

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

Welcome to January's newsletter.

As we near the end of January we can see a glimmer of Spring appearing around the school grounds, with bulbs beginning to emerge and the sun, when it shines, beginning to emit a slight perceptible warmth. The optimism of Spring is definitely around the corner!

We haven't had time for any January blues at St John's, with yet another action packed few weeks. We have hosted a Spire Trust Arts Day, where pupils from some of our Trust schools visited us to work collaboratively on producing some creative pottery tiles. Our Year 5 pupils have been busy preparing for their performance in the Young Voices event, which concluded this week in a fabulous, magical evening of singing in Birmingham. We have lots of tired Year 5 pupils (and staff) today after the excitement of their late night performance.



Continued ...

Additionally, in school this week we have had a STEM day and a Year 7 poetry slam, from which the performances and cheers I can hear from my office. It sounds like despite the pupil's initial reaction to a whole day of poetry, they have had a fun day, with even the most reluctant standing up in front of their peers performing their own poetry raps. It just shows what we can do when we have an open mind and put ourselves outside of our comfort zone. We are very proud of our pupils who continue to epitomise the school Motto- Give of your Best.

Have a lovely weekend and we look forward to an equally exciting February.

Mrs Alison Elwell

Dates for the Diary

Year 5 Young Voices

26th January

Poetry Slam

27th January

Flu Vaccination

6th Feb

Half Term

20th-24th February

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday 1st March

World Book Day

Thursday 2nd March

Oakerwood Information Evening

Tuesday 7th March

Sports Relief

Friday 17th March



Collective Worship

By Miss C. Russell

Candlemas – A celebration of Light

Whilst we are now well settled into 2023 and Christmas may seem long ago, the liturgical season of Christmastide actually draws to a close this week with the celebration of Candlemas. This Christian festival recalls the baby Jesus being presented in the Temple (as was required for all first-born Israelites) and the words of the prophet Simeon on seeing the Christ-child and recognising in Him the fulfilment of God's promises to send a Messiah to rescue his people. His words, known as the Nunc Dimittis (and found in the second chapter of Luke's Gospel, verses 29-32) are prayed or sung each evening/night by Anglican, Catholic and Orthodox Christians across the world (here they are shown in the translation found in the 1662 Book of Common Prayer):

*Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace
according to thy word.
For mine eyes have seen:
thy salvation;
Which thou hast prepared:
before the face of all people;
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles:
and to be the glory of thy people Israel*

Traditionally Candlemas is celebrated as a festival of light, with candle-lit processions, and the people bringing their supply of candles for the year to church to be blessed by the priest. Perhaps you might like to mark this feast yourself by lighting a candle and placing it in a window, or on a mantelpiece to help bring to mind the light of Christ shining out into the world for all nations.

*They came, as called, according to the Law.
Though they were poor and had to keep things simple,
They moved in grace, in quietness, in awe,
For God was coming with them to His temple.
Amidst the outer court's commercial bustle
They'd waited hours, enduring shouts and shoves,
Buyers and sellers, sensing one more hustle,
Had made a killing on the two young doves.
They come at last with us to Candlemas
And keep the day the prophecies came true
We glimpse with them, amidst our busyness,
The peace that Simeon and Anna knew.
For Candlemas still keeps His kindled light,
Against the dark our Saviour's face is bright.
Malcolm Guite*



Hans Holbein the Elder, Presentation of Christ at the Temple, oil on wood, 1500-1501, Hamburger Kunsthalle, Hamburg

Attendance & Epraise points

Class	epraise Points	Attendance
5AAL	6616	97.3%
5SW	6041	95.7%
5CGO	6140	96.2%
5MJ	6395	96.4%
5CW	6626	98%
5AKE	6546	92.3%
6ALK	5934	95.7%
6GM	6057	96.3%
6KD	5302	94.1%
6BC	5581	96.1%
6RSE	5512	94.2%
6CSS	6160	91.9%
7PM	6172	95%
7JAB	5834	95.3%
7WW	6189	96.5%
7MH	5803	96%
7JD	6168	97.1%
8JCD	5589	90.7%
8NCE	4622	93.3%
8MF	5127	97.6%
8KLN	4788	96.9%
8MC	5092	94.7%
8MMO	5678	97%

Vegan Flapjacks



Method

STEP 1

Heat the oven to 160C/140C fan/gas 4 and line a 20cm square baking tin with baking parchment.

