



From the
Headmaster

Welcome to the 230th edition of The Lamb. We are starting to feel festive here at St John's with our Christmas tree looking splendid on the Centenary Sports Hall roof. The Post Boxes are all in place in the Pre-Prep and Juniors for the boys to send their cards.

Mr Russo and I had the pleasure of listening to the finalists in the Year 7 Persuasive Speeches competition. It was inspirational to hear them talk so passionately and use the strategies they had learnt to get their message across. Congratulations to all of the boys.

I enjoyed my surprise visit to the Juniors this week to present Raphael and Aary with their Bronze certificates for achieving forty House Points. 6A have presented their excellent assembly on Black History to the Junior classes in the Norman Hall this week.

Christmas is well underway in the Pre-Prep. The Year 1 boys have posted their letters to Santa and the tree is up. The whole department is covered in glitter and the excitement is building!

I am delighted that we have joined the RFU Green Laces scheme. It is a brilliant initiative, rewarding boys who demonstrate rugby union's core values; teamwork, respect, enjoyment, discipline and sportsmanship, both on and off the pitch.

Enjoy your Christmas party this weekend, boys and don't forget your Christmas jumpers next Friday everyone.

S. Robinson

The Power of Persuasion



This term, students in Year 7 have been studying spoken language. They have been analysing how speech writers use language to make their speeches powerful. For the Persuasive Writing Competition, their assignment was to write a speech about something they care about. They were assessed on how successfully they used persuasive language in its spoken form. All Year 7 students created a thesis and spoke about it in English lessons. The standards of all of the assignments were exceptional and teachers had a difficult decision to make about the winning speeches. The six finalists were Amos, Ansh and Benyamin from 7J and Albert, Yash and Aryan from 7H. Amos has written about his experience of this task.

"Before writing our persuasive speeches we studied some very famous speeches in history including Winston Churchill's, Malala Yousafzai's and Martin Luther King's. Then we were given homework to look at different persuasive and paralinguistic devices in speeches and formulate our thesis for our persuasive speech, which we would present to our class. The following week we started writing our speeches. On the 26th November we listened to everyone's speeches. There was a variety of topics and it was exciting to listen to all of them.

On Tuesday 1st December Ansh, Benyamin and I were invited to Mr Robinson's office to read our speeches in front of him and Mr Russo. I was extremely nervous but the other boys reassured me. I read my speech with confidence and I was very clear. I was very grateful that I got the opportunity to read my speech in front of the Headmaster and congratulations to all the boys in Year 7. Overall, I learnt a lot from this experience."

Well done to all Year 7 students for their oracy skills and the winners Amos and Albert in particular for their inspirational speeches. Amos's speech was entitled "Right to Vote at the Age of 16" and Albert's was "Animal Trafficking."



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas

Christmas is coming here at St John's. Many thanks to Mr Doughty, Mr Johnson, Mr Wallington, Mr Tearle and Mr Horgan for working out how to get the Christmas Tree on the Centenary Sports Hall roof and for the decorations which are appearing around the School.





THIS WEEK



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas





Lockdown inspiration from Mehul in Year 5

Lockdown was a trial for many; social distancing and sanitiser for all

Unable to attend her day centre, even granny learnt to use Zoom call

Online learning was fun at first, but then I missed my friends and sport

Football, cricket, rugby and swimming, without these, I felt caught.

With more sanitiser on my hands than toilet roll in the shops

Mum was going crazy teaching using all sorts of props

On the plus side, we went for bike rides and long walks

Together as a family we had dinner and got to talk

Maybe Covid-19 was meant to teach us a few things about our ways

Like slowing down and enjoying the simple days.



A family of musicians

Dillan and Deven in Year 2 both got high Distinction grades in their recent Grade I piano exam. Their older brother Krish in Year 6 achieved a Distinction in his recent Grade V flute exam, and a high Merit for his Grade IV piano exam. This is an amazing achievement. Well done boys and keep practising!





