



From the
Headmaster

Welcome to the 224th edition of the Lamb, the St John's newsletter originally designed by Old Boy Alex Everett who is now in the sixth form at Merchant Taylors' School.

Our headline story focusses on Year 6's pledges for the planet and their communication with Sir David Attenborough. I am sure that you will enjoy the fantastic examples of the 'perfect page' created by Years 5 and 6 in their English lessons.

Year 4 have been investigating the effects of pollution with a number of experiments in their Science lessons. I enjoyed the opportunity to read Michael Rosen's "We're going on a bear hunt" to the Lambs whilst the Robins and Squirrels have been learning about hedgehogs (see page 8.)

I am delighted that our new charity fundraising page is up and running as this will not only help us streamline our fundraising but also help us learn more about the charities we are supporting at St John's.

This week sees the launch of the annual Merchant Taylors' Company Photography Competition. This year's theme is Hope and entry is open to all the boys and staff from the family of schools. Please see more details from Ms Gillen on page 19.

I hope you have a lovely weekend with your families.

S. R. A.

A letter from Sir David

6V were very excited this week to receive a letter from Sir David Attenborough, one of the world's best known broadcasters and an eminent national historian. At the beginning of term, the class wrote a letter to Sir David telling him how much they had enjoyed watching his '[Extinction](#)' documentary, sharing The Lamb article from last week and their pledges for the planet. They were honoured and amazed to receive this hand-written reply from him a few days later. In his own hand he wrote:

Dear Miss Vale and 6V. I read your letter with admiration. Congratulations on all you are doing to help in saving all we can of the natural world. Best wishes to you all.

David Attenborough

Considering how many letters he must receive each week, it is really quite remarkable to receive a note so quickly. From his recent Extinction series, we know he is still passionate about saving our natural world but he is also prepared to give up his time and energy to inspire children to follow in his footsteps (more on p2).





A letter from Sir David (continued...)

6V's letter and David Attenborough's reply

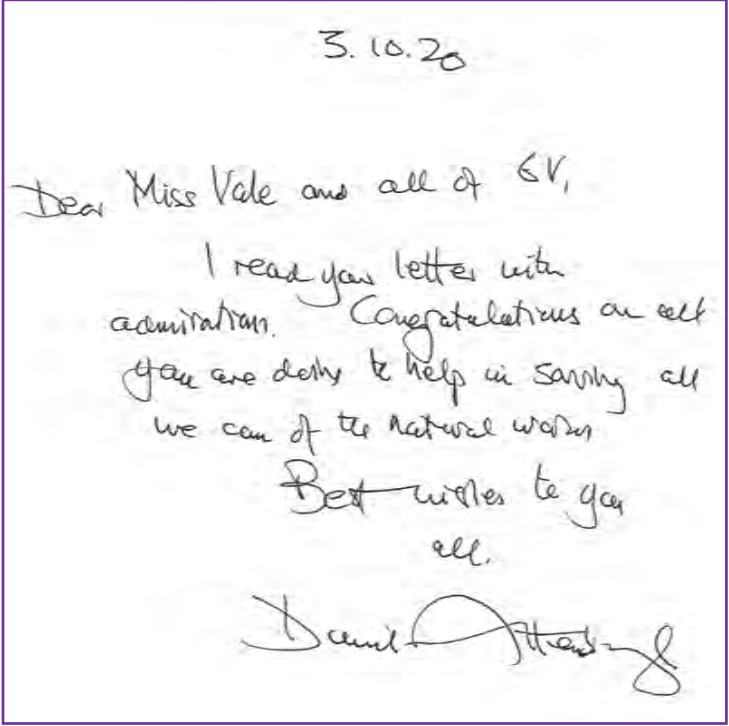
Dear Sir David,

We hope this letter finds you well. We just wanted to tell you how much we enjoyed watching your 'Extinction' documentary on the BBC. It has been our focus during form times over the past two weeks and it has inspired us to think about the ways in which we can individually help to save the planet and halt the progress of animal extinction and climate change. We have even shared our thoughts with the rest of our school community by writing an article for our weekly newsletter, 'The Lamb', in the hope that we can make school-wide change and increase our overall impact on helping the planet.

