

St John's School Weekly Newsletter

Issue 216



From the Headmaster

Welcome to this week's edition of the Lamb which reflects a very different kind of schooling at St John's. I was extremely pleased to welcome back the Lambs, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 on Monday and, from conversations with staff and boys, am delighted to report that the week has gone smoothly with boys following the social distancing rules as far as is possible with small children. As you can see from the photos, boys have spent plenty of time outside as well as getting stuck into their academic work.

I would like to highlight Cyrus's incredible achievements and extend my thanks to the two companies which have helped him to continue making masks. Many congratulations to Roshan's great Grandfather who received a letter from the Queen on his 100th Birthday.

Year 1 have enjoyed learning about Howler Monkeys, particularly being able to make their own and take it for a walk around the grounds. Reception have had a musical time learning about the days of the week. Year 8 have been busy creating new recipes and I was very impressed with the Year 4 smoothie logos.

You will see from Mr Smith's drone photos that work on the sports hall is progressing well and I am pleased to announce that we now have a set of solar panels on the dining room roof.

Enjoy the weekend and spend plenty of time in the great outdoors and away from a computer screen!

We're back!



Well some of us are and we are very happy about it! On Monday the School gates finally opened to the Lambs, Robins and Squirrels, Otters and Owls and Year 6. The boys could not wait to get their feet under their socially distanced desks and to get on with school. They have enjoyed seeing their friends, getting outside and they have even had a fire drill - all at a distance. We can't wait to have the whole of the St John's family back together again......









We're back!















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Fantastic achievements from Cyrus





When disaster hit and my kit 3D printer decided it needed a rest from printing PPE, I started looking at alternatives. Unfortunately, I realised that my pocket money wouldn't stretch to the type of printer that would be reliable, as they all cost well over £500. So, I did the next best thing and started emailing companies with a good reputation for 3D printers, and asked them if they would loan me one. Oliver Coleman from CraftUnique and Lingan Ram from RAM peripherals came to my rescue immediately. Within 48h, they couriered over a Craftbot Plus 3D printer which is now on loan, as well as enough filament to keep me going for a while. Thank you, Oliver and Lingan!

Oliver is also putting me in touch with a friend, who normally works on the Game of Thrones sets, who will be sending me the cut clear visors, so that I can put the 3D printed headbands and visors together myself. I hope to then send the completed PPE headband and visors directly to anyone who needs them locally. First on my list is the Fairway Care Home which has opened recently in Green Lane, Watford. The home is helping COVID-19 patients who have been discharged from hospital, but aren't quite ready to go it at home alone. It's a great cause! **Cyrus 7B**







Anek's montage of a chapter of War Horse







"etched on every man was the look of wretched misery and pain"......
"They tried to put a brave face on it, but even the jokes and quips they shouted out as we passed were heavy with gloom and sarcasm".

"the troopers fell silent and sombre as we walked past unending links of wounded wating to board the ship back to England" "No sergeant major, no enemy barrage could have silenced a body of sokliers as effectively as that terrible sight, for here for the first time the men saw for themselves the kind of war they were going into and there was not a single man in the squadron who seemed prepared for it"







"the growling crescendo of the big guns sent tremors of fear along my back and broke my sleep into a succession of jagged nightmares. But whenever I woke, dragged back to consciousness by the guns.." "heard the death rattle of a machinegun... Blind terror drove me on, with my flying stirrups whipping me into a frenzy. With no rider to carry I reached the kneeling rillemen first and they scattered as I came upon them







"The wounded were everywhere – on stretchers, on crutches, in open ambulances" "but horses lay dead and dying everywhere. More than a quarter of the squadron had been lost in that one action. It had all been so quick and so deadly" "Every hour of the march brought us nearer the distant thunder of the guns, and at night now the horizon would be bright with orange flashes from one end to the other"















Lockdown lunches!





Wondering what to have for lunch today? Year 8 are here to help you. We have been busy preparing meals for our families as part of our DT lessons and we hope to inspire you to make some of our recipes. We are aiming to collate our delicacies and produce a book but, in the meantime, look at the results of our labours.















My Great Grandfather turned 100!



Last week, I was super-excited to be able to celebrate my great grandfather's milestone 100 year birthday, with social distancing of course. Looking back now, I realise how lucky I was to even experience it as I don't personally know anyone who has. I decided to ask the family more about his life as I wanted to know about it. What a life he has had. He was born on 28th May 1920 in Gujarat, India and at 30 years old his parents asked him to travel by boat to Uganda in East Africa to join the family business which was... yes you guessed it... a tailoring business! In 1968, there was talk about the Asian community being deported unless they had Ugandan

citizenship. He decided to go back to India with two of his sisters. Lucky he did because a few years later all the Asians were deported. In 1978 he eventually joined his brothers in England. Before corona virus took over our lives, we had a surprise party planned with guests from all over the world planning to come. It was such a shame it had to be cancelled. Instead, on his actual birthday, my mum, dad and I drove to his home which is a flat in a block where help and care is available in case they need it. He and his 94-year-old wife (my great-grandma) gathered outside the flat with a few close family members and friends, in the beautiful warm sunshine. We were eager to open the birthday cards, as my dad had arranged for the Queen's personal card to be sent. We were disappointed to discover it hadn't arrived. We then began to sing happy birthday when a Royal Mail van turned up. The postman got out and walked over. He had the Queen's card in his hand! The timing was impeccable and incredible! I had the honour of reading out the card to the small gathering of people. I felt a warm shiver down my neck and felt quite emotional.

Roshan (5V)





Mr Smith has dusted down his drone





Mr Smith's drone could be spotted in the skies of Northwood yesterday as it took some pictures of the sports hall and the new inhabitants of the dining room roof. For those of you who haven't been at school recently, you can see that quite a lot has changed!