Happy Shoesday finalists

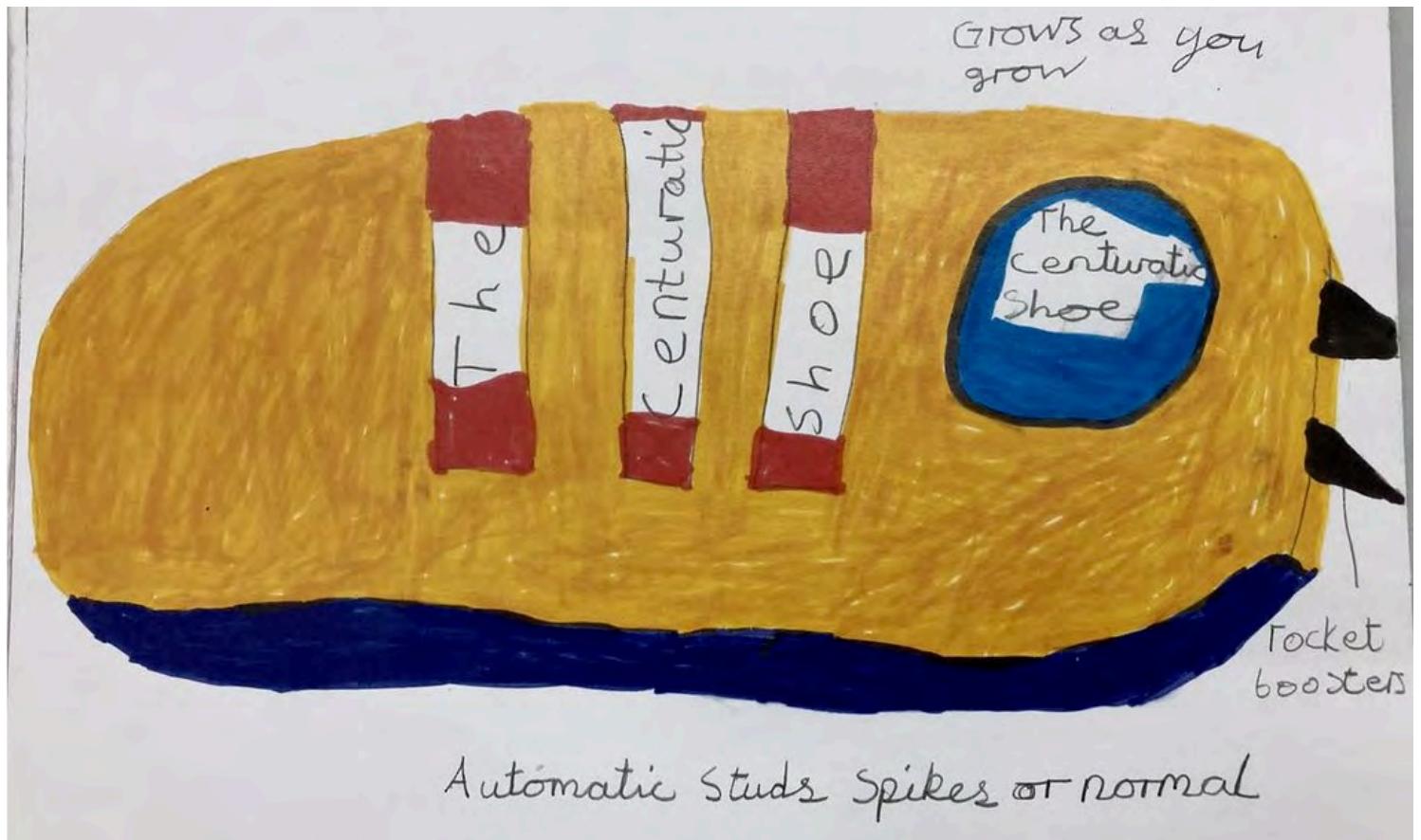
We are delighted to announce that two St John's boys were finalists in the "Happy Shoesday" competition organised by Hillingdon Council as part of Walk to School Month in October.

The Hillingdon School Travel and Road Safety team would like to thank all the students who took part in the competition for their unique entries, which were fun to look at and inspiring to read. They hope that everyone enjoyed using their imaginations and artistic skills to create their shoe designs and poems!

The St John's finalists were Joshua in Year 5 for the poem he wrote encouraging us to walk to school and save the planet and Enzo in Year 4 for his design of a shoe which grows as you grow. You can see all the finalists' entries and the winners in each category on the Hillingdon website www.hillingdon.gov.uk/shoesday.

