



From the Headmaster

Welcome to the first Lamb of the Summer term. We've had a busy couple of weeks. The nursery boys were very excited to see the Lamb statue with the England flag, part of our school emblem, which we raised for St George's Day on 23rd April.

We were very sad to hear that Paul Ramage, the third of the five Headmasters of St John's died recently. You can read more about him on page 2. He was a talented cricketer and would have been delighted that our cricket season is now underway.

We have welcomed Mr Vince back to St John's as our Music Teacher for this term. He has been judging the first round of the House Music Competition and is very impressed with the standard of the boys' playing.

5W-S have delivered excellent assemblies on the topic of pets and how they can help with our wellbeing. When walking around the School I was pleased to note the fantastic Year 2 display on the Duke of Edinburgh's life, the Otters and Owls' work on the topic of dinosaurs and Year 5s yeast investigation in Science.

You can see photos of the Year 3 and 4 boys enjoying their day trip to PGL in Guildford yesterday on pages 15 and 16. Year 8 boys have been out on the open road in their Bikeability sessions this week.

Enjoy the Bank Holiday weekend



The Lambs welcome the Spring



The Lambs helped us raise the flag for St George's day on Friday 23rd April. The lamb in our school emblem holds a St George's flag and we decided this was a fitting day for the Lamb statue to display a flag on the flagpole for the first time. More flags are being designed currently and we will reveal more of this in a later edition. The Lambs have also been gardening.





Paul Ramage: St John's Headmaster 1984-1993

Paul Ramage, the third of the five headmasters at St. John's School sadly died recently at the age of 81. He was appointed to take over from Peter Norman in 1984 by the Merchant Taylors' Company which had recently bought the School. A Cambridge historian, a very experienced teacher and an excellent cricketer, it was his job to help the School, the new owners and the Governors work together effectively, a job which he took on with great enthusiasm.

He oversaw a rapid expansion of the School with the opening of a new Pre-Prep department in 1986 and a programme of building work including the gym and changing block in 1986 (recently replaced by the Centenary Sports Hall.) The current Year 5 and 6 classrooms were added to each end of the Dining Hall block so that boys could move out of overcrowded rooms in the White House, a purpose-built science block with music practice rooms was built in 1988 and finally the Junior block in 1992.

He gave Mrs Wilson her first job and Mrs Wheeler, the flute teacher remembers him as a very kind and caring man.

Paul was keen to involve parents in school life and scheduled more regular parents' evenings and greater use of written communications, for example he launched the annual School Magazine in 1985 which offered a comprehensive survey of the year for parents and opportunities for boys' written work, and later artwork and photographs of school life, to be published. He was also responsible for instituting the tradition of the annual Fun Days, began the St John's Association which funded the purchase of the first St John's School minibus in 1989 and presided over the first Summer Ball in 1988.

In fact, he started many of the traditions that are still part of school life today, the first School Carol Service at Emmanuel Church took place in 1985,

there were major dramatic productions, the inauguration of the House Music Festival and the first ski trip. He was thrilled with the School's sporting successes and very hands on with sport. He enjoyed nothing better than bowling to the boys in the nets on a Friday afternoon and for a number of years refereed the 1st XV home rugby fixtures. Despite only leading St John's for nine years, his legacy is clearly visible today.





Welcome back Mr Vince

Ask any St John's boy from 2002 onwards which teachers they remember and one name is sure to crop up: Mr Vince. His maths lessons were unforgettable - especially the Dolly Parton song that accompanied his lesson on scalene triangles - and his organisation of the annual Northwood 2000 assault course competition was a triumph of engineering and teamwork. And now he's back!

Mr Vince is teaching Music to Years 3-8 for the summer term and is already starting to make his presence felt. See page 22 for pictures of Year 8 boys having fun and drumming in the sun.

Austin Vince grew up in Wealdstone and went to Quainton Hall and then Mill Hill School for his secondary education. His degree is in Civil Engineering and his PGCE in secondary maths. After a few years as an officer in the Royal Army Educational Corps his post army life has been a collage of teaching, working in television and long distance motorcycling.

