



From the
Headmaster

As you will see in this week's Lamb the last seven days have been packed full of interesting events many of which have coincided with the celebration of World Book Day and Science Week.

We welcomed inspirational author Ali Sparkes who gave the boys some excellent writing tips. All the Prep boys engaged with her books and were able to buy signed copies. The Pre-Prep read their favourite bedtime stories. Staff and boys alike embraced the day by dressing up in their pyjamas.

Year 7 enjoyed their visit to the Science Museum as part of Science Week and Year 3, 4 and 5 boys had an entertaining presentation from the Science Boffin. Year 8 listened to a frank talk about Animal Aid.

Our musicians performed superbly in the Joint Concert at Merchant Taylors Hall on Monday night. The audience was treated to an evening of music from different periods including the Skye Boat Song and Tchaikovsky's Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy.

The Robins and Squirrels had a lot of fun planting seed potatoes as part of the 'Grow Your Own' scheme.

In sport the 1st VII rugby team, along with Year 7 and 8 volunteers hosted our annual Sevens Festival with teams coming from as far as South Wales. In challenging conditions all of the teams played some great games and learnt from the competition.

Finally, thank you very much indeed for your generous support of the Play Skill charity activities next week.

S. Roberts

World Book Day



For the 2020 World Book Day, 6R's assembly embraced the idea of bedtime stories and taught us about some well-known book characters who tried to convince the book-hating villain, Larry Johnson, to stop his 'libricide'. We also had the pleasure to have an amazing assembly with the well-known author, Ali Sparkes. We learned about some of the great books written by the author along with some clever tricks. Parts of chapters were read to us and some drama including comedic jokes was well received by all. The books she read to us inspired all of the boys to buy them. The series S.W.I.T.C.H was a popular one as it is about two boys called Dani and Josh. Dani loves playing sports and has a fear of creepy crawlies, however Josh is obsessed with insects as he brings a spider around his neck! The afternoon assembly by Ali Sparkes was also very interesting to listen to and her readings inspired us. The Year 7 writing workshop was well planned and it was interesting to be taught in a different way how to write creatively. **Felix, Raffi and Freddie.**





Centenary Events

With our School Centenary now in full swing we report on the series of special events being organised to celebrate 100 years of St John's. At the start of term boys were given badges and a commemorative book. Mr Robinson took the opportunity to read extracts in assembly to help boys discover more about how and why the School was founded. But that is not the end of the story. Keep reading The Lamb to follow developments as they take place. Meanwhile, below are some dates for your diary.



Our first Centenary event: the Thanksgiving Service at Emmanuel Church Northwood

Centenary Dinner at Merchant Taylors' Hall on Thursday 26th March from 6.30pm. This black-tie event in the City of London is primarily for Old Boys but is also open to parents of boys in Years 6-8. Tickets for the dinner can be obtained by visiting www.st-johns.org.uk/centenary.

The Centenary Ball at St John's on Saturday 27th June. Organised by the St John's Association, this event is for all current and past parents and staff. Interest is already intense and the Association has already arranged for a bigger marquee. Tickets are going fast and places are limited so make sure to buy your tickets early. See the advert towards the back of The Lamb for full details.

Old Boys' Day at St John's on Sunday 28th June. A special day for Old Boys from throughout the years to visit and celebrate our Centenary alongside past and current teachers and parents.

Centenary Charity Day & Pageant on Monday 29th June. This is an all-day event for pupils, staff and parents (in the afternoon). Join in the celebration of ten decades of St John's.





