



## From the Headmaster

I am delighted to be able to write the introduction to the two hundred and twenty third edition of The Lamb. I hope you enjoy reading about Year 8's combined Science and Geography Field Trip to Epping Forest and 6V's pledges for the planet.

I am pleased that we have had a number of boys getting involved in supporting their communities during the last few months and I note next week's 'Votes for Schools' question. It is heart-warming to read about Charlie's efforts on page 3. Well done to him! Congratulations to our Science Team who reached the Finals of the Quiz Club Challenge this week.

I was lucky enough to hear Miss Whyton introducing the Lambs to their story of the week: 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears'. I am sure you will enjoy the photographs on page 6.

The Happy Puzzle Company presented a variety of team challenges on Tuesday where the boys had to work together and think laterally to solve the problems, which they really enjoyed.

This afternoon Year 3 showed me their fantastic hieroglyphs as part of their study of the Ancient Egyptians.

I hope you all have a restful weekend and manage to keep dry!

S. R. A.

## Year 8 Field Trip to Epping Forest

On Friday, Year 8 were fortunate to be able to go to Epping Forest on their Geography and Science Field Trip. After many cancellations and worries over whether we would be able to go, we breathed a sigh of relief when we arrived at the Field Centre to meet our tutor for the day. We had an introductory lesson about the area before we made our way out to the Pillow Mounds to begin our investigation: 'The impact of Tourism on the Pillow Mounds'. The weather was not on our side, and the cold and squally winds buffeted us relentlessly. However, despite the conditions, the boys were fantastic, all managing to take their measurements and record their findings. We then made our way back inside for the best part of the day, lunch! Once we had all been fed and watered, we turned our minds to Science and undertook an afternoon of Pond Dipping. With a lack of visitors to the centre, the pond life was abundant and we were particularly thrilled with the variety of vertebrates and invertebrates that we found, including a rare Dragonfly nymph. A big thank you to all the staff at Epping Forest Field Centre and Mr Lawrence, Mr Horrocks and Mr Hodson for accompanying us.







## Year 6V's pledges for the planet

**Over the past** couple of weeks, we have been watching a documentary called 'Extinction' narrated by David Attenborough in Form Time. We found the plight of the Northern White Rhino particularly moving; there are only two left in the world due to excessive poaching and they are now on the brink of certain extinction due to the fact that they are both female and cannot breed unless we fund vital scientific research which will create an embryo using cells harvested from the females and preserved from the last male of the species.

The programme also informed us about a similar situation developing in the orca population off the northern coast of Scotland - these animals are also facing extinction due to being unable to breed on account of a build up of plastic microparticles in their bodies. The large quantities of plastic that makes it way into our seas is a sad reflection on our over-consuming society. Our favourite part so far has been seeing the pangolins being rescued - they are so adorable! However, it did make us unhappy when we realised that they were being poached for keratin - the same thing that our hair and nails are made from. These examples evoked sadness in us and made us very worried for all the poor

animals on the planet because they are so vulnerable to extinction and their lives are not being valued enough by the vast majority of the global population: we should value their lives as much as we do our own!

As a result of watching 'Extinction', we have committed to a number of '6V Pledges'. Firstly, we are very keen to help with funding research into saving the Northern White Rhinos and are planning to each invest a small amount of money to adopt them. We are also going to aim to bring two vegetarian lunches in our packed lunch weeks and petition our parents to buy free range eggs and sustainable meat (we might try to convince Mr Stone too!). Finally, we are hoping to arrange a sponsored walk/run to raise money for various environmental organisations...watch this space!

Benjamin in Year 7 is also very interested in animal conservation and has recently set up a website on preserving Big Cat populations: <https://bigcatconservationists.web.app/>. We found it very informative and definitely recommend that you pay it a visit!

By Aarav, Ahaan and Kian (6V)







## Charlie: Helping Out During Lockdown

**Along with the** rest of the country during lockdown some of the normal council run services were suspended. My family's house has a communal green outside that is usually mowed by the council a few times a year. During lockdown, the council were unable to maintain the grass and so I volunteered to mow it with our lawnmower every couple of weeks which was greatly appreciated by the neighbours. A couple of them even came outside to clap me and they all said thanks over the community WhatsApp group.

