

# THE RED SWEATER LETTER

A newsletter from St. John's Middle School



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## Wellbeing Ambassadors

By Mrs A. Elwell - Head of School

Following our Diana Award training, our dedicated Wellbeing and Anti-Bullying Ambassadors are ready to action plans towards achieving the Inclusivity Award. They've wasted no time in brainstorming innovative ideas to make it a reality.

Our ambassadors have been hard at work planning some fantastic events aimed at promoting inclusivity and embracing differences within our school community. Among their exciting ideas are a culture fair, a day of celebrating differences and a colour run!

They recently had the privilege of meeting with Suzanne Allies, our Wellbeing Governor, to discuss their plans and vision for promoting inclusivity. Ms. Allies was thoroughly impressed by their creativity, dedication, and genuine commitment to the Diana Award course. Her support and encouragement have further fuelled their determination to make a meaningful impact.

As our ambassadors finalise their plans and set them into motion, we'll be sure to keep you updated every step of the way. Be on the lookout for more details on these inspiring initiatives and how you can get involved in championing inclusivity within our school.

## Request for leave during term time

We kindly ask that all parents support in ensuring that any holidays are not taken during the school term. There are 175 non-school days every year to take holidays and arrange other family events and activities.

Evidence shows that pupils with good school attendance enjoy better wellbeing and school performance.

During the final weeks of this term, we have some exciting trips, visits, and activities planned for our students to enjoy with their friends. These include Funfest and Lakeside, and as well as house competitions, we're gearing up to celebrate their successes and achievements throughout the year. Therefore, we kindly ask that you refrain from booking holidays during term time, as we believe it's important for our entire school community to participate in these memorable activities.

There are only a very few circumstances where a child can miss school, such as illness or where leave has been permitted because of exceptional circumstances.

Parents are reminded that leave of absence taken without permission during term time may result in the issue of a penalty notice by the Local Authority. Money raised via fines is only used by the local authority to cover the costs of administering the system, and to fund attendance support. Any extra money is returned to the government.

## Rewarding Attendance

As we dive into the Summer term, we're excited to announce an opportunity for our dedicated students to be rewarded for their outstanding attendance.

We believe that consistent attendance is key to academic success and overall well-being, and we're eager to celebrate those who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to their education.

We're pleased to offer some fantastic prizes for students with excellent attendance records. Every pupil with attendance over 96% will be entered into a prize draw to win a delightful Easter Egg. In addition to the Easter Egg, three lucky winners will also receive a £10 Amazon gift voucher. Those with 100% attendance will receive additional entries. If your attendance doesn't quite meet the 96% threshold at the moment, there's no need to worry. We'll only be counting attendance after the Easter holidays, giving everyone a fresh chance to qualify for these exciting prizes. Remember, all pupils with 100% attendance in a half term receive 100 house points and those with attendance over 96% receive 75 house points, and we know you are all saving up for your Funfest tickets and extra time!

# Uniform and Equipment reminders

As we approach the final term of the academic year, we'd like to remind you of the importance of upholding our high uniform standards until the end of term. While we understand that pupils may experience growth spurts, it remains crucial that every child adheres to the correct uniform and school shoe requirements throughout the term.

With the Easter holidays approaching, now is a good time to assess your child's uniform and school shoes. If replacements are needed, we encourage you to use this break to ensure your child has the appropriate attire for the remainder of the term.

You may also wish to check that your child has all the equipment they need to complete their school work. Here is a list of our equipment list to help you.

## Essential Equipment list

- Blue handwriting pens
- Pencil
- Ruler
- School planner - provided at the start of the year
- Reading book
- General notebook

Failure to have these essential items every day will result in teachers issuing pupils with a D1 in line with our behaviour policy. Were pupils consistently do not have what they need consequences will be escalated.

## Other recommended items

- Green pens for responding to teacher feedback
- Glue stick
- Rubber
- Sharpener
- A set of colouring pencils

We are committed to supporting families in any way we can. If you are facing challenges in providing your child with the necessary uniform or equipment, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

# Collective Worship

By Miss C. Russell

This term we have been reflecting on FORGIVENESS, and what it means for us to forgive others and be forgiven in return.

