



From the Headmaster

This has certainly been an action packed finish to the term. I felt so proud on Monday night during our Carol Service at Emmanuel Church. It was a memorable occasion and a full congregation joined with the orchestra to sing traditional carols and hear the story of the birth of Jesus. I would like to thank the music team for their incredible efforts.

I know all the boys enjoyed the Christmas Bazaar, their class parties and the Christmas Jumper Day. The Christmas Lunch and the tuck shop were particularly popular. We raised a significant amount for Save The Children and groups of individual boys made bespoke key rings, baths bombs and sold Christmas novelties to add to our funds for Playskill. Thank you very much for your efforts and support.

6M delivered a mini performance of Dicken's A Christmas Carol in assembly focusing our minds on what is important at this time and today it was my pleasure to award the Burton Page House Points Cup to Lincoln and the "I did my best!" cup to Khyran in the Badgers.

In sport congratulations to all of the boys who ran well in the House Cross Country events, in particular the medallists and to all those individuals who received Colours ties for rugby.

After such an exciting term I wish you all a restful Christmas and look forward to welcoming you back in 2020 to our Centenary year.

S. Robinson



On Monday night Emmanuel Church in Northwood was full to the rafters as we held our annual Carol Service. Our musicians were again in action with the Guitar Group, Senior Recorders and the Chamberlain ensemble playing in the foyer as the congregation arrived. The service itself took us through the Christmas story with boys from Year 3 to 8 reading Bible passages and poems. The orchestra led our singing whilst the Senior Choir, Junior School and Year 5 boys performed beautifully. Our distinguished guests were very complimentary about the whole evening. Well done to all involved - a fitting start to the Christmas holidays.





Festive Christmas Bazaar

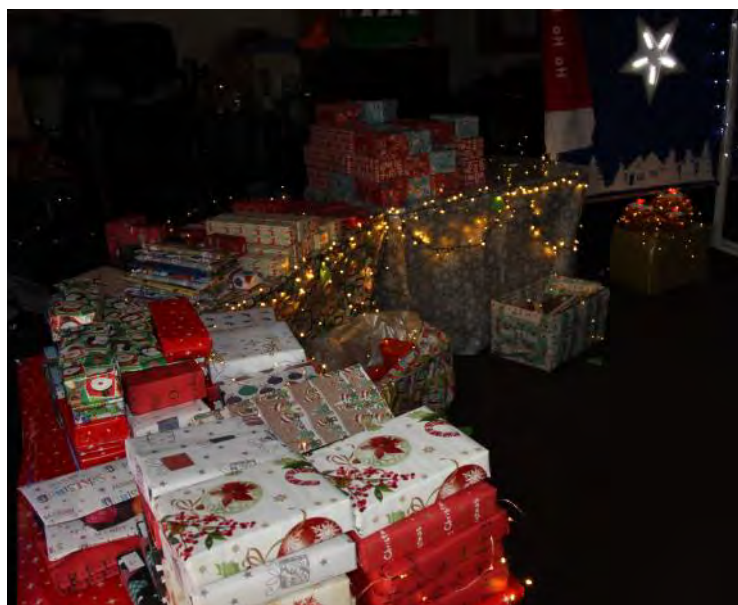


You know it's nearly Christmas when you walk into the St John's Christmas Bazaar. Last Saturday the whole school was in a festive mood, from the outside lights and White House Christmas tree through to a secret grotto, a hideout for Father Christmas. There was something for all ages with the children working through their Christmas shopping list in the secrets room with Miss Morgan and her band of merry helpers, followed by tombolas and raffles for some magnificent prizes. The legendary human fruit machine was replaced by 'hoop the antler' with some rather well known reindeer taking up the challenge! Well done to George, Archie, Satyen, Alistair and Kian J in Year 5 and Darius, Cyrus, Arian and Alexander in Year 7 who manned stalls for our charity for this year, Playskill raising **£431.15**. Massive thanks must go to the Association headed up by Mrs Heward, Mrs Gower and Mrs Radia who have worked tirelessly for weeks organising what was a fantastic day.





Christmas Bazaar in pictures





Assemblies this week



Unsurprisingly our assembly theme this week has been Christmas and Mrs Marshall and 6M retold Charles Dicken's A Christmas Carol in rhyme. The acting was excellent and all the boys watching took on board the important message of generosity and caring for those less fortunate than ourselves. This was preceded by a rendition of Good King Wenceslas featuring solos from our male members of staff who really rose to the occasion. Christmas has certainly arrived at St John's.