When I say mow the grass, it is actually a mix of grass and other green vegetation which grows as fast but is a little denser to cut. On one occasion a combination of the thicker vegetation and running over a stick caused the blades to jam and the machine stopped working. I guess that's why the council use a sit-on rotary mower; I had a 14 inch cylinder mower which

works fine on a garden lawn but has its work cut-out on common land.

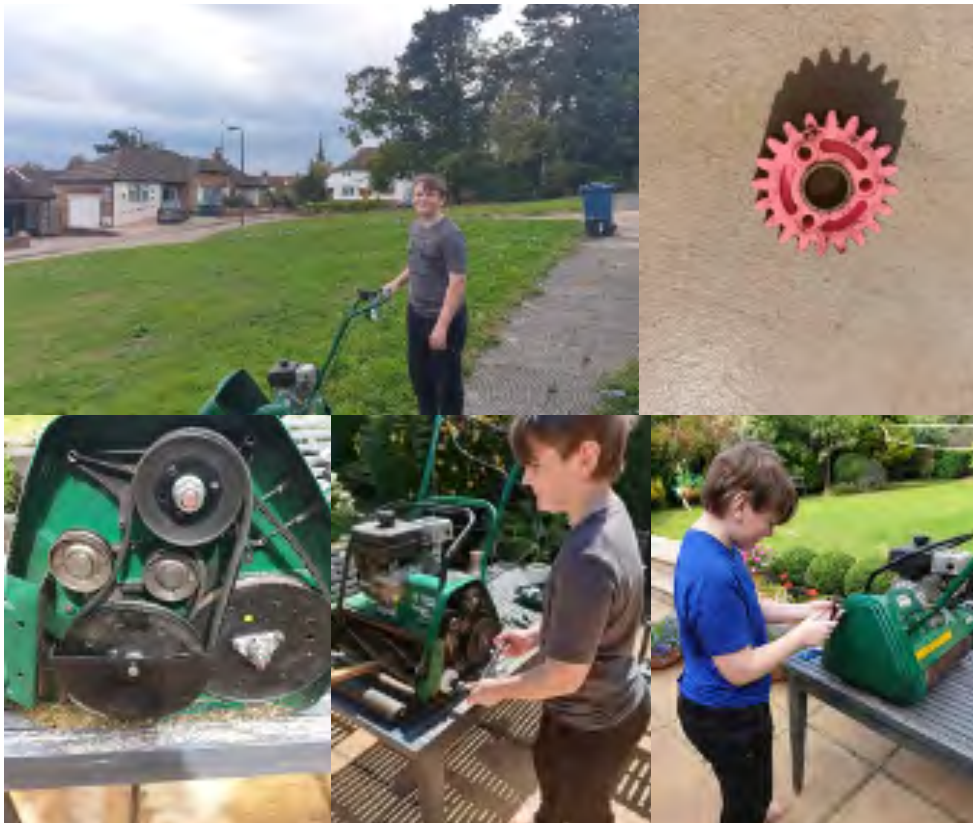
I took the side off the lawnmower and found that the gear wheels had lost a number of teeth and were therefore no longer engaged. The drive gears sit behind the pulleys seen in the photo on the left and the pink gear is the same as the one that broke originally and also the one that melted (see later). On the bottom right hand photo, I am tightening the gear attached to the blade cylinder.

I looked up spares through the internet and found many outlets selling them. Whilst they all looked the same, they came with very different prices. I had been told that you should always try and get original parts so didn't buy the cheapest but went to a website that looked reliable and had good Trustpilot scores. The three gear wheels cost about £12 in total. When they came it was a relatively simple task to

replace the broken ones using little more than a screwdriver to remove a split pin and prize apart the gears from the pulleys and a box spanner to remove the gear on the blade cylinder. Having said that, the nut was a big one and needed a 17mm box – which my Dad didn't have. We thought a DIY store would be the place to get one, but actually Halford's was the place to go as a nut this size is usually used to keep wheels on cars. This gear had a left handed/reverse thread – a device for ensuring that the action of the machine tightened the nut rather than loosened it.