We pledge to pay for the annual adoption of two of the remaining Northern White Rhinos to help fund vital research into preserving the species. Buy free range eggs and ethical meat wherever possible. Do a sponsored walk/run to raise awareness of the extinction crisis. Bring a minimum of two vegetarian lunches a week during packed lunch weeks. Walk/cycle to school wherever possible to reduce emissions.

Hopefully, our small pledges can inspire other people to also help in the preservation of the biodiversity of the planet.

Miss Vale and all of 6V



Miss Vale describes what Sir David Attenborough means to her:

David Attenborough has been a hero of mine since I was a small child. I have watched every documentary he has ever made and also own a number of his books. I have travelled to South Africa four times having been inspired by his films and have been lucky enough to see rhinos thriving in the wild and, sadly, one recently poached rhino. These trips, combined with what I have discovered from watching his documentaries have opened my eyes to our planet's plight and in turn, allowed me to open the eyes of St John's pupils.

Whilst the truths he shares can be difficult to swallow, he has witnessed so much of the world's recent history and we must begin to act on the clear warnings he has given. It is easy to say that you cannot make a difference as an individual or indeed as a school community, but if everyone takes that view, then the loss of global biodiversity is almost a foregone conclusion. We must all do everything we can to make our own difference and convince those around us to do the same. Only we can preserve our planet for future generations.

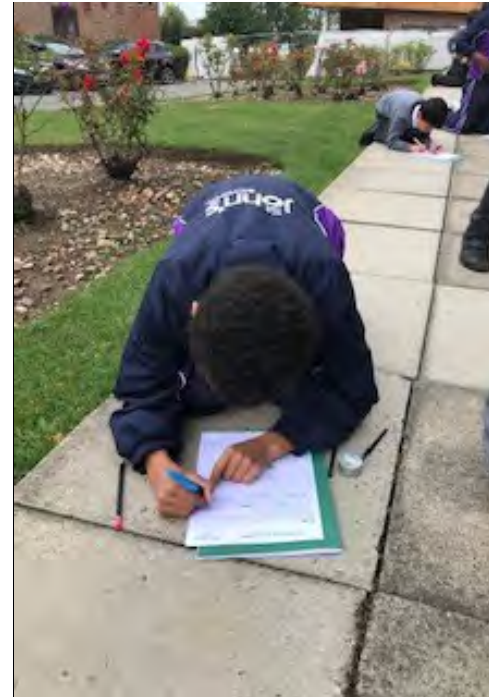




Year 5 have enjoyed exploring weathering

This week, Year 5 have been learning about the different types of weathering in Geography and have completed a weathering investigation around school. The boys found it tremendously exciting spotting the plants growing through rocks and cracks in the paving; the chemical weathering on the sun dial was of

particular interest! The boys then used the laptops to create their own posters using the information they found out about the different types of weathering. Their work will now be proudly presented on display in the classroom. Well done to all of Year 5.
Mrs Marsden and Mrs Walker.





We are proud to launch our [new Charity website](#)



Charity has long been a tradition at St John's. Old Boy Peter Riddle (1946-1948) told a story about his membership of Arthur Askey's Busy Bee Club. He donated a penny each week saying "Little badges were worn in the knowledge that we had done something for somebody, even though we were not sure who." Now, a new website makes it easy to see who we are donating to, what the charity does and how much money we have raised.

Last year our chosen charity was Playskill, a local organisation which runs parent and child term time groups for pre-school children with special needs – you will find a link to their work on the [new charity page of the website](#). With Covid-19 curtailing our fundraising efforts, we will be continuing to support this charity for the current academic year. Our charitable efforts will continue as best they can, particularly the Charity Quiz in the spring term and Charity Day in the summer term. Mrs Walker will share further opportunities for fund-raising.

St John's boys, parents and staff should be proud of their achievements, both the money raised for charity and the boys' wonderful work in the community that we have read about recently – let's keep going everyone!

Enjoy our online Open Morning

St John's Open Mornings normally feel very different from regular school days. The car park is full and there are well over a hundred guests looking around the School. The 2020 autumn Open Morning took place this week although boys and staff could be forgiven for missing it completely. With the Covid-19 restrictions, no guests are allowed on site but we did not want to disappoint future parents. So, in place of the older boys conducting tours our Head and Deputy Head Boys made a special video showing the highlights of the journey through St John's.