Well done everyone for taking part.

Hey you! Yes, you over there,
This green and blue ball needs great, great care!
So don't just jump in your car and drive,
Get your feet up, exercise!
Walk to school is what I say,
Come on, we'll have fun along the way.
Yeah, go on, great work mate!
You've just helped to decide Earth's fate.
Because when you walk to school, and don't pollute the air,
You have definitely taken great, great care,
Of our beloved planet here.
No cars, No buses, no fumes from the rear.
So keep it simple and just walk to school.



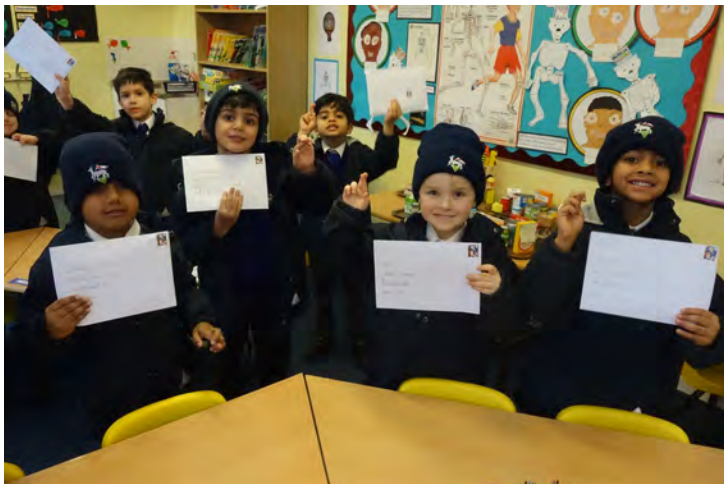


PRE-PREP



Writing letters to Santa

The Otters and Owls boys were very excited to walk to the local post box to post their letters to Santa. In their letters, the boys had written a few requests for Santa, in preparation for his visit on Christmas Eve. Some boys also wrote that they would leave some tasty treats for Santa and his reindeer. Have you been good this year? Will Santa visit you?





Writing letters to Santa cont...



Eye spy in the Lambs

Veer's Mummy, Mrs Tanna, kindly sent us a video of her talking to the boys all about our eyes and how to keep them healthy. Veer demonstrated how to use the opticians in the role-play area.





Experimenting with parachutes

We have been studying Forces in Year 2. Last week we did an experiment to test air resistance. The boys were given plastic cups and thin plastic bags. They had to make a parachute. They discovered that they had to leave space so that air could get into the plastic bags. They also found out that the more tape they used, the heavier their parachute was and so floated to the ground more quickly.





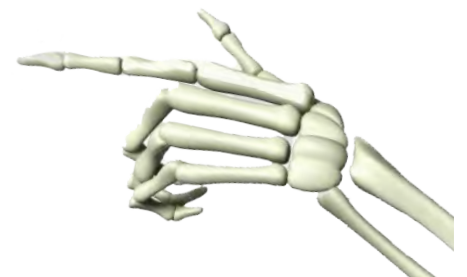
Weather reports reach Channel 4

Year 4 have been learning about the weather as part of their Geography topic this term. No one however could have predicted that their enthusiasm would make it as far as the Channel 4 news. Cato Blake in 4H talked with such enthusiasm on the subject that news of it reached TV weatherman, Liam Dutton. He sent all the boys in Year 4 a message encouraging them in their studies. Many thanks to Cato's family who may also have had a slight hand in arranging this. The boys were thrilled, indeed they were almost blown off their feet!



Year 3 learning with Frank

Year 3 have been learning about the human skeleton in science this week. We borrowed a life size skeleton from the Science department, who we have nicknamed Frank, and labelled the bones we already knew. Mrs Wagemaker and Mrs Hallett then taught us about some of the other bones and their functions. Next week we will learn about animal skeletons!





Yes WeDo!

Year 4 have been exploring using Lego WeDo. The sensors in Milo the robot mean that the children in our scenario can see when the guests have arrived at their party.