Grow Your Own Potatoes Project (GYOP)



This spring, our Gardening Club is taking part in the Grow Your Own Potatoes Project and hoping to win some prizes. Started in 2005, Grow Your Own Potatoes (GYOP) was one of the first primary school based growing projects. Since then, it has become the largest of its kind with over 2 million children taking part in learning where potatoes come from, how they grow and the health benefits. The straightforward and hands-on nature of the GYOP project makes it perfect for young pupils. Schools that register to take part (in February) receive a FREE growing kit containing everything they need, to grow a successful crop. Currently, we are chitting our potatoes on the Science Lab window sill which is in a nice sunny position as can be seen from the photo. In addition to planting the potatoes into our growing bags, we are also planting one potato into a clear container so that we can see what's happening underground. This is done by placing the potato shoots facing upwards in a partially filled clear plastic bottle. The bottle is wrapped in a newspaper sleeve so the potato forms in the dark against one side of the bottle. We then placed it in our greenhouse. As soon as the plant is level with the top of the bottle we add more soil. As the plant starts to grow, it sends out potato-bearing side shoots all the way up the stems. These shoots will soon become covered in small potatoes. We check progress simply by raising the newspaper sleeve and see what's going on. Both Andreas and Rahul are busily filling growing bags and planting our potato plants in two separate sacks.





Our diverse planet - Science Week



Science Week got off to a great start on **Monday**, with an entertaining assembly from 8H on Diversity in Science. The boys performed a variety of historical sketches where scientific discoveries have been controversial. It used a little bit of creativeness and “stretching of the truth” to make it more engaging, including a boxing match between Oliver’s “Flat Earther” and Bradley’s Astronaut and a gun duel over the Big Bang Theory!





Science Boffins workshop



On Wednesday the Years 3, 4 and 5 had their science extravaganza with a visitor from Science Boffins who came to tell them all about Gases. All the boys has a special assembly where they got to see a creepy growing hand, a bit of fire and an explosion, as well as the familiar Elephant's toothpaste. After the assembly the boys had the opportunity to participate in practical workshops where they could see the effects of the gases in the atmosphere and learn how suckers work. Again there were some mini-rocket explosions. Unfortunately due to the bad weather we weren't able to do the main rocket launch and hope to do this next week.

Animal Aid talk

Finally on Friday, it was the turn of Year 8. They had a talk by Dr. Andrew Orr from Animal Aid who came to tell the boys about animal rights. It was a hard hitting talk with some distressing facts about how the food we eat is kept and about animal rights in general. It gave a lot of food for thought, about how the choices we make impacts the natural world around us and the animals we share it with.





Year 7 visit the Science Museum



On Tuesday it was the Year 7 trip to the Science Museum. We travelled down to the famous museum quarter in South Kensington by underground, so we could feel good about our carbon footprint as well as getting free transport from TFL! The focus of the trip was a Science show on Newton's Three Laws, where the boys were entertained by explosions and bangs as well as Nikhil getting to model as part of a rocket ship! The highlight for most of the boys, however, was the Wonder Lab, where the boys spent a fun hour with hands-on experiments, ranging from testing friction slides, to designing helicopters. Afterwards the boys spent time looking at the artefacts in the museum, like the V2 rocket and the Apollo lander. The museum shop also proved a popular end to a fun but also a very educational day!





World Book Day in PJs



The boys in the Pre Prep threw themselves fully into World Book Day. The theme was bedtime stories so naturally everyone came to school in his pyjamas. The Lambs enjoyed listening to *The Gruffalo* and other recently written works whilst the Reception classes enjoyed *Rosie's Hat* and *the Stick Man*. Year 1 spent the day reading and writing about *Flat Stanley* which, according to the boys, was a really, really old book. It was published in 1968; a good number of the staff contemplated this definition of really old over coffee at wet break. Meanwhile Year 2 immersed themselves fully in *Winnie the Pooh*. The boys were hugely enthusiastic to the point of being Tigger like, fortunately both Mr Haley and Mrs Shah kept their inner Eeyore at bay. All in all Book Day was a great success and is over for another year.





