

THE RED SWEATER LETTER

A newsletter from St. John's Middle School



[Page 1](#)

Head of School Message

[Page 2](#)

Collective Worship

[Page 3](#)

Healthy Snack Recipe

Epraise Points

Attendance %

House Points

[Page 4](#)

Heads of Year Message

[Page 5](#)

Year 8 Careers Day

[Page 6](#)

Children's University

[Page 7](#)

PE Updates

[Page 8](#)

Year 7 English

Our Curriculum

Year 5 Geography

[Page 9 & 10](#)

Christmas Dinner

Message from Head of School

By Mrs A. Elwell

Welcome to the October newsletter.

Over the last few weeks I have observed the trees outside my office window turn to wondrous autumn shades and the inevitable falling of the leaves begin. It is hard to believe we are already at the end of the First Half Term of the Academic Year with all the excitement of the next weeks and months firmly in sight.

Today we held our Harvest festival and were tightly packed into St John's Church to give thanks for the food that we have and to remember the service of all the farmers, transport drivers and the shop workers who ensure that there is fresh food in our stores to buy. We also thought about those people around the world who don't have enough food to eat and go to sleep hungry every night. The school choirs sang and some of our musicians performed, it was a delightful occasion. A truly impressive display of tinned and dried goods was displayed at the altar and at the rear of the church. Thank you for the generous donations, our school community should be proud of the contribution they have made to the local food banks that support the community in Bromsgrove during these difficult economic times.

The next Half Term looks to be even more action packed, with sporting activities, clubs, production rehearsals, Church services, Parent's Evenings and a host of Christmas activities already in the diary.

I hope you all have an enjoyable Half Term and the children return with recharged batteries ready once again to "Give of their Best."

Best Wishes

Collective Worship

By Miss C. Russell

“Actions speak louder than words. Let your words teach and your actions speak.” - St Anthony of Padua

We rounded off our halfterm looking at LOVE by showing love practically to our local community as we gathered together offerings of tinned and dried goods for our Harvest Festival collection, as we met together at St John's Church to give thanks to God for the bounty of harvest and creation, we left our donations at the altar. All of these items will go to bless others through New Starts and The Basement Project.

After halfterm we begin by celebrating the feast of All Saints and thinking about the examples of tenacious faith so many of the saints provide us with as we move into considering our value of PERSEVERANCE. As one of my favourite saints writes:

"Nothing great is ever achieved without much enduring." – St. Catherine of Siena



Collective Worship at St John's

 St John's C of E Middle School Academy /

We leave you with the words members of our choir sung during the service to accompany some reflection time.

*Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And His righteousness;
And all these things shall be added unto you.
Alleluia, Alleluia*

*Man does not live by bread alone,
But by every word
That proceeds from the mouth of God.
Alleluia, Alleluia*

*Ask, and it shall be given unto you;
Seek, and ye shall find.
Knock, and the door shall be opened unto you.
Alleluia, Alleluia*



Attendance & Epraise points

Class	epraise Points	Attendance
5AAL	1307	97.3%
5SW	1100	95.7%
5CGO	1094	96.2%
5MJ	1062	96.4%
5CW	1393	98%
5AKE	996	92.3%
6ALK	828	95.7%
6GM	685	96.3%
6KD	581	94.1%
6BC	650	96.1%
6RSE	643	94.2%
6CSS	770	91.9%
7PM	1162	95%
7JAB	952	95.3%
7WW	1007	96.5%
7MH	1032	96%
7JD	866	97.1%
8JCD	858	90.7%
8NGE	762	93.3%
8MF	822	97.6%
8KLN	670	96.9%
8MC	873	94.7%
8MMO	1114	97%

House Points

STUART - 5,179

TUDOR - 5,376

WINDSOR - 5,449

HANOVER - 5,230

Hooting Halloween owls



Method

STEP 1

Heat oven to 190C/fan 170C/gas 5. Line a 12-cup muffin tin with brown muffin cases. Beat the first 5 ingredients to a smooth batter and spoon between the cases, almost filling them to the top. You may have a little left over. Bake for 20-25 mins until risen and spongy. Cool on a rack.

STEP 2

Beat the butter and icing sugar until smooth. Slice off the very tops of the cakes and cut each piece in half. Spread a generous layer of icing over each cake.

STEP 3

Working on one cake at a time, squirt a pea-sized blob of orange icing onto two Maltesers and use to fix a brown M&M on each. Sit the eyes, two pieces of cake top (curved edge up) and a jelly diamond on the icing to make an owl.