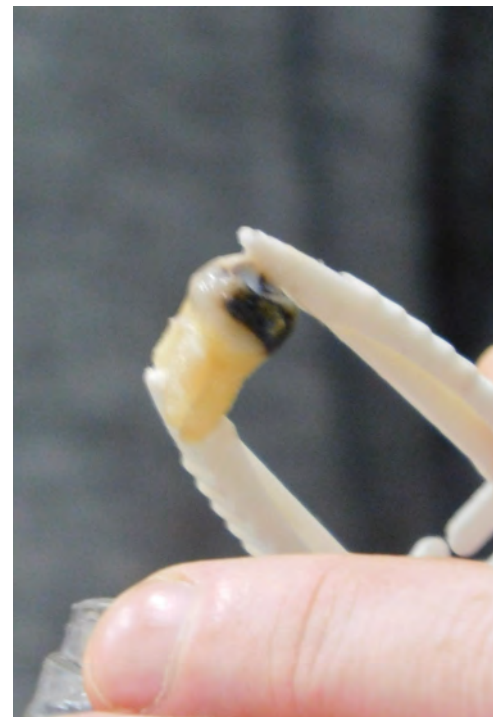




Taking care of our teeth

If **anything** was ever going to put children off drinking too many fizzy drinks, this week's science experiment should have done the trick. Over the last fortnight we have been soaking teeth in milk, coca cola and water and looking at the effect.

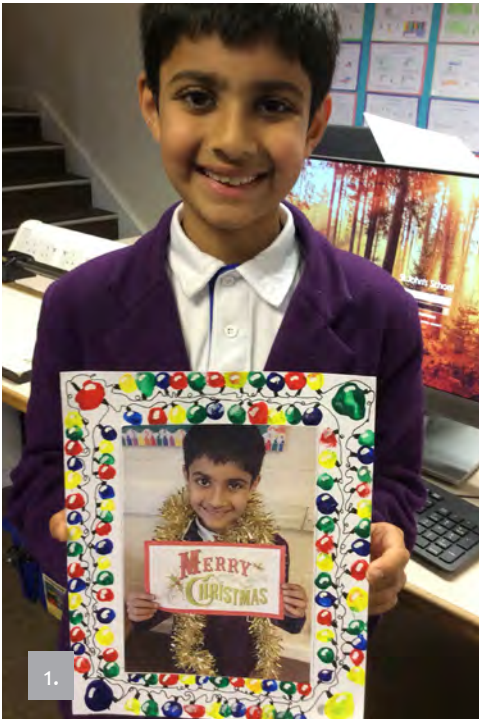
The boys were suitably appalled as the tooth in the coke turned darker and darker brown. Next week they are going to predict what will happen to the tooth over the Christmas holidays. The result may not be pretty.....





Christmas and more in this week's art

1. Arun in 4H created this festive photo frame in Junior Art Club. 2. Shay in 4S has enjoyed learning about the complementary colours. 3. Max in 4S has coloured in his hand using the cold colours. 4. This cute little Christmas tree has been hand sewn by Alex in 5M. 5. Bailey in 5W-S has sewn a gingerbread man to hang on his tree. 6. Kian A in 6M is working hard on his beautiful Monet painting.





The Three Musketeers

Year 7 have been working hard on their performance of Alexandre Dumas’ “Three Musketeers”, preparing to present a kids’ comedy version, edited by Brendan P. Kelso. Benyamin, Darwin, Albert and Lucas portray the eponymous ‘Three Musketeers’ and their enthusiastic wannabe-recruit, D’Artagnan.

Ansh A, Ansh S, Hamza, Yash, Joshua, Aryan, Michael, Aaron, Thomas, Leo and Vihaan provide a variety of supporting roles including ‘The Cardinal’, ‘The Duke’, ‘King Louis’, ‘Queen Anne’ and ‘The Executioner’.

The boys are looking forward to their dress rehearsal this weekend and the live performance for Year 7 boys and staff on Monday afternoon.





Bringing computing power to Christmas

Year 5 programming a Christmas window display for a cake shop, using motors and lights.

