



St. John's C of E Middle School Academy

2017
Spring Issue

The Red Sweater

The termly *Newsletter* from St. John's School

Headteacher's introduction



Dear Parents/Guardians,

As I review this term, a week before we break up for Easter on Friday 31st March, I could focus my comments on this week alone!

On Saturday we took part in the Mock Trial with Caitlin Mobley winning Best Court Artist and we also won both cases!

On Monday we discussed the very promising Year 6 performance in their practice tests. Tuesday saw us win the hockey and Wednesday and Thursday saw our excellent production of Cinderella take place.

As I write, we await the visit today of the Rt. Hon. Sajid Javid, MP this afternoon who is coming to speak to our Year 7 and 8 pupils about the opportunities they have before them.

In any other school this would be an exceptional week but not at St. John's which again you will be able to see from the Newsletter!

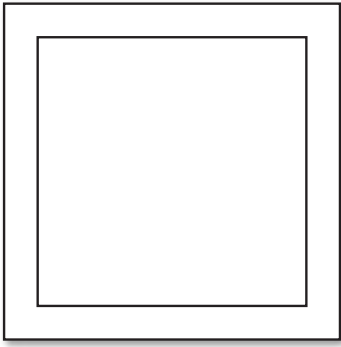
We welcome our new Deputy Head, Mr. Kevin Medway who will join us after Easter and we look forward to the contribution that he will make to St. John's.

We also say a fond farewell to Mrs Jayne Clarke after 9 years service. We thank her for her contribution to the school and wish her every success in her new post at Alvechurch.

May I take this opportunity to thank all the staff for their continued hard work, parents for their support and the children for making this such a wonderful school.

Happy Easter to all and we look forward to welcoming the pupils back on Monday 24th April.

Update from the Year Groups



YEAR 5

The arrival of spring and lighter evenings signifies Summer being on the way and the close to another term for our year fives, now two thirds of their way through their first year at St. John's! As always this has been a fun and action-packed term. Firstly, back in January – which now seems very distant – we had Parents' Evening, which was very busy due to such fantastic attendance and hopefully proved useful and informative for all. Later in the term year 5 did a fantastic job of singing their hearts out in Church and going up to receive the Ash in our Ash Wednesday service. This was shortly followed by World Book Day which was so good to see so many year 5 pupils with such an enthusiasm for their favourite characters and really going the extra mile with costumes – Olive in 5JS came as an extremely convincing Snow Queen from Narnia and even had a self-decorated box of Turkish Delight due to the attention to detail of her costume!

More recently we have also enjoyed our second Enrichment Day of the year, with Geography and Fair Trade being the theme for Key Stage 2. During the day, year 5 found out all about Fair Trade - why it is important, what it means to many communities and which products can be bought as Fair Trade items, from bananas to cotton! Cinderella has also made numerous appearances this term with our latest school production, which I am sure many parents have proudly watched. Many year 5 pupils have been involved with roles and dancing parts this year and it's so impressive to see the confidence and enthusiasm from those having only started this year and know that the future of St. John's drama productions is looking very bright.

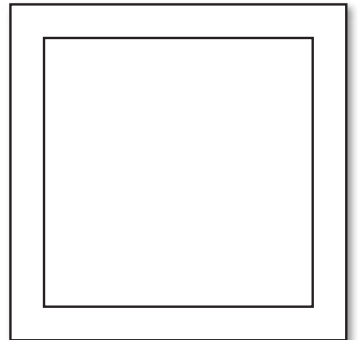
As I am sure parents are all very aware with the increasing excitement, we also have the Key Stage 2 Give of Your Best trip to look forward to next week and I am very pleased to say that the vast majority of pupils in year 5 have achieved enough points to be able to attend as a reward for their hard work and efforts. Lastly, with Summer term advancing rapidly, the Year 5 Malvern trips will soon be upon us with the first weekend being the 19th – 21st May and the second the 16th – 18th June.

Have a lovely Easter break and try not to eat too much chocolate!

Mr. D. Owen - Head of Year 5

YEAR 6

Hello from Year 6. As the National Curriculum tests in May draw ever closer you can feel the change in atmosphere throughout the year group. Pupils are growing more and more determined to succeed and are certainly living up to the school motto by 'Giving of Their Best'. We have been able to offer additional support to more pupils than ever before. I would like to pass on my sincere thanks to all staff and parents and pupils for giving up their time to share their knowledge in preparation for the tests in May. All the signs so far from the practice testing we have done is that we are looking forward to a very successful year. As part of helping the children perform to their full potential we have organised for pupils to learn some relaxation techniques in sessions to be run just before the tests in May and once again we will be offering free breakfast to all Yr6 pupils each morning of the testing week.

