



The **RED SWEATER** *Newsletter*

Summer 2019

St. John's Middle School
A Church of England Academy



Dear Parents,

"Another busy term comes to an end, packed with activity, excitement and success!"

We were delighted with our SATs results. Maths again in the 90s for the third year running and Reading bucking the national trend, that saw a fall in the National Average, with an increase in our score to 79% of pupils at the expected standard.

This term we were awarded the Platinum Mark for Sports and the Primary Science Quality Mark. We have enjoyed significant success on the field and were delighted to welcome ex Wasps, Worcester and England Prop Forward, Matt Mullan, who presented the prizes at our Sports Awards evening held at Bromsgrove School.

May I take this opportunity to thank staff, parents and of course the children for their hard work over the year and to wish the cast and crew good luck for their performance of High School Musical during this last week of term.



Mr. G. L. Roberts
Headteacher

Finally we wish you all a happy and restful Summer break and look forward to welcoming the children back on Wednesday 4th September."



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Year 7 visit a Sikh Temple



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Ruby organises "Sleep Out" for charity



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Over the edge in Arête



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School earns platinum Sports Mark



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In at the deep end - it's Gold for our Year 7 / 8 swimmers

For our Year 5 pupils, September 2018 and the start of their time at St. John's must feel like a very long time ago - they have settled into middle school life remarkably well and have become a fantastic year group which has been a pleasure to teach and lead through the first year.

I'm sure many parents however can't quite believe that Year 5 have already finished their first year at middle school but I am sure Year 5 will have some lovely memories to take on with them of World Book Day, Rewards trips, Sports Day, Bikeability, a whole host of sporting trips and Malvern to name a few.

The majority of Year 5 pupils also achieved enough house points for our Give of Your Best trips to the cinema in December and Drayton Manor more recently in June whilst Year 5 have also achieved an astonishing number of house points this year - the most of all year groups, with a total so far of 249,695!

I must also give my thanks and appreciation to the Year 5 team who have yet again been fantastic this year, supporting pupils whenever needed, giving their own time for various trips and activities and doing a great job of guiding Year 5 through their first year.

We will be sad to see Miss Deeny and Mr. Franklin heading off to pastures new for September, but I wish them the best of luck in their new roles.

Unbelievably, we are almost at the end of another school year and what a challenging year it has been for our Year 6 pupils! Having survived their National Standardised Tests in May they should now feel as though a major educational step has been made as they move into Year 7 and face the new challenges that going into Key stage 3 will bring them. They have gained much maturity this year and have really risen to the challenge of 'Give of Your Best!'

To celebrate the achievement of our pupils we recently had the pleasure of taking 287 key stage 2 pupils to Drayton Manor Park and Zoo. Their behaviour was outstanding: they were polite and punctual and it was great to see so many happy faces, albeit tired ones, returning to school after having a fantastic day.

I would like to personally thank all the staff involved in the many trips and activities provided to our pupils this year, for giving up their time to ensure that they have a wealth of extra-curricular experiences that help to support their education and guide their future life choices.

I would like say farewell to Mrs Eleanor Taylor who has been at St John's for many years and will be greatly missed by everyone, we wish her all the best on her new adventure.



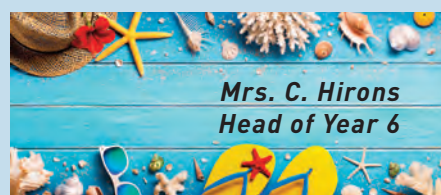
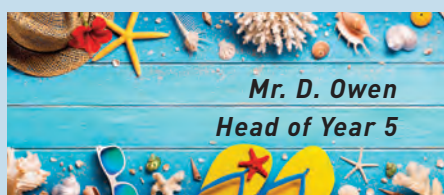
Year 5 update

Overall, Year 5 have made a great start to their 4 years at St. John's and I wish them the best of luck for Year 6 and I hope all Year 5 pupils, staff, parents and carers have a restful and enjoyable summer.



