

THE LAMB



St John's School Weekly Newsletter

Issue 261



From the
Headmaster

Welcome back to The Lamb and a special welcome to Mrs Long, who is teaching English, and to Mr Vince, who has been working with Year 3. I was delighted to see almost every boy and teacher in school for the beginning of the term.

In assemblies we have been focusing on Personal Development and the St John's Code of Conduct. 6V presented an inspirational assembly about their hobbies and at the same assembly the Year 7 Band made their debut, which was stunning. You can read more on page 4.

I particularly enjoyed visiting the Robins and Squirrels who were measuring out ingredients to make sponge cakes. The results were superb! I was also delighted that eight boys from Year 5 and 6 have qualified for the Bonus Round of the Primary Mathematics Challenge. Ten Year 7 and 8 boys took part in the challenging Townsend-Warner History Prize, a National Prep Schools' competition. We look forward to hearing how they got on.

In sport, I am sure you will be excited to know that we have added football to our curriculum for the first time this term. We are still passionate about rugby, our main winter sport, but it has been wonderful to see the boys so excited about this new departure. We are also celebrating excellent personal times in the York House Cross Country meetings this week.

All the best to all boys sitting School exams and Senior School Assessments this month.

Round ball makes a welcome return to St John's



For the first time in many years, we are playing football in our Games lessons at St John's. Straightaway, in the first week, it was clear to see how engaged all the pupils are in the "Beautiful Game." Often, as the boys were changing for PE or Games the conversation would ripple through to: "What football team do you support, sir," or questions about whose team was doing well in the Premiership. Football has always been played enthusiastically by the pupils during school breaks and we ran an indoor football league last term which was a huge success, but this takes the excitement to another level.

From the first few sessions, the enthusiasm and willingness to learn and develop their individual and team skills was a joy to see. It is also evident that football is much more accessible to all the pupils because as a sport it's very inclusive. We have a busy football fixture list this term for all the pupils and a number of football tournaments that various age groups will be attending. The School, staff, pupils and parents all look forward to seeing how the boys get on with the first term of football at St John's. We wish all the boys and teams the very best for the upcoming football season and the start of a new sporting adventure.



New Year Assembly

In assembly on Monday, Mr Robinson showed us a photo of the shoots emerging from an Amaryllis bulb he planted in December and another picture showing the incredible growth in one month. For growth and development, the Amaryllis bulb needed the right compost and conditions and support. All the boys could answer the questions on what conditions it needed to grow. Keshav in Year 6 then proudly showed us the Amaryllis plant he had looked after for Ms Gillen over the holiday which is now flowering beautifully. Mr Robinson had

willing helpers Lucas, Tristan and Theodore to demonstrate that human beings also need the right conditions to grow and develop. For our physical development we need the right nutrition and exercise – we saw some amazing hula-hooping demonstrations. For our personal development we need the right attitude to our life and learning. Mr Robinson said that he thought it was particularly important to be kind, considerate and helpful. Our School Code of Conduct embodies the values we all believe in at St John's.



SINCE 1920

VITAM IMPENDERE VERO

Respectful
Kind — Helpful — Honest
Friendly — Truthful — Caring
Determined — Sensible — Positive





Welcome to our new teachers

Mrs Long is our new Head of Drama and an English teacher

Mrs Long grew up in the Middle East and was educated at Sherborne, Dorset. Since qualifying with a BEd Honours, she has taught for over thirty years in the UK and abroad and completed her Masters of Education in 2008. During her career, Fiona has enjoyed a variety of responsibilities, including as part of a Senior Leadership Team (DSL, Deputy Head and Headship) as well as Head of English. She enjoys imparting her passion for Drama, English and Public Speaking through a variety of trips, events and activities. She and her husband belong to a sailing club, where she and her 4 year old Labrador, Harper, can often be spotted paddleboarding together on the Thames!



Mr Vince can't keep away

Mr Vince, who many of you will know, returns for this term to assist, covering staff absence across many different areas of the School. He has been teaching Year 3, but has also found time to mend one of the drum kits and work on his keyboard skills.





Our Hobbies by 6V

On Wednesday morning, 6V presented a fascinating assembly to Years 3 to 8 about their hobbies. They had written and prepared the assembly all by themselves and wanted to share their passions with the whole School. Their aim was to inspire other boys to take up a hobby if they do not have one already or try a new one. Mrs McSween helped them present their work and encouraged everyone to make the most of all the opportunities they are given.

