools2021

Yes, it is important to make your voice heard. But they should be peaceful and not violent protests.
Dillan, Year 3

● No
● Yes



Yes, I think they are because without people arguing to get it done, the government won't listen to people if they just ask them, this way the only way to stop these protests is to listen to what they say and take it into account!
Kian Year 7



I think protesting is necessary because it is a way for people to say what they think about things they care about. I don't always agree with how people protest but I do think that people should be able to express their views.
Micah, Year 4



Next week's question



Should you have to learn about politics in school?



Vocab



@votesforschools2021

Decision:

A choice that you make, after thinking about different possibilities.

Politics:

The activities of the Government (our leaders), and people who make our laws, and decide how to run our country.



Lambs have learned all about fruit

Over the last two weeks the Lambs have been learning all about different fruits. They acted out the story of ‘Handa’s Surprise’ about a girl who took seven delicious fruits to her friend. We read ‘Oliver’s Fruit Salad’ and made our own fruit salads and ate them for snack. We also looked at the fruits in the story of ‘The Hungry Caterpillar’ and using props we told the story.





Poppies in the Pre-Prep

The Pre-Prep have been thinking about Poppy Day. We have been finding out why we buy and wear poppies in November. The Badgers and Eagles read stories and answered questions about Armistice Day whilst proudly selling poppies in the playground. Year 1 made poppy garlands and took them out to the playground for the two minutes silence. Reception

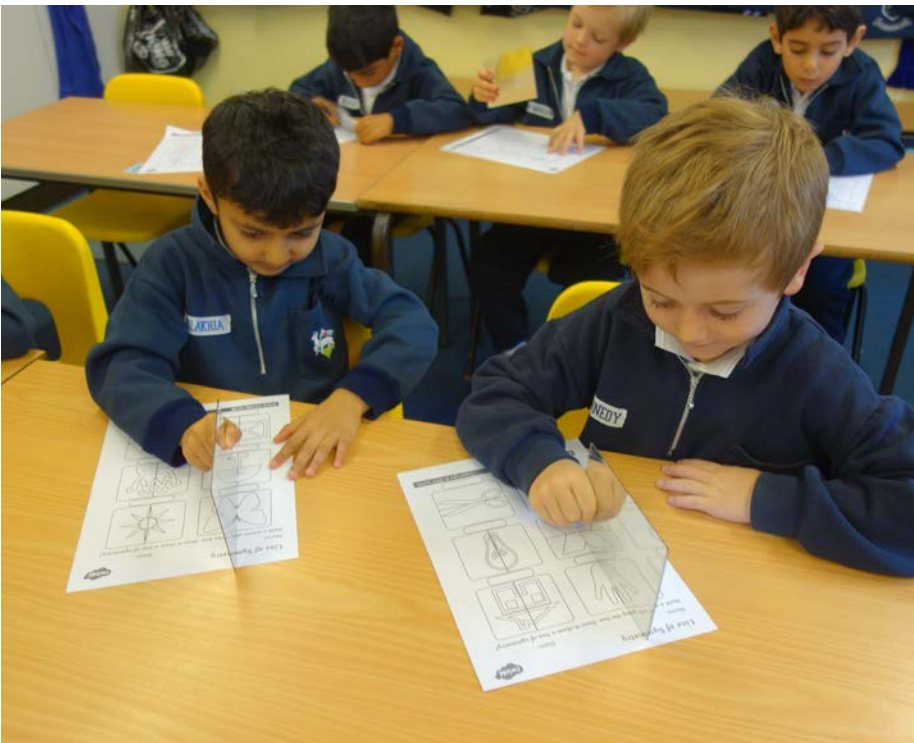
created poppy pictures on the computer. At 11 o'clock we heard the cannons signalling the start of the two minutes silence. The Lambs sat together quietly and the rest of the Pre-Prep stood for two minutes thinking about all the brave men and women who fought to make our lives as safe and happy as they are now.





Symmetry in Year 1

Year 1 boys have been exploring symmetry in shapes, pictures and objects. They have been using mirrors to detect symmetry and draw the other half of pictures in mirror image. They folded some 2D shapes accurately down the centre to mark the line of symmetry. How many objects can you spot in your environment which are symmetrical?