We rounded off the term with our Holy Week and Easter service at St John's church, where pupils sang, listened to the Easter story, and we're invited to respond by sticking their prayers to the cross.

*This ancient hymn was written by St. John of Damascus, a Greek poet and theologian, and translated by J.M. Neale.*

*The day of resurrection!*

*Earth, tell it out abroad the Passover of gladness,  
the Passover of God.*

*From death to life eternal,  
from earth unto the sky,  
our Christ hath brought us over,  
with hymns of victory.*

*Our hearts be pure from evil,  
that we may see aright  
the Lord in rays eternal  
of resurrection light;  
and listening to his accents,  
may hear, so calm and plain,  
his own "All hail!" and, hearing,  
may raise the victor strain.*

*Now let the heavens be joyful!  
Let earth the song begin!  
Let the round world keep triumph,  
and all that is therein!  
Let all things seen and unseen  
their notes in gladness blend,  
for Christ the Lord hath risen,  
our joy that hath no end.*

# Heads of Year Message

By Mr. L. Boyd - Head of Year 8

We are coming to the end of our spring term and although it has been relatively short, it has certainly been action-packed. Thank you to those parents who attended our Parents' Evenings. It is always a pleasure to talk about the progress our pupils are making and to put faces to names. The relationship between school and home is always important as we jointly support your children in their learning journey here at St John's. Together, we must continue to encourage the children to strive for success in all areas of school life especially heading into the summer term where trips and other events are on offer.

Our Year 8 pupils now know where their new beginning will be in September and it is our job to prepare them for that transition, that next step in their school life. This meaning that they will be heading into their final term here at St John's when they come back after the Easter holidays. This will certainly be a term of hard work – as usual – but also one of fun, filled with a mixture of emotions and hopefully where they can create some more wonderful memories of their time with us. With this in mind, the end of year event is arranged to take place on the evening of Thursday 18th July. Please remember that deposits for this need to be paid by Wednesday 10th April 2024.

Heading into the final term of the school year, expectations will still remain. Please remind all pupils to bring in their planner, a reading book, and all the necessary equipment including pen, pencil, ruler and rubber to ensure they are equipped for the day. Remember that failing to prepare is preparing to fail! Can you also please remind pupils of the uniform policy and ensure that they adhere to it.

As we head towards the holidays, may I take this opportunity to wish all of our families a happy Easter and a well-deserved break. We look forward to welcoming your children back in April for our final and most favourite term.

“

*A FRIEND  
MAY BE  
WAITING  
BEHIND  
THE FACE  
OF A  
STRANGER*

”



# PE Results

By Mr. M. Cowdery - Head of PE

Year 8 District Netball competition - 3rd place overall

Year 7 District Netball Competition - 2nd place overall

Year 6 District Netball competition - 5th place overall

KS3 In2Hockey Competition - 2nd place

KS2 Girls football County Cup v St Bede's - Lost 2-0

KS3 Girls football County Cup v Wolverley High - Won 7-2

Year 8 Boys Football County Cup v Woodrush - Drew 4-4 (won on pens)

Year 7 Boys football friendly v King's School Worcester - Won 6-0



## Key Stage 3 Netball

It's been a great year for our Netball teams as they've shown integrity and perseverance on the court. We are very proud of the commitment demonstrated by the pupils who attend both our first team and recreational sessions.

Our Year 8 team displayed exceptional skill and resilience in the district competition, facing off against tough opponents. Their hard work paid off as they came away with Bronze medals, a testament to their dedication and teamwork.

The girls of Year 7 demonstrated grit and determination throughout the season, earning a well-deserved 2nd place finish. Despite the intense competition, their perseverance shone through, narrowly missing out on the top spot. We couldn't be prouder of their performance.

Congratulations to all the players who contributed to our Netball success this year. Your dedication, passion, and sportsmanship have not gone unnoticed. In recognition of your hard work and commitment you've been awarded your half Netball colours and we hope you will wear your badges with pride.

We are excited about what we can achieve in the next academic year. With a strong foundation, we anticipate even greater improvement and success on the court.

## Red Nose Day

We had the Red Nose Day Cake Sale on Friday 15th March to raise funds for Comic Relief. The kitchen staff were assisted by pupils, Eva Kolb and Madison Aldridge, who did an amazing job decorating the Red Nose themed cakes. Over £270 was raised in aid of such a good cause.