Year 6 update

Finally I would like to offer my thanks to staff, parents and pupils for what has been such a successful year and I hope you all have a relaxing and enjoyable summer break.



Just a few short weeks left until their final year at St John's for our Year 7 pupils and we are already thinking ahead to Transition Day on Monday 15th July.

Pupils will have the chance to experience life at the top of the school, spending the day in their new classes and setting an example to the younger year groups. Let's hope they relish this responsibility and make the most of their final year with us.

Our trip to Alton Towers went very well this term and our Year 7 pupils were very responsible and followed instructions to the letter, well done Year 7, particularly as they hadn't been to that park with us before. Most impressive indeed.

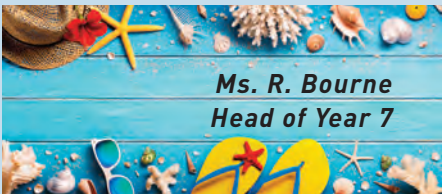
There has been a lot going on this term with various trips and sporting events. Our pupils have embraced these experiences and on the whole have coped very well with the inevitable disruption to their normal timetable, including a change of Year Head in June for the final 7 weeks!

Expectations are still key though and regardless of disruption we require excellent behaviour and courtesy towards each other. Just a reminder that uniform rules and equipment requirements still apply up to and including the final day. Year 7s are reminded and encouraged to be super organised in preparation for Year 8 and High School, it



Year 7 update

really does make a difference. Wishing all Year 7 pupils and parents a happy and safe summer holiday and I look forward to welcoming your children into Year 8 as their Head of Year for September.



The final weeks of their four years with us have absolutely flown by for the Year 8s. We have been focusing on the next steps in their education and their transition to High School. We hope that any meetings and assemblies they have attended with their new teachers has helped to put their minds at ease and on Monday 15th July, spent the whole day at their new school meeting new classmates and form teachers.

It has been fantastic so many of the Year 8s all talking about their arrangements for prom and it's clear they are looking forward to it! It is sure to be a fantastic evening and a lovely opportunity for them to say goodbye to friends and staff, and to celebrate their four years at St John's.

A special well done to the children who managed 100% attendance or have received the most housepoints this year. 100% Attendance; Jack Wright, Aimee Woliter, Charlotte Roden, Duncan O'Brien, Aidan Moore, Thomas McMullan, Charlie Lewis, Issabelle Keavney, Kieran Fox, Luke Evans, Michael Eccles and Naomi Curtis. Top ten students with the most housepoints: 1. Naomi Curtis 2. Lucy Weston 3. Aimee Wood 4. Lucy Cashmore 5. Isabelle Weaver 6. Jack Wright 7. Amy Driver 8. Niamh Gardner - Knight 9. Maddison Hagger 10. Charlotte Hawthorn

I would like to thank all of the Year 8 pupils and staff for making this year so enjoyable for me! I hope the pupils leave with fond memories, I wish them all the very best for the future and will miss them all dearly. I am looking forward to hearing of your future success!



Year 8 update



Guru Nanak Gurdwara



On Monday 24th June as part of Year 7's topic on Sikhism a group of 40 pupils visited the Gurdwara. At the Gurdwara we first entered a prayer room and were told by our guides for the morning (Korvinder and Dell) about some of the important aspects of the Sikh faith. We then went to the lecture theatre where we saw a film about a girl from this Gurdwara and heard some of the Sikh stories. Then we had a brief visit to the main prayer hall to see how it was used and to observe readings from the Sikh Holy Book, the Guru Granth Sahib. Finally we went into the Langar Hall and we all tried the very tasty vegetarian curry, bread and sweet yoghurt. Our plates and cups kept being topped up! We were made to feel extremely welcome on our visit and looked after very well. There is a second trip planned for September so that more pupils can have this very interesting experience.



Every two of years we have a visit from the local authority to make sure we are doing everything we can to produce a safe eating environment for our pupils.

Over the last 7 years we have been rated 5 (hygiene standards are very good) the highest rating available.