He has been teaching since 1984. He first arrived at St John's in September 2002 to teach Maths and he has been around (on and off) ever since.

He is also the curator of the Adventure Travel Film Festival and runs an analogue music library called Librarian Fantasy Music. He has written and recorded over 150 tracks as a solo artist, both instrumental and vocal and has provided theme tunes and jingles for literally hundreds of TV shows. Danone yoghurt, Scottish Widows and Sony PlayStation advertising campaigns have all featured music written and performed by Austin and his team.

He collaborated with Ms Bullock, the cello teacher and the school violin/cello orchestra to generate a piece that was recently used in a Honda promotional film. The recent Amazon comedy show 'Lodge 49' also features music written by Austin Vince.

Austin plays the harmonica and drums very proficiently and the electric bass and piano to nothing like the same standard. He is also an expert on the golden age of Italian film scores (1964 to 75) so he knows his Bruno Nicolai from his Piero Piccioni. Consequently, his favourite food is pizza Leone with extra Morricone.

When not working at St. John's, Austin runs motorcycle adventure tours in the Spanish Pyrenees.





The Geology Eruption!

In Tuesday's Geology club, after much planning and anticipation, the boys were able to complete their 'Coca-Cola and Mentos' experiment. The eruption that takes place when Mentos are placed in a bottle of fizzy drink is similar to a volcanic eruption and often studied by volcanologists. The boys spent a few weeks researching the experiment, working out which fizzy drink might be best and if they could add anything to increase the height of the eruption.

Satyen 6M, Mithil 6M, Jamie 6M and Kian D 6A investigated Sprite, Coke Zero and Diet Coke but also

decided to add Bicarbonate of Soda to improve the height. Diet Coke turned out to produce the biggest eruption in this experiment. Anay 5M, Rahul 6M and Krish 6A investigated Sprite, Coke Zero and Dr Pepper, George R 6M, Oliver 6V and Luke 6M investigated Dr Pepper Zero, Diet Coke and Fanta. Their results showed that Dr Pepper Zero gave the highest fountain. As you can see from the photo below, the result even made Luke jump backwards in shock!

They all had lots of fun planning and running the experiment! *Mrs Walker.*





Unconditional Love!

This week, 5W-S had great fun discussing the benefits of having a pet, particularly with regards to mental health! It was a unanimous decision that many pets offer us unconditional love and during lockdown many boys agreed that talking to their pets and giving them a stroke or a cuddle really helped to calm them down and ease their stress!

The hymn “All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small...” which featured in the concluding prayer, really did seem to ring true! Well done, 5W-S; we thoroughly enjoyed your positive assemblies and particularly admired your energy and team effort!

Mr Wilson-Spellward.





Road and cycle safety in Years 5 and 8

This week's PSHCEE lesson was about the rules of the road and road safety. 5C made a video in their lesson with Mr Vince and they wanted to share it with you here youtu.be/BMRW3ytx5j8 Good work boys.



This week, Year 8 got the special opportunity to learn how to cycle on the main streets, safely. Instructors from Hillingdon council came to St John's to share their wisdom with us, pupils.

On the first day, they tested us to see if we had the basic foundations of cycling, before they took us on the open roads. Over the past couple of days, we have been taught how to safely: U-turn, signal to drivers behind us, turn from minor

to major streets and vice versa and the different positions to control traffic. We are thoroughly glad that they were able to sacrifice their time so that we could become more adept cyclists, and as a year group, thankful to those instructors. My personal highlight was when we learned the flowing U-turn as I personally had struggled with it when cycling on my own. Once again, thank you to Hillingdon Council.

Yusuf 8L





They're coming home, they're coming home, the Science Turtles are coming home.

Well looked after by Mihir 6M and his parents over the Easter holidays, our resident turtles made their return to the comfort of the Science Lab this week. It's a struggle to manhandle the large tank up the stairs into the lab, but once ensconced our turtles took up their customary sunny position and seemed to enjoy their familiar surroundings.