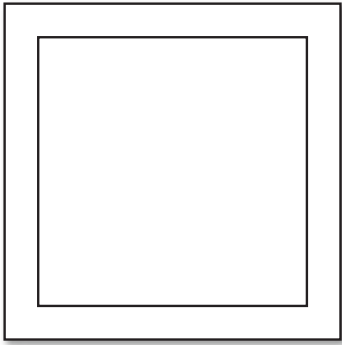


Congratulations to all the pupils that earned enough points through their hard work and positive attitude to attend the Drayton Manor trip. Impressively we had over 90% of the year group that achieved the required points to enable them to attend the trip. Remember the points for the third GOYB trip are reset after Easter so all pupils have an equal chance of making the final GOYB activity and rumours have it, that it is not one to be missed!

Further congratulations to Isabelle Keavney who has the most reward points in Year 6 as I write this alongside Ben English and Sam Godfrey who make up three places in the top five pupils in the whole school. Sam and Ben have clearly been helping 6SPs cause to finish the year as the class with most points as they lead the way just ahead of 6SY. We currently have three classes who have an overall class attendance above the Year 6 target of 97% attendance – Well done to 6SP, 6MC and 6GM; the challenge has been set for all to classes to finish above 97% in July.

I wish you all a happy Easter, eat lots of Easter eggs and have an enjoyable time.

Mr. K. Hirst – Head of Year 6



Year 7

With the spring term almost upon us and summer just on the horizon it seems unbelievable to think that we are two thirds of the way through another academic year. The Year 7 pupils have definitely found their feet and settled brilliantly into key stage three, showing great maturity in the choices they make and rising to the challenge of a new stage in their education.

Congratulations to Lauren Moss and Danny O'Donnell who received Head teachers awards for both their attitude to learning in the classroom but also to the commitment they have shown to the wider aspects of life at St. John's.

Our Year 7 class league tables continue to inspire our pupils to make sure they collect their stamps, achieve house points and aim for 100% attendance. The winning classes for the last half term were: 7KRC for the greatest number of house points and 7JD for the highest percentage of stamps and for the best attendance. Congratulations to the winning classes. Many pupils are now looking forward to our second GOYB trip with over 130 pupils being awarded enough achievement points to go on the trip to Alton Towers. Well done to those pupils for their commitment to working hard and behaving in an exemplary manner.

After the recent parents information evening, many of our Year 7 pupils will now be looking forward to the PGL trip to Boreatton Park in May and should now be preparing themselves for their next great adventure. Finally I would like to thank the Year 7 staff for their hard work this term and wish them relaxing and well-earned break. It is with great sadness we have to bid farewell to Mrs Clarke as she moves to her new post at Alvechurch Middle School. She will be hugely missed by staff and pupils alike but we wish her all the best in her new role.

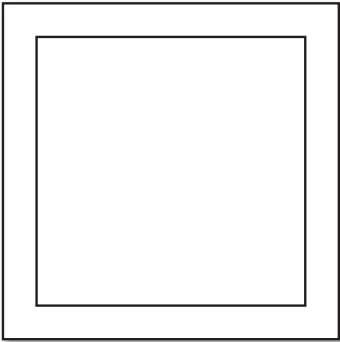
Mrs C. Hirons – Head of Year 7

Year 8

Year 8 Spring term events!

Well the weeks are literally flying by here in year 8 and we are already preparing for transition to High School. Our pupils are trying their very best to earn Housepoints for the upcoming rewards trip to Alton Towers and it is a delight to see them volunteering to read in class, remaining focused in lessons and aiming to produce their very best work at all times.

Year 8 skiers faced tougher challenges than the slopes this year when they fought off a sickness bug that swept through the group. Mr Cowdery recalled how several year 8 pupils looked after friends in the night who were ill. Although they had an enjoyable time I think it is particularly commendable that these pupils put their friends first. Their selfless actions epitomise what being a St John's pupil is all about. Well done to those caring pupils, I'm sure your friends won't forget your kindness.