STEP 2

Melt the dairy-free spread, sugar and syrup in a saucepan over a medium heat. Remove from the heat and tip in the oats, chopped nuts and dried fruit. Transfer to the tin, packing the mix in with the back of a spoon.

STEP 3

Bake for 30 - 35 mins until lightly golden and crisp around the edges. Leave to cool in the tin before slicing into squares. *Keep in an airtight container for up to three days.*

Ingredients

- 140g dairy-free spread
- 140g soft light brown sugar
- 2 tbsp golden syrup
- 175g rolled oats
- 75g chopped nuts of your choice



Heads of Year Message

By Mrs K. Hall - Head of Year 5

Although the Christmas break seems like a long time ago, I hope you all had a happy and healthy break, and we would like to extend our warm wishes for the New Year. It is always a pleasure to welcome the students back and it is a delight to see everyone's positive attitudes to the new school term. Incredibly, a fantastic 9000 house points have already been awarded this term and I am excited to see how high that total can reach by the end of the half term.

Even though our school year starts in September, January brings an extra opportunity for everyone to have a fresh start and to reset themselves. During our whole school and class assemblies, we have been looking at how we can use to our values of forgiveness, love, integrity and perseverance to bring about positive changes to our daily lives.

As we are at the start of a new calendar year, it is a good opportunity to remind everyone of the high expectations we have at St John's. It is essential that all children are wearing the correct uniform, including correct PE kit. Please see the recent parent mail regarding correct PE kit. Recently, there have been many pupils coming to school without their school tie. Please ensure all pupils are wearing a named school tie when it is not a PE day. Sanctions will be given to those students who repeatedly do not have correct uniform. There have also been lots of cases of pupils wearing make-up and jewellery to school. Wearing make up at school is against school policy and pupils will be asked to remove this. It is also policy for only one small pair of stud earrings to be worn. All other jewellery will be confiscated and given back at the end of the school day. Finally, I would like to remind everyone that pupils may only have phones in school if they are switched off and out of sight. It is important that all pupils adhere to these rules throughout the school day.

Despite January almost being over, the recent cold snaps remind us all that the wintry weather is still around. We would like to remind all pupils to take extra care on their walk to school, to avoid the icy puddles and keep wrapped up. As always, thank you to everyone's support and hard work.

“

*BE A
RAINBOW
IN
SOMEONE
ELSE'S
CLOUD*

”

The Spire Art Day

By Mrs J. Davenport - Head of Art

On Wednesday 18th January St. John's Primary and St. John's Middle school worked together to create clay tiles to represent their school. We had some lovely final pieces including images of the school dog, lessons and school logos. The pupils worked well together sharing ideas and making new friends.



Learn by Design

By Mr. B. Clements - Head of ICT

On Tuesday 24th January our Year 5's got to work with Learn by Design and learnt, and designed, a product that uses lenses and/or robotics to help the visually impaired. They were using a variety of lenses and robots in their enquiry.



Pastoral Room

By Mrs. K. Gallinagh - Deputy Headteacher

We are excited to celebrate that St John's now has a designated pastoral room! To compliment the fantastic work that takes place in supporting pupils' wellbeing, there is now a space that pupils can access when they need further support.

This room will be home to Mrs Butt, who is our Emotional Literacy Support Assistant, and Mrs Southall, who is our Recovery Support Assistant. Both staff members, alongside Ms Alexander (Early Help Family Support Worker), work above and beyond at offering the pupils in school tailored interventions to support emotional well-being.