Farewell to staff

As it was only by chance (the spin of a coin) that I applied to St John's, combined with it initially only being a one year appointment, the fact that I somehow stayed for forty years surprises me somewhat! Perhaps it was the rarefied quality of the air 'on the hill'? I began as a teacher of P.E. and Games with a little English on the side. During my time I've had a go at teaching most subjects (except French, naturellement!) with varying degrees of success. As a form teacher for thirty-eight of those years I mainly dealt with Year 8 (the old 'sixth-form') and helping to guide them through their various entrance exams. My fondest/proudest memories would probably be mostly concerning events outside the classroom: coaching the 2nd XV for thirty seasons, leading numerous skiing/summer trips abroad to destinations varying from Wales to the USA, being head of Oates for 25+ years, contributing to the year 8 'Revue' and, of course, producing GK quizzes for both boys and parents. Having elected to go part-time for the last two years I've had the opportunity to 'build down' to leaving and so I don't think it will be too much of a wrench to hang up my mortar board! Plans for the future are pretty fluid but should eventually involve travelling to Canada, Costa Rica and Australia. More time for reading and crosswords will be good and I may just finish writing the novel that I never got around to starting!

The past forty years have been fulfilling, rewarding and a huge amount of fun; sometimes exasperating but never, never dull! I will take with me many happy memories of all of the staff, boys and parents, both past and present, who have contributed so significantly to the rich panoply of the St John's experience. **Mr Taylor, who retires today after 121 terms at St John's.**



I have had a very happy fifteen years here at St John's and although I feel excited at the prospect of retirement, I feel sad at the thought of actually leaving! I have been teaching since 1976 so it will feel very strange not to be doing it! My years at St John's have been the happiest years of my career. I spent ten years in the Juniors and really felt part of the Junior family. I loved being a Year 3 form teacher, getting to know all the boys and helping them settle in to life in the Juniors. After ten years, instead of retiring completely, I became part of the French Department and taught for three days a week. This meant my teaching career had gone full circle since I started my teaching career as a peripatetic French teacher for Hillingdon Borough. It was great to be using my French again. I have lots of plans for my retirement. I hope to visit the Shetland Islands and take a longer trip to Australia and New Zealand. I will also continue to enjoy my four lovely grandchildren who are a huge part of my life. I would just like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff, boys and parents for making this such a special place to work. **Mrs Emery.**



Final assemblies this morning



This morning both the Prep and the Pre-Prep held their final assembly of 2019. In the Prep School Mr Robinson was able to award medals to the cross-country winners and announce Lincoln as the Burton Page Cup winning House for this term. In the Pre-Prep assembly all the boys gave three cheers for the teachers and Khyan in the Badgers was presented with the 'I did my best' Cup and his brother collected it in his absence. It was also time to say goodbye to Vyon in the Lambs who is moving abroad in January. We wish him all the best at his new school.





Christmas in the Prep School





Christmas in the Prep School





St John's and the environment



As we approach 2020 it is an opportune time to reflect on the many initiatives that are in place on our recycling and 'green' environmental objectives. Over the last few years we have focused on ensuring that our recycling efforts are maintained and we currently recycle paper, light bulbs, glass, cardboard, food, kitchen oil, metal, batteries, waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) and water.

It is also worth remembering that the water harvesting project was completed in 2015 and enables the rain water from the Norman Hall roof to be recycled for our grounds team to use on the first eleven cricket wicket. The Science department are provided with the ability to monitor the water levels and usage. We have also had the opportunity to work with the local planning team to ensure that our new Sports Hall is as 'eco-friendly' as possible and complies with the objectives of the London Borough of Hillingdon Energy Plan. We are shortly installing (photovoltaic cells) solar panels to the Dining Hall roof which will link to the Sports Hall. An area of the lower roof will also be 'green' and the intention will be for an irrigation system to be incorporated to recycle some of the roof water. Mark Johnson does an excellent job in working with parents to ensure that cars engines are not left 'idling' as, of course, this creates unnecessary air pollution. Our School Travel plan encourages us to 'walk to school' and car share wherever possible. It is also good to see that on many occasions we walk to local events such as the recent Carol Service and Erskine Hall visit.

