

The **RED SWEATER** *Newsletter*

Winter 2019



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

WELCOME

Dear Parents,

I write this foreword as we approach the final days of term. There is very much a festive feel in school with Christmas Dinner, the Carol Concert and our Church service at the end of the week. This has been a long term and this Red Sweater Letter highlights the incredible variety of opportunities the children have enjoyed through the broad curriculum that we provide.

My thanks as ever to our dedicated staff who are so willing to give of their time and enthusiasm to motivate and enable the children to thrive within this stimulating environment.

My thanks also to the parents for their continued support and may I wish all a peaceful and happy Christmas.

We look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday 6th January 2020.



Mr. G. L. Roberts
Headteacher

Wishing you all a
Very Merry Christmas
from
**St. John's
Middle School**



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*New Bishop Designate visits the
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Year 5 update

Incredibly, this term has flown by and Year 5 have nearly completed their first full term as St. John's pupils.

The transition process has been successful again this year and although there may

have been some nerves early on in September and some assessments to complete, pupils have now comfortably settled into their new classes and year group.

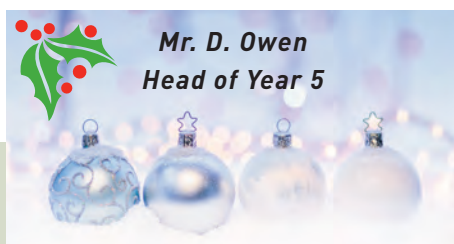
The first term has been typically action-packed, with our Harvest Festival service at the Church, the parents' drop-in afternoon and the subject Parents' Evenings as well as the key stage 2 Christingle service and our Geography Enrichment Day, not to mention the long list of extra-curricular opportunities.

With Christmas rapidly approaching, excitement builds towards the end of term and even more to look forward to, with the Key Stage 2 fundraising disco, the first terms' Give of Your Best trip to the cinema, Christmas dinners and of course Christmas Jumper Day!

With not long to go, 5SW are currently leading the way on house points with 16,294 so far this term, whilst also having the best attendance this term at 97.6%, so huge congratulations to them!

I would like to say a big thank you to the fantastic Year 5 team for their endless effort and willingness to help the Year 5 pupils with whatever worries or problems that may have arisen in this first term, but we are also grateful to all parents and carers for all their support.

Lastly, a huge well done to Year 5 for making a great start to their time at St. John's, keep up the hard work and effort and have a great Christmas!



Year 6 update

With the Autumn term almost complete and the Christmas season upon us I would like to congratulate all Year 6 pupils on how maturely they have made the transition from Year 5 to Year 6. They are beginning to settle

into new routines and develop resilience when faced with the added responsibilities that being in a National Curriculum Test year brings. More pupils than ever are being offered interventions in both Mathematics and English in order to help them achieve their full potential.

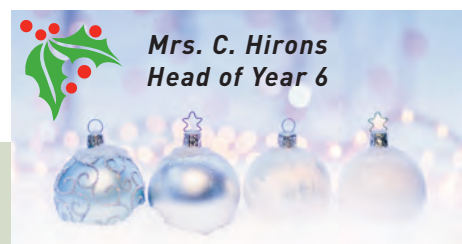
We also offer a huge number of after school activities and if they haven't attended one of these activities yet then I strongly advise they do to further enrich their experiences at school. We also offer a regular homework club after school and during lunch times if you feel your child would benefit from having more support with homework.

Our pupils continue to embrace the behaviour system positively by collecting house points and using these to buy items in our epraise shop. Amazingly pupils in Year 6 have achieved almost 83,000 points since September!

Congratulations to 6SY who are currently year group leaders having achieved an impressive 15,763 of these points with 6GM who are currently only 200 points behind them.

I would like to thank parents for their ongoing support with ensuring pupils look smart, complete homework and bring the correct equipment to school.

Finally, I would like to say thank you to all those staff who work with our year 6 pupils for their hard work and commitment this term. I hope one and all enjoy a well deserved rest over the festive period.





Year 7 update

With only days left of this long Autumn term as I write this, it is a good chance to reflect back on everything that has been achieved to date.

The pupils have certainly been working hard and

earning lots of ePraise points; so far they have amassed over a staggering 71,000 achievement points which puts them ahead of the Year 7s last year at the same point in time. Dylan and Harriet are leading the way out of the pupils along with 7CS who are winning the battle of the form classes with an average of 500.1 points per pupil.

7MAR currently have the best attendance of all the Year 7 Classes at 98% which is above our 97% school target, well done.

All these points mean prizes and I am really happy to see how many pupils are purchasing the rewards on offer and hope that all those that came to the cinema enjoyed the film – it was a well-deserved reward.

In addition I would like to thank all the parents that attended the recent parents' evenings, Year 7 parents alone attended over 700 appointments over the three evenings. Your continued support in your child's educational journey is very much appreciated. If you have any further concerns or questions please do not hesitate to contact your child's form or subject teacher.

Finally I would like to say a huge thank you to all the Year 7 staff and support staff for their continued hard work and dedication through the longest term of the year.

I hope you all have a lovely Christmas and that Santa brings you all something good.



Year 8 update

Year 8 Autumn term is nearly at an end! We cannot believe how quickly this term has flown by and already our Year 8's are looking to High School, with applications submitted and fingers crossed.

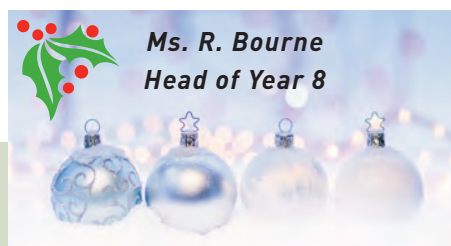
Just a few short weeks left until Christmas and thanks to epraise our pupils are all striving for positive points. Our rewards trips are highly sought after and a trip to see the new Jumanji film is up for grabs. Pupils are encouraged to earn points at every opportunity and to think about the choices they make in order to avoid potential demerits.

Pupils were invited to attend the annual Eisteddfod at South Bromsgrove High, to watch the choirs singing, short drama performances and various soloists and bands performing. It was wonderful to see our past pupils excelling in the arts and they were very glad to see us all on the day. As always our Year 8's did us proud, despite the torrential downpour that day, behaviour was impeccable and we received positive feedback from the hosts after the event. Thank you Year 8, you represented St John's superbly.