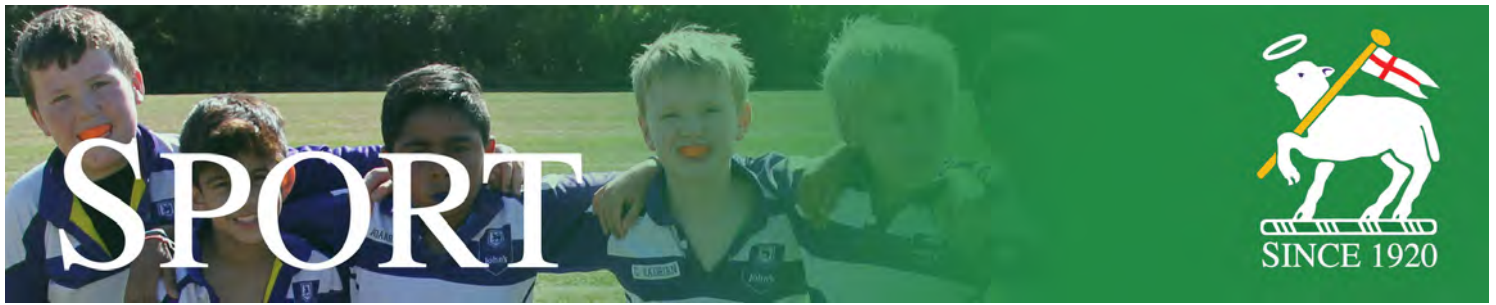




Developing skills in Year 3

Year 3 working on their measuring, marking and cutting skills.

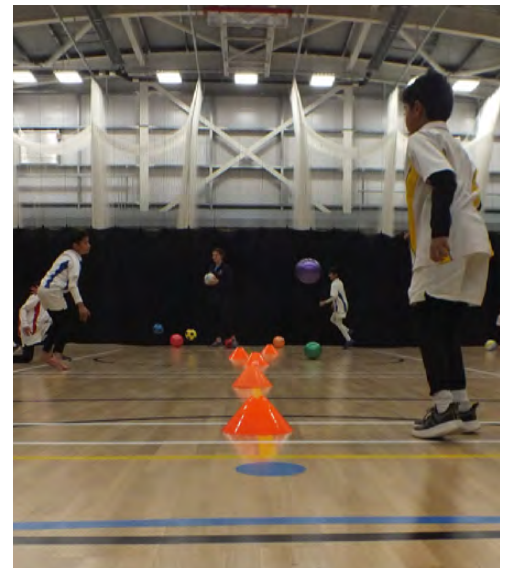
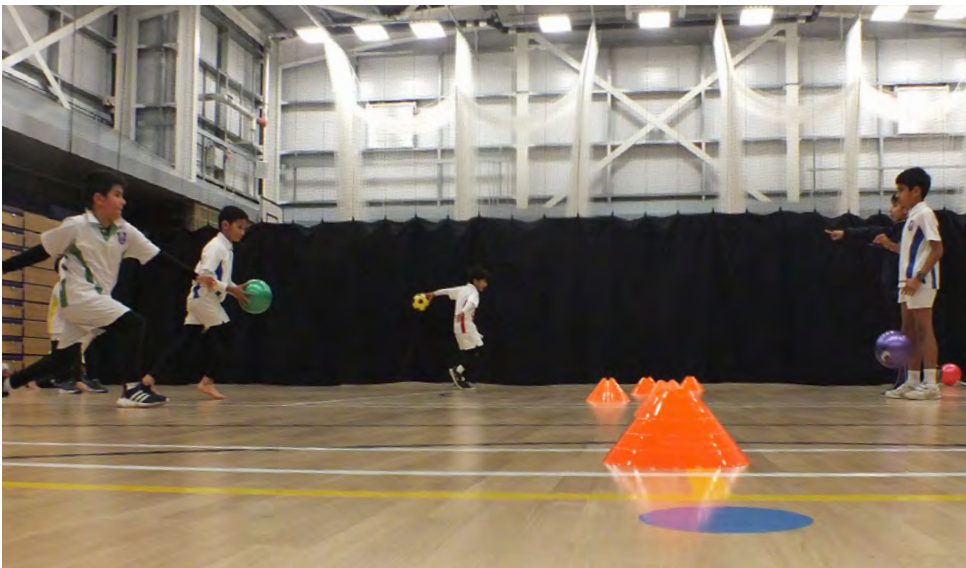