Introduced by Mr Robinson and also featuring Miss Morgan, the virtual tour opens with some arial footage shot by Mr Smith. Then, starting in the Pre-Prep, Alexander, Rodrigo and Vish introduce each area in turn remembering what it was like as they moved up to the Juniors then to the senior part of the School. Along the way, they interview some Junior boys to ask them what they particularly enjoy.

The experience was a very interesting one and the end result has been very well received. It can't really compare to the real thing but we hope all prospective parents enjoyed it.

You can view the virtual school tour by clicking the link on the picture opposite.





The quest for the perfect page

At the start of each year in their English lessons, the 'Perfect Page' task encourages the boys to devise an exceptional piece of their work. The boys in Year 5 and 6 have been learning how to achieve maximum effect in their compositions. In lessons, the boys planned, drafted, proof-read, edited and then perfected their own pieces of descriptive writing. The Year 5 boys were asked to write a description of a Victorian Homeless Mother and were given a picture to inspire them.

Year 6 chose from one of three topics: The Hungry Ocean,

The Fearsome Fog or any piece of tension writing that involved setting or weather description.

They proudly presented their final creative writing piece on the first page of their exercise books, as an example of their very finest creative writing, both in terms of content and presentation. The English teachers were all impressed with the standards of every boy's work. Here are some of our fine examples.

Mrs Rizava

Daanish's perfect page

The unforgiving cold weather penetrated my tired and helpless body and reached maliciously for my inner self: my bones, heart and blood, it all turned to stone. The rain poured like the clouds were flinging buckets of water down at me and my poor baby. The bright moon that I could hardly see through the bucketing rain looked like a gleaming, silver coin on a black sheet of paper. The hard and sharp pavement that was heartless wasn't helping my exhausted body.

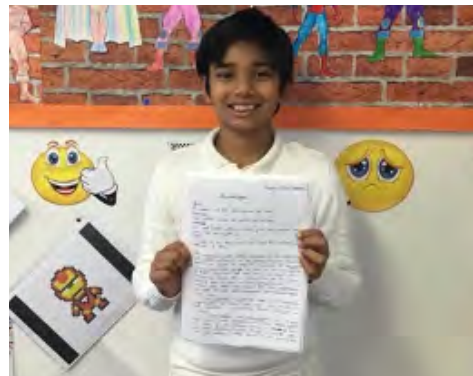
I felt frightened as night had risen. I felt discouraged, unfortunate and helpless. I felt rage, anger at the world, which infuriated me with their indifference. I was starving and shivering with fear and coldness.

I stared, hopelessly, and felt isolated... Just me and my baby. Finally, someone walked by and just stopped, right in front of me, however, suddenly, a bunch of dark emotions lingered through my mind. Embarrassment and jealousy. I looked down at the ground but as soon as I looked up, he was gone. As fast as a blink of an eye.

As the minutes walked by, slowly, I saw hundreds of people wearing nice, warm and comfortable clothes, however I just had a pair of trousers and a shirt made from spare cloth off the streets and my baby just had some dump and ragged

blankets as clothes.

My baby felt as cold as ice. His slight breath on my body felt like a breeze of wind. My skeletal and exhausted baby shivered in my embrace and cried like a snowy and innocent dove that had lost his wings. How much strength is left in me?



Jamie's Wildfires

The sun burnt a hole in the kingfisher blue sky, glaring down at me with its' penetrating eye. The avocado green leaves hung limply as the sweltering sun burnt them to a crisp. Trees stood with their rough, bumpy crocodile-like skin, boiling. Fierce, fascinating jackals stood, their ash grey coats, glistening in the heat. Their eyes, luminous and neon were like the deep menacing eye of a tiger. Bears roamed through the trees almost camouflaged as their hazelnut brown mass of fur resembled the chocolate brown leaves. Smoke whispered in the

clouds as if it were a deadly warning. Danger had arrived at the woods.

Screams protruded through the air like a penetrating siren that rang in my ears. Sparks spat, spreading fires. Demons roared, threateningly, crackling with laughter. Smoke billowed around me, curtaining my view. I was in a maze of confusion. Fear gripped me, panic haunted me, and hope was lost. Death took over me. I tried to run, but I was trapped. Someone carried me away from the burning fires. Fright squeezed the last breath out of me and darkness invaded me.

I woke up on the ground, weakened and wounded. Worn out animals lay dead on the ground. A deep scent of coal wandered into my nose, meandering like a snake of smoke, making me choke and splutter. Smoke stained the sky. The sun was like a dragon belching out its last wheezes of smoke. The forest had died. Climate change has been born to its fullest extent and no one can stop it now!!