The above initiatives will certainly go some way to helping our environment and, of course, there is much that we can do ourselves to manage our energy bills by closing doors and windows, switching off lights and using the radiator thermostats effectively. We are also managing a programme to replace lights around the School with a more energy efficient 'LED' system. If there are any more thoughts that would help then please let me know. **Nigel Stone (Bursar)**

This term the Eco Council has been working hard to get pupils and teachers to think about recycling and saving electricity. In September we held an assembly to remind everyone about plastic pollution. We discussed how the boys should not use single-use plastics for their snacks and the importance of healthy snacks. We have also worked with the St John's Association which has reduced the amount of plastics it uses to serve the food at events.

In November it was time for our annual "Switch-Off Fortnight" which gave us all a chance to focus on saving electrical and heat energy at the school. The Eco Council members monitored all the classrooms for two weeks to check that appliances were being switched off when not being used and windows and doors were closed. This year the D&T workshop and WH4 were the most energy saving rooms. Again the Eco Council boys held an assembly to remind everyone how saving energy is important in the fight against the climate crisis. Every term we hold a whole school Eco Council meeting in addition to our weekly meetings. We would like to invite any parents who are interested in the environment and who would like to participate in the lunchtime meeting on 25th February to contact me. **Mr Lawrence (Head of Science)**



Year 7 persuasive speeches competition



On the Tuesday four boys from Year 7 were chosen to perform their persuasive speeches to Mr Robinson and Mr Russo. In our English lessons we have been studying famous speeches and also writing our own speech about any topic we wanted. When we were waiting outside Mr Robinson's office it was very nerve wracking and tense; all of us were using the last few minutes to practise our speeches. Then we were called in and one by one we recited our speeches. After we had all performed, we left the room and gave Mr Russo and Mr Robinson a few minutes to make their decision. It felt like the Apprentice! After many long dreaded minutes, all four of us were called back in for the final time so that the winner could be announced. Overall, it was an amazing experience and we all learnt lots from it. **Rodrigo**, who won the competition.





The Pre-Prep are in full Christmas spirits



Monday started with the boys making paperchains to decorate the classroom and hats to decorate their heads. Tuesday was the day of the pantomime. This was the Lambs' first outing and the excitement was palpable. Everyone enjoyed Cinderella and most people enjoyed their ice cream. Wednesday brought further excitement with the Christmas Party and we even managed a visit from Santa. We partied hard. On Thursday we wore Christmas jumpers and enjoyed a terrific Christmas lunch. Friday may have been short but was full of glitter, joy and fun. We hope you have a fabulous Christmas holiday, enjoy.





Christmas in pictures

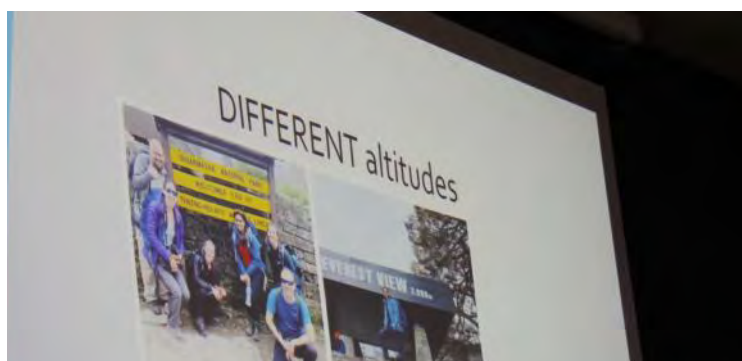
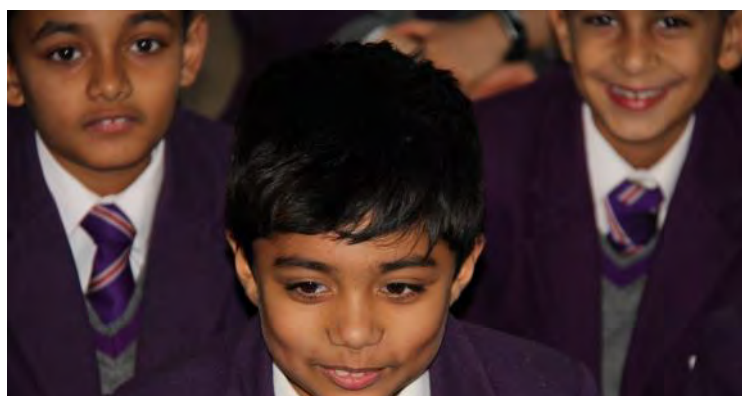




Special Junior assembly



On Tuesday morning, Hrishi's mum came to talk to us about her trek to Everest. She showed us some fantastic views and told us how difficult the trek was. It took her fifteen days to get to the Base Camp. When she got there she was only allowed to be there for three minutes because it was so cold and the atmosphere was so thin. Then she had to walk all the way back, which she said was the worst bit! It was a very interesting talk, she told us about the extreme cold and the food she had to eat. Most interestingly she told us all about her fear of heights and how she had managed to conquer it by crossing dangerous bridges across chasms!