World Book Day in PJs





PRE-PREP

Growing our own potatoes



In Reception we have signed up to the *Grow Your Own Potato* scheme. The kits arrived and we were all excited. The potatoes have been chitting in their trays for the last few weeks. The shoots appeared on the seed potatoes and slowly grew. This week we watched a short film from Farmer James and he gave us our planting instructions and some helpful tips. Mr Doughty delivered the compost to us which stimulated further excitement. Planting the seed potatoes was rather a messy job but lots of fun. We remembered to make sure that the chits pointed up. Now we need to keep an eye on them and water them when necessary. Keep reading *The Lamb* for updates on the progress of our potatoes.





JUNIORS

Bailey volunteers in Zimbabwe



Over the half term, my mum and I flew to Zimbabwe. We arrived at Victoria Falls on Saturday morning. It was very green and there was of water spray coming off the falls. We went to Imire near Harare and stayed at a volunteering wildlife centre. We went on a game drive early one morning and saw lots of animals. I got to feed a rhino called Gomo. We found a dead calf and fed it to the crocodile and the lion. We visited a local school in Imire and got to talk to the children. We helped them plant a garden and in return they thanked us by singing and dancing. We also planted a tree near one of the local villages. We definitely want to go back there sometime. **Bailey (4B)**





U11 Haileybury Hockey Tournament 28th Feb

v York House Lost 3-1

v Ashfold Lost 2-0

v Beachborough Drew 2-2

v Bancroft's Lost 1-0

v Heath Mount Lost 2-0

v Beachborough Won 2-0 on penalties
and 3rd in the Plate Competition

Scorers: Blake 2, Lucas 1, Sahib B 2

Outstanding performance:

The whole team

The boys exhibited an excellent spirit in what was a difficult tournament compounded by foul weather. In the group stage we created plenty of opportunities in the oppositions' D's but were unable to put the ball away, partly due to fine keeping. After the match against Beachborough we were optimistic about our chances and the boys engaged Bancroft's with renewed spirits. Our defenders, Oscar, Daniel and Sahib, worked like Trojans with Kian to keep a powerful team to no score, while the St John's attack moved the ball well and scored the crucial goal in a counterattack. In the semi-final of the Plate Competition we were beaten by a much stronger side in Heath Mount, so went into the 3rd/4th place decider against Beachborough. The game was as even as in the group stage and had to be decided on a penalty flick competition. Kian did exceptionally well to save two of the three flicks, while Blake and Sahib B took their opportunities brilliantly, slotting the ball into the right-hand corner of the goal, well beyond the keeper's reach, both times. We were thankful to get back into the dry to receive third place medals. The boys should be proud of their accomplishment and we look forward to our final fixture against St Martin's in two weeks time.





UCS U11 Hockey Tournament 28th February

U11 B v UCS A Lost 3-0

U11 B v Highgate A Lost 3-0

U11 B v Haberdashers' A Drew 1-1

U11B v Berkhamsted B Won 3-0

Scorers: Aaron S 3, Amos 1

Outstanding performance: Aaron S

Fantastic to get our U11 B hockey squad involved in these competitive and fun tournaments. The boys were excited and determined to play well and they really did. The first match was against UCS A team who ended up winning the tournament in the final against our U10 A team, a year young in this festival. The boys held UCS pretty well and it was only in the last 5 minutes where gaps opened and UCS started finding the backboard. Similar against Highgate in the second fixture. As a squad we quickly realised that this astro played slower than ours and also in defence especially we needed to close down space and players a lot quicker. As soon as we started doing this it was clear that we were competing better and stronger, finishing with a draw and a win.

Man of the tournament must go to Aaron S for his superb link up play and to top this off he clearly started to grow in confidence finding the backboard on three occasions in two matches. It was great to support the U10 A team in their final and watching them receive their medals at the end.

What a lovely afternoon, well done all.