Ingredients

280g butter , softened, 280g golden caster sugar, 200g self-raising flour , minus 1 rounded tbsp, 1 rounded tbsp cocoa powder, 6 medium eggs

For icing and decoration

200g butter , softened, 280g icing sugar , sifted, 1 tube orange ready-to-use icing, 1 small bag Maltesers, 1 tube choco M&Ms minis (use just the brown sweets) or Cadbury's mini buttons, 1 tub jelly diamonds (just the orange ones)

Heads of Year Message

By Mrs C. Hirons - Head of Year 6

It is difficult to believe it is almost October half term, especially as the weather has been relatively mild. The pupils have quickly settled into their new classes, year groups and routines. We seem to be handing out a record number of house points and this is all down to the perseverance and hard work shown by all of our pupils. Currently over 20,000 house points have been awarded with 5CW leading the way for the school and 6ALK, 7PM and 8MMO leading their respective year groups.

Attendance is also on the rise and we are gradually working towards our whole school target. We know that as parents you want the best for your children and for them to get on well in life. Having a good education is important to ensure that they have the best opportunities in their adult life. Therefore, having good attendance at school is vitally important to your child's future prospects. Also, please remember that being on time is also vital. Arriving late at school can be very disruptive for your child, their teacher and the other pupils in the class. This week the pupils who have reached our attendance target will be awarded their 75 booster points.

One of the biggest issues that the Heads of Year deal with on a worryingly increasing basis is the fallout from the misuse of social media by our pupils, despite the minimum age for most being 13 years old. The comments and messages that some pupils think is acceptable to send to someone else on these platforms highlights why these age limits are set. The

ramifications of these messages and comments cause friendship issues and anxieties and can lead to serious consequences with both School and the police. Therefore, please can we ask that all parents regularly sit down with their child and together go through their social media and messaging apps checking for and discussing safe and sensible use. Please can you also remind your child that their phones must be switched off and remain so at all times on the school premises.

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, making sure your child has 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 after a well-deserved break.

“

*BE A
RAINBOW
IN
SOMEONE
ELSE'S
CLOUD*

”

Year 8 Careers Day

By Harry Dhir - Year 8

On Careers Day, many people came in and taught us about how to get a job, what qualities you need and how to save money effectively.

Firstly, we had infinite money and we had to choose our dream life style* (I chose a mansion). After that, we spent a while studying a sheet full of potential jobs for our future, the sheet included: pay, skills needed and grades needed like GCESs. After we looked at all the choices, and tried to find the one for us -our dream job- and looked at the pay it would give us. This gave us a rough idea of our budget.

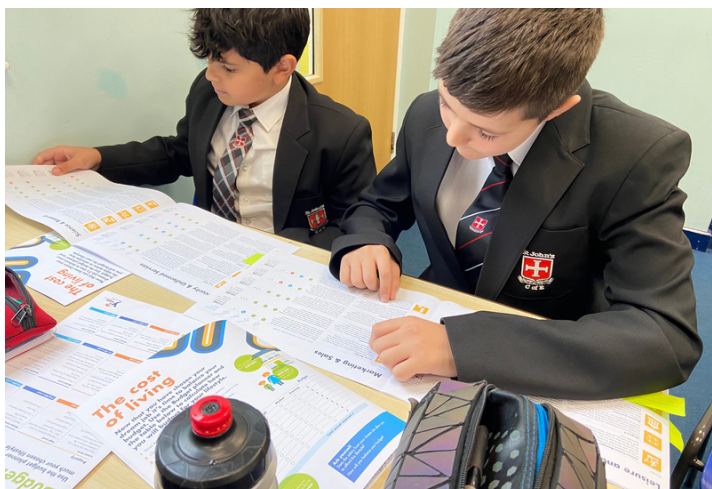
*We then (with that budget) created a more realistic version of our dream lifestyle which made us snap back to reality. After lunch we spent the rest of the day playing a Learn to Earn board game which consisted of rolling a dice and moving your character. Along the way, we would come across challenges and decisions which would effect our future.

I really liked learn to earn day as it taught me important lessons for my future

Year 8 Careers Day

By Aaron Roberts and David Wood in 8MMO

Last Thursday, Year 8 pupils took part in a variety of talks about Careers. On this day we had some visitors (many of whom were parents) come into school to talk to us and their jobs and the different career paths that you can take. We had a large number of workshops that we could sign up for. They included Law, the Police, the Fire Service, NHS, Crime Scene Investigation, Accountancy, Carpentry, Engineering, Physiotherapy, Research , Owning your own business, Mechanics, Caring and Personnel. We took part in some activities including bandaging a patient, seeing how DNA is transferred and wheel alignment on a car. In each workshop, we looked at the career paths to see what GCSE grades or 'A' Levels that you needed to qualify for it. We then thought about the positives and negatives of that job. It was interesting to learn about different careers and what the future might hold for us. We would like to thank all the volunteers for giving up their time to help us and to make the day a success.