We are very pleased to announce that once again we have received a rating of 5.

Our dedicated Kitchen Staff, work very hard, so its nice to get this accolade, to remind us we are doing a great job.



Stars of the Future

Olivia Bourne and her partner Francis Carty, became under 14 champions recently at the very prestigious 'Stars of the Future' competition in Essex.

This was on the back of getting through to the semi finals of the British National Juvenile Ballroom and being placed second in the Latin Championships earlier in the year.

Well done to both of you!



Careers Day

On Friday 3rd May St John's had its annual Careers Day for year 8 pupils. We had a range of volunteers including representatives from the army, an engineering company,

Worcestershire Apprentices, photography, Blue Cross Animal Charity, digital services and law alongside a tree surgeon and horticulturist! The Fire Service also came to speak with us. We listened to a variety of presentations and there was something for everyone to enjoy and possibly take into consideration for the future.

Mazak was one of the companies who came to talk to us and anyone with an interest in engineering should consider working there in the future. We would like to thank all the volunteers who gave up their time to help us become better informed about the options for our future.

By Emma Chance, Michael Eccles and Jack Ellis.



Music

The inaugural St. John's Music Festival, more commonly known as Schoolchella (credit to the girls in 7MAR for the name!), took place on Tuesday 25th June and was a hugely successful evening.

Although the weather was significantly better on the original date of Thursday 6th June (British summertime, hey!) the children revelled in their colourful clothing as they danced to their favourite songs – credit to Miss Young for her pop-friendly playlist. We even played some festival classics, including Wonderwall and Mr Brightside; the children sang so loud to the latter, it was like being at Glastonbury! What pleased the children most, though, was the food available – ranging from hot dogs to ice cream, they were all a big hit! Mr Owen and Miss K Taylor's efforts with the ice cream did not go unnoticed by the children, who were delighted when they found out they could have chocolate AND strawberry sauce!

Another shout-out for food must go to Miss E Taylor and members of the office and finance department, who put in a monumental shift selling hot food from the kitchen. Miss North and Miss Jarvis' make-up and glitter stall ensured the children received the VIP treatment, whilst Mr Swain took some photos throughout the evening.

Thank you to all the other staff who greeted and supervised the children in what was a thoroughly enjoyable event.

We are very much looking forward to organising next years' Schoolchella – let's hope the weather is favourable next time!

Malvern Residential

Once again our Year 5s enjoyed another successful Malvern trip. Our pupils had a fantastic time participating in lots of different outdoor activities and many of the children really stepped out of their comfort zone, partaking in activities that challenged them in different ways. One of the aims of the trip is to increase independence and we were pleased to see our pupils did show a lot of self determination both weekends.

A big thank you to Mr Hill, Miss Blackburn, Miss Taylor, Mrs Jude, Miss Deeny and Miss Jarvis who all gave up their time to support the trip.



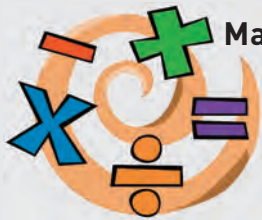
As we look forward the summer break, we would like to ask all parents / guardians to ensure they are registered to use ParentMail.



This is our system for sending letters and emails directly to you and for collection of your payments.

We do not want you to miss out on vital information, so if you require any help to register please do not hesitate to contact the Finance Office.

Registration does not take very long and a member of the finance team will be very happy to help you through this process.



Maths Mentoring 2018 - 2019 – Year 8 Maths 1 O'clock club

Commencing in September 2018, approximately 50 Year 8s from both set 1s

have been mentoring our year 6 maths students on a 1 to 1 basis each week.

The club took place 3 times a week, from 1 o'clock until 1:25 pm and because of the sheer number of students involved (over 50 per session) the year 8s rotated on a 2 weekly cycle.

The aim of this club was to provide intervention support for the year 6 students prior to their SATs. The use of 1 to 1 mentoring was a very powerful tool which greatly enhanced the year 6 students mathematical skills and the year 8s teaching skills.

