

THE RED SWEATER LETTER

A newsletter from St. John's Middle School



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Message from Head of School

By Mrs A. Elwell

We are fast approaching the end of our first half term for this academic year and the children have settled well back into the routines and expectations of school life.

Since our last newsletter we have had a difficult time at school caused by an outbreak of Coronavirus resulting in a high infection rates of both our pupils and our staff. Unfortunately, this led to a forced two day closure and a return to remote education and to COVID-19 restrictions. This decision was not taken lightly and was due to staff shortages, I am happy to report that by working together as a school community the infections within school are now much lower. I thank you for your understanding and support.

Although the outbreak disrupted school life for a few weeks, things are slowly returning to normal. Enrichment clubs are getting back up and running, with hopefully the full offer being available after Half Term. Our teams are beginning to take part in fixtures once again, with a win for both our girls and boys football teams. Fabulous news!

Continued ...

The Bromsgrove Middle School Orchestra hosted and organised by Bromsgrove School met again this week and it is encouraging to see St John's pupils very well represented. Please do encourage your child to take advantage of the many opportunities available to them at St John's, as there really is something for everyone.

We are so proud of the performance of our pupils. This week sees the first of our Governor meetings and we will reporting our latest assessment results. Despite the interruptions to learning caused by the pandemic our pupils have continued to outperform other children nationally. Our exit data analysis shows that 84% of pupils made expected progress in English and 97% made expected progress in Maths! An amazing achievement as a result of the dedication and hard work of pupils and teachers at St John's.

Next week we are celebrating Harvest at school with themed assemblies dried and tin food collections. Thank you for the donations we have received so far they are proudly displayed in the classrooms. This food will really make a difference to members of the local community.

A quick reminder that next Friday is a Teacher Training Day and the new Half Term starts on Monday 1st November 2021.

Enjoy your Half term and I hope the children have a well-deserved rest with batteries recharged for an action packed lead up to Christmas.

Best Wishes

Hate crime

By Mr R. Upwood - Assistant Head

A message from PC Neil Sharpe who is the youth engagement PC for North Worcestershire.

Thank you to St John's Middle School for allowing me to come and speak to students during hate crime awareness week. I was able to remind the pupils about the effects of bullying or being a victim of a hate crime. This can have a devastating impact to the victim, their families and our community

I was really impressed by how well the pupils listened and know that school treats all reports of bullying and hate crime in such a serious way

Hate crimes and hate incidents can be reported to True Vision at www.report-it.org.uk
y.s.

Collective Worship

By Miss C. Russell

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Our value this halfterm is LOVE.

As we approach Harvest we are

- Thinking about being thankful for God's good gifts in creation
- "Then God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you; and to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the sky and to every thing that moves on the earth which has life, I have given every green plant for food" Genesis 1:29-30
- Reflecting on how we can be generous in sharing what we have with those in need
- "Then the king will say to the godly people on his right, 'Come, my Father has great blessings for you. The kingdom he promised is now yours. It has been prepared for you since the world was made. It is yours because when I was hungry, you gave me food to eat. When I was thirsty, you gave me something to drink. When I had no place to stay, you welcomed me into your home. When I was without clothes, you gave me something to wear. When I was sick, you cared for me. When I was in prison, you came to visit me.'" Matt 25:34-36
- Taking action in bringing in donations which can be shared with St Basil's (a local charity who do great work with young people at risk of, or experiencing homelessness <https://stbasils.org.uk/helplocations/bromsgrove/>) and our local food bank.

"Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward them for what they have done." Proverbs 19:17

Donations of dried/tinned goods are very welcome, and pupils should bring any donations in to their classroom next week when we will also be having our Harvest Festival Service in school.

IMPORTANT REMINDER FOR YEAR 8 HIGH SCHOOL PLACES FOR SEPTEMBER 2022

By Mrs J. Gagen - School Admissions Officer.