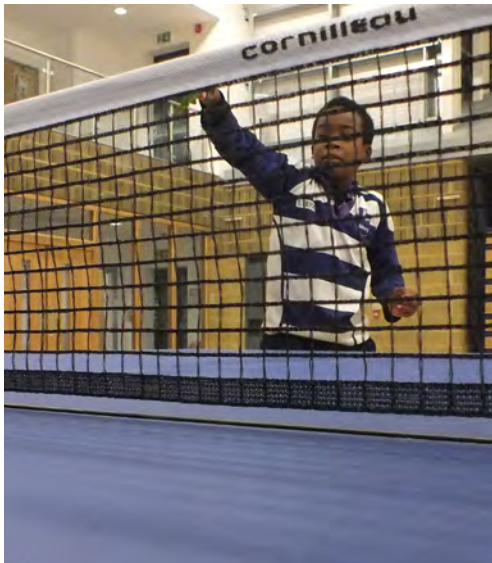


Variety is the spice of life and leads to maximum physical development!!

Another benefit we are extremely grateful for with the new Centenary Sports Hall is the opportunity to enjoy a wide variety of sports, which is something we have missed in the past eighteen months. When we get torrential wet days (not that St John's boys are scared of a bit of rain) this facility provides a perfect 'plan B' to incorporate other sports and also offers the opportunity to coach and teach around the importance of how skills learnt in a variety of sports complement each other. Basketball will help your fitness, agility and improve your

handling skills which will indirectly support your handling skills in rugby. Table tennis will support the development of your hand-eye coordination skills which in turn over the long run will enhance your tennis or your cricket. We are certainly all benefitting from the new facilities and opportunities we have. I hope you enjoy these spectacular action shots from our running club enjoying Dodgeball (such a favourite and highly requested game at St John's) and our Y6 hockey club boys getting stuck in with basketball and table tennis.







Introducing: RFU Green Laces

The Green Laces is an RFU initiative by which we would like to recognise and reward, on a weekly basis, the 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. The laces will be

handed out at the end of games sessions to reinforce values on the spot.

Last week, all age groups enjoyed their House Rugby against each other and we would like to award Green Laces to these boys this week.



Year 3: Teddy 3W – Teamwork. Showing leadership & initiative on and off the pitch. Keeping his team active by running drills and warm ups on the sidelines.

Year 4: Zachariah 4H - Sportsmanship & Respect. Helping his teammates up and celebrating the achievements of others.

Arnav 4S – Sportsmanship. For doing substitutions fairly and when on the bench he did not stop supporting his House for one second.

Year 5: Thomas 5W-S – Enjoyment. Mature conversations and encouragement to his teammates after matches, reassuring that



the score does not matter but that you play your heart out and enjoy your rugby.

Year 8: Hillesh 8B – Discipline. When the going gets tough, Hillesh digs deep, works hard and listens to feedback from the coach resulting in clear progressing & development.

Rodrigo 8L – Sportsmanship. Motivating his teammates and talking to and encouraging all team members in his House

Ethan 8B – Sportsmanship. Working with all his teammates, proactively motivating and encouraging all team members in his House.



OUTLOOK



MERCHANT TAYLORS' COMPANY

HAMPERS PACKED WITH HISTORY
BRINGING THE MAGIC OF MERCHANT TAYLORS' AT CHRISTMAS TO YOU

There is something for everyone with our range of six Christmas hampers and gift boxes, all of which can be delivered straight to the door of a loved one.

Items may include wines selected by our Company Butler, deli produce that champions the best of British ingredients, coffees and teas from artisanal suppliers in addition to the quintessential Merchant Taylors' preserves and festive treats, which includes the homemade Merchant Taylors' Christmas pudding



Place your order here: <https://www.merchant-taylors.co.uk/hampers>
For all enquiries please email the events team: events@mtaylorsevents.co.uk
Limited availability whilst stocks last, and standard delivery charges apply

SuperCamps

NORTHWOOD COLLEGE FOR GIRLS

WINTER

Join us on camp this Winter season as we celebrate the splendour and excitement of our "Winter Wonderland" Camps. With a brilliant selection of winter sports, team-building games and festive crafts to inspire and excite, children can look forward to themed activities such as "present dash", "bouncing baubles" and "snowball slam". Our partnership challenges from The LEGO® Group are back, with chances to win some SUPER LEGO® prizes.