Mohammed's Art Gallery

During my spare time, I enjoy art. I especially like painting and using different types of paint. I like mixing primary colours to create secondary colours. It makes me happy when I can display my pictures in my house. *Mohammed 3W*

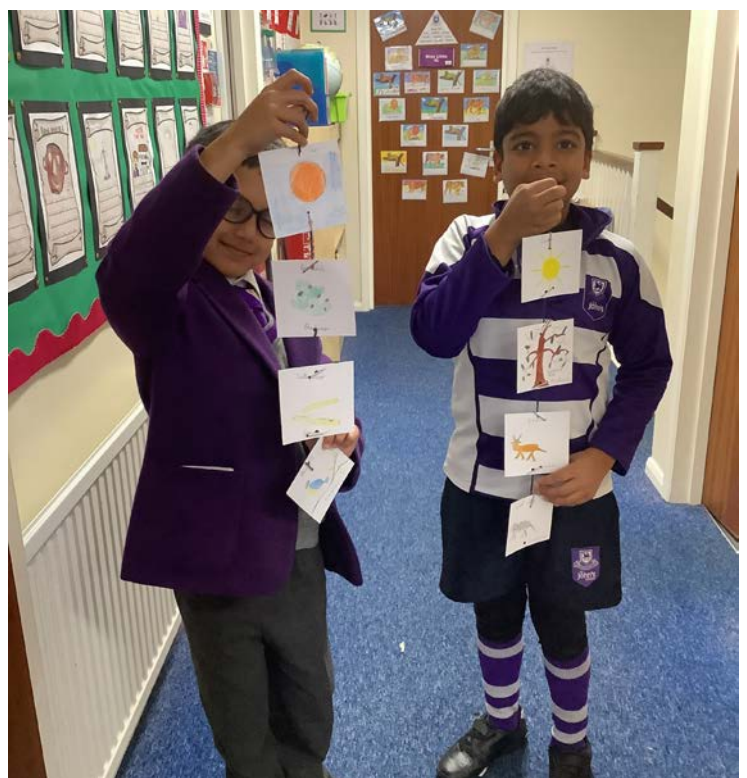
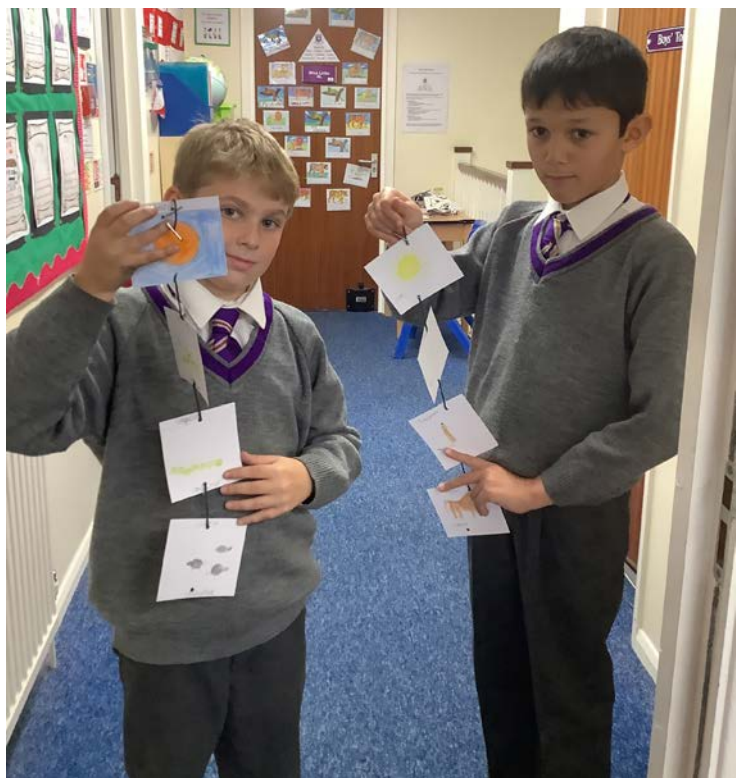




Exploring food chains in Year 4



Year 4 were discovering who was at the top of the food chain this week. They used laptops to examine three different habitats and created some very varied food chains of their own. There were some very astute comments about how climate change could affect the arctic. The conversation lurched from the profound and thoughtful when considering the fate of the planet to exclamations of horror when someone used the hole punch incorrectly..... All in all, a very typical day in Year 4.





