

St John's School Weekly Newsletter

Issue 212



Welcome back to The Lamb and to this unusual start to the Summer Term 2020. I do hope you all had an enjoyable Easter break especially the family time together.

In these three days it is clear that both the boys and teachers across the School have been able to move forward with the online learning. I look forward to popping in to some lessons during this period to see how they are getting on.

These times have certainly drawn us all together and it is heart-warming to see the acts of kindness and support for each other. Please take a look at how Andreas and Cyrus have been using their time to help on this page.

In normal circumstances we would be building up to the annual visit from the Master and Clerk of the Merchant Taylors' Company, so it was lovely to receive an uplifting message this week from John Clink, The Clerk.

I hope you enjoy the wonderful art work completed over the holidays and keep up with Miss Morgan's challenges. I was able to sample the pancakes made by the boys (and Miss Gilders!) in the key workers group. They were delicious!

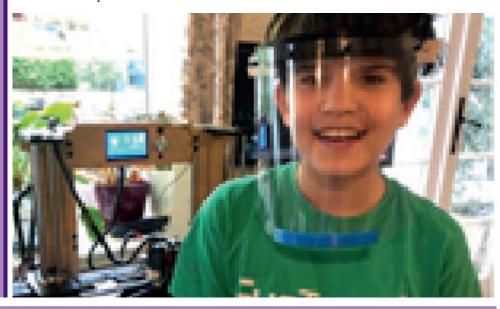
In fact, two things I am aiming to get better at are cooking and growing vegetables. I can see Reception have had real success with their potatoes. So boys, if you have some projects or any piece of work that you would like me to see please send it through to Mrs Baguley. Have a super weekend.

More PPE for the NHS



As we reported before Easter, Andreas has been using a 3D printer to make PPE shields for NHS and other critical workers aiming to create a small production line. So far he has delivered 51 completed frames (19 first batch/PLA Orange last week and another 32/PTEG Blue yesterday) with 10 more been manufactured since then. He are now able to print 5 sets at a time maximizing the 3d Printer space and capabilities. Each set of 5 takes about 13h so he is producing about 10 a day. The 3D Printer has been working non stop for the last 4-5 days. Andreas has been joined (remotely) by Cyrus who also has a 3D printer at home and has been producing PPE.

This has been a great experience for both boys who have put some of their design and technical skills into the real world. Getting the different printing materials right and optimising the process was not straight forward. It has also been a steep learning curve for their parents!





Life under lockdown

A special message from the Clerk of the Merchant Taylors' Company

In August 2001, the Type 23 frigate, HMS KENT (pictured opposite) sailed from Portsmouth during a thunderstorm that was so heavy families were unable to reach the harbour entrance to wave the ship away on its five month deployment to the Middle East. The ship's programme was planned carefully to provide a balance of exercises with friendly Navies and diplomatic visits to ports in the region.

The ship planned to spend about 60% of its time at sea and opportunities to visit India, Oman, UAE, Bahrain, possibly Pakistan and Saudi Arabia were eagerly anticipated. The cruise through the Mediterranean was calm and the newest ship in the Royal Navy was performing well. The Ship's Company had worked hard to get to this point and there was a sense of anticipation as the ship entered the Suez Canal. Ten days or so later, on 11 September the ship arrived in Dubai and the Captain entertained the British Ambassador and selected dignitaries of influence from this crucial region.

Ten minutes after the guests left, the first of the Twin Towers in New York was struck by terrorists. The thought of a 'run ashore' in Dubai evaporated and the ship's team of eight Royal Marines took their positions on the upperdeck whilst the covers on the air defence missiles were removed. Within an hour the ship was ready to defend itself from attack. Sailing shortly afterwards, the ship moved north into the Central Gulf, whilst the world reeled at life post 9/11. The cruise through the Mediterranean would be the last occasion the ship operated at sea without being at instant readiness to respond to attack.



The Ship's Company of 200 men and women, with an average age of 23, slipped, without fuss or fanfare, into a watch-keeping routine of six hours on and six hours off. Off watch junior sailors crammed into tiny messdecks of thirty to forty bunks stacked three high. Every sailor carried their lifejacket, their 'anti-flash' protection from fire and emergency breathing apparatus to be able to get out of a smoke-filled ship.