Once again year 8 hosted the wonderful 'Spoz' and 'Dreadlock Alien' for our annual 'Poetry Slam' on Monday 13th March. Our pupils often express reluctance at the prospect of spending a day 'doing boring poetry', but it is always a very pleasant surprise for them when they have a fantastic experience and come away with such fond memories. RAP competitions throughout the day culminated in a grand finale, where four groups battled it out to go through to the next round, to be held at The Palace Theatre, Redditch. Our winning team, the 'Piffting Poets', Summer McAffer, Ethan Lynes, Molly Irons, Emily Taylor, Issy Baird, Morgan Hill, Grace Andrews-Tonks and Ava Freer, will now compete against winners from other schools. Let's hope that they follow in the footsteps of our previous winners, who went on to scoop first prize two years running! No pressure then!

Finally and most recently, our year 8 Mock Trial team have just returned from a successful day of court battles in Worcester. On Saturday 25th March the group of legal eagles, led by Miss Deeny, fought off King Charles and Droitwich High, winning both cases, and Caitlin Mobley won 'Best Court Artist', which is an incredible achievement! Very well done indeed to all children and staff involved!

Mrs R. Bourne – Head of Year 8

Ash Wednesday Service

On 1st March we marked the beginning of Lent with our Ash Wednesday service at St John's Church. Readings, drama, prayers and music combined to create a reflective service thinking about what it means to 'reject evil and choose good'. The pinnacle of the service was an opportunity to receive ashes which many pupils and staff remarked to be a moving response to the stories and readings we had heard.



A word from the Vicar

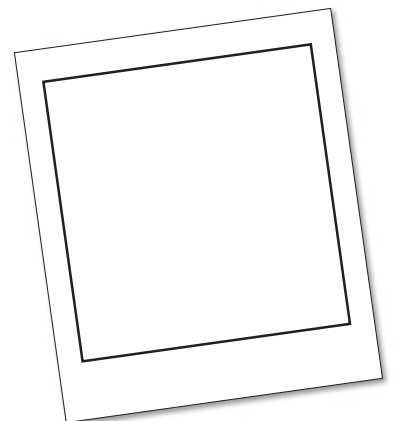
The best part of being a vicar, is the privilege of sharing in the stories of love. Whether it is at a wedding, baptism or funeral, I am sharing in stories of love of how people met, of how love changes people and of how love sustains people in dark times. Being part of the school I often listen to the stories of friendship, struggle and achievement from staff and pupils. We are surrounded by so much love and we should never take that love for granted and we should be thankful for it.

Easter is my favourite time of the year and it is exhausting as I travel with Jesus through the highs of Palm Sunday, the betrayal of Maundy Thursday and the stitch up, torture and death of Jesus. But that is not the end of the story, for on Easter Day Jesus is alive, with a love stronger than death he offers us all a new start.

Easter is a story of a love, a passion that God has for you. That love is not put off by the rejection of others or even by death itself. On the cross Jesus stretches out his arms and says to us all, I love you this much! This is love rooted in the highs and lows of our experience; is a love stronger than death and a love that can transform us into the people we can be.

All the symbols of Easter, the Chicks, bunnies and eggs point to this new life.

I pray that you all have a blessed time this time and will know the renewing power of God's love



Reverend Ray Khan
Parish of Bromsgrove
Team Vicar
St. John's the Baptist and St. Andrew's Charford

EASTER SERVICES 2017

Thursday 13th April: St. John's Church,

7.30pm Holy Communion with foot washing.

Followed by optional watch night service of readings and music.

Good Friday 14th April St. John's Church,

10.00am Family workshops

12noon Family service

1.00pm Silent prayer

2.00pm The Last Hour, a service of music and readings.

Easter Sunday 16th April St. John's Church

5.30am Sunrise service

10.45am Family Holy Communion

St Andrews Charford

9.15am Holy Communion

⊕ The Parish of Bromsgrove
**St. John
& St. Andrew**



Fundraising

Poppy Appeal - raised £125.00



Place2be



Place2Be is the leading children's mental health charity providing in-school support and expert training to improve the emotional wellbeing of pupils, families.

A Year 8 pupil, Olivia Turbutt, organised a coin collection for the charity Place 2 Be – pupils were asked to bring in 10p coins which were then put together on the playground to form the St. John's school badge. A magnificent £215 was collected. Well done Oivia!



Red Nose Day - pupils were allowed to come to school with "mad" hair and trainers and a healthy £406.00 was collected

Year 8's Bake Sale also raised - £95.20 for Red Nose Day.