The range of hobbies was quite astounding and included

crafting, video editing, cricket, dog walking, making marble runs, creating maps, Formula 1, reading, Lego, riding roller coasters, rugby, basket- ball, looking after tortoises and Marvel Cinematic Universe and the Multiverse. Boys listened intently and could answer almost all the quiz questions at the end. Before assembly started, we were treated to the first performance by the Year 7 Band. Krish, George, Remika, Kabir and Mihir have rehearsed by themselves in lunchtimes and breaks to achieve this excellent standard. Very well done.



VOTES FOR SCHOOLS



Happy New Year! We're off with a bang with our Votes for Schools questions again and I am delighted the boys were quick to consider the question about food waste this week. Its good to see they can make the connection between their actions and the global impact too. Thank you to Om and Sebastian in Year 4 who presented their responses in video form.

Last week's question

Do people buy too much food at Christmas?



No because a lot of this wasted food does not go straight to landfill, a lot of this food is put into special food bins and disposed of sustainably instead of being completely wasted. Also, Christmas is not meant to be a time when everybody is saying things like "Stop eating turkey! You will waste it!". Christmas lunch is meant for enjoyment! Not guilt!
Kian A, Year 7

Next week's question

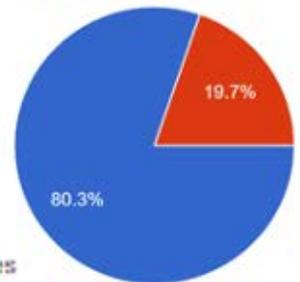
Is January the best time to try new things?



Your thoughts

I think we buy too much food at Christmas, and it has a negative impact on the environment. It requires a lot of energy to produce so much meat and vegetable. This is a waste because so much food is thrown away over Christmas. Christmas food also contains a lot of plastic packaging which creates pollution.
Dhruv, Year 4

Results



● Yes
● No



I voted yes, because if you are having a big family coming and buy a lot of food then you might have lots of food left over. The food then may not last, and people chuck it out but actually you can have turkey sandwiches or turkey stew to not waste anything. On the other hand, some people may buy only what they need which is better for the environment.
Archie, Year 7

Vocab



Resolution:

A promise to yourself to do or stop doing something.

Votes for Schools is a way of connecting us to what is going on in the world around us, through topical debate. Use the Votes for Schools Google Classroom to access the material and discuss at home and at school.



Robins and Squirrels make cakes

We **have been** thinking about the things we do to celebrate our birthdays. We have also been learning about how people celebrate birthdays in other countries around the world and we noticed some similarities and differences. One of our favourite ways to celebrate is eating cake! Making our own cakes was lots of fun and of course the best bit ... eating them!





Lambs ice investigation

As part of a scientific investigation we discussed how we could turn water into ice. We filled containers with water and put them into the freezer overnight. The next day we saw how the water changed from a liquid into a solid. We had great fun playing with the ice whilst it melted in our warm hands.





Charity begins.. in the Pre-Prep

In an effort to teach the boys that it is better to give than to receive, at the end of 2021 the Year 1 parents and boys supported 'My Yard' by donating shoe boxes filled with toys which were delivered to families in Harrow experiencing hardship. Parents and children also donated £90 to the "Kids for Kids" charity which will be used to plant 40 fruit trees in Darfur. The Year 1 parents said that it was lovely to see the boys participate and understand the meaning behind the charitable activities.