When replacing the gears, two of which were plastic, one of them had a brass gromet in the middle which was designed to revolve around a steel spindle. This was very tight to fit and my father suggested I grease the spindle to make it easier to fit and to allow the gear to spin more freely. Whilst the grease did make it easier to fit the gear, once the lawnmower was running, the grease must have increased the friction rather than reduce it, as the gear ran hot and the plastic melted. Apart from having to open up the machine again, this caused no major problem as we had a spare. The melted gear was removed (with the help of some WD40), the spindle cleaned so there was no lubricant and the new gear mounted. Since making this repair the lawnmower has run quite happily. The lesson I learnt here is to look carefully at how the machine was put together in the first place and not to try and improve it!

The council are now back mowing the common land and actually said that on one occasion they had turned up to mow the green only to see that it had recently been mowed by someone who had taken care enough to mow lines onto it. Just like Wimbledon, they said. Wimbledon Common maybe, but definitely not the All England Club, my Dad said.







# Woods Club

The boys in Woods Club have been looking at the artist Andy Goldsworthy this week. What a wonderful use of natural materials.







## Quiz Club Science Finals Years 6 and 7

**Earlier in the year**, before lockdown, one of our Science Teams, consisting of Michael, Amos, George and James, managed to get through the heats of the Quiz Club Science challenge at Merchant Taylors' Prep. Due to the lockdown the finals could not be held in the summer. This week we did manage to have the competition but due to social distancing it

was held on Zoom! The Quiz Master displayed the questions while we watched on the Lab 1 computer and the boys were able to vote via their iPads on Buzzer. We don't know our final placing yet but the boys had a lot of fun answering the questions that ranged from astronomy to zoology.







## Who's been eating my porridge?



**The Lambs listened** to the story of 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears'. They got into character and thoroughly enjoyed acting out the story.



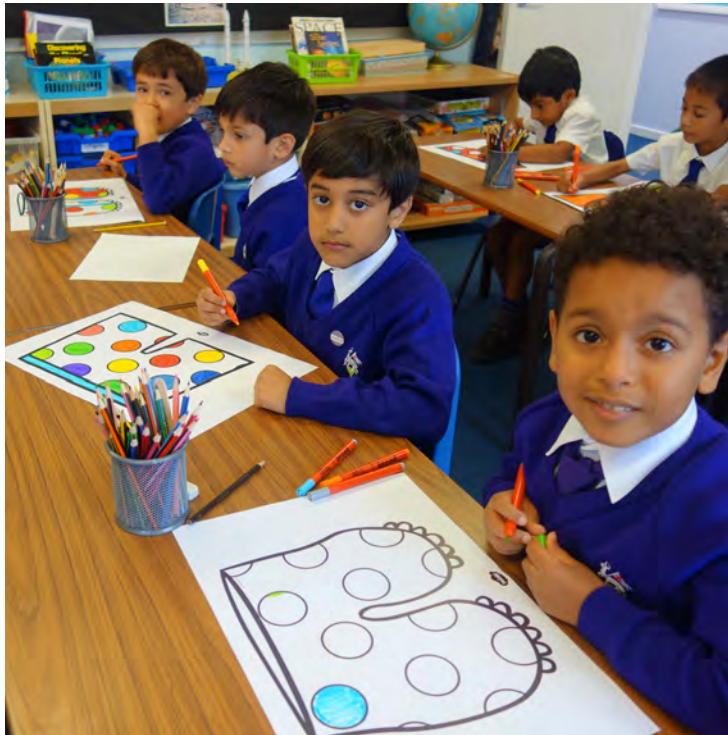




# Painting underpants in Year 2

The **Badgers** have been developing their artistic skills and brush strokes in Art this week after listening to the story ‘Aliens wear Underpants.’ Everyone chose their own pattern to work with

and enjoyed the chance to mix paints and develop their brush control. There are some budding designers here...







## Eyes right in Year 1



**Year 1** have been learning about eyes this week. Firstly, they labelled and learnt about the different parts of the eye and watched a video about visiting the optician. Next, they made their own eye chart for testing eye sight and played an eye bingo game. Finally, they created their own designer glasses, using coloured cellophane for the glass and decorated them with jewels, feathers and gems. Who is hiding behind the glasses? Can you recognise us?