Party time in the Juniors



Year 3 and 4 had a special treat on Wednesday at their Christmas party. The boys spent some time designing Christmas hats in the morning before we all gathered in the Norman Hall to parade the hats before the judges. The winners were Niam in 3H, Henry in 3W, Alexander S in 4B and Owen in 4M. Thank you very much to Mrs Arron and Mr Taylor for judging. Mr Taylor has traditionally judged the Christmas Hat Competition and we were honoured to have him judge for the very last time! After enjoying their party food and drink, everyone settled down to watch Magic Martin perform his entertaining show. Everyone was in hysterics and very much enjoyed watching the different tricks. A great way to start the festive season.





U13 A v Greshams Friday 6th December



U13 A v Greshams lost 25-5

Try Scorer: Zac A

Outstanding performance: Oliver

This is a fixture started in 1981 and very much anticipated by the boys. An opportunity for them to all focus and be at their best. The first half was tough with the breakdown keenly fought and St John's team facing powerful ball carriers. The opposition scored early finding a gap from the ruck. With Greshams staying on top 3 more tries came by the end of the first half. The second half looked a little bleak but this team have heart and fight in them, they started well and remained mostly on top for the whole of the half which was finally drawn 1 try a piece. The St John's score was a peach with Louis hitting up hard before finding Kaiwen with a pass who in turn off loaded in the tackle to put Zac over in the corner. The overall performance was very enjoyable to watch and lived up to the level this fixture deserved.





U11 hockey teams v MTS 6th December

U11 A v MTS Lost 4-1

Scorers: Oliver

Outstanding performance: Kian R

The match must go down as a useful building experience. We lost 1-4 and were overwhelmed in the first half. Too often we gave away possession by passing to nothing and getting pinned down in our own D. Playing further up the pitch in the second half made a difference and, with complete passes, opportunities began to come. The improvement showed as we forced several seven-second penalties, with Oliver scoring one. Kian made many excellent saves that kept the score line down and gave him the man-of-the-match award. Rapid improvement needs to be made in several areas for this team to progress, particularly in receiving the ball on the strong side, and communicating better.

U11 B v MTS Lost 4-1

Scorer: Zian

Outstanding performances: Aryan and Yash

This was a solid start to the hockey season for the U11 B team although the score line might suggest otherwise. This was a close fixture and in the end Merchant Taylors' were slightly better at finishing. The main targets going forwards are to pass or dribble through 'doors' and not 'walls' as well as being patient when having possession. Aryan and Yash shared the goalkeeping responsibilities on the day and did extremely well. Excellent effort from the whole team. I am looking forward to our hockey journey next term.





U10 hockey teams v MTS 6th December

U10 A v MTS Won 4-2

Scorers: Rafi 1, Emerson 2, Nishant 1

Outstanding performances: Kabir and Archie

Our first match of the season against Merchant Taylors' Prep which was played at Merchant Taylors' School. We started very well with our front players threatening the opposition goal with two early chances. We scrambled back well in defence but still needed to cover the opposition players on the far left and mark up more tightly. Emerson scored and we took the lead with a 2-0 advantage just at the end of the first half. Rafi chased every ball and he managed to score and set up another goal which Nishant scored. In defence, Kabir was excellent where he intercepted many attacks and took control of the ball and passed it superbly out of defence to our front players. Archie in goal made a number of excellent saves which kept us very much in the game. In the second half, Merchant Taylors' Prep got a goal but we managed to score another goal with a quick break away. Oliver worked everywhere from mid-field and the other players supported him well. At the end of the match we won 4 - 2 which was a great effort for the first match of the season.

U10 B v MTS Lost 5-2

Scorers: Satyen 2

Outstanding performances: The whole team

This was the boys' first hockey fixture playing for the School and was a delight to watch from start to finish. We finished second best at the end of the game after 4, seven-second-shuffles and 1 easy tap in by MTP. Remika saved many shots in goal and the scoreline doesn't reflect the defensive performance of the team with Anay, Kian D, Aarav and Daniel; who led brilliantly from the back. Satyen and Ahaan constantly caused disruption within the MTP offense and created many counter-attacks which gave Alistair, Adam, Armaan and Krish chances to move up the pitch to score. We were defensively much stronger in the second half and kept the ball within the MTP half to build constant pressure on them which resulted in winning a few 7-second-shuffles which gave Satyen our only 2 goals of the day. A great performance boys, onto the next game.