Mr Lawrence built their little canopy which pokes above the water line, so that they can enjoy a sun bathe in the sunlight streaming through the window in 'Northwood Riviera'. With fresh water at the right temperature they were soon to be seen splashing around. Their favourite tippie is prawns served raw.



Active Easter holidays

Congratulations to our boys who found some super holiday activities to get involved in some helped by celebrities.



Yousef 3H, sister Aisha and Mum Mariam at the zoo with Joe Wickes



Rafi 6V met David Walliams in Regents Park in the Easter Holidays



Iraj in 4S made his own adventures climbing trees



Darsh 5W-S, Rian 5M and Ali 5W-S collected their players' caps for taking part in their first borough cricket game last Bank Holiday Monday. All three have been selected to play for Hillingdon.



Zachariah's U10's Bumper Wins over Easter. Well done to Zachariah! After four months of no tennis, Zachariah returned to the courts to take top spot at Wembley Greens U10's tournaments and Wallington Green U10's Tournament over Easter. Great tennis, fierce matches and two gold medals won. Huge congratulations to him for his achievement.



Easter cards for Erskine Hall residents

The Year 3 boys made cheerful Easter chick cards for the residents of Erskine House. The message they wrote inside was, "Happy Easter from all the boys and staff at St John's School." Our Head Boy, Alexander, delivered the cards and eggs on the last day of the term, just in time for Easter.





Kian 6V walked a marathon for Prostate Cancer

On the Easter weekend in April, I walked a marathon over two days for Prostate Cancer UK. It was very tough and afterwards my legs ached really badly, I felt like giving up at a few points but I kept remembering the reason I was doing it which helped me get through it. The reason I did this was because my grandad was diagnosed with this illness in 2016 and I wanted to raise money to help towards research and finding a cure for this illness.

I had a lot of support from my friends and family who joined me at various points on the marathon which also helped me. I had some mentions on Twitter from Prostate Cancer UK, Middlesex Cricket and Eastcote Cricket Club and they all wished me good luck. My aim was to do most of the marathon on the first day so that I was left with less to do the following day, knowing that I would be tired from the first

day's walk. On the first day I walked 15.5 miles. The route was from Northwood to Hatch End and then through Pinner towards North Harrow. At each place, someone whether it was my grandparents or my friends, would meet us and walk with us. On the second day, I had 10.7 miles left. We walked to Merchant Taylors' and I was very lucky that Miss Vale and Merlin joined us as we walked through Moor Park. I found the last few miles extremely hard and it took longer than we originally hoped as I had to stop a few times, but managed to complete it within the two days.

It was one of the toughest things I have ever done, but really glad that I did it and hope that the money raised can go on to help Prostate Cancer UK.

If you would like to still donate, the JustGiving page is still open: www.justgiving.com/KianJobanputra



VOTES FOR SCHOOLS

Next week we will be looking at the Local Elections. You could take time to discuss this at home and follow the results when they start to come in. Have you seen a voting slip? Perhaps you could have a mock election at home!

Do we take local elections seriously? 




Click on the images to find out more.

How can under 18's have an impact on Elections



Coronavirus Brexit Money The NHS

Most people in the UK are concerned about the issues in the pictures above.

Which issues are most important to you?



Be heard.

Manifesto:

A written statement of the beliefs, aims, and policies of a political party or candidate.

Vocab Check



Be curious.

Coalition: A group of two or more political parties working together to win an election or govern an area

How do our gardens grow?

The Lambs planted seasonal flowers in their planting box. We also made cress heads and put some beans in the greenhouses. They learnt that the flowers needed sunlight and water to grow.