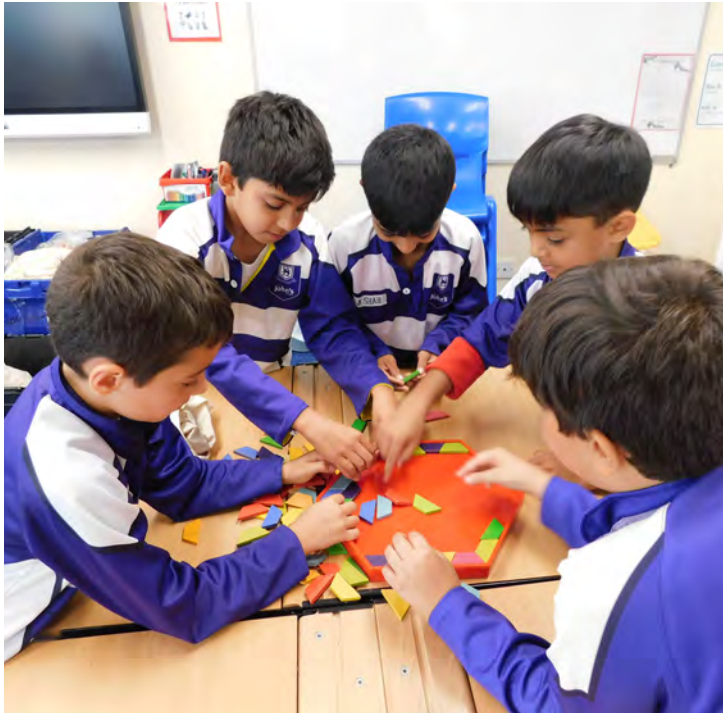




## Happy puzzling in the Juniors

The Juniors are almost always happy at St John's and we are all occasionally puzzled in these strange Covid times, so it was a real delight to welcome the Happy Puzzle Company into school. The boys very much enjoyed undertaking practical maths problems.

They were forced to think logically and work co-operatively and very much enjoyed the visit. Some even managed to smile for the cameras too!







## Happy Puzzle Company: Year 5 report from Daanish

**On Tuesday 29th September** the Happy Puzzle Company came over to our school. The experience of building towers, assembling jigsaws and solving tangrams was very enjoyable.

Teamwork and communication were key in addressing these puzzles. Although it was difficult at times we managed to put our heads together and power through it.