World Book Day



Another great day where pupils came to school dressed as their favourite book character. A fantastic £483 pounds was raised with £242 being donated to Book Aid and the remaining £241 on books for our library.



Bromsgrove School Scholarships

Two of only seven Academic Scholarships awarded by Bromsgrove school after interviewing over 330 candidates were awarded to :

Esme Elwell-Thomas
Foundation Academic Scholarship

and

Zoe Law
Foundation Academic Scholarship

A Sports Scholarship was also awarded to:

Ava Freer - Sports Scholarship

This is a tremendous achievement against still competition and it was particularly pleasing to hear of how highly the Headteacher of Bromsgrove School spoke of our St. John's pupils.



Legacy 110 Project

As I am sure many of you are aware that the years 2014-18 mark the 100th anniversary of the First World War, and with this in mind the Government have been funded 2 students from every secondary school in the country to visit the Battlefields in France and Belgium as part of the Legacy 110 project, and we have managed to secure 2 places on a visit for October this year.

The idea behind the Legacy 110 project is that students from every secondary school in the country attend the trip and complete a personalised project. This is then presented to a further 110 people in their local community, thereby reaching the same amount of people that died during the war.

We offered students in year 7 the chance to apply to go on the visit and were overwhelmed by the amount of fantastic responses and the effort students had put into their applications making it very hard to choose! Congratulations must however, go to the two winning students Aaliyah Harris and Adam Westmorland, whom I'm sure you will be hearing updates from in the near future.



Humanities Enrichment Day

On the 15th March 2017 KS3 had a History Enrichment day. Throughout the day we were class based and learnt about World War One. In the morning we were learning about consequences and whether they were appropriate for certain actions, looking at why soldiers were shot at dawn. I had not heard of many of these facts or stories before and was shocked.

Towards the afternoon we began to examine war poetry and began writing our own poem. To begin with I thought that this activity was going to be more fun for the boys as it involved guns and shooting however I was surprised to find out that I enjoyed it more than I thought.

After lunch we wrote up our poem and decorated it with a boarder and then turned it into picture book and in my group with had 4 pages, one for each verse of our poem.

I had a really good day and hope to experience more enrichment days before leaving St. Johns.

Grace Daly 8MF



ECO Committee



Here at St John's we are in the process of achieving our green flag status.

We have established an eco committee and have chosen our three topics that have to be achieved in order to be granted our first green flag, they are:

Water recycling
Biodiversity
Paper recycling

The school has taken charge of a waste paper bin, so we are now able to recycle all our scrap paper, one of our requirements for our green flag.

We are also the proud owners of a wormery, which will go towards our biodiversity topic although at the moment we don't have the worms as the weather is too cold, but once the weather warms up there will be no stopping us! We still have a long way to go but we are well on our journey to becoming an eco school and I look forward to the day that we can fly our flag with pride. This all seemed a huge undertaking when I was first approached by Mr Roberts to obtain our green flag, but the children have all pulled together and been amazing, well done eco committee!

Mr. P. Hiron



Samurai Mini-mons

Our school Judo club continues to grow with the help of Redditch Judo Kwai and this term has seen Dominic and Seb Chauhan earn their second mon whilst Dara Costello, Fran Bignell, Aaliyah Harris and James Hunt have achieved their first mon's. With our Judokas improving fast Seb, Dominic, Dara and Fran attended a mini-mons competition at Samurai Judo club in Kidderminster in February. Samurai attract the best Judo players from around the country and our competitor's performance was outstanding and we managed to bring 4 bronze medals home to St. Johns! Congratulations all!



The Big Bang
UK Young Scientists & Engineers Fair

Big Bang Trip

On Friday 17th March, a selected group of Year 7 and 8 pupils attended the Big Bang science fair at the NEC in Birmingham. There were lots of different activities that we were able to participate in, such as: virtual reality, programming, gaming, pretend operations and much more. We also viewed a special performance named 'Do try this at home' where three people (scientist/mathematicians) informed us about things they had discovered and demonstrated exceptional experiments that we are able to do in our own homes. It was an amazing experience/opportunity that we will most certainly remember.