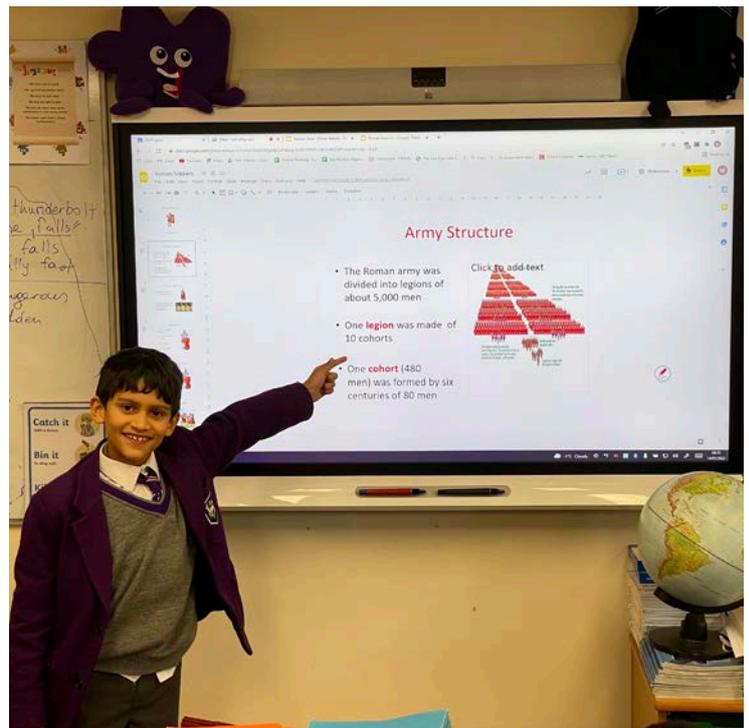
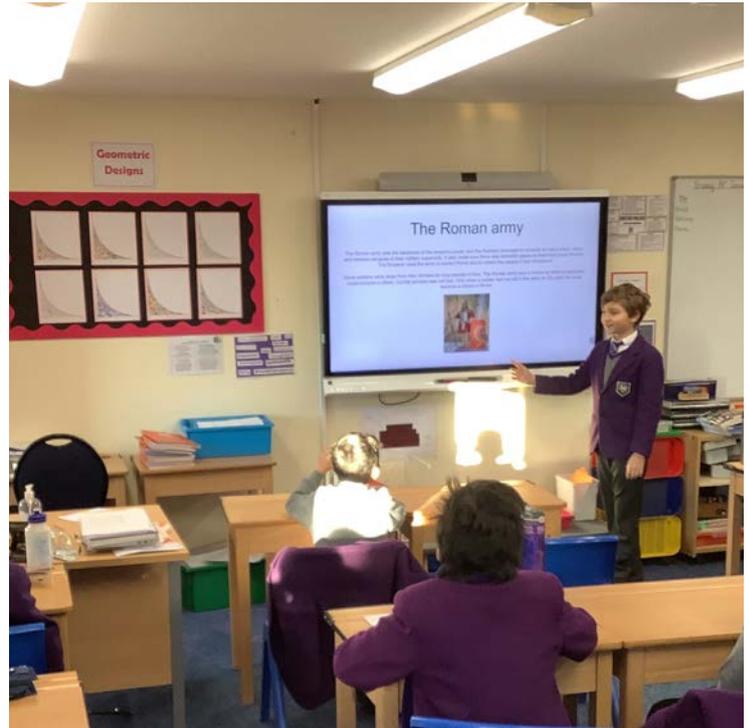
ST JOHN'S SCHOOL- YEAR 1
CHRISTMAS
SHOE BOX COLLECTION





Roman presentations in Year 4

The Year 4 boys prepared some fantastic talks in their Christmas Holidays and have given some excellent presentations this week. Their research was brilliant, some parents' knowledge of all things Romans may well have developed too, but the presentations this week were entirely their own. The boys were confident, articulate and keen. This made for a terrific start to 2022 and these skills will serve them very well in later life. Well done Year 4!





New term, new musical week

It has been wonderful to welcome the boys back to music lessons. Congratulations again to Kabir in Year 7 who has achieved a high merit in his Grade 7 Euphonium exam. This is a very distinguished achievement for a boy in Year 7. Kabir has worked very hard on his programme and should be proud of his efforts.

The boys in the Year 3 Recorder Group made a wonderful start to their ensemble playing and much musical fun was had by all this week. We are looking forward to finding out what we

can achieve together.

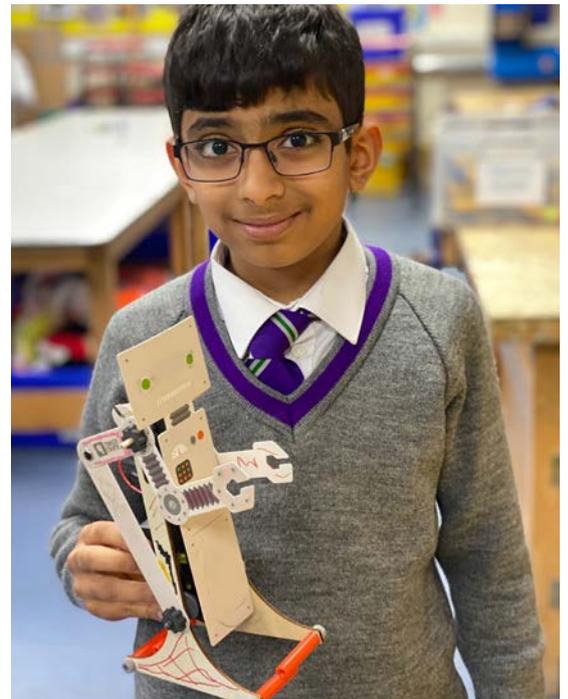
Music has featured strongly in assemblies at the start of this term. Rafi in Year 7 performed a beautiful rendition of a Handel Sinfonia with Mr Corin on bassoon and Remika, Krish, Kabir, George and Mihir in Year 7 delighted everyone listening to their performances of 'Perfect' by Ed Sheeran and 'Memories' by Maroon 5 on Wednesday this week. It is excellent that many boys are engaged with performing and confident to present their hard work to others.