Message of Hope from our Reception boys

Over Easter, some of our Reception boys were involved with the 'Message of Hope' campaign, which was backed by former Blue Peter presenter Radzi Chinyanganya. Children were invited to create pictures and messages to be put into prescription bags and distributed to vulnerable and elderly people in the UK, many of whom have been isolating for much of the past year. The boys received the message opposite from the campaign organisers:

Dear St John's boys,
 Thank you for your messages. The campaign is now closed and we are getting the messages that were sent in from over 700 children across the UK (and one all the way from Germany!) onto 1 million postcards which we will be including in prescriptions from 10th May for our elderly, isolated and vulnerable patients to hopefully brighten their spirits and make them smile and let them know we are all thinking about them. Thanks so much boys for your help and support of the campaign – it really appreciated!

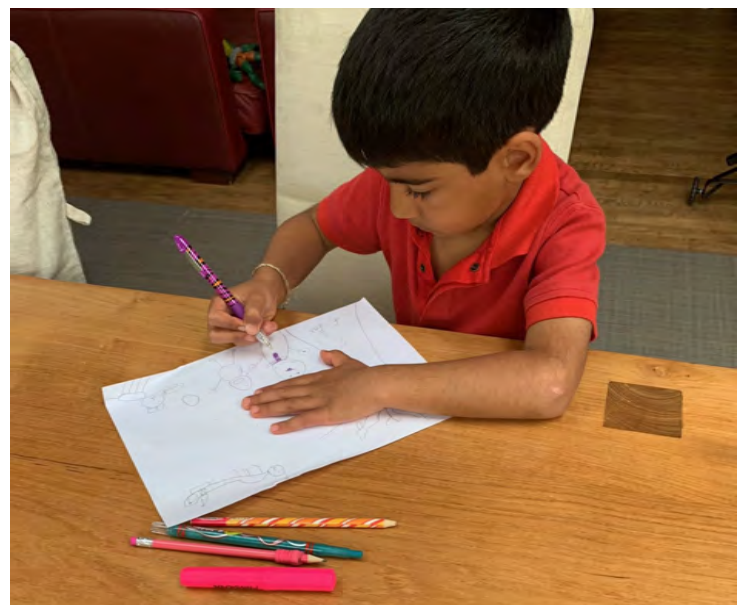
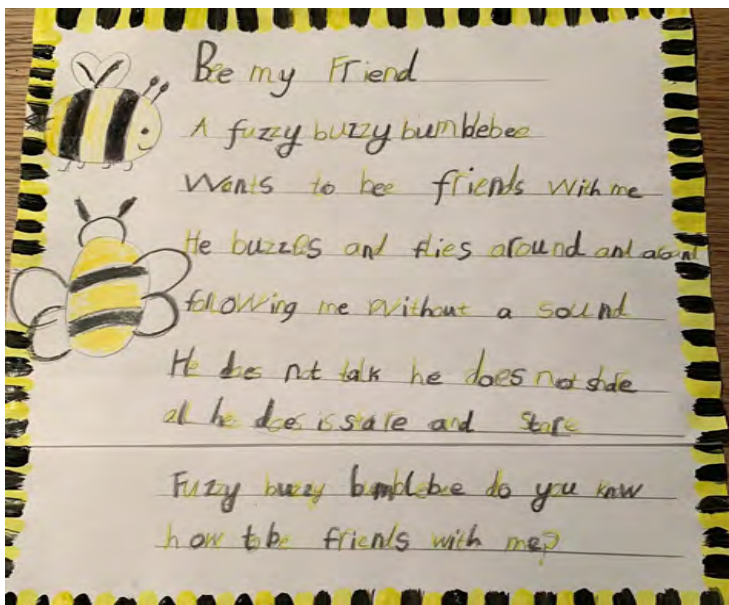
We are sure the messages below will make people smile:



I hope that you will like this picture of the Easter egg, Sam, age 5.



Dear friend
 What do say to a teddy bear having race?
 Ready, teddy, go
 Hope my joke cheers you up.
 From Reuben
 Age 4





PRE-PREP



Watch out! There are snakes about in Year 1!

The Otters and Owls have started a topic about 'Rainforests'. This week the boys learnt some rather scary facts about snakes. In Art, the boys chose some contrasting colours to make patterns on the scaly snake skins. After cutting a spiral shape and adding eyes and tongues, the coiled snakes became three dimensional, so watch out for their venom!!