Joshua's pefect page

The cold, bitter breeze turned her to stone. She felt as cold as a block of frozen ice. The mother stared into the distance as she breathed in the polluted air. She coughed and spluttered. The smoke from the factories seemed to poison her and the beautiful, yet skeletal baby. She looked tired, frail and weak; like a rabbit ready to be eaten alive with no help to be found. Every night she mutters to herself, "Will we make it till the morning? Or is this our last night?"

As she cuddles her young baby, she becomes overwhelmed with despair. What was going to happen to the baby when she died? The cold bitter air penetrated through her cold, weak, brittle bones; like a drill through a thin piece of wood. Her insides were screaming for fresh food to fill her skinny stomach. Her baby was like an innocent dove who has lost its wings. Both the baby and the mother were deprived of food and water; like a hungry and ravenous cat, which yearns for some mice to eat after eating dirt and rubbish for a week.

As people walked by her, she begged for food and money. Nobody cared. Not a bit. The woman looked like a picture of misery. At one point, she got kicked away by a rich man! "Ow!", she cried, but the

man just chucked some rubbish at her, opened the door, jumped into his warm home and then slammed the door behind him. For in those days, that was what rich people did. They thought of poor people as obstacles. Inconvenient ones that stop them from getting into their homes a little bit quicker.

The buses, cars and taxis rushed by her. The smoke coming from there seemed to be suffocating her and the baby. The incessant noise screamed into her weak, wrinkled ears. The baby looked emaciated. You could see her bones poking through her thin, delicate skin. As she shivered again, the baby curled up and dozed off.

Rafi's Stormy Seas

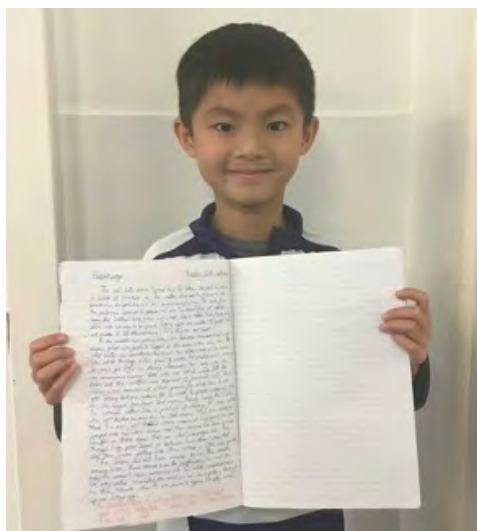
Lightning. It struck and stunned, silencing the Earth itself. With bleak skies, the thunder shall thrive and rule its raging stormy seas.

The man stood at the edge of a chalk cliff, crumbling like a broken heart. A spine-chilling breeze brushed past his ghostly-wrapped mind. Spirits of the gleaming white moon drop down, free from the imprisonment of daylight. Its serendipitous self deviliously grins down at the wailing waters, they charge towards the cliff like an army of Romans, Death

leading them to its target. The ocean lapped around the cliff, surrounding it with erosion, eating down the sea's dinner. Very gradually, a spiked fin rips through the water; several others follow instantaneously. Circling the cliff, eating the cliff, glaring at the cliff.

A sounding of vicious waves whip the cliff, torturing it by the base. The tempest shall not subside - it has come to get what it has come for.

A shiver fills the man as he remembers the past of where he stands, lush with intricate flowers and the golden chariot in the sky, floating as a fiery orb, brightening the sky with everlasting light. Seagulls calling midair and a pollen-filled aroma. Now that life has burned to ash, distraught seas clash against the chant of howling winds, whispering into the dark, ebony-mottled horizon. No signs of the sun, its imprisoned self in the hands of death. The spirit of the glittering fireball, tossed in a whip of cruelty. Its generating light persevering to give to the bloodshed of the Earth. The seas follow its orders from Death, what it is still, pristine cerulean calmness would be, an army of roaring waves charging towards their targets like the anger of Zeus, raining down upon the victims of godly power. The man, he takes a breath and waits. His greeting. By Death.



Three Little Pigs teaches Lambs about houses

This week the Lambs are looking at different types of houses. We have looked at and compared our own homes with one another and finally dressed up and acted out the story of 'The Three Little Pigs'. With all the rain this week we are grateful that our house is not made of straw!