As the US Navy withdrew from the Northern Gulf, turning away from Iraq and launching Tomahawk cruise missiles into Afghanistan, KENT was ordered north to enforce UN sanctions against Saddam Hussein's Iraq. Two weeks after 9/11, Royal Marine Commandos in fast boats from the ship boarded oil tankers attempting to smuggle oil out of Iraq. All this activity happened at night and inside the range of the Iraqi's coastal missile batteries. KENT stopped more oil smugglers than any other warship from any Navy. The ship remained on operations for seven months and spent over 90% of her time at sea, replenishing fuel and food from support ships. In April 2002, she returned home to Portsmouth. In all that time, it had not rained at all.

The parallels with life for all of us now are clear; from the initial wave-off, that final good-bye, curtailed and incomplete – an immediate dislocation of expectations. Opportunities to visit new places taken away. A return home, to normal family life, unexpectedly delayed by two months; birthdays and anniversaries missed. Equally, the operational tempo prevented sailors going home to be with ill or dying relatives. The way



through this was to talk, reassure and support and keep doing it. It is very hard, but when in 'lockdown' one has to face the reality of a very difficult situation and help people to cope. Talking and making time for people is crucial.

But the team of KENT got through it all and entered Portsmouth with their heads held high, proud of what they had achieved. So, how might this help get us through lockdown?

- Identify the important from the urgent and respond appropriately. Do not feel pressure to do the unnecessary! It is worth putting a note on your mirror that asks at the end of this period what will you be proud of achieving?
- Have a sense of purpose. Set goals for doing normal things really well. Use every opportunity to prepare for the future. Do not put off things that can be done now.
- Relish friendships and camaraderie. Look after each other because your lives depend on it. Talk, exchange ideas, find out something amazing about someone you

- do not know as well as you thought. Help others reach their potential or achieve their goals.
- There may be great sadness along the way, where opportunities to grieve in a normal way are just not possible. Talking and supporting each other through these extremely difficult moments requires lots of time and special effort.
- Have a routine and try to stick to it.
- Enjoy every second you are allowed to exercise and stay fit.
- Sleep well. Read the books you always meant to. There could be time for War and Peace at this rate!
- Do not let uncertainty or ambiguity about a return to normal life get you down.
- We are all in this TOGETHER and we will meet friends and families again.

Kind regards, Rear Admiral John Clink CBE (Commanding Officer, HMS KENT 2001-2002)





Fundraising through football

Kian of Year 8 took up a challenge during the Easter holidays to fundraise for St John's Ambulance. He is a member of St John's Ambulance cadets, where he learns life saving skills. The title of the challenge was "500 for £500" and he chose to shoot 500 goals. In total he helped to raise over £900 with the other cadets (and still rising) for St John's Ambulance paramedics to help with the COVID-19 situation.







Viking Longships

As part of their history project, boys in Year 6 had to draw a Viking longboat at the end of term. Mr. Horrocks invited them to try to make a model of one for fun over the holidays if they were not too busy. As these pictures show, Shay and Albert took his invitation to the next level and really went above and beyond.











Birdman of St John's

Ishaan in Year 6 has sent in these amazing photos taken via an ingenious miniature camera in his garden.

As well as getting back to home schooling this week, Ishaan has been keeping an eye on a family of BlueTits nesting in the bird box he made and put in the garden over Easter! He carefully placed a tiny camera in the box and is so excited to watch the little eggs hatch! It's been amazing to watch

him monitor their progress over the last few weeks from the moment the nest was being built to now.

Mr. Lawrence writes that, with an incubation time of around two weeks, it shouldn't be long before we see the new chicks appear. Don't be tempted to go anywhere near before they've fledged (left the nest).

Well done and keep us posted Ishaan!











Meet our Birthday boys
St John's boys have celebrated some very different kinds of Birthdays over the past few weeks. Jimi only had two candles at home and it was his mum's first attempt at a velvet cake but it looks as though it was a success. Shaayan and Amay share virtual Birthday wishes with their friends in the Lambs and Cato proudly shows off his completed Quidditch model. Many happy returns to you all.















More Birthday boys









If you would like your Birthday picture in the Lamb then please send it to lambeditor@st-johns.org.uk.