Our musicians have been busy this week

Ensembles are enjoying rehearsing their pieces for our upcoming Arts Evening, taking place at 7 pm on Tuesday 30th November. The boys are putting a considerable amount of effort into their rehearsals and we are looking forward to celebrating their successes. In Year 6 class music lessons we were treated to a live performance of Tabla by Arjun in 6G. His impressive performance compliments this half term's Year 6 music topic of 'Indian Fusion.' Boys are fusing Indian Classical Music with

another musical genre of their choice, Arjun's live performance has helped to inspire many of the boys' compositions.

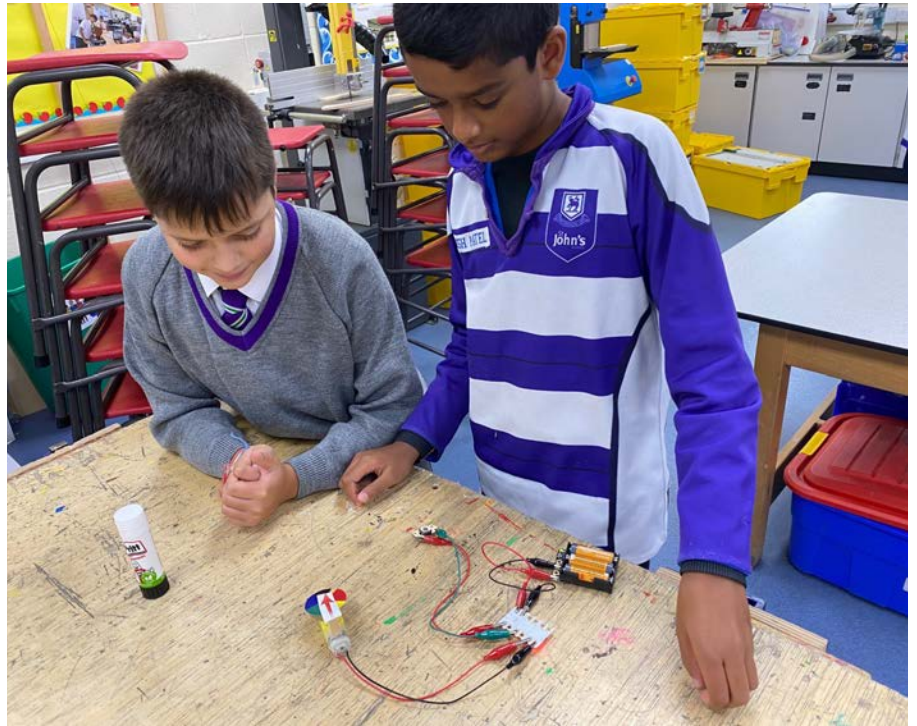
We must mention the professionalism of our trumpeters for this year's performance of 'The Last Post' in commemoration of remembrance. Aryan (8H), Daniel (8J), Rahul and Rehaan (7B) played the challenging dedicatory fanfare with finesse and should be proud of their efforts and contribution - well done again.





We've all been busy in the workshop this week

Over the past few weeks in D&T, Kush and I have built a wheel that picks your personality randomly. For example, green means that you are always positive and eco-friendly and red means that you are always angry. This is a really fun project and the whole class enjoyed having a go on it and finding out their personality. I found out that most people are eco-friendly and positive. *By Kian 7M*





Another busy week in the Art room

1. Nayan in 8J has drawn his eye. 2. Deven in 3W has enjoyed printing leaves. 3. This moon-lit sky painting is by Svanik in 4L. 4. Rahul in 7B has enjoyed creating his colourful, mixed media, self-portrait. 5. Rafi in 7B has completed his gloomy self-portrait.





U13 Belmont Rugby Festival 6th November

The U13As had a good day away at the Belmont Rugby Festival which was a classic schoolboy rugby occasion. We played a total of six matches, scored regularly and acquitted ourselves well as a team. The first game against Brighton College was an emphatic win with an early score giving us the momentum to score five unanswered tries. St Paul's was a much tighter and lower-scoring affair. Their impressive defence was the only thing which stood in the way of a higher score but the game ended in a draw.