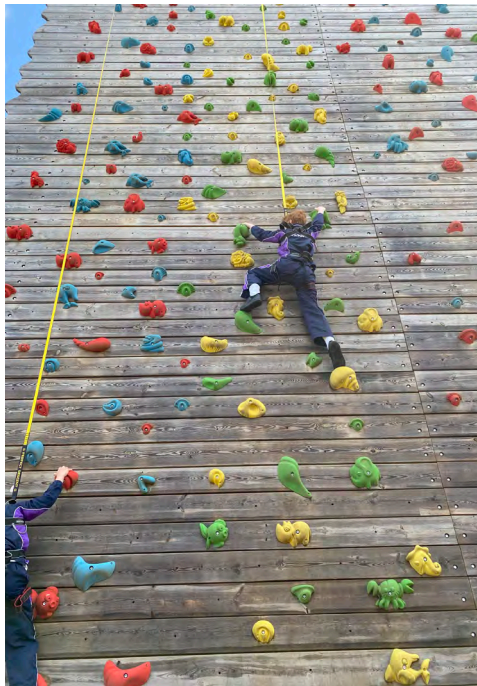




PGL Activity Day for Years 3 & 4

The Juniors had a wonderful day out at PGL on Thursday. The enthusiasm of the boys at 6.45am was a testament to their excitement. None of us had been on a school trip for over a year and everyone was determined to make the most of it. The M25 was feeling benevolent and we were soon at Hindhead in Surrey. The boys were split into groups and thoroughly enjoyed

taking part in team building exercises, climbing a very high wall, being blindfolded for a sensory trail and perhaps more than anything having a go on the giant swing. We returned safe and sound, if a little tired, by 6.00 pm having had a terrific day. Both boys and staff were ready for an early night and possibly a bank holiday weekend.





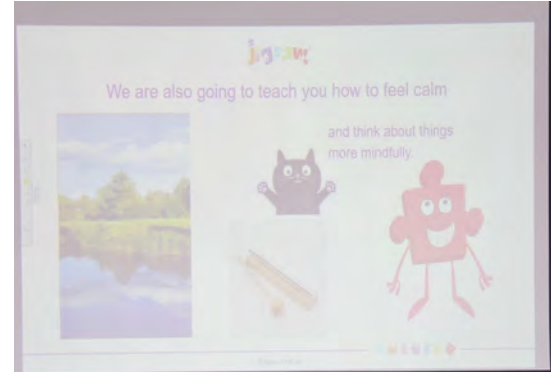
PGL Activity Day for Years 3 & 4 cont.