Children's University

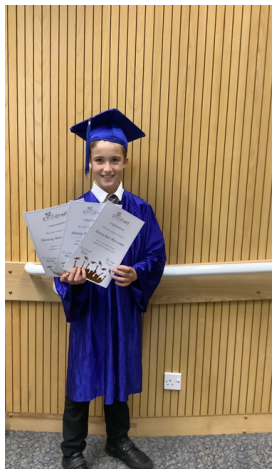
By Miss A. Kelly

On the 5th of October 2022, we took a coach to the University Of Worcester. We were there because of a programme called Children's University where we had exceeded the minimum number of hours (30).

The coach arrived at roughly 9:20 and we started to move at 9:30. There were around 35 of us on this unique trip. We arrived around half an hour later where we were greeted by some students belonging to the university. From there, they took us to one of their spectacular lecture theatres. Soon after, we completed a task where we identified the steps involved to reach our chosen dream jobs. After some time passed, we were guided on a tour of this formidable yet amazing place. We learned a lot about the university and its many campuses: St John's Campus, City Campus and Severn Campus as well as the nearby Lakeside Campus. Some time passed before we had lunch under one of their makeshift tents.

Then, we headed to our home base-the lecture theatre. One row at a time we put our wonderful gowns and mortarboards. Eventually, we were all set for the graduation! The first person was called up to shake hands, handed their certificate and had photo taken by Miss Kelly or Mr Clements. Before long, everyone had had their certificate awarded so we praised each other before moving our tassels to the right (this meant that we had all successfully graduated)! We then took our gowns off and got ready to head back to school.

On our exit, were given our own free gift bag! Inside it was: a bookmark, an explanation book and lots, lots more! I would highly recommend Children's University because It can help keep your children fit and help your children experience different activities. It is a unique journey you will never forget!



PE Update

By Mr. M. Cowdery - Head of PE

It's been a busy few weeks within the PE department with all of our Extra-Curricular clubs up and running and multiple fixtures and festivals taking place. We are also approaching the half way point of our first term meaning all pupils will have completed their first two PE units.

We are absolutely delighted with the uptake for our Extra-Curricular clubs and the attendance has been really high. We've had all of the traditional autumn clubs such as football, rugby and netball but also cheerleading and hula hooping. Our morning clubs also seem popular so we will look to expand that offer as the year progresses. We are trialling a process of contacting the parents of any children who do not attend to check that everything will be well. If you know your child will not be able to attend, then please let the club lead or the office know in advance to avoid being contacted.

Our football teams have all been very busy completing fixtures in both the National and County Cup competitions as well as district festivals. We have had some magnificent results and I know that the lead teachers are very proud of the efforts and commitments of their players. Looking to the future, we have netball and rugby fixtures in the diary as well as some multi-skill festivals and Badminton competitions. A full set of results is available below.

Our fantastic Junior and Senior Sports Leaders have taken their first steps on their coaching journeys this half term. Children have attended training at South Bromsgrove High School and delivered a Quick Sticks Hockey festival to year four pupils from Millfields First School. Combined with their supportive roles during our active play lunchtimes, the leaders are really beginning to develop their leadership skills and qualities.

Looking forward to next term, all year groups will spend their first two lessons back working on their Cross-Country skills. For this, all KS2 pupils will need to bring in a change of socks and footwear and all KS3 pupils will come to school in uniform and change for their lessons. Further information regarding this will be shared via Parentmail.

Sport and Physical Education is a huge part of St John's Middle School and we are delighted to be able to be back to normal in regards to the opportunities we offer. Grab them with both hands, seize the day and Give of Your Best.

Sports Results

ESFA Cup - Year 7 'B' Team Football v Sandwell Academy
LOST 2-0

WSFA Cup - U13 Girls Football v Haybridge High WON 3-0

ESFA Cup - Year 8 Boys Football v Hayes Academy WON 6-1

WSFA Cup - Year 7 Boys Football v Bredon Hills DREW 1-1
(won on penalties)

WSFA Cup - Year 8 Boys Football v Bredon Hills Won 12-0

District Football Tournament - Year 6 Boys - 2nd place

District Football Tournament - Year 6 girls - Group Stages

ESFA Cup - Year 7 Boys Football v Nunnery Wood LOST 1-0

ESFA Cup - U12 Girls Football v Perton WON 9-0

ESFA Cup - U13 Girls Football v Q3 Academy Tipton WON 7-2

Year 7 English

By Mrs J. Davenport - Head of Art

Year 7 Pupils at St. John's have been studying pre 20th Century Mystery stories in English. Last week we practised our listening, questioning and deduction skills as we interviewed the suspects pictured above. Who was responsible for the Whitechapel murder and what were their motives?