14th - 24th December*



Ages 4-12 years - Childcare Vouchers Accepted - Ofsted Registered - COVID-Secure

www.supercamps.co.uk

CAMPS OPEN: 8AM-6PM

Supporting our local Food Bank



The St John's Association would love you to help us to help those in our local community who will be relying on food banks this Christmas. Please ask your son to give your donation of long life dry goods, stationery or cosmetics to a Year 8 boy in the playground when they arrive at school. The goods will be collected together on **Wednesday 10th December** and will be delivered to Hillingdon Food Bank before the end of term. Many thanks in advance for your generosity.

URGENTLY NEEDED FOOD ITEMS

LONG LIFE JUICE

BISCUITS

CUSTARD

SQUASH

TINNED TOMATOES

SOUPS

UHT MILK

RICE PUDDING

NOODLES

POWDERED MILK

TINNED MEAT AND FISH

TINNED FRUIT

Childrens' Christmas Wish-list



It is sad to think that many children will be going without toys this Christmas but we can help with a donation to Childrens' Christmas Wish-list. Every year they take in donations of new toys and distribute them to local homes, childrens' care homes, womens' centres, Harrow CAMHS and local childrens' hospital wards.

This year we are supporting this wonderful charity with a collection point at St John's. The toys should be brand new and for either girls or boys. You do not need to wrap the gifts as this will be done by the homes of the receivers.

If you are able, please send in your donation with your son who can hand it to one of the Year 8 boys when he arrives at school.

Many thanks in advance for your generous gift - you'll be making someone's Christmas.



Calendar & important dates Contact details

- Tuesday 8th December:**
 Year 4 House Cross Country (2-4pm)
- Wednesday 9th December:** Year 7 & 8 House Cross Country (2-4pm)
- Thursday 10th December:** Year 3 House Cross Country (2-4pm)
- Friday 11th December:** Year 6 House Cross Country (11am-1pm)
 Christmas Jumper Day
 Christmas Lunch
 House Christmas Quiz (2-4pm)
- Monday 14th December:** Junior Christmas Party (2-3pm)
- Tuesday 15th December:** Pre-Prep Christmas Party (1.30-3pm)
- Wednesday 15th December:** End of term

CURRENT AFFAIRS QUIZ

It would be really good if you could take the time to complete this weeks' quiz with your son. He will need to log in to his google account to access the slideshow. *Mr Russo*

[Link to the quiz](#)

- 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

- GI Questionnaire:** Mr Russo is aware that this is a busy time so has allowed a few extra days to respond to the parent survey if you would like to. The survey will now close at 4.00pm on Monday 7th December. Here are the livelinks:
[Link to parent preview survey](#)
[Link to parent live survey](#)
 Parent Password: SJS12359PA

Year 7 Drama: Please remember that you have a rehearsal in school 10.00am – 14.00pm on Sunday.

Christmas Jumpers: Friday 11th December is Christmas Jumper Day to raise money for Save The Children. There will be a JustGiving link on the School's charity website details of which will be sent home on Tuesday. Thank you in advance for your donations.

Up-date on Moor Park Virtual Fun run: St John's boys came in 1st, 3rd and 5th in the 2K Under-11 category of the Moor Park Fun Run. Teddy in Year 3 came first with a time of 9.08, George in Year 6 third in 9.48 and Enzo in Year 5 came in fifth in 14.06. Well done boys.

St John's Association Foodbank: Thank you for all
- your donations so far. The collection will be closing on Wednesday 10th December.

Toy donations for Childrens' Wishlist: Thank you again for your donations. You can continue to donate until Wednesday 15th December. Please ask your son to give the donation to a Year 8 boy on the playground when you arrive at school.

Votes for Schools: Last week's question was "Could you break a record?" 84.2% said yes and 15.8% said no. Next week's question is "Are we too influenced by the US?" Please discuss over the weekend. Click the photo to view the slides.

House Points: Totals so far Lincoln 43.50, Lawrence 42.18, Churchill 40.45, Oates 36.83

Have a relaxing weekend.
- 