Year 3 and 4 meet Jino and Jaz

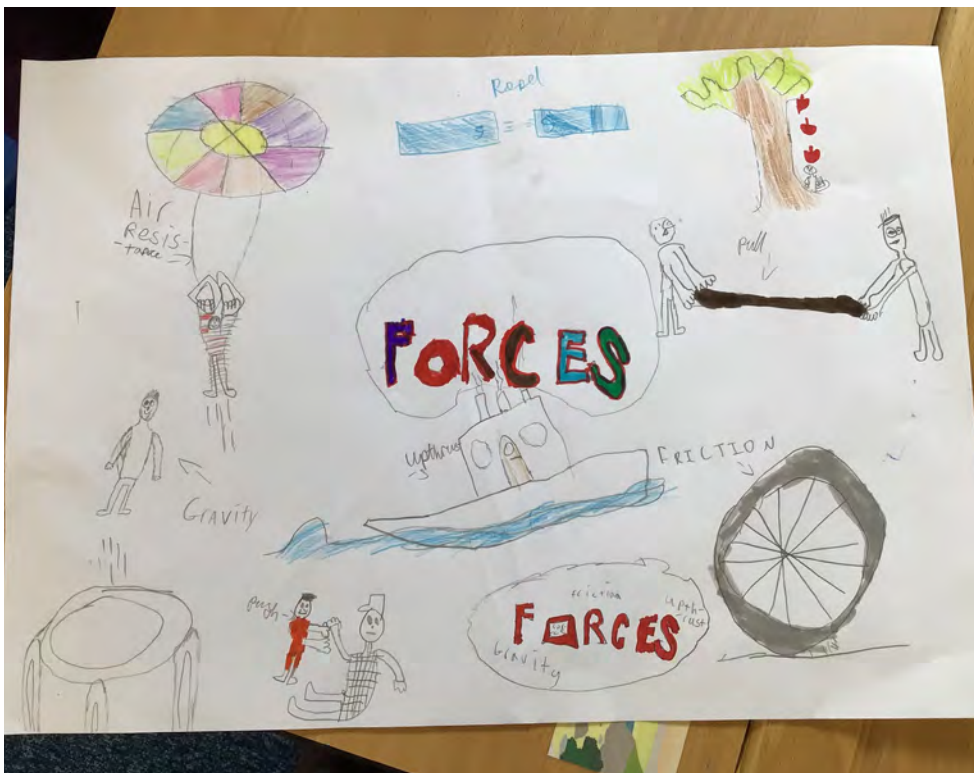
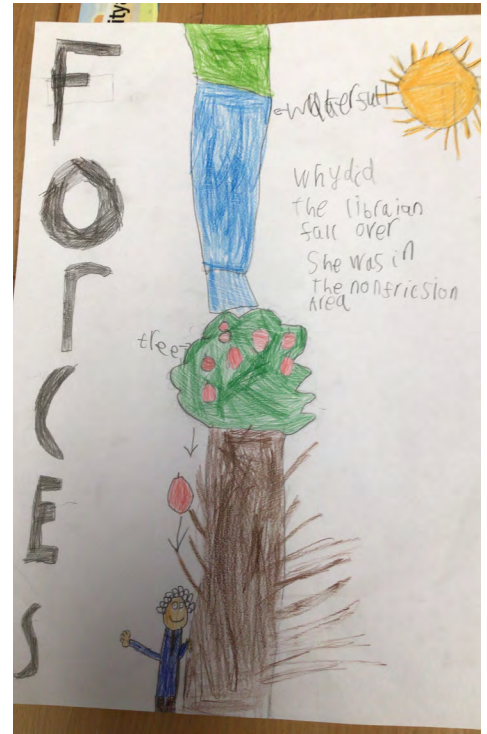
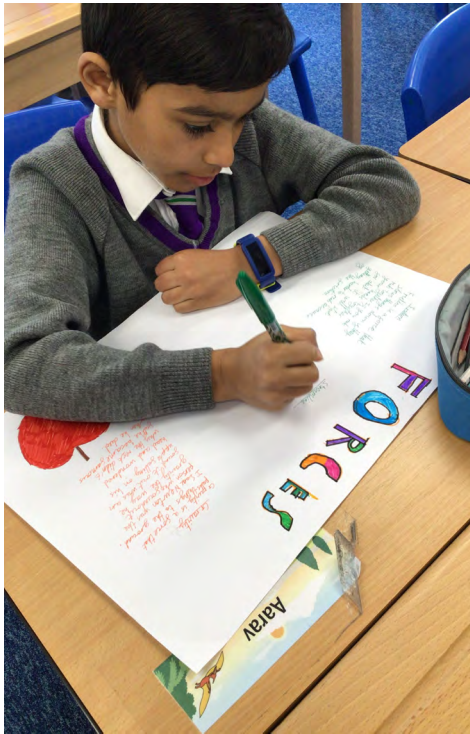
This week Year 3 and 4 were introduced to their new PSHCEE scheme called Jigsaw. We met our Jigsaw friends, Jino and Jaz who will help us through our lessons as well as Jerrie the Cat who has huge paws. When he raises his paws it is time to pause and think about something. You can read more about Jigsaw and PSHE by [following this link](#).





Year 3 designed colourful posters in Science

This week we have been revising our learning on Forces and Magnets. To demonstrate their knowledge on this topic, the boys in Year 3 have created posters showing where and how you can see forces working around us.