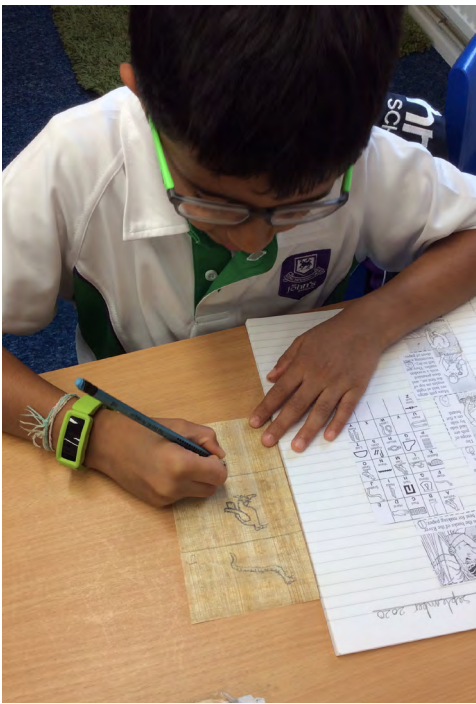
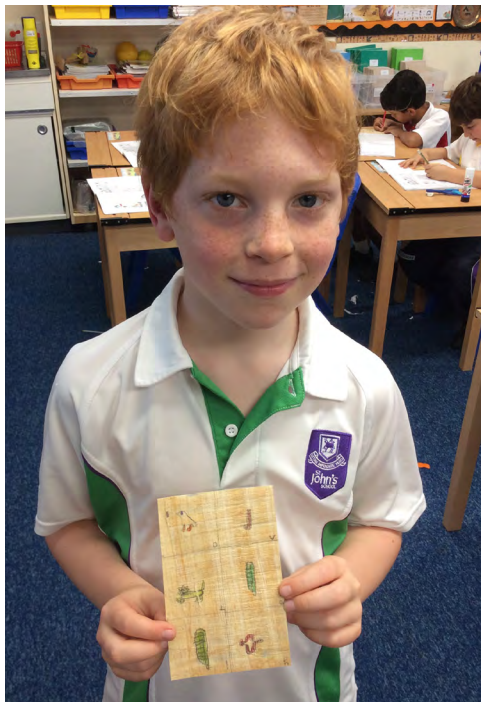
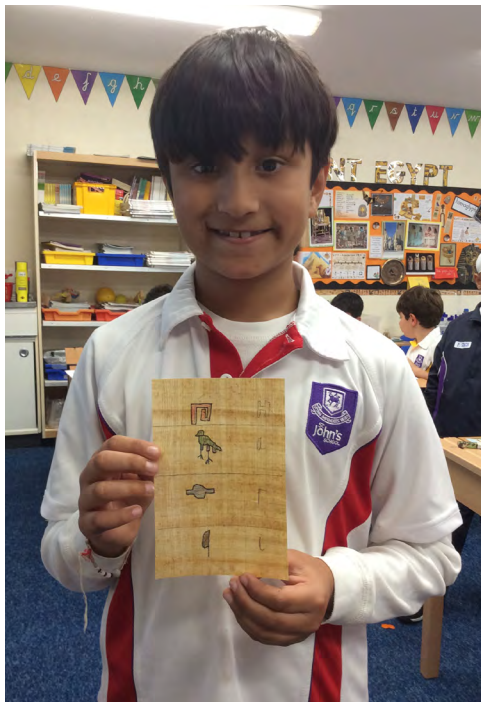




# Year 3 writing in hieroglyphs

Year 3 have been studying the Ancient Egyptians this term. This week they learned how to write their names in hieroglyphs using real papyrus paper! Papyrus paper is made from the leaves of the papyrus plant, which grows next to the

River Nile. The Ancient Egyptian scribes used scrolls of this paper to write on. The boys carefully copied the symbols that make up each letter in their name. Notice how the writing is vertical and not horizontal.

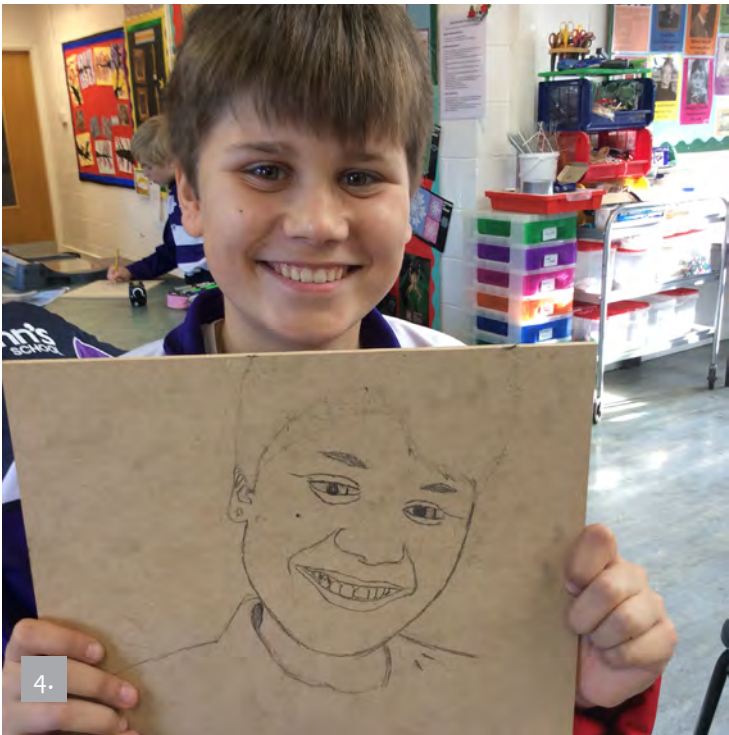






# Year 7 selfies

**Year 7 boys** have been working on Mixed Media Selfie Portraits. They are working on wooden canvases and will use a variety of resources and materials. This project will take a few weeks to complete. Darwin, Niam, Rian and Albert are making great progress on theirs. I can't wait to see them with colour. Well done boys! 1. Darwin, 2. Niam, 3. Rian, 4. Albert