Our Curriculum

By Mr D. Owen - Assistant Head

Below is a link to the curriculum area of our website, where you can access all information regarding what your child will be learning in the weeks and terms ahead in all subjects. You will be able to see a Long-Term Plan, for each year group, of all the topics to be covered in each subject over the year. Furthermore, by selecting each subject, you will be able to see more detailed curriculum plans and knowledge organisers. These give specific information about what will be covered in each topic/unit of work and are a useful resource for supporting your child's learning at home. You may wish to print these out to help with homework, or even stick on the fridge for regular revision of current topics.



Our Curriculum

 St John's C of E Middle School Academy /

Year 5 pupils completed some field sketches of the school and surrounding area during Geography lessons. This develops skills of observation and drawing, a core part of Geography fieldwork.





CHRISTMAS dinner



Dear Parents/ Guardians,

This year the Christmas Lunch for pupils and staff will be held as follows:

Key Stage 2 (Years 5 and 6)

Monday 12th December

Key Stage 3 (Years 7 and 8)

Tuesday 13th December



The cost of the meal will be £3.75 per pupil and only Christmas Lunch will be available on these days. The traditional Christmas Lunch will comprise of a roast turkey dinner with a festive dessert.

Payment must be made through our online payment facility, ParentMail, by Wednesday 30th November 2022. If payment is not received by this date we will presume that a Christmas lunch will not be required.

If a vegetarian option is preferred or if your child has any dietary requirements for example allergies, gluten free or halal, please email Ms E Smith - esmith@st-johns-bromsgrove.worcs.sch.uk by Wednesday 30th November 2022.

All children qualifying for free school meals will be provided with a Christmas lunch on their Key Stage day and a sandwich on the day the other Key Stages will be having their Christmas lunch.

It is essential that pupils will be required to bring a packed lunch in on the day the other Key Stages will be having their Christmas lunch as no other option will be provided.

This is a lovely opportunity for all children and staff to share in the Christmas celebrations by eating together, singing songs and having fun.

Yours faithfully,

Ms E Smith
Lead Kitchen Assistant

Mrs A Elwell
Head of School





THE SPIRE CATERING

CHRISTMAS dinner

MAINS

Roast Turkey with pigs in blankets and stuffing

or

Giant Yorkshire Pudding filled with vegetarian sausages (V)

Roast Potatoes, Festive Vegetable Medley, Gravy

DESSERTS

Sparkly Rudolph Jelly

or

Chocolate Bauble Biscuit



THE SPIRE

CHURCH OF ENGLAND LEARNING TRUST

collaborate . learn . achieve

CATERING

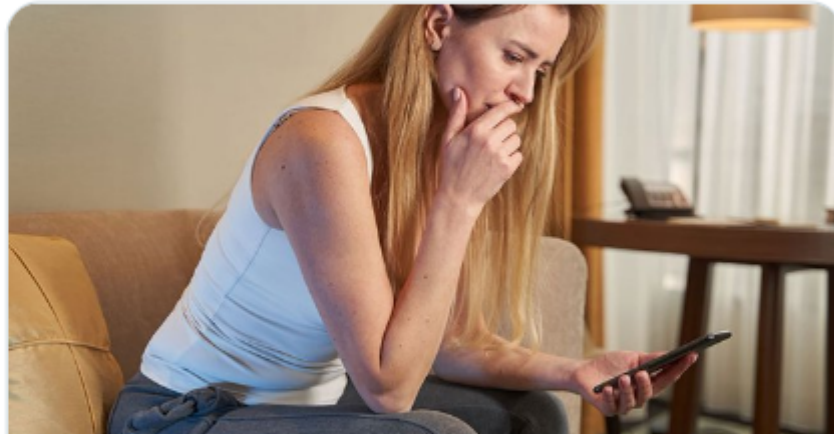
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Most smartphones allow parents and carers to choose which apps and features appear on their child's device and which ones don't – also preventing young people from buying and downloading anything that's unsuitable for their age. [#WakeUpWednesday](#)



4