Junior House Cross Country 10th December



With really tough conditions this year, the Years 3 and 4 ran the annual Junior House cross-country race with great spirit and determination. The front runners set a terrific pace and soon dashed ahead. However, all the boys worked hard and battled for every spot during this event. Well done to all the boys who completed this challenging course for their respective House. Please see results below.

Year 4

- 1st Bailey 12.41
- 2nd Vivek 12.57
- 3rd Leo B 13.16

Year 3

- 1st Aariz 14.49
- 2nd Henry 15.29
- 3rd Niam 15.30





U13 rugby v The Beacon 11th December

U13 A v The Beacon Lost 30-10

Try scorers: Louis 1, Oliver 1

Outstanding performance: Oliver

The Beacon started at a fast pace scoring very early off a St John's mistake close to their line. The boys worked hard especially at the breakdown but struggled with the Beacon's line speed and aggression in the tackle. In response to 2 more tries from the Beacon Louis finally broke free to score from the halfway line.

The second half was a similar story not helped with injuries to Rohan and Charlie but the performance was lit up with a stunning score by Oliver from his own 22, running through the heart of the opposition before beating the cover defence in the corner.



U13 B v The Beacon Lost 50-35

Try scorers: Zain 2, Edmond 2, Vishal 1, Saam 1

Outstanding performances: Zain and Edmond

This was an exciting game and an evenly fought contest. We started the game positively and put the pressure on the opposition. We scored quickly, a good solo effort from Edmond but The Beacon replied soon after. By half time we were trailing five tries to four. We started the second half with a try scored by Rohan but The Beacon came back and scored 3 tries in succession. We rallied and managed to score 2 more tries. A valiant effort and some great performances. Well done.





U12 rugby v The Beacon 11th December

U12 A v The Beacon

Outstanding performances:

Charlie, Freddie, Jaidev, Ethan, Rodrigo

The Beacon scored quickly when we lost the ball when a St John's player threw a wide pass which they intercepted. When we kept the ball amongst the forwards and played close support we were very effective. Charlie ran strongly and in the close quarters used his strength to muscle his way through the opposition defence. We did break through the defensive line but just lacked the support to finish off the tries. However, when the Beacon had the ball they exploited the space very well and used their very fast runners to breach our defence on a number of occasions. A tough match but credit must go to all the boys for their efforts throughout the season.



U12 B v The Beacon

Outstanding performances:

Vishwadrik

The boys started slowly, conceding a few early scores, but towards the end of the first half started defending much better and passing the ball more. Unfortunately this endeavour didn't result in a try, but it gave the boys some more confidence. In the second half, the boys started slowly again, struggling to make ground against a strong Beacon team. The boys improved through the half but were unable to score a try. Man of the match was Vishwadrik for some strong running with the ball and some good work in defence.





Senior House Cross Country 12th December



All the boys from Year 5, 6, 7 and 8 represented their Houses in the Senior House Cross Country on a wet and windy day. In the tough conditions the boys had to work hard but the enthusiasm and support for all was fantastic to see. What was very pleasing to see was that all the boys helped each other during the race and Mr Smith at the back of the course encouraged all the boys to finish strongly. There were some excellent performances from Oliver, Thomas, Ethan and Oliver who all won their age group races. Whilst this event is not to everyone's taste, every who ran really did their best and rose to the occasion. Well done.



Year 5 House Result

1st Place: Oliver 12:39
2nd Place: Emerson 13:14
3rd Place: Rafi 15:28

Year 6 House Result

1st Place: Thomas 12:11
2nd Place: Oscar 12:43
3rd Place: Sahib 13:30

Year 7 House Result

1st Place: Ethan 11:52
2nd Place: Rodrigo 13:49
3rd Place: Reece 14:18

Year 8 House Result

1st Place: Oliver 11:06
2nd Place: Louis 12:03
3rd Place: Yusuf 12:19



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OLD MERCHANT TAYLORS' HOCKEY CLUB DAY



Colts training session, open to all, led by England U23 star Karan Sofat

Whole club 7 aside tournament with grand prize of 50% discount from 2020/21 membership