Robins and Squirrels learn about hedgehogs

The Robins and Squirrels have been learning about Autumn and what happens in this season. Did you know that hedgehogs hibernate over Autumn and Winter?

Using clay, matchsticks and sequins, the boys made their own hedgehogs. They had to use their fingers to pinch the clay and create the hedgehog shape. Some of the boys managed to change the texture of the clay by pricking the surface with the

matchsticks. We think they look very colourful. Why not have a go at making your own hedgehog at home?

Hedgehog fun facts: Baby hedgehogs are called hoglets, Hedgehogs give birth in June and July, and they have an average litter size of four or five young. However, they usually only wean two or three successfully.





A real baby hedgehog: can you tell the difference?



Science experiments in the Eagles

The Eagles are learning about forces this term and this week the topic was friction. They had great fun investigating the effects the height of a ramp can have on the speed and distance a car can travel.





Making a mess in Year 4

Boys of all ages often delight in creating a mess and Year 4 very much enjoyed creating their own oil slick this week. They have been learning about the effects of pollution on the Earth as part of the Science syllabus. This week's Science lessons have resulted

in much thoughtful discussion, some very pleasing research and a rather slimy mess yesterday afternoon. This illustrated in practical terms all that we had studied during the week. Well done Year 4.





Latest from Cartoon Club



This week, in cartoon club, the boys enjoyed watching a clip from Tom and Jerry! They then had a chance to make their very own key ring. Some boys chose to colour a picture of the characters, while others traced over an image and some drew the characters freehand! We think you'll agree all the results were fantastic!





We are hearing music again at St John's

In the Music Department the boys are very happy to be seeing their instrumental teachers again after their online lessons during lockdown. Everyone has got used to the new arrangements really quickly and it's great to hear that the boys have made progress even in these extraordinary times. At the moment, we can only make music in year group bubbles, so we have to wait patiently for the day when we can get our bands, orchestras, choirs and

chamber ensembles going again. In the meantime, we have some lovely String Groups in year group bubbles and we have been enjoying learning new music, which we hope to share with you when we are ready. The younger boys have been enjoying playing their glockenspiels and drumming in their classrooms. The Lambs have enjoyed listening to stories with music and marching in time. There's lots of musical talent coming through!







Scenes from abstract shapes in Year 4

Year 4 has been looking at 'Castle and Sun' a colourful, abstract painting by Paul Klee. The boys drew geometric shapes then used watercolours to paint their shapes, very carefully. Well done boys, these are fab! 1. Raphael G. 2. Abbas S. 3. Hamza A. 4. Enzo D. 5. Rishi S





Ready! Set! Rugby!



Considering the current climate, it has been a fabulous start to the term on the sporting front and we have been relieved and delighted to have offered PE, Games and Clubs in the sporting areas of cricket, hockey and rugby!

As the autumn term has traditionally been our main rugby term, I know so many boys (and parents!) were super excited when the RFU announced their return to play guidelines. Below includes a number of links if you would like to read more about what the RFU has rolled out and as a school we monitor this guidance closely.

Back in September, the Government confirmed that organised sports and activities that have been through the return to play protocols, can continue. Currently, we remain at Stage D on the Return to Community Rugby Roadmap. Rugby communities can continue to organise non-contact fixtures with other clubs / schools for example using Ready4Rugby and other touch rugby activity.

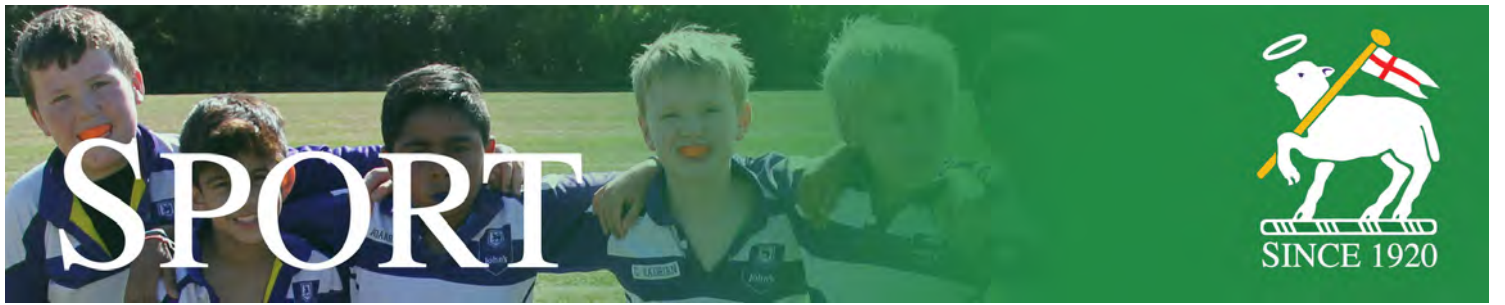
We have been introducing Ready4Rugby to most of our year groups and the boys love this adapted version of the game that encourages going forwards, support, continuity and pressure. Limited and restricted contact rugby training can also be continued. Details of the permitted training activity is available in the return to contact training guidance.