Esme Elwell-Thomas & Niamh O'Malley

There were lots of things to do, including the body, technology, engineering and much more! There was a science show "Do not try this at home" and I really enjoyed the fire tornado and the ball in the jar. The trip was very good and lots of fun and if I could go again then I definitely would! - Jade Jeffreys 8MF

CHILDREN'S UNIVERSITY

At St John's, we offer many clubs and activities for the children to become involved in. In order for the children to gain as many stamps as possible, we are also trying to get the clubs and activities in the local community validated with the Children's University. If you run a club or an activity for children aged between 5 to 14 years, and would like to learn more about getting your club validated to become a Learning Destination with The Children's University, visit the Children's University website – childrensuniversity.co.uk



If your child attends any club at St John's, it is well worth them purchasing a Passport to Learning. These can be obtained by sending £3 in a named envelope to the finance office at school, or alternatively you can pay through parent mail and a passport will be sent home with your child.

Mrs E Taylor - CU Co-ordinator
Ms A Harris – Assistant

Diary Dates:

Monday 10th April – Friday 21st April inclusive
Easter Holidays

Monday 1st May
May Bank Holiday

Monday 8th May – Friday 12th May
Year 6 National Curriculum Tests

Monday 29th May – Friday 2nd June
Half Term

Friday 16th June
Year 8 Leavers photos

(A full list of diary dates can also be found on the School Calendar on the website)



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ParentMail

Attention all parents! Communicating with you is an important part of what we do, Making sure you get the correct information about activities, events and school news that really matters is something we care about.

As you know, the school uses ParentMail, a service used by over 6,000 schools, nurseries and children's clubs to communicate to parents

We'd like to encourage all parents to download the APP as there are a number of benefits both to you and the school:

- You don't need to login to pick up messages or attachments when you use the App.
- The App stores all the messages we send you in one place.
- Every message sent arrives as an instant alert on your mobile.
- You help us save money!
- You can download the App for free from Apple Store or Google Play Store.

Sports

Sportshall Athletics

This term we took teams from all year groups to compete in the district Indoor Athletics competition. Students worked hard in the lead up to this, practicing on our newly purchased equipment. We had two fantastic evenings and were especially pleased that all of our key stage three children won Gold or Silver medals which is an amazing achievement.



Year 7 Boys 1st position
Year 8 Boys 1st position

Year 7 Girls 2nd Position
Year 8 Girls 2nd position



The two boys teams who positioned first then went on to represent the whole of North Worcestershire in the Winter Games at the University of Worcester. They performed extremely well and came away with Silver medals, both narrowly missing out to a strong Redditch Team.



Football

Girls from both KS2 and KS3 took part in a girl's 8-a-side tournament at Redditch United. The girls performed brilliantly and won all of their matches with goals for Naeve Foy and Megan Lindsay. By doing this they qualified for a finals day, again held on the 3G pitches at Redditch. The girls again performed bravely against a number of large high schools and although they didn't win any of their matches they represented the school fantastically. The girls involved were Grace Daly, Eloise Parry, Molly Costello, Rosie Swann, Lauren Moss, Ava Freer, Issy Baird, Charlie Atkinson, Megan Lindsay, Naeve Foy and Amber Baxter.

KS3 Boys football

Both the year 7 and 8 teams have been playing friendly fixtures against a number of schools in the area. The results have, on the whole, been very positive and successful with lots of victories. Possibly more pleasing however has been the number of boys who have represented the school across the two teams. Hopefully this can continue and well done to all boys involved.

Mr Cowdery

Year 6 Football

Some of our year 6 footballers recently participated in an 8 a side football tournament. In the first round they finished second in their group losing to a strong Aston Fields team. Thanks to a spectacular goal scored by Duncan O'Brian in the quarter finals, they went through to the semi-finals. They played very well but sadly missed out in the last minute! The children were understandably devastated but should walk away with their head held high following a very strong performance overall.

Mr Ridge

Netball

Netball has continued to be hugely popular with over 100 girls attending weekly training. All teams have recently participated in the annual District tournaments and the results are as follows.

Year 5 – 1st Position

Year 6 – 3rd Position

Year 7 – 2nd Position

Year 8 – 4th Position

Our year 8 B teams recently took part in a district tournament. Year 8's finished 2nd! They will soon receive commendations for their dedication and commitment to team sport.