A long-range try from Blake against Haileybury gave us a breakthrough against tough opposition and we had other scoring opportunities as the game progressed. Failing to make

these count proved costly as they scored a last-minute try to level the final score. Tight games against hosts Belmont and UCS saw us narrowly beaten despite us holding onto the ball for long periods. There are lessons for this team to make possession count in terms of scores but there was also some excellent play to get excited about. We didn't let these defeats erode our confidence against Haileybury again for the final match. They were hard to beat but never looked like scoring and we ended the afternoon with a win. Huge congratulations must go to all the players in the squad who played with passion, commitment and real teamwork against some very strong rugby teams. Well, done!





U13s Rugby against Shiplake

A very good start from the St John's U13A team with forwards and backs playing some exhilarating rugby. Constant attacking play put Shiplake under enormous pressure and our support and link play from the ruck to the tackle was very good. Amos, Zac and William played strongly carrying the ball superbly. Amos impressed and only some very strong tackles brought him down. Blake controlled everything at 10, the backs moved the ball well with Thomas and Joshua attacking the wide channels. Jacob scored three good tries. In the second half, Shiplake College raised their game and we had to defend for long periods. We could not get our hands on the ball and eventually they scored. With five minutes to go we kept the ball and got a few penalties which allowed us to get near the opposition line. Jacob ripped the ball and powered his way over the line to score the winning try. A great finish. Man of Match Jacob, Amos.



On a drizzly day, the boys of the U13B team were on the Swamp pitch battling with Shiplake. Both teams defended valiantly in the first half. Some brilliant contact skills were displayed, but Shiplake came out on top, showing excellent counter-rucking and scoring two unanswered tries. An early try in the second half looked like it may have decided the game, but the team showed a tremendous amount of determination and courage, keeping the ball alive and scoring two tries of their own to get right back into the game. Another couple of quick tries from Shiplake's standout player again put the Bs under tremendous pressure but they finished the game with a late onslaught, scoring another two tries to make the final score 5-4. A super game of rugby to watch and a real step up in physicality that the boys should all be really pleased with. Man of the match was Vihaan for leading the team by example in both attack and defence. Special mentions to Aryan and Hamza.



U12s against Shiplake

The U12As had a strong start by scoring early tries with great running and handling from the whole team. Some of us showed some impressive tackling, particularly from Jimi, Satyen and Shane. This allowed us to regain possession at crucial moments in the game. We conceded a few tries from the opposition towards the end of the half bringing the score to 5-5 by half-time. In the second half, a brilliant try from Archie put us in the lead. Shiplake had some big players who broke through our line twice to put the score at 7-6. There was also brave rucking from Ahaan. A fantastic run from Shane equalised both teams with not much time left to go. Unfortunately, Shiplake scored with a quick winger who outran our defence. An incredibly close match and a wonderful team effort. Scorers: Shane 4, Archie 2, Jimi 1 Man of the Match - Whole team. Match Report by Nishant



This was the first fixture for a while for the U12B's after a couple of cancelled fixtures. We were very eager to get started against Shiplake and everyone was confident with the game plan going into the game. We were playing uphill to start the game and unfortunately, started slowly again, conceding 4 quick tries by simply inviting Shiplake to run at us. However, some key leaders emerged amongst the team and led our defensive line up to put the pressure on Shiplake. This resulted in some great counter-rucking, turnovers in the scrum and enthusiasm to dive on any loose ball. We scored 5 just before the half, through George G, Kush and Rehaan in the left corner, the last of which just before the half time whistle through an intercept from Krish. In the second half, Remika broke the opposition's line to give us great momentum and we were try for try with Shiplake despite some try saving tackles from Kian A, Armaan, and Jamie. The last 5 minutes were spent deep into the Shiplake half with sustained attacking pressure with some tired bodies fighting for every metre on the pitch. Well played boys, a well fought draw from a slow start.

Tries: Abdullah 1, Krish 2, George G 2, Rehaan 1, Kush 3, Man of the Match: Krish, Kian A & Remika