UCS U10 Hockey Tournament 28th February

U10 A v UCS B Won 2-0

U10 A v Highgate B Won 4-1

U10 A v UCS A Won 2-0

U10 A v Berkhamsted Won 2-0

Scorers: Rafi 3, Oliver 3, Rehaan 2, Jimmy 1, Mithil 1

Outstanding performances: Oliver, Kabir and Rafi

The U10 A team played very well in the U11 UCS hockey tournament and competed very well against the other sides being a year younger. In all the pool matches, we passed the ball well and created many scoring opportunities. Some of the inter link play was superb with the defence, mid-field and attack combining very well to create total hockey. In defence, Kabir with Emerson controlled the back play with ease. Rafi on the right was always a threat and Oliver in the mid-field played superbly throughout the tournament. But this was a real team effort with all the boys playing well. Jimmy, Archie, Mithil, Rehaan and Nishant all played very well for the side. A great effort to reach the final and the boys should all be congratulated for their efforts. Well done!





St John's U13 Invitation Sevens 4th March

v Llandovery Lost 10-5

v St Paul's Lost 20-0

v Edge Grove Lost 30-0

v Cothill Lost 25-0

v St Benedict's Won 25-0

Scorers: Louis 3, Yusuf 1, Oliver 1,
Zac A 1

Outstanding performance:

The whole team

Despite the rain and wind this proved to be a terrific and very popular festival. All teams played 5 matches celebrating the challenges and enjoyment of 7s rugby.

The boys had a tight first game against Llandovery, scoring first and just losing out in the last minutes. The next 3 matches were tough with the team having to dig deep against very strong opposition.

With sore and tired bodies the squad came good for one final push against St. Benedict's. Not only did they play their best rugby in attack they also added creativity to suit the conditions. Zac and Krish played excellent kicks through for scores and Yusuf and Louis demonstrated their speed and power for the other tries. In the final couple of minutes the whole team battled to stop the opposition scoring, time and time again pushing back their attacks.

The team finished off another excellent festival with great play, and above all, even greater spirit.





St John's U13 Invitation Sevens in pictures



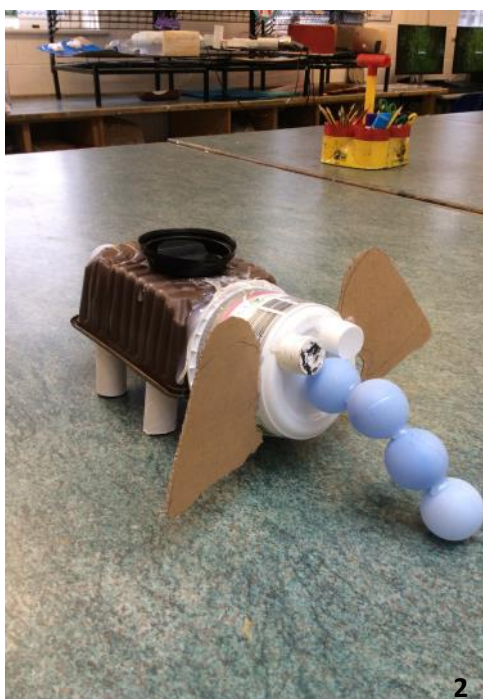


Musicians perform at Merchant Taylors' Hall



On Monday evening our musicians were very proud to represent the School in a concert at Merchant Taylors' Hall in the City. The Bass Boys and String Quartet joined pupils from Merchant Taylors' School and Merchant Taylors' Prep for afternoon rehearsals before a delicious tea and the performance. It was a fantastic experience for our boys, one of whom is only in Year 3 and they all played superbly. Members of the Merchant Taylors' Company including the Master and his wife were present and they had lots of congratulatory comments at the end. Well done to everyone involved.





Our awarded artists this week are **Freddie** in Year 4, **Kian** in Year 5 and **Freddie** in Year 7. Well done!

1. **Freddie** has been carefully working on his recycled paper collage. Great start!
2. **Kian** has made a rather cute elephant out of recyclable plastic products.
3. **Freddie** in Year 7 has made a great start on his House Art composition drawing.

Other work that has been going on in the art room this week...