Miss Morgan's challenges Miss Morgan's latest challenges for the Pre-Prep boys have resulted in some interesting photos. Her first challenge was to help

Miss Morgan's latest challenges for the Pre-Prep boys have resulted in some interesting photos. Her first challenge was to help with the house hold chores and we have seen several boys vacuuming, cleaning shoes, washing cars and unloading dishwashers. Her star jump challenge had small boys all over Northwood jumping in their gardens to try and get the highest score. What will be the challenge next week?



































PRE-PREP







Grow your own potatoes

As you may recall, the Robins and Squirrels signed up to the Grow Your Own Potato scheme earlier this year. We chitted the potatoes and planted them. Unfortunately, due to the current situation, we have been unable to take care of them and watch their progress. However, I grow potatoes every year and thought I would try and let you all know how this year's crop is progressing. I do not have a large garden so, just like the potatoes we planted at school, mine are in containers. I planted them at the same time as the Robins and Squirrels planted theirs. As the green leaves have been growing up through the soil I have been covering them with more compost and now my container is full. I am experimenting a little this year. I usually grow potatoes in my back garden which is very sunny and I often get a good crop. This year I moved the containers

to the front garden which is more shaded and cooler (to make space in the back to grow something else). As you can see from the picture the potato plants are doing well so far. In the greenhouse at the moment I also have courgettes, tomatoes, runner beans, green dwarf beans and yellow dwarf beans. They will be planted out when the frosts have passed. I will keep my fingers crossed and hope to have lots of tasty, fresh vegetables this summer. I will try and keep you all posted on the progress of the potatoes and the rest of my vegetables. Things do not always work out as I hope but the most important thing is that I enjoy being in the garden, trying to grow as much as I can. I am sure that many of you have lots of hobbies that are keeping you busy during lockdown. Take care and keep smiling. Mrs Scott







Miss Vale's challenges

During the first week back, Miss Vale set 5V some challenges to make sure we had some alternative things to do and get us away from our screens. The challenges were: baking some cookies, doing some hoovering, putting a wash on, hanging the washing on a washing line and creating an obstacle course.

Roshan: Baking Cookies

Me and my mum made cookies and it was really fun since she is actually a professional baker! We made 30 of them and the flavours were: chocolate-chip, nutella and peanut butter! The recipe was:

- 100 g unsalted butter
- 125 g caster sugar
- 1 large free-range egg
- ½ teaspoon vanilla extract
- 200 g self-raising flour
- 1 pinch of salt
- 1 tablespoon peanut butter
- 1 tablespoon Nutella
- 1 tablespoon chocolate chips



They were scrumptious, appetizing and mouth-watering.

Roshan: Doing some hoovering

My mum has asked me to do the hoovering, in the last week or so. I was very whingy at first but then I realised, she never said I couldn't put my headphones on! So I put my headphones on and did some hoovering around the house.





Kian: Obstacle course

The obstacle course was my favourite because we had to be creative and it was energetic. Also, we could do anything, for example mine was based on cricket and football. Here is a picture:

What skills have we gained?

By doing these lockdown challenges the skills we learned were that we learned to push our imagination to the limits by making an obstacle course. By baking cookies we learned how to bake and to do something while we are bored. While hoovering we learned to find specks of dust for cleaning and finally by hanging the clothes and putting them in the washing machine we learned to make sure the clothes are clean and how long we should put them in for. Written by Kian, Aaray and Roshan







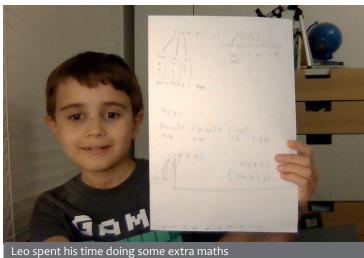
Home Activities

Over the holidays the boys have been using their time creatively as these photos show.







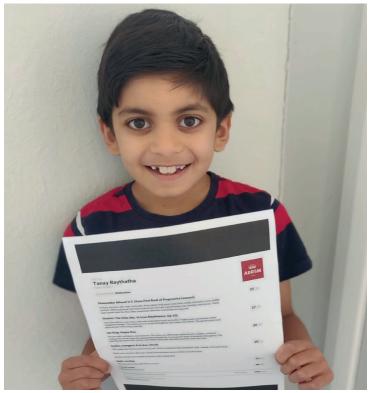








Distinctive Grade I



Tanay in 3W took his Associated Board Grade 1 piano exam just before lockdown was introduced. He did extremely well gaining 140 out of a possible 150 marks and earning a distinction at this level. This is a real achievement – very well done Tanay.