# Visit to Worcester Magistrates' Court

By Mrs C. Woodward

On Monday 11th March our Year 8 Mock Trial team had a visit to the Magistrates' Court in Worcester. This was in preparation for the Mock Trial Competition. We spent the whole day there and it was really interesting to see a court in action. We listened to a variety of cases and were intrigued to find out the verdicts. We also had time to practise our case in a real court room. Seeing the court room and how the Usher, Lawyers, Legal Adviser and Magistrates acted helped us with our nerves for the competition itself! We would like to thank our link Magistrate, Trevor Burgess for helping to arrange the visit and Mrs Hall and Mrs Woodward for accompanying us.



# Mock Trial

By Mrs C. Woodward

On Saturday 16th March our Mock Trial team took part in the Worcestershire and Herefordshire heat of the national competition at Worcester Magistrates' Court. This competition is open to Year 8 and Year 9 pupils and we have been practising weekly since October. Our team had to prosecute and defend a case of alleged assault causing actual bodily harm. It centred on a dispute between a taxi driver, Chris Wheeler and their customer, Jo Goodwin. We studied the case and spent time drafting and redrafting our speeches, questions for witnesses and possible answers. We also spent time learning the roles of different people in a court room (including lawyers, ushers, magistrates, legal advisers and witnesses).

On the day of the competition we saw that there were eleven schools taking part (including only one other middle school). We prosecuted the case against a team from Nunnery Wood High School and defended against a team from Droitwich Spa High School. We won both our rounds. We developed our confidence and many skills in this process and most importantly enjoyed the experience.

Our team consisted of: Isabelle Sallows, Olivia Poole, Hannah Robinson, Isabele Hinson, Adam Hawkesworth, Lewis Wilson, Olivia Downs, Keshav Gupta, Samuel Elliott, Libby Middleton, Noah Dixon, Sam Mc Donald and Lacey Hatton. Our Court Artists were Evie Siouville and Evie Cullen and our Court Reporters were Evie Heath and Annabelle Addison-Farmer.

We would like to thank Mrs Hall, Mrs Woodward and our link Magistrate, Trevor Burgess for preparing us for the competition and accompanying us on the day.



## Mark Lippett

By Mrs J. Davenoport

On Friday, 26th January 2024, Mark Lippett, an award-winning landscape artist visited the Bromsgrove Preparatory Art Department. Mark Lippett is a Fine Artist from Staffordshire in the West Midlands. He is mostly known for his architectural work depicting abandoned buildings, much of which has been exhibited across the UK in many solo and group shows.

Ten year 7 and 8 pupils joined in with the workshops afterschool.

"I really enjoyed working with Mark, I am looking forward to finishing the piece I started."



## Worcestershire Cathedral

By Cruz Ryser 7WW

On the Worcester Cathedral trip, I remember seeing King John's tomb and we had a tour around the Cathedral. I enjoyed stopping at the gift shop, which had lots of cool things, like wristbands and toys. I really liked the visit to King John's tomb because someone was role playing as him and I actually learnt some things while I was at his tomb. I remember there was a lion on King John's tomb. My favourite part of the day was the tour of the Cathedral because we found out a lot and while I was there and I took many beautiful artistic photographs of the building. Finally, I would like to say it was a lot of fun and I'd give it a 10/10 and would recommend visiting.





# Important Reminder for Year 8 High School Places for September 2024

Please can I 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](http://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 **Monday 31st October 2023**.

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.



## PGCE SCHOOL DIRECT PRIMARY + EARLY YEARS INITIAL TEACHER TRAINING



*Together with South Bromsgrove High School, we are the North Worcestershire Training Hub accredited by the University of Worcester*

If you are interested in pursuing a career in teaching, there are various routes that you can take to achieve your goal. With the right training and support, you can develop the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in this rewarding profession. If you would like to discuss routes into teaching, you can reach out to Sarah Marsh via the contact details below.

email: [smarsh@spiretrust.co.uk](mailto:smarsh@spiretrust.co.uk)

telephone: 01527 832376



THINKING OF TEACHING?  
ARE YOU A GRADUATE?

COLLABORATE

LEARN

ACHIEVE

## THEN TRAIN WITH US!

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