Please can we remind you to apply to High School, if you haven't already done so. You can apply online via the following website;

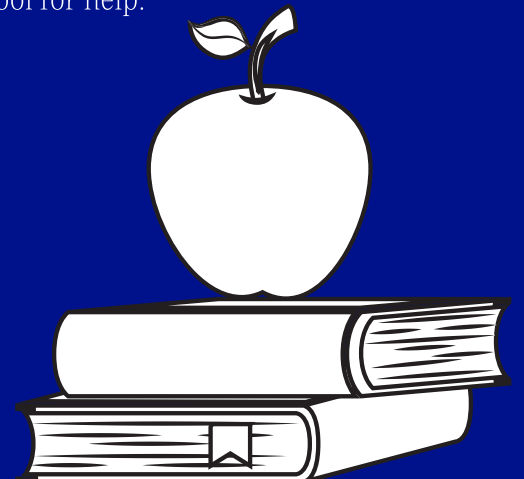
www.worcestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions

If you have already applied please make sure that you have received a confirmation email of your application from the Worcestershire Admissions Team.

Please be aware that the closing date for applications to High School is SUNDAY 31 OCTOBER 2021.

If you do not apply by this date you may not get the High School of your choice.

If you have difficulty accessing the website to apply, please contact the Admissions Team at Worcestershire County Council or contact me at school for help.



Attendance & Epraise points

Class	epraise Points	Attendance
5KLH	628	97.2%
5SW	538	97.8%
5CGO	514	98%
5MJ	676	97.9%
5CW	703	95.3%
5AKE	391	97.3%
6LF	769	97.7%
6GM	493	98.8%
6KD	405	96.8%
6BC	488	97.7%
6RSE	620	97.9%
7WW	346	95.1%
7PM	393	95.2%
7MMO	326	95.8%
7ALK	357	95.7%
7MH	450	96.5%
7JD	407	98.1%
8JCD	547	94.8%
8NGE	533	93.8%
8MF	433	95.4%
8KLN	467	94.2%
8MC	448	97.8%
8CSS	388	93.7%

STUART - 2,929

TUDOR - 2,829

WINDSOR - 2,734

HANOVER - 2,828

Up and Coming Dates

Monday 18th October

KS2 Girls football festival @
Kidderminster Harriers

Wednesday 20th October

Year 6 Boys football v Parkside @ home

Thursday 21st October

Year 7 District cup v Ridgeway @ away

Eerie eyeball pops



Method

STEP 1

Break the Madeira cake and cookies into the bowl of a food processor, pour in the melted milk chocolate and whizz to combine.

STEP 2

Tip the mixture into a bowl, then use your hands to roll into about 10 walnut-sized balls. Chill for 2 hrs until really firm.

STEP 3

Push a skewer into each ball, then carefully spoon the white chocolate over the cake balls to completely cover. Stand the cake pops in the pumpkin, then press a Smartie onto the surface while wet. Chill again until the chocolate has set. Before serving, using the icing pens, add a pupil to each Smartie and wiggly red veins to the eyeballs.

Ingredients

100g/4oz madeira cake

100g Oreo cookie

100g bar milk chocolate, melted

200g bar white chocolate, melted

few Smarties and icing pens, to decorate

You will also need

10 wooden skewers

½ small pumpkin or butternut squash, deseeded, to stand
pops in

Heads of Year Message

By Mrs C. Hirons - Head of Year 6

As we head towards the October half term we would like to commend the pupils on how well they have settled back into school despite the ongoing difficulties that we have faced not only with lots of winter bugs going around but also with the recent rise in cases of COVID that we have seen.

Please can you encourage your children to bring their reusable masks into school with them as we are still handing out a large number of disposable masks.

As a result of keeping our classrooms ventilated they are becoming somewhat chilly now that the temperatures are cooling down. Pupils are not allowed to wear coats in the classroom, but can wear thermal layers underneath their uniform to ensure they are warm and comfortable.