Miss Birmingham, Mrs Clarke & Miss Young



Regional Cross Country Finals



Following great success at the district cross country competition Isaac Bridge, Charlie Atkinson, Kyle Shaw and Charlie Beaver all qualified for the county finals, competing as part of the North Worcestershire team. Overall, North Worcestershire won the event as a team! They competed extremely well and a particular well done to Charlie Beaver, Isaac and Charlie Atkinson who all positioned in the top 8 which meant they then qualified for the National finals which is a truly fantastic achievement! At the National finals Isaac finished 45th out of 248, Charlie Beaver finished 96th out of 153 and Charlie Atkinson was unable to attend due to other sporting commitments. Well done to all of you!



Dance

Both our advanced dancers and some year 5 children recently performed at a local dance festival held at South Bromsgrove School. The year 5's performed a cheerleading dance they have learnt in lesson time. The advanced group performed their circus themed dance they have been practicing after school. They also performed beautifully at the Great Big School's Dance off at the Wolverhampton Grande Theatre. They look fantastic and it a lovely opportunity for them to dance on a professional stage.

Rugby

In the year 8 cup tournament the boys finished second in their group with 2 wins over both St Bede's and Walkwood and a loss to Astonfields. They have now progressed to the semi-finals against Parkside where, if they win, they will face Astonfields in the final.

In the year 7 cup tournament we have finished at the top of our group with 2 wins out of 2 against Parkside and Ridgeway. They are now through to the semi-finals.

Our Key stage 2 teams took part in a tag rugby festival on Friday 24th March at Bromsgrove RFC. One of the teams came away with a games count of 4 wins and 1 loss and the other team we entered came away with 3 wins and 2 losses. Everyone played the games accordance with the values of rugby and really enjoyed the day. We are very proud that the teams were awarded with trophies for their passion and teamwork.

Mr Swain



Hockey

This week we entered two hockey teams into a district Hockey tournament. Both our Key stage 2 and keys stage 3 teams played exceptionally well, winning all matching and neither of them conceding any goals. Both teams won their competitions returning to school with Gold medals. Well done to all those involved.



FIZZ POP

What is fizz pop?

Fizz pop is an after school club for determined, science-loving pupils in year 5. Fizz pop science helps children of year 5 develop how to do fun experiments anywhere.

On the first day we learnt about our taste buds. Miss got 4 small jars with 4 powders that each resemble sweet, sour, bitter and salty. Then we had to guess which flavour was which. A few people guessed correctly. Another experiment we did was the starburst experiment. We first got blindfolded then we had to try the starburst each and again guess which flavour was which. It was fun learning and experimenting with our taste buds.

Next we learnt about white light and how much it was used around us. We used special glasses that let us reveal where white actually was and it was everywhere! The sky was white light, the electronic lights where white light and many more. But the most fun activity of the whole time of being at fizz pop was learning about practical illusion. When we learnt about illusions we didn't know how many illusions occurred in normal every day life!

Emily Harrison 8RSE/Eva Jelfs 5JS

St. John's Riding Team

Year 7 pupil, Hannah Sable is a very talented young horse rider and is putting together a team of like individuals to compete at events as the St. John's Riding Team.

This year she has attended events on her horse Oscar including the Lincomb equestrian Arena Evening where she entered for 4 classes and was placed 1st and 4th and then 2nd and 6th. At the Allens hill show jumping and dressage she came 1st and 2nd.



Hopefully we can get our Riding Team off the ground, literally! Watch this space!

STAFFING CHANGES

A big welcome to Mr. Kevin Medway who joins us after Easter as Deputy Headteacher.

My name is Mr Medway and I am really looking forward to starting at St. John's as Deputy Headteacher after the Easter Break.

I have been teaching for 15 years and a Deputy Headteacher at a school in Birmingham for the past 5 years. Prior to my teaching career, I worked in Sports Development and took immense pleasure in working with children of all ages and watching their skill and confidence grow.

Outside school, I am a keen basketball player and a qualified coach. I also enjoy running and have taken part in a range of events including Marathons and 'Tough Mudder.'

I enjoy spending time with my family and have two young children. Everything I do is rooted in the belief that every child deserves the best opportunities to develop their skills, knowledge and talents so that they can achieve their goals and aspirations.

When I first visited St John's, I was extremely impressed at the varied opportunities already available to the children and can't wait to build on these.

Have a wonderful holiday and I look forward to meeting you in the Summer term.



We have to say goodbye to Mrs Jayne Clarke PE teacher and form tutor of 7JCL who leaves us on Friday 7th April. She is moving on to Alvechurch Middle School and we wish her the very best in her role there. She will be hugely missed by staff and pupils alike but we wish her all the best in her new role.