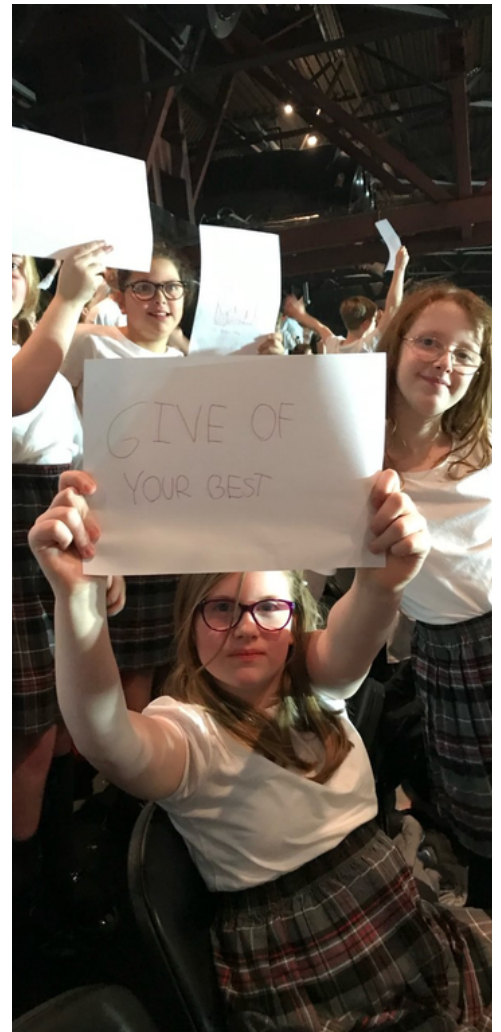
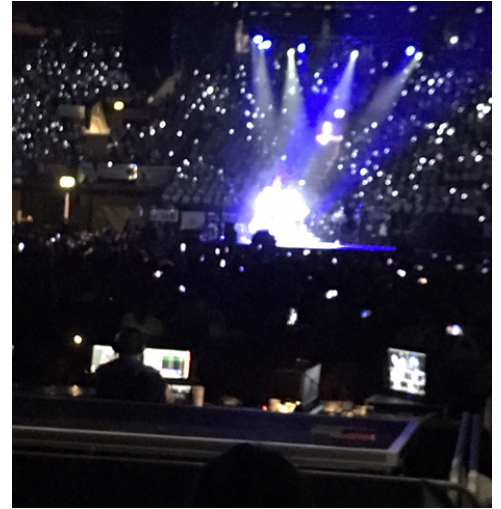
Young Voices 2023

On Thursday 26th January we took part in the 2023 Young Voices concert, with conductor David Lawrence, at Resorts World Arena in Birmingham.

We took all of our current Year 5 cohort and scheduled time into our school day to allow them to learn the Young Voices songs ready for the performance.

The performance took place in the evening, including guest performers and a live orchestra.

The event was an incredible experience for all of our children and parents to remember.



Strike Closures

- Wednesday 1st February
- Wednesday 1st March
- Wednesday 15th March
- Thursday 16th March

Please refer to ParentMail for further details.

Please may we remind you to not park down Watt Close. It is a private road which is also shared with BT. The bollards have been placed there for the safety of children and staff.



PGCE SCHOOL DIRECT PRIMARY + EARLY YEARS INITIAL TEACHER TRAINING



The Spire is now a lead provider for teacher training and in September we welcomed a new cohort of trainees. They are all doing extremely well. We work very closely with partner schools and this means we are able to train and effectively “grow our own” teachers. Our programme is very successful and last year all of our trainees gained employment. We are now recruiting for September 2023 and January 2024. If you are interested in a career in teaching please have a look at our website or contact Sarah Marsh.

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tel: 01527 832376



THINKING OF TEACHING?
ARE YOU A GRADUATE?

THEN TRAIN WITH US!


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FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: www.thespirelearningtrust.co.uk

 ttenquiries@st-johns-bromsgrove.worcs.sch.uk

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Tweets from @stjohnsmiddle

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Replying to @stjohnsmiddle

We were provided with Hot chocolates and delicious waffles after the event!