This learning experience was observed by 7 Heads of Maths from around the county, who then took this successful practice back to their schools.

Student quotes

Year 6:

"It was our best club ever" – Sammie and Rebecca.

"I liked the mentors help and they were very patient with me and helped me learn" – Ralphie.

Year 8:

"I have benefited a lot from the 1 o'clock club because it has

helped me lead groups and interact with people . It also boosted my confidence" – Robert.

"I have enjoyed 1 o'clock club because I got to interact with younger students, it was also very fun." – Emma

"1 o'clock club has been very beneficial to the Year 6s and even for the mentors, I have enjoyed teaching my Year 6 and have a good relationship with him and still speak to him around school" – Reece and Josh.

Mr Luijk and Mrs Chambers were the club co-ordinators.



New Starts charity donations

We met Marion Kenyon from New Starts this term when she came into school to explain in assembly the work they do. As a result of this pupils have generously been donating items to help. We delivered 2 big boxes of food this week and New Starts were very grateful and wish to pass on their thanks to both pupils and parents.

St. John's is committed to supporting the local New Starts in the future, to help those in our local community.

We would appreciate your continuing support with this project by donating any non-perishable food items, toiletries etc to school so we can pass them on to the foodbank.

Sleep Out

On the 6th of June, St John's hosted a Sleep Out to raise money for the local foodbank New Starts and Centrepont, the UK's leading charity for homelessness.

Here is a brief description of the evening from the organiser, Ruby Bennett (7MAR)

I originally had the idea of sleeping over at school in September and began by asking my Form Teacher and Head of Year for support. I then wrote a letter to Mrs. Elwell explaining my ideas in more detail. Eventually it was agreed that the sleep out could take place. I invited four close friends to sleep out with me at school and to help raise money for the two charities.

During the evening we spent the night sleeping on very thin gym mats, which was uncomfortable – it felt like we were sleeping on the floor!

The hall was very cold; originally, our mats were separated so we had some personal space but, during the night, we pushed them together to stay warm. When we woke up the next morning, we had a

delicious breakfast from the canteen at school, brushed our teeth and dressed ourselves ready for our day at school (that's right – we didn't go home!!). Our lessons were challenging that day as we were particularly tired and we couldn't wait to go home and get into our comfortable beds! Overall, it was a great experience, even though it was a REALLY long night, and I am looking forward to helping organise another sleep out next year. Overall, we raised over £400 which we have split between our two charities. I would like to thank everyone who sponsored us at the sleep out and a big thanks to my teachers who helped and supported me.



Voices and Visions

Year 7 pupils have contributed to Worcestershire's Voices and Visions amazing exhibition highlighting the county's talented artists.

The theme this year was People and Places. Pupils produced montages of themselves showing their hobbies and interests as well as multi media images of St. John's Church.



Many of the pupils visited the Cathedral exhibition with their families who were thoroughly impressed and proud of their children's work. It is a wonderful opportunity for our pupils to see their own work displayed in a gallery as well as providing them with inspiration from other young artists.



Bromsgrove Community Art Project

Some of St. John's Gifted and Talented Art pupils have been attending a community art club at Bromsgrove School. Joining members of Catshill, Aston Fields and Parkside Middle Schools. Pupils have met weekly to produce glass work, paintings and textiles culminating in an exhibition of their work. It has been an amazing opportunity for our pupils; they have learnt a lot, meet some like-minded friends and produced some fantastic work. We look forward to taking part in the scheme again next year.

School Awarded Primary Science Quality Mark



We are very proud to announce that we have recently received the prestigious PSQM Award to schools.

So far, since its national launch in 2010, over 3000 schools across the UK have achieved this Quality Mark.

The Primary School Quality Mark programme ensures effective leadership of science, enables schools to work together to share good practice and is supported by professional development led by local experts.

It encourages teacher autonomy and innovation while at the same time offering a clear framework for development in science subject leadership, teaching and learning.