Colts Belmont Rugby Festival 6th November

On Saturday the 6th of November the Colts A team played in the Belmont Rugby Festival. The team had the perfect start to their campaign with two convincing wins in performances against St Cedd's and Belmont A. The squad dealt with the contact areas well, securing the ball and passing away quickly to the start of the backline. It was especially their ability to move the ball consistently before and out of tackles that paid dividends here. The team narrowly lost to Belmont a month ago, so they showed great character here to showcase their progress in front of so many parents. Thank you for all the support (and coffee) on the day! Bedford was physical and well drilled in the contact areas as well as moving the ball at the right time. It was a shame that we gave them too much space and the opportunity to play. Feedback during the break and a quick drill

to get the team to front up physically and they really did well against a good Berkhamsted squad. We had our opportunities to shift the ball wide in attack but unfortunately opted to run for contact. The last game against Felsted was of a similar physical standard. Early unforced handling errors and 50/50 off-loads allowed them to score three early tries. This is always a tricky position to fight back from in what was only a 10-minute match. UCS played in the festival as well. Aubrey, who has been playing with the St John's squad for the last three years, was playing for UCS. We managed to organise a last-minute friendly fixture with them and got a great team photo with all the UCS boys. We will play them again in two weeks' time at St John's. Well done to all on a cracking morning of rugby with many tries scored and with some great tackles on display.





OUTLOOK




HAMPERS BY MERCHANT TAYLORS'

THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS IS ALL IN THE GIVING

Hampers by Merchant Taylors' returns for 2021 with a sumptuous selection of sweet and savoury goods, cakes, chutneys and jams, all created in our own kitchen and complemented by carefully selected wines.

The joy of Christmas is all in the giving, and with our lovingly curated range of wicker hampers, jute bags and gift boxes, there is the perfect gift to add some magic to everyone's Christmas this year.

Order yours soon at www.merchant-taylors.co.uk/hampers

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Calendar & notices

Sunday 14th November: Remembrance Service Northwood (10.45am-12.00pm)
Monday 15th November: Year 6 Parents' Evening online (6.00pm)
Tuesday 16th November: Rugby v Gayhurst & Davenies: U9 A, B, (h) C, D, E (a) at Gayhurst (2.15pm)
Wednesday 17th November: School Council
 St John's Rugby Festival: U13 A (h) (1.30pm)
Thursday 18th November: Rugby v Davenies, Gayhurst, The Beacon: U8 A, B (a) at The Beacon U8 C, D, E (h) (2.15pm)
 St John's Association AGM postponed
Friday 19th November: House Meetings
 Rugby v UCS: U11 A, B, C, D (h) (2.30pm)
 Rugby v Claire's Court: U10 B, C, D (a) (2.45pm)
Saturday 20th November: Northwood Hills Big Christmas Switch On (4.00pm)
Sunday 21st November: Gayhurst U8 A Tag Rugby Tournament (9.00am)



Sahib in 8J has been awarded his 1st Dan Taekwondo Black Belt. He has worked hard over the last 6 years and his black belt was achieved by mastering 10 patterns, 10 sets of theory, alongside sparring.

Contact details

Updates: Please continue to visit www.st-johns.org.uk 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 @stjohnsnorthwood and our sports department @StJohnsNwSport

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

Photographs: We cannot always be on hand every event with a camera and rely on photographs from parents and supporters. Do please continue to send in pictures to lambeditor@st-johns.org.uk for inclusion in The Lamb. Many thanks.

Notices and reminders

Remembrance Service in Northwood, Sunday 14th

November: Our Head Boy and Deputy Head Boys will be laying a St John's School wreath during the Remembrance Service at Northwood War Memorial 10.45am-12.00pm.

Northwood Hills Big Christmas Switch On 2021: On Saturday 20th November at 4.00pm outside the Namaste Lounge on Joel Street, the St John's Brass Band and Senior Choir will be playing and singing at the Northwood Hills Big Christmas Switch On. Thank you to all boys who have signed up and to parents for supporting this community event.

Christmas card competition update: Thank you to all boys who entered the Christmas card competition. The designs have now been posted to Lady Harding to judge.

Annual Traffic Survey. On Tuesday 16th November we will be conducting our annual traffic survey. This will be

undertaken by an independent company which will be within the car park and immediate area recording car volumes.

Raising Boys in a Digital Age: A Parents' Guide – a reminder of this webinar 29th November 2021. You can read more about the talk and register here: https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN_IJEW-pd9bTICDX4MntqRZpg

Stem Den: Stem Den bookings are open for December. We look forward to welcoming children from age 5 to 13 to learn about STEM through a theme-based day at St John's School. Take a look at the website to see the programme of events. www.stemden.co.uk We take childcare vouchers!

House Points: 1st Lincoln 38.95 2nd Churchill 38.76, 3rd Lawrence 36.72, 4th Oates 36.33

Have a very good weekend.