Let's help him celebrate with a special musical wordsearch.

Bagpipes Harp

Bassoon Harpsichord

Bongos Keyboard

Cello Lyre

Clarinet Mandolin

Cornet Oboe

Drums Organ

Fife Percussion

Flute Piano

Guitar Recorder

Harmonica Saxophone

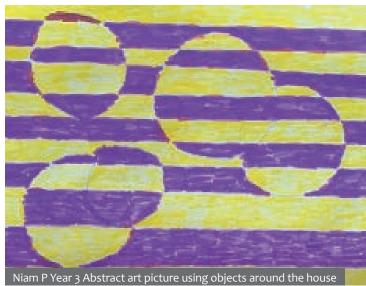
MUSICAL WORDSEARCH

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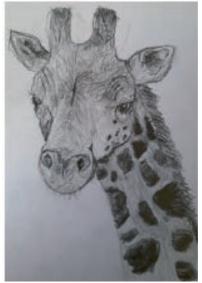
MUSICAL WORDSEARCH





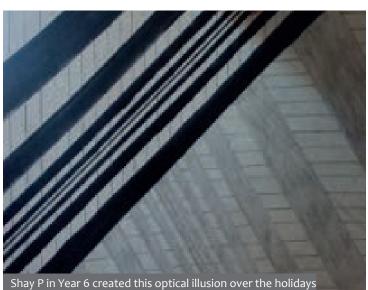


These pencil drawings have been drawn by Albert V Year 6, during the Easter holiday

















Yusuf p in Year 8 has created a tasty looking mosaic ice-cream



This sunflower has been drawn by Krish S in Year 5



Luke C in Year 5 has drawn sunflowers



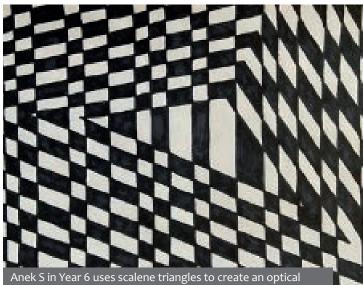






Photo of the week

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 @stjsnorthwood.

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.

Mr Smith playing hide 'n' seek but not very well.

Notices and reminders

Mount Vernon Cancer Centre fundraising team has recently launched a new charity appeal asking local supporters to support NHS staff. The campaign #HereForEachOther hopes to raise funds to support the physical and emotional wellbeing of staff through this difficult time and help fund any extra equipment or resources needed now and in the future for our hospital. Details are at:

www.enhhcharity.org.uk/appeal/hereformountvernon

If you know of anybody that may be interested in the supporting the appeal or is closely connected to the cancer centre please forward these details or contact Joe Dunster, Community Fundraiser. Email joe.dunster@nhs.net or call 020 3826 2517. Or text 'HERE4MV' to 70085 to donate £5

Make the most of clear night skies. Avid star gazer, Mr Lawrence writes that there is a new way to identify the stars above our heads with a new app courtesy of Elon Musk. Visit https://findstarlink.com/ and enter your location to see what is in the sky tonight. If you can't use link, just type "starlink tracker" into your phone.

Votes for Schools. Thequestion over the holidays was 'Can you learn more without a classroom?', a topical theme to say the least! Yes: 36% No 64%. Let's hope that these results change after the current period of lockdown. The



new question which will run until next Wednesday is 'Should young people earn pocket money?' Please discuss this at home over the weekend and vote in the usual way.

House Point Totals: 1st Lincoln 96.54, 2nd Churchill 94.21, 3rd Oates 93.77, 4th Lawrence 85.98. House Points are currently being awarded for good work so do continue to try your very best, both for yourself and for your House.

Alistair's Challenge: Follow this link to see this PE challenge that Alistair of Year 5 has produced. Watch out Joe Wicks!

Enjoy a sunny weekend, leave those screens behind and get some fresh air.