Schools that achieve PSQM demonstrate commitment and expertise in science teaching and leadership.

The Primary Science Quality Mark is led by the University of Hertfordshire, School of Education in collaboration with the Primary Science Teaching Trust.

Jane Turner, PSQM National Director said: *"Gaining a Primary Science Quality Mark is a significant achievement for a school. The profile and quality of science teaching and learning in each awarded school is very high. Children are engaging with great science both in and outside the classroom, developing positive attitudes towards science as well as secure scientific understanding and skills. Science subject leaders, their colleagues, head teachers, children, parents and governors should be very proud."*

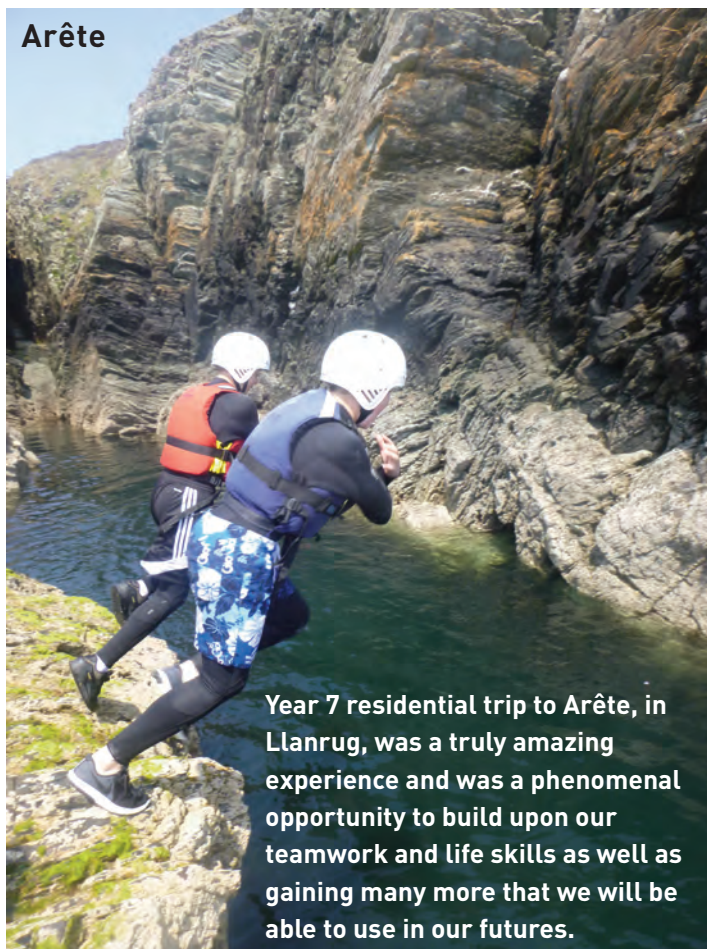
Primary Science Quality Mark (PSQM) is the only national award scheme to develop and celebrate the quality of science teaching and learning in primary schools. Schools achieve a PSQM through a year-long process of initial audit, followed by action and reflection.

The University of Hertfordshire is the UK's leading business-facing university and an exemplar in the sector. It is innovative and enterprising and challenges individuals and organisations to excel.

The Primary Science Teaching Trust was created by Trust Deed in April 1997, to provide financial assistance to help improve the learning and teaching of science in the UK.

Our objective is to help improve the education of children and young people in science.

Arête



Year 7 residential trip to Arête, in Llanrug, was a truly amazing experience and was a phenomenal opportunity to build upon our teamwork and life skills as well as gaining many more that we will be able to use in our futures.

We were lucky enough to be able to experience things we may never have if we hadn't been to Arête such as coasteering, rock climbing, gorge walking and many others.

We also had the opportunity to build our teamwork skills and achieve personal goals. Everyone stepped outside their comfort zones and had an amazing time. We all pushed our boundaries whether it was big or small and we are extremely proud of ourselves and each other.