Building skills and getting creative

It's fantastic to be back in the D&T workshop working on our skills and being creative. Taruun 5M, puts the finishing touches on his programmed shop window. Ansh 5M, proudly demonstrated his motorised robot to the rest of his class. This is something he made at home using a kit called Tinkercrate from a company called KiwiCo. Though not on commission, Mrs McSween highly recommends these kits. Find out more by clicking here. <https://www.kiwico.com/tinker> Eshaan, Deven and Harry in Year 3 are having fun building their Egyptian shaduf and thinking about how it will stand up.





From symmetry to cherry blossoms

1. Here are some symmetrical tiger prints that the Year 5 boys have made. 2. Year 4 are making Roman shields, painting them red. 3. Boys in Year 3 are using Mod Roc to make mummified cat sculptures. 4. Year 7 have been drawing their shoes. 5. Mohammed, Theodore and Arjan in Year 3 have painted cherry blossom trees in Art Club. 5. Ronnie in Year 3 is pictured with his blossom tree.





U11 and U13 Cross-Country at York House

In the current climate, we were unable to race against other schools in the same race this year. Undaunted, the U11s warmed-up enthusiastically at York House at 10.00am before lining up for the start of the race. It did feel a little unusual not to be running against other schools, but the St John's team started well and each pupil was determined to set their best individual time in this time trial. Vivek set the pace and took an early lead. He never looked back and came in first in the St John's race with a very good time. He was followed by Bailey and Leo. Vivek did very well in coming 3rd overall when the times were calculated across the schools, with a time of 8.02 and Bailey came in 10th in 8.28 which was a great effort. In the overall team result, St John's came 6th out of nine teams running in the U11 event.



The U13s ran later in the day, at 1.30pm. After a quick warm-up they were off. All the runners had to complete two and a half laps. The positions changed a fair bit throughout the race. Unfortunately, George and Thomas were not able to complete the course due to injury during the race. However, Jacob came in strongly at the end just to pip Blake, Lucas and Emerson. Jacob came 13th overall, with Blake 14th, Lucas 15th and Emerson in 18th place. In the Senior race we came 4th overall out of the eight teams taking part in the event.





Success for St John's boys

Jay's swimming achievements

Jay in 4L has been working hard on his swimming both in and outside of school. He recently took part in a local swimming gala and achieved two medals in his age group; silver for front crawl and bronze for back stroke. Well done Jay!



Vivek's Cross Country Success

Vivek in 6A almost won the Middlesex Cross Country Championship last weekend, he was narrowly beaten by a boy who is ranked 8th in the country despite having held a good lead into the finish. An excellent achievement Vivek.

SCAN ME



Have a go at badminton

Gala Academy will be operating in the Centenary Sports Hall, Monday – Friday (19:00-21:00) and Saturday (09:00 – 13:00). There are a variety of sessions available, including beginners Badminton courses for 6-8 year olds, aiming to develop co-ordination, fitness and strength, Daily Drills for adults develop intense cardio footwork and court agility. There are places available for booking.

All details are at: www.gala-academy.co.uk



Welcome to Gala Academy

Just play badminton

Learn to play badminton or improve your existing skills

Gala Academy has a course to suit everyone from 6 years to adults.

Limited spaces, so [book fast!](#)

For more information check out our website

MTS Choral Society

**This term come and sing with the
*MTS Choral Society!***

No previous singing experience necessary, no auditions, and a warm friendly atmosphere guaranteed.

Open to all parents (past and present), staff, neighbours and friends of MTS, St Helen's, MTP, St John's – in fact anyone who would like to come and take part.