We welcome Miss Sarah Kings who will be joining us after Easter and replacing Mrs Clarke up until the end of the Summer term.

ICT

The 'St John's Online' webpage has been designed and created by our ICT technicians and set as the homepage for all students. It was initially implemented to allow students to access all of the educational resources, with ease, that they will use throughout their time at St John's. It also contains prioritized hyperlinks to e-safety website, such as Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) and ThinkUKnow to highlight the importance of these services. As well as that, the Heads of all Subjects have the option to create their own internal webpage to act as a daughter-page for this portal or can link external websites to the page for easy access.

Please remember, this webpage is only accessible using our school computers and if students would like a list of the websites available, they can ask any of our ICT Staff.



MATHS

Four Year 8 pupils, Esme Elwell-Thomas, Ryan Hilton, Molly Irons and Amnish Dhillon, recently took part in the regional final of the UKMT Team Maths Challenge in Birmingham where they battled against Year 9 pupils. The day consisted of 4 rounds, including a cross number and a Maths relay race. They took 11th place out of 26 schools. An example of the kind of problems children were solving is below.

"On a map with scale 1:50000, the path Martha is going to walk is 4cm long. She walks at 4km per hour. In minutes, how long will it take her?"



This year, on 14th March, we celebrated International Pi Day at St. John's. An example activity included creating pi paper chains with each colour standing for a different value to represent the first of pi's infinite decimal places. Here are some photos of a Year 7 group, who were finding the value of pi by dividing the length of the circumference by diameter for various circular objects.



Finally, good luck to Year 6 pupils who will take their Maths National Tests during the week beginning 8th May! Everyone has worked really hard all year and we are sure to achieve excellent results.

Miss K. Chambers – Head of Maths

Enrichment

World Book Day

On March 2nd St John's pupils celebrated World Book Day by dressing up as their favourite book characters. As always, we were blown away by their fantastic efforts; there were so many splendid costumes!

Additionally, there was a book swap event held on the same day, where pupils were able to bring in an unwanted book and swap it for one they have never read before. Again, this event was a huge success and we hope the pupils enjoy their new reading material!



Poetry Slam

On Monday 13th March, St John's once again welcomed poets Spoz and Dreadlockalien into our school to host the annual Poetry Slam event. Our Year 8 pupils worked incredibly hard throughout the day and were inspired by the visiting poets to create some very impressive pieces of performance poetry.

The winning team (Isabel Baird, Summer McCaffer, Ava Freer, Morgan Hill, Ethan Lynes, Molly Irons, Grace Andrews-Tonks and Emily Taylor) will go on to perform in the final at the Palace Theatre, Redditch on 2nd May. Well done!



SPELLING BEE!

On 14th December, a team of exceptionally talented spellers from Years 5, 6 and 7 took part in a Spelling Bee competition hosted by St Barnabas CE First and Middle School. Several local schools took part in the event where pupils were asked to spell a variety of incredibly difficult words out loud (would you be able to spell 'onomatopoeia'?). Once again, the St John's pupils did really well, with the Year 5 team winning first place! Well done to all the pupils who took part in this event.



JASS PROGRAM

WORKING IN THE COMMUNITY

This term the pupils from St Johns have been helping the park ranger, Mr Colin Mitchum, with the up keep of Sanders Park. They started by learning a little history about the park, for example, in 1968 the Sanders sisters who owned the land , gave the land to the people of Bromsgrove, providing it was used and stayed a park for the people of Bromsgrove.

The pupils also learned about the vast number of water voles that live in Sanders Park and the measures the council have put in place to help the voles live and thrive.

The pupils from St Johns helped to keep the park tidy by picking up litter and moving many bags of leaves. Also, the pupils, through Mr Hirons and the woodland trust, were able to plant 30 saplings with the help of the tree surgeon in Sanders Park. The trees planted were 10 Rowen, 10 Silver Birch and 10 Hazel trees, up on the bank by the schools top playing field.

Mr. C. Silvester

Children's artwork helps decorate care home construction site

St. John's pupils created a piece of eye-catching artwork to brighten up the building site of the town's newest care home. They were invited by Care UK to get creative and decorate the construction site for their homes on Recreation Road. Year 5 and 6 pupils each drew a picture of someone they care about, and visited the £6.7 million site to see their drawings on display along the hoardings.