We are all really thankful for Arête, the instructors and our teachers for giving us this unforgettable experience.

By Evie Johnson, Ruby Bennett and Isabelle Crunden.

[Arête is moving to a Year 8 residential next academic year.]



Amazing News . . .

This year we have been awarded **PLATINUM** sports mark!



The criteria to receive this award includes:

- Having been awarded gold for 5 years
- Participation - number of children engaged in sporting activity, including set percentage of SEN
- Competition - the number of different sports and number on competitions entered (a,b & c)
- Workforce - the number of children included in leadership e.g. house captain, sports leaders, media leaders, PE helpers.
- Clubs - number of school club links

Thank you so much to all the PE department for your help and for offering so much to the children.

Thank you to SLT for supporting us by authorising all of the events.

Thank you all staff for being so understanding when we take children out of your lessons!

This award is an accolade to the hard work and commitment shown by the PE department and the support received from the rest of the school.

District Swimming Galas

Some students represented the school in two recent swimming galas. This was a team event in which the students competed in individual and relay races.



They had very successful day and we were extremely proud of the Gold medal our year 7 & 8 team return to school with.



The Year 5 and 6 teams will represent North Worcestershire in the Summer Games Swimming Gala.

Super 6 Athletics

We have once again seen great success in this year's Super 6 Athletics competition held at The Ryland Centre. The events involved just 6 boys and 6 girls, all of whom have to compete in a track, field and relay event. This year we were able to enter both a Year 7 and 8 team.



All of the students work exceptionally hard in their events which resulted in both teams winning the event overall! They will now go on to represent North Worcestershire in the Summer Games. Well done all.



Key Stage 3 District Athletics competition

Over 100 students across the school have competed in the annual district athletics competition held at the Abbey Stadium in Redditch including 10 schools from across Bromsgrove and Droitwich. Students competed in events such as sprinting, distance running, hurdles, shot, javelin, long jump, and high jump amongst others. Overall, both the year 7 and 8 teams won and we had 31 students leave with individual medals!

A special well done to the following who competed exceptionally well in their event and went on to compete in the Minors County Competition at Nunnery Wood.

Troy Hopkins - 100m Sprint – 1st in County

Ethan Butt - 100m Sprint – Qualified for finals

Aiden Moore - 300m County finalist

Callum Holland - Long Jump – 2nd in County

Luke De Waal – Shot Putt – 4th in County

Ruby Willock Pickering – Discus - 1st in County

Josie Ward – 800m – 2nd in County

Charlotte Whitehurst – 100m Sprint Finalist



DATES for your DIARY



Teacher Training days	Monday 2nd September 2019 Tuesday 3rd September 2019
Autumn term begins	Wednesday 4th September 2019 - 08:50 am
Open Evening	Thursday 26th September 2019 - 18:30 - 20:30 pm
Whole School photographs	Wednesday 23rd October 2019 - 09:00 - 11:30 am
Half Term	Monday 28th October - Friday 1st November 2019
Term ends	Friday 20th December 2019 - 15:15 pm

Staff Changes

Mr. Franklin and Miss Deeny, Year 5 Class Teachers will be moving on to other schools at the end of the term. Mr. Hill and Miss Watts will be replacing them as the new Year 5 Class teachers.

Mrs Taylor, Year 6 Class teacher will be leaving and will be joining the team at Chadsgrove, she will be replaced by Miss Carey-Jenkins.

Miss Turvey our Early Intervention and Family Support Worker will also be leaving at the end of term and will be working in a similar capacity at Continu Plus. We are currently recruiting for her replacement to commence September 2019.

Mrs K. Oakes will join our Maths intervention team in September 2019.

Mrs Jennings will no longer be working in the school office. She will still be employed by the school but as a part-time PE technician. We are therefore currently recruiting for her replacement in the main school office to commence September 2019.

We wish those members of staff leaving at the end of term all the very best and are sure they will make excellent additions to their new schools and offer a warm welcome to all new members of staff joining us.

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