# Room on a broom

**Year 3** have had lots of fun thinking about being a designer as they worked in the D&T workshop this week. We look forward to showing you our 'Room on the Broom' broomsticks when they are finished.







## Moor Park Virtual Fun Run



**Moor Park Fun Run in normal times**

Every year, Mount Vernon Cancer Centre hold the 'Moor Park Fun Run' for children and adults. Unfortunately, due to the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions, the Junior Fun Runs are unable to go ahead. Instead, Moor Park have organised for a virtual event to take place where you can run or walk in your own time, whilst raising money for the Mount Vernon Cancer Centre.

To take part, please follow the instructions below:

- Got to <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/virtualmoorpark10k> to register online.
- Choose which challenge you want to take part in – 10K, 5K, 2K or 1K
- Run or walk, anytime or anywhere that suits you from 1st -31st October 2020
- Seek donations where you can from friends and family. You can use the sponsorship form, found opposite:

[https://activetrainingworld.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Moor-Park-10k-Combined\\_Sponsor-Form-2020.pdf](https://activetrainingworld.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Moor-Park-10k-Combined_Sponsor-Form-2020.pdf)

- Upload your donations to the St John's Just Giving page for this event. As a school, we will then make one final donation to the Mount Vernon Cancer Centre when all sponsorships have been received. The web address for this is: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/stjohnsmoorparkfunrun>
- Make sure that you record your time so you can see your standing on the virtual leader board.

It would be wonderful if we could support this worthwhile cause virtually, as we would normally do each year in person. This is the only fundraising event of 2020 that the centre are running and, understandably, they need the community's donations to keep up their fantastic work. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Mrs Walker.



## Picture of the week



**Freddie** had a first and caught this impressive river pike on the Colne in Rickmansworth. The pike was released fit and healthy!

## Contact details

**Updates:** Please continue to visit [www.st-johns.org.uk](http://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 your pictures to [lambeditor@st-johns.org.uk](mailto:lambeditor@st-johns.org.uk) for inclusion in The Lamb. Many thanks.

## Notices and reminders

**Open Day:** Please pass on this information to anyone who is interested in sending their son to St John's. Our virtual **Open Morning** is next Wednesday, 7th October. You will be able to access the Headmaster's address via the **Open Morning** page on [the School website](http://the School website). There will also be a link to a virtual tour of the School. Both the Headmaster's address and the virtual tour will be available to view from Wednesday 7th October onwards. I hope that you enjoy seeing St John's in action, albeit from a distance. Do contact the School at [admissions@st-johns.org.uk](mailto:admissions@st-johns.org.uk) with any questions.

**Parking reminder:** Several residents have complained this week that parents are still blocking their driveway on Sandy Lane. Please avoid using this area if at all possible and do not obstruct people's driveways. Thank you.

**Match report correction:** there was an error in the cricket reporting last week which we would like to rectify. Very well done to Arian in Year 8 who took 2 wickets for 5 runs

in the match against Haileybury. This bowling success was mistakenly credited to Rodrigo. Sorry Arian!

**Stem Den:** Stem Den classes are on for November! Check out the website and book your place today. 2nd - 6th November for children aged 5 to 13. Places are limited. [www.stemden.co.uk](http://www.stemden.co.uk)

**Votes for Schools.** Last week's question "Would you donate your organs?" 82.4% said yes and 17.6% said no. It was an important topic to think about. This week's question "Should everyone volunteer in their community?"

View the slides on Google Classroom Votes for Schools class (code: tcl5eou), place your vote and make your comment.

**House Points:** Totals so far: Lawrence 8.79, Lincoln 8.60, Churchill 8.10, Oates 7.66

Enjoy the weekend and stay dry!