If your child would like to enjoy more rugby opportunities outside of school, we have a number of boys attending local clubs such as Ruislip Rugby Club, Harrow, Chesham Rugby Club, Amersham and Chiltern, Grasshoppers RFC, Wasps, Pinner RFC and OMT's.

I hope you enjoy some of the action photos below! We look forward to the completion of the new and exciting sports hall with more opportunities to develop and stay active in a variety of sports.

Mr Krüger





Ready! Set! Rugby!



OUTLOOK



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REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1053338

MOOR PARK
10k & fun runs

MOOR PARK

VIRTUAL

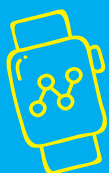
10K & FUN RUNS



In aid of the Mount Vernon Cancer Centre and Lynda Jackson Macmillan Cancer Centre.
Providing the best care for local patients with cancer by funding medical equipment,
research and support services

From 1st October – 31st October 2020

For all ages and abilities!



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on our virtual leaderboard,
make sure you record
your time.

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Registered Charity No. 1053338. www.enhhcharity.org.uk

OUTLOOK



MERCHANT TAYLORS' COMPANY

photo²⁰²⁰ graphy c o m p e t i t i o n

Entries are now welcome from pupils and staff across the school for the Merchant Taylors' Company Photography Competition. This year's theme is **Hope** and photographs should be accompanied by a title and, if you wish, a short description (of 12 words maximum).

Our school's selected photographs will be exhibited at Merchant Taylors' Hall in the City of London in December and early next year, with cash prizes awarded to the winners and runners-up in each category of Junior (Years 1-8), Senior (Years 9-13) and Staff.

For further information and to submit your entries - by Friday 23 October 2020 - please contact

Ms Gillen
Ggillen@st-johns.org.uk



OUTLOOK



Picture of the week



Enzo's Grade V Theory Success: Enzo in 4S sat his Grade 5 music theory exam in the summer and was awarded a distinction. This is an outstanding result for someone so young especially as the online exam was fraught with technical issues. Enzo remained calm and all his hard work paid off. Congratulations Enzo.

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 @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 for inclusion in The Lamb. Many thanks.

Notices and reminders

Important dates for your diary:

Mon 19th Oct **Year 6 online Parents' Meeting A-M** 6.00pm

Tue 20th Oct **Pre-Prep online Parents' Meeting** 6.00pm

Wed 21st Oct **Year 6 online Parents' Meeting O-W** 6.00pm

Thur 22nd Oct **Pre-Prep online Parents' Meeting** 3.30pm

Merchant Taylors' Company Schools Photography Competition 2020. The theme this year is Hope. Please see the advert on the previous page and submit your entry to Ms Gillen by 23rd October.

Moor Park Virtual Fun Run 1-31 Oct: Don't miss this creative way to raise money for cancer care. More details on page 18.

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. Limited places. www.stemden.co.uk

Reminder from D&T Have you been designing and making at home? Please send pictures showing you and your project

with a short description and you could feature on our D&T 'Wall of Fame'. I look forward to seeing whatever you have made. Mrs McSween vmcsween@st-johns.org.uk

Votes for Schools. Last week's question, "Should everyone volunteer in their community?" 59% said yes and 41% said no.

This week's question stems from Black History month and gives everyone a chance to reflect on their cultural background: "Does the curriculum represent you?"

To review the arguments and give your answer click the photo.

House Points: Totals so far: Lawrence: 12.77, Lincoln 12.69, Churchill 11.81, Oates 10.90.

Enjoy the weekend.