Learning about linkages in DT

Year 4 have been enjoying being back in the DT workshop this week to find out how different linkage arrangements work.

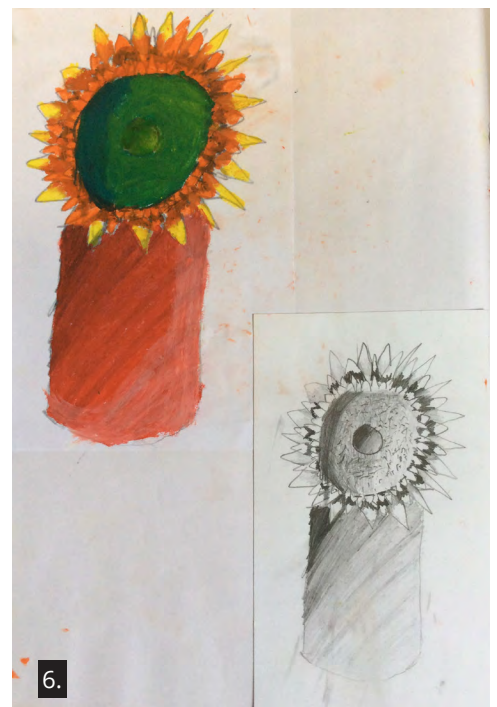




Year 5 Sunflower studies

Year 5 has been learning about the Dutch painter, Vincent van Gogh. Van Gogh is probably best known for his sunflower paintings. In fact, sunflowers were his favourite flower. For him, the yellow sunflower signified happiness and he tried to capture this in his work. Year 5 have enjoyed observing and drawing sunflowers, just as much as van Gogh did in 1888.

1. Arti is hard at work, 2. Arti's sunflower drawing, 3. Ahmed's sunflower drawing in pencil and oil pastel 4. Aaron' sunflower drawing, 5. Aiden's sunflower drawing, 6. Thomas C's sunflower drawing in pencil and oil pastel.





Join the Royal Mail stamp competition



The Royal Mail and 10 Downing Street have launched a competition inviting children aged 4 to 14 to design Royal Mail stamps to honour heroes of the pandemic. The competition is a wonderful opportunity to highlight the positive work carried out by so many to help the country through the past 12 months. As well as NHS and social care staff, children could illustrate volunteers in their community, refuse collectors, cleaning staff, teachers, supermarket workers, public transport staff, delivery drivers, perhaps even the scientists who created the vaccines.

This is only the fifth time that the Royal Mail has held a competition like this, and the first time for non-Christmas

stamps. A special panel of judges will choose the eight winning designs from 120 regional finalists. As with all stamps issued by Royal Mail, the final eight designs will be sent to Her Majesty the Queen for approval before they can be printed and issued.

Ms Gillen has explained everything about the competition to the boys in their Art lessons. The homework is voluntary. If the boys are interested, there is more information on this link www.royalmail.com/stampcompetition





You can sign-up for one of the 6,000 resource packs available. You must get your entries to Ms Gillen by 26th May. Happy designing!

REGISTER

Enter the Heroes Stamp Design Competition

Honouring the heroes of the coronavirus pandemic... on stamps

For more than 50 years Royal Mail's Special Stamp programme has commemorated British history and achievement. Stamps have also been issued to honour the achievements of many British people. Often, the people who appear on stamps are already famous. They include scientists and explorers, writers, artists, musicians, athletes, and Prime Ministers.

Since the coronavirus pandemic began, there have been many people who have done great things. Many of them are not famous, but they have done extraordinary work. These are the people who have helped us all through a really difficult time. Some are frontline workers in healthcare, others look after elderly or vulnerable people.



8B drumming in the sun with Mr Vince

Since the beginning of term, Mr Vince has been judging the first round of the House Music Competition. He has been very impressed with the standard of the boys' playing. After their audition last week, 8B enjoyed a taste of music-making with Mr Vince and had a fantastic time drumming to "Hey, Bo Diddley" in the late afternoon sun.