Mrs Davenport, Head of Art was thrilled when Care UK asked the school to be part of their exciting new venture in Bromsgrove. The children had a great time creating the artwork and love seeing it on display on their walk to school each day.

Andrew Brett, construction project manager for Care UK, said: "We are new to the area so what better way to introduce ourselves to the local community than by collaborating with St John's School on a lovely art project to brighten up our hoardings. We were delighted to welcome the children to the site to see their pictures displayed, and we look forward to building on our new relationship with the school in the future."

Stepnell contracts manager David Berry said: "The St John's pupils came up with some impressive artwork and it's great to have it on display on our hoardings.



SKI TRIP

On Friday 3rd March Year 8 set off for the sunny slopes of Risoul, France for the 2017 Ski Trip. After departing from school at 12.30 p.m. the intrepid travellers caught the Ferry at Dover at 8:00 p.m. The journey by coach was long but our excited crew arrived safe, if not tired, in Risoul on Saturday at 2:00 p.m.

After taking some time to settle in they were then fitted for their skis and boots, finally being allowed to chill before the serious ski-ing started on Sunday.

Following breakfast on Sunday our pupils had their first taste of the crisp white snow slopes and lessons commenced at 9:00 a.m. Both the snow and the weather were perfect and continued in the same vane all week.

Apart from the ski-ing the children were treated to numerous other activities organised by staff such as quiz, bum boarding, luge track and Big Air Show.

Sadly, and all too quickly the trip was over and packing was the order of the day for Thursday. It was a good journey back with no hold ups and some very tired people, including staff, arrived back safely at school on Saturday at 3:00 p.m.

Thank you to all pupils whose behaviour was excellent despite some illness during the week and to all the staff who accompanied them, Mr. Cowdery, Mrs Jennings, Mrs Buckley, Miss Nolan, Miss Deeny and Mr. McEvilly.



Mock Trial Competition

On Saturday 25th March, a group of Year 8 pupils participated in the local heat of the Magistrates Mock Trial Competition at Worcester Magistrates' Court. It was a fantastic experience for all involved and we rose to the challenge of being not only the sole middle school taking part, but also the only Year 8 team in the whole of our heat. We competed against two other schools to act out a trial in a real courtroom, and were delighted to win both our cases. We also entered pupils into separate competitions for best court artist and best court reporter, with Caitlin Mobley winning the best court artist prize. Harvey Saunders-Woolley was also personally commended by the High Sheriff for his fantastic performance as a prosecution lawyer.

The pupils have been working hard towards the competition since Christmas, and should all be very proud of themselves for their fantastic achievements and their commitment, not to mention giving up a whole sunny Saturday to participate in the competition!



CHILDREN'S UNIVERSITY GRADUATION



We took 15 children from St John's to Worcester University in December where we were treated to a delicious afternoon tea with our parents. We were then led into a hall where the children selected their caps and gowns – it was such a giggle trying these strange looking clothes on! Once the children had been briefed on the up-coming events of the evening, they were invited into the main hall where they were all greeted with rapturous applause! The Chief Executive of the Children's University, Helen O'Donnell then presented the children with their awards. It was such a proud moment for everyone in the room. The next graduation ceremony will be held at Worcester University in the Summer Term and we hope to take as many of the children as possible to this fantastic afternoon.



Children's University – Launch

After the success of the Children's University graduation at Worcester University on Wednesday 7th December 2016, the uptake of pupils purchasing a passport and taking part in the scheme at St John's has been overwhelming. The Children's University is an International critically-acclaimed charity which encourages

all children aged 5 to 14 years to try new experiences, develop new interests and acquire new skills through participation in innovative and creative Learning Activities outside of the school day.

At St John's, the children in 5JS thought about and created the three main aspects of University life using junk modelling. They looked at the 'Social' aspect of life at university and created a disco/party room. For the 'Living' aspect of university life, they created a student's apartment complete with kitchen and bedroom. And for the all-important 'Learning' aspect of university life, the children created a lecture theatre complete with a bank of computers and desk space for all that studying!

CHILDREN'S UNIVERSITY PREFECTS

It gives us great pleasure to introduce our newly appointed Children's University prefects. They have collectively earned hundreds of stamps in their passports, and know everything there is to know about Children's University! If you have any questions or would like any advice on how to take advantage of all of the things the scheme has to offer, please don't hesitate to stop them and ask!



Lucy Weston



Naomi Curtis



Aaliyah Harris



Isabella Lawrence