We meet every Tuesday from 8:00pm – 9:30pm in the Recital Hall at MTS, and will be performing *Requiem by Fauré* on Monday, 21st March.

Our first rehearsal will be on Tuesday, 25th January.

We look forward to seeing you there!

For further information, please email the Music Administrator, Kasia Glancey:

KAG@mtsn.org.uk

OUTLOOK



COVID VACCINATION CLINICS 12-15 YEAR OLDS

Manor View Practice, Bushey Medical Centre, London Road, WD23 2NN
(Practice on the **RIGHT** once through the main entrance)



Appointments:

Please email covidvaccination.mvp@nhs.net with :

Name

Date of Birth

Postcode

NHS Number (if known)

Picture or proof of vaccination card (for 2nd doses)

Preferred date for vaccination

1st dose

Anyone 12-15 years old

2nd dose

If strictly 12 weeks post 1st dose

Must also be 12 weeks post a positive Covid test

	Saturday 8th January 2022	*Walk-in clinic*	9am - 1pm
	Sunday 9th January 2022	*Walk-in clinic*	9am - 1pm
	Tuesday 11th January 2022		4.30pm - 5.30pm
	Wednesday 12th January 2022		4.30pm - 5.30pm
	Thursday 13th January 2022		4.30pm - 5.30pm
	Friday 14th January 2022		4.30pm - 5.30pm
	Sunday 16th January 2022		9am - 1pm
	Tuesday 18th January 2022		4.30pm - 5.30pm
	Thursday 20th January 2022		4.30pm - 5.30pm
	Sunday 23rd January 2022		9am - 1pm
	Tuesday 25th January 2022		4.30pm - 5.30pm
	Wednesday 26th January 2022		4.30pm - 5.30pm
	Sunday 30th January 2022		9am - 1pm



HANDS



FACE



SPACE

Dates for **February** and **March** will be released closer to the time

OUTLOOK



Calendar & important dates Contact details

Monday 17th January: Arts Evening
Rehearsals all day

Tuesday 18th January: Arts Evening in
the Norman Hall at 7.00pm

Year 8 Covid Vaccinations

Wednesday 19th January: School
Council

Hockey v Bedford School: U12 A, B
(h) 2.30pm

Friday 21st January: Football v
Chesham Prep: Colts A, B (a) 2.30pm

Football v St John's Beaumont: U10 A,
B, C, D (h) 2.30pm



Picture of the week: Many congratulations to Anek in 8J who was today awarded the first Gold Certificate for House Points this year.

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 @stjnsnorthwood and our sports department @StJohnsNwSport

Mailings: If you have received The Lamb from someone else and would like to be sent your own copy 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

Arts Evening Tuesday 18th January: Our postponed Arts Evening starts at 7pm in the Norman Hall. We strongly encourage parents who are attending to take a lateral flow test in advance. Boys should arrive at school no earlier than 6.30pm with their instruments and music, wearing smart school uniform.

Covid vaccination opportunity for Year 7 & 8: As part of the nationwide drive to boost COVID vaccinations, the Manor View Practice in Bushey and Watford has been permitted by the CCG to offer pre-booked vaccinations to 12-15 year olds. This is your chance to attend a vaccination session with your child. More details on page 17.

St John's Association Quiz Night Saturday 19th March: Please note the change of date. The Quiz will be on-line. More information will follow soon.

Badminton: Gala Academy will be operating in the Centenary Sports Hall Monday – Friday evenings and Saturday morning. Full details on P15.

Merchant Taylors' School Choral Society: The MTS Choral Society (formerly called the Parents' Choir) will be restarting on Tuesday, 25th January. This term they will be learning Fauré's Requiem in preparation for the Joint Concert on Monday 21st March. All parents (past and present) and staff are invited to come along. Rehearsals are Tuesday evenings from 8:00 - 9:30pm in the Recital Hall in the Music Department at MTS. No experience or audition is necessary.

RSPB Bird watch: Mr Lawrence would like to involve as many boys as possible in the RSPB's birdwatch this January. The RSPB site has instructions and downloadable resources. <https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/> BBC2's Winterwatch runs on Mondays for the next two weeks with plenty to interest budding ornithologists.

House Points: 1st Lincoln 61.81, 2nd Churchill 61.38, 3rd Lawrence 60.27, 4th Oates 58.33.

Have a great weekend.