Anyone for tennis?

Year 8 had their first tennis lesson outside this week and the focus was very much on hitting and returning the ball. A number of pupils moved onto overhead serving and near the end of the lesson we started playing matches. All the boys were

able to develop their hitting, serving and all round play in the class. We have tennis matches against other schools later on in the term so it was good seeing all the pupils developing their skills at the start of the Summer term. *Mr Pawson*





St John's boy awarded RFU Green Laces

Thomas Curzon 5W-S was awarded with Green Laces at the end of last term. Green Laces is an RFU initiative which recognises and rewards players in U8 - U13 age groups who are demonstrating rugby union's core values; teamwork, respect, enjoyment, discipline and sportsmanship, both on and off the pitch.



OUTLOOK



Calendar & important dates Contact details

Calendar and important dates:

Monday 3rd May: Bank Holiday – School Closed

Wednesday 5th May: Year 8 Drugs Talk 9.00am via Google Meet
Drugs Talk for Year 7&8 Parents 6.30pm via Google Meet

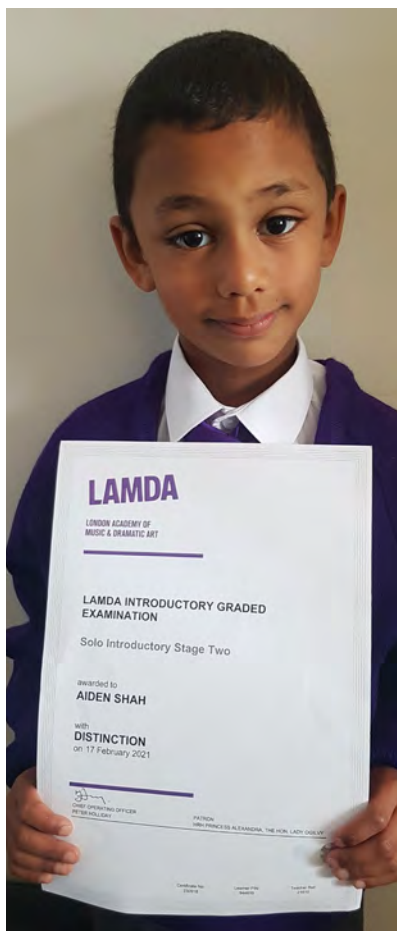
Thursday 6th May: PGL Activity Day (Year 2)

Friday 7th May: Mufti Day for British Asian Trust's Oxygen for India Emergency Appeal

Cricket v Radlett Prep: U11 A, B (h) 2.15pm

Cricket v St Paul's: Colts C, D, E, F, G, H (a) 2.00pm

Photo of the week: Congratulations to Aiden in the Owls for gaining a distinction in his LAMDA Solo introductory Stage Two examination.



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 @stjnsnorthwood 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

Exam revision Guides for Year 5 to 8: These are available to view on the Parent Portal.

Mufti Day Friday 7th May: We will be holding an extra Mufti day in the hope of raising funds for the British Asian Trust's Oxygen for India Emergency Appeal. We have set up a Just Giving Link to receive donations and we hope that you will give what you can. Many thanks, Mrs Walker. www.justgiving.com/fundraising/stjohnsoxygenforindia

House Music Festival: We have almost completed the first rounds and all those who have taken part will be awarded a House Point. The standard is high and we would like to congratulate all those who have taken part. Boys will receive the results of the first round by Friday 7th May

and the second round will take place on Friday 14th May at lunchtime in the Norman Hall. The boys who have got through to the second round will be asked to play the same piece again and will be offered a rehearsal with Mrs Savage or Mrs Cooper before the 14th May. Boys, there will be a list for you to sign up on the Music Department noticeboard for a rehearsal.

Votes for schools: see page 11

House Points: 1st Lincoln 97.10, 2nd Lawrence 95.27 3rd Churchill 92.97, 4th Oates 90.82

The next edition of the Lamb will be on Friday 14th May. Meanwhile, have a super long weekend.