Cooking at home





Eliot (Eagles) and Aaron (6A) have both been busy at home making culinary delights. Eliot made snake cakes to coincide with the Year 2 Jungle topic and Aaron made sushi. Here are his instructions if you want to have a go....

To start with I had an idea to make my own dish and my favourite cuisines were Asian. I took 2 dishes: sushi rolls like a dynamite roll but flipped with the seaweed in the outside and hoisin duck pancake with cucumber and spring onion. I thought of things that would go well together to start off with and that was a ginger puree and a nice garnish with cucumber fries and sliced spring onion. This was about 6 months ago it suddenly filled my head and I got a notebook and wrote it down with a drawing. It was only a month ago that I started to get arranged we bought plates and a wooden rice bowl. On the day we got special rice and put water in a bowl with the rice and stirred it with my hand then drained we did this till it was clear. We then cooked it to the bowl and let it simmer. The important part was that we didn't damage the ingredients. Next we mixed the rice with rice vinegar and mixed in a knife motion till it was all mixed and was sticky. Whilst this fun was going on we pan cooked the duck and put it into the oven. Now for the rolling and the fun part. I dipped my fingertips into the water s the rice didn't stick to me and got a ball of rice and spread it along the middle of the nori sheets (seaweed). Next we pushed the rice to the top and bottom of the sheets. Then made a groove in the middle so it was easy to roll. Finally for the ingredients you put the veg in first which was the cucumber and spring onion then the duck finally drizzled with hoisin sauce. Then we rolled it with my thumbs under the seaweed on either side and my fingers holding the meat and vegetables in place. I rolled it so all the vegetables were covered and stopped then continued the roll all the way over. I cut it into 6 and finished with the hoisin sauce, ginger and wasabi. At the start I released that making sushi was enough but making a puree was even harder. Aaron (6A) Click on the faces to watch both time lapse videos.

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Home activities











- 1. **Lucas** (Eagles) joined in with the prayers during Monday's assembly.
- 2. **Enzo** (3W) has been busy growing strawberries.
- 3. **Hrishi** (4B) has taken up painting on canvas and has created this fantastic tiger.
- 4. **Albert** (6M) created this superb castle as part of his History project.
- 5. **Ishaan** (4M) has made a lego model of Angkor Wat in Cambodia.





Reception red group get back into the swing





What a great start to the 'new normal'. The boys in Reception Red group have been working hard. Singing and using the instruments to learn the days of week and the months of the year, learning about bees and finding the beehives on the nature trail. Eating snacks and lunches outside and beating Mrs Scott in races on the field! All this and more with laughs and giggles all the way. We've packed a lot in so we need our weekend to rest in order to be ready for next week's excitement.











Dinosaur time in Year 1





Year 1 have been learning about the Diplodocus dinosaur this week. We learnt facts about this creature and made our own cardboard versions in our Art lesson. We knew that they were herbivores, so some of us decided to feed our dinosaurs some juicy leaves!! We have also been enjoying outdoor lunches ourselves in the school grounds.





PREPREP



Year 1 learn about Howler Monkeys



As part of their Rainforest topic Year 1 have been learning about Howler Monkeys. These are the loudest land animal on earth with a cry that can be heard three miles away. One of their tasks was to make their own which they then took for a walk around the grounds whilst being careful to stay two metres apart. Mr Haley demonstrated the kind of sound made by the monkeys, much to everyone's amusement!









Practical Science in Year 4



We have studying all about plants in Science in Year 4. Miss Bravington's task was to go and find examples of leaves, flowers and seeds and make a collage or picture. Aiden, Arjun and Thomas C have done an excellent job as these photos demonstrate.







Smoothie Shop!





Year 3 and 4 are starting up a smoothie shop which will sell healthy drinks and snacks to children. Their first mission was to make a logo for their shop. Which one do you like best? Ali has made a wonderful smoothie ready for his shop. Yum!















Year 5 has been learning about the artist, Roy Lichtenstein. Here are some examples of their work.







Year 4 has been creating Scribble Art.





Meet this week's Birthday boys

Contact details







Updates: please continue to visit www.st-johns.org.uk for all the latest information on sports fixtures and results. You can also follow us on twitter @stjsnorthwood 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: Do please continue to send in any photographs.

Notices and Reminders

Merchant Taylors' School Virtual Open Morning. This event takes place tomorrow and will be posted on the Merchant Taylors' School website www.mtsn.org.uk.

Literacy Planet are currently holding a special Word Mania competition. The competition rounds runs from the 24th May



until the 20th June. Please encourage your son to play by logging into Literacy Planet and clicking on the banner – Word Mania. Word Mania isn't just a fun game! It's proven to develop key literacy skills including spelling and

vocabulary. During the competition teachers will have **full** access to Literacy Planet's features.

If you play through the arcade it is not part of the competition. The finals will be held on the 24th to the 26th June. It would be fantastic if St John's was able to make it into the finals.

If you would like more information please use the link below:

https://www.literacyplanet.com/uk/wordmania2020/

Votes for Schools. This week's question was 'Are you getting enough sleep?' Boys were really split in their responses with 52.3% saying yes and 47.7%



saying no. Our new topical question which will run until next Friday is 'Will the recent anti-racism protests lead to change in the US?'. Please discuss at home and place your vote by 12th June.

House Point Totals. House points are still being awarded for good work and here are the current totals: 1st Lincoln 118.81, 2nd Churchill 114.55, 3rd Oates 113.43, 4th Lawrence 107.16

Enjoy the weekend, get outside in the fresh air and away from any screens!