It has come to our attention that one or two pupils from St John's have had very near misses when crossing local roads on their way to and from school. Please can you talk to your children about road safety and the importance of using designated crossing areas. We will of course be talking to all pupils regarding this in school but any reinforcement you can give at home will help get the message across.

Over the half term break please can you check with your children that they have adequate equipment in school to allow them to engage in their lessons, this also helps to reduce cross contamination through shared use of equipment. Supplying your child with their own glue stick and pair of scissors would be ideal.

Whilst checking your child's equipment please do go through your child's belongings and pop their name on anything they can take off or put down! It genuinely saddens us to see so much lost property being gathered. If items are named then hopefully they can be reunited with your child quickly.

Finally, may we wish you all a restful half term and we look forward to welcoming your children back in November.

“

*LIFE
STARTS
AT THE
END OF
YOUR
COMFORT
ZONE*

”



Black History Month

Black History Month was created to focus attention on the contributions of the black community.

It honours all Black people from all periods of history, from the enslaved in the early 17th century to people around the world today.

In 1915, in response to the lack of information on the accomplishments of Black people available to the public, historian Carter G. Woodson co-founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History.

In 1926, the group declared the second week of February as “Negro History Week” to recognize the contributions of African Americans to U.S. history. Few people studied Black history and it wasn't included in textbooks prior to the creation of Negro History Week.

The week-long event officially became Black History Month in 1976 when U.S. president Gerald Ford extended the recognition to “honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history.”

Among the notable figures often spotlighted during Black History Month are Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who fought for equal rights for Blacks during the 1950s and '60s; Thurgood Marshall, the first African-American justice appointed to the United States Supreme Court in 1967; Mae Jemison, who became the first female African-American astronaut to travel to space in 1992; and Barack Obama, who was elected the first-ever African-American president of the United States in 2008.



“I’m hungry for knowledge. The whole thing is to learn every day, to get brighter and brighter. That’s what this world is about. You look at someone like Gandhi, and he glowed. Martin Luther King glowed. Muhammad Ali glows. I think that’s from being bright all the time, and trying to be brighter.”

Jay Z

Black British
Stories



House Captain

By Mr M. Cowdery - Head of PE

We held our annual House Captain elections recently to decide who would lead our four houses this year. Potential candidates firstly had to apply for the positions and then those who were successfully chosen produced a campaign poster to rally support from the other pupils. After a week of voting and counting of ballot slips, the following pupils were elected and will lead their houses throughout this academic year. Congratulations to all our successful students and a huge thank you to everyone who helped and supported with the elections.

Hanover

House Captain - *Leah Thompson*

Sports Captain - *Freddy Parsons*

Arts Captain - *Max English*

Tudor

House Captain - *Olivia Walker*

Sports Captain - *Eva Walker*

Arts Captain - *Isabelle Cox*

Windsor

House Captain - *Freya Snead*

Sports Captain - *Henry Bennett*

Arts Captain - *Christopher Hadley*

Stuart

House Captain - *Lily Jenkins*

Sports Captain - *Leo Cerrone*

Arts Captain - *Kayla Edwards*



Year 8 Boys Football

By Mr M. Cowdery - Head of PE

The Year 8 Boys football team played Nunnery Wood High School in the ESFA National Cup. Given that the side had no time to train in the build up to the game they were still able to produce a superb performance and win by 5 goals to 2. Goals were scored by Ollie Edrop (2), Alfie Jackson-Stokes (2) and Joe Jarrett. Well done boys!

KS3 Girls Football

By Miss A. Kendall

Congratulations to our KS3 girls football team who defeated RSA Academy 5-1 in the National Cup. Goals were scored by Lily Jenkins x2, Freya Marsh, Charlotte Tanfield and Maya Smailes.

Miss Kendall is very proud of all the girls and is looking forward to the next round of the cup. Well done girls!