15TH DECEMBER 2019

COLTS: 10.00 - 11.15

TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION: 11.30

£5 ENTRANCE FEE

To enter contact
jbarnumling@gmail.com
Members enter on TeamApp





Entertainment on the playground

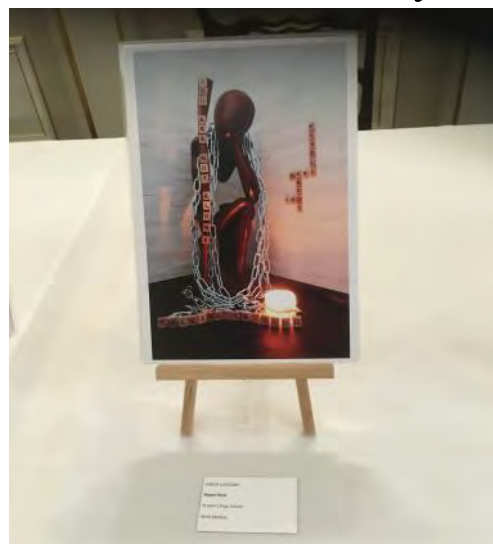


The playground turned into a pop-up stage as the Brass Band braved the elements to entertain parents, boys and staff with some impromptu festive music. The boys did brilliantly considering that our Year 7 and 8 boys were otherwise engaged in rugby matches and your generous donations mean that we can send £67 to Playskill.





Merchant Taylors' Photography Competition



Boys from across the School entered the Merchant Taylors' Company Photography Competition earlier this term. The theme, Wellbeing, was beautifully portrayed by some fantastic images and a big thank you to all the boys who entered. Unfortunately we didn't have any winners this year, however congratulations go to George (5WS) and Nayan (6A) whose work was displayed at the Merchant Taylors' Hall this week. Here are also examples of other entries received which clearly reflect the photographic talent we have at St John's.



OUTLOOK



Krüger Camps



St John's School Northwood

Y1–Y7

16th to 18th December 2019

8.30am to 4.30pm

Mr Krüger—St John's School Northwood

M—079 3087 6998

W—www.activekidzcamps.co.uk

E—bookings@activekidzcamps.co.uk

Shaping and developing young personalities through sport!



Calendar and important dates

Monday 6th January: STAFF INSET

4+ Assessments

Tuesday 7th January: Merchant Taylors' Entrance Examinations (Year 6)

STAFF INSET

4+ Assessments

Wednesday 8th January: Beginning of Spring Term (8.25am)

Aldenham Entrance Examinations

Thursday 9th January: Haberdashers' Entrance Examinations

John Lyon Entrance Examinations

Cross country at York House: U9 (2.30pm)

Friday 10th January:

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 @stjohnswood.



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](mailto: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

House Music Festival. We are now launching the House Music Competition for 2020 - any boy who learns an instrument at St John's will be automatically entered by his instrumental teacher. If your son learns an instrument outside of school and you wish to enter him for the Competition then [please use this link to do so](#). The first rounds will take place between January and March with the Final on Tuesday 31st March.

Nearly New Uniform Sale. Thanks to the support of the St John's parents the nearly new uniform sale has raised **£1850** for the school's charity. The first sale of 2020 takes place on Friday 17th January from 2.45pm in the Prep School Library and all donations are really appreciated.

School Calendar. The calendar for the Spring Term is available to view on the school website and the Parent Portal. Your son has also received a hard copy to bring home today.

Swimming at Merchant Taylors'. The first swim next term will be on Monday 13th January.

Prep School Spring Term Activities. If you have not yet signed up to any after-school activities next term then please use this link which takes you to the [Activities Website](#). The closing date to sign up is Wednesday 18th December.

Burton Page Cup. Congratulations to Lincoln who are the winners of the Burton Page Cup this term. They managed to beat the other Houses to gain the most House Points.

Votes for Schools: The results are in! **'Are disabilities still misunderstood?'** Yes 86.7%; No 13.3%. New question for a new year: **'Can homelessness affect anyone?'** Please find time to discuss as a family over the Christmas holidays.



House Point Totals. 1st Lincoln 57.08, 2nd Churchill 55.60, 3rd Oates 54.60, 4th Lawrence 50.88

St John's wishes everybody a merry Christmas and a healthy and peaceful 2020. Enjoy the holidays and we look forward to welcoming the boys back on Wednesday 8th January.