4. Boys in **Year 4** were practising their testudo formation with their completed Roman shields.
5. Can you guess who this little bunny is?
6. Boys in **Art Club** have been creating animal faces out of recycled corrugated card. **Leo** has made a lion.

OUTLOOK



TICKETS ON SALE NOW

ST JOHN'S
Centenary Ball

27TH JUNE 2020

£125 PER PERSON

**FOLLOW THE LINK
TO RESERVE YOUR TABLE OF 10**

<https://forms.gle/LK14AhXkq7e2oHsc8>



OUTLOOK



EASTER



STEM DEN

AT ST JOHN'S SCHOOL, NORTHWOOD. HA63QY



Childcare
Vouchers
Accepted



6th -9th APRIL

BOYS AND GIRLS AGED 5 TO 13

FUN, EDUCATIONAL, HANDS ON LEARNING

8.30AM UNTIL 4.30PM

SEE WWW.STEMDEN.CO.UK
FOR MORE DETAILS AND TO REGISTER

Book early
to avoid
disappointment!



Calendar and important dates

Monday 9th March: Badgers Trip to Reveley Lodge

Tuesday 10th March: Year 6 Trip to Science Museum

Eagles Trip to Reveley Lodge

Caldicott Rugby Tournament: U9 A, B (1.45pm)

Rugby v St Martin's: U9 C, D, E (h) (2.30pm)

Years 3 & 4 Parents' Evening (6.00pm-8.00pm)

Wednesday 11th March: School Council

Chess Tournament at Lochinver: U13, U11 (12.30pm)

Caldicott Invitation Rugby Sevens Tournament: U13 VII (1.00pm)

Hockey v St Anthony's: U12 A, B (h) (2.30pm)

Thursday 12th March: Sport Relief Day

Local Primary Schools Tag Rugby Tournament (2.00pm)

Rugby v Orley Farm: U8 A, B (a) (2.30pm)

Years 3 & 4 Parents' Evening (6.00pm-8.00pm)

St Helen's PHAB Disco (7.00pm-9.30pm)

Friday 13th March: No swimming at Merchant Taylors'

Merchant Taylors' Orchestral Afternoon & Concert (1.30pm-6.00pm)

Hockey v St Martin's: U11 A, B (h), U10 A, B (a, A's at MTS) (2.30pm)

Saturday 14th March: Caldicott Rugby Tournament: U11 A, B VII (1.00pm)

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.



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

Notices and Reminders

Sport Relief Day. You will have received a letter about this fun day coming up next Thursday, 12th March. Remember it is a mufti day and we would like you to wear something sporty.

St John's boy features in World Book Day advert. With Rohan's (6R) love of books, he's been very lucky to have been featured in this year's official Puffin Books World Book Day Advert. Click here to watch:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5-YWnr-qyi4>

Play Skill Quiz. Thank you to everyone who has returned their sponsor forms. If you have yet to do so please return it to your form teacher by Friday 13th March.

Swimming next week. There will be **no swimming** on Friday 13th March because of MTS Field Day.

St Helen's PHAB Disco. This is on Thursday 12th March at 7.00pm for boys in Years 7 and 8. If you would like attend then please give your name and £10 to Mrs Baguley. Tickets will be issued on the night at St Helen's.

RMS Disco for Years 7 and 8. It's clearly disco season! Please follow this link to buy tickets: RMSDisco

Play Skill Quiz and Beanbag Throwing Competition. These fund-raising activities will take place next week. Thank you to those of you who have already returned your sponsor form and money raised. Don't forget to keep asking friends and family to support you.

Votes for Schools. The question this week has been: **Do you enjoy reading?** Yes: 84.6% No: 15.4%. The topical question for next week is: **Does modern life make it harder for diseases to spread?** Please discuss this at home over the weekend.



House Point Totals: 1st Lincoln 90.35, 2nd Churchill 88.60, 3rd Oates 87.07, 4th Lawrence 80

Enjoy the weekend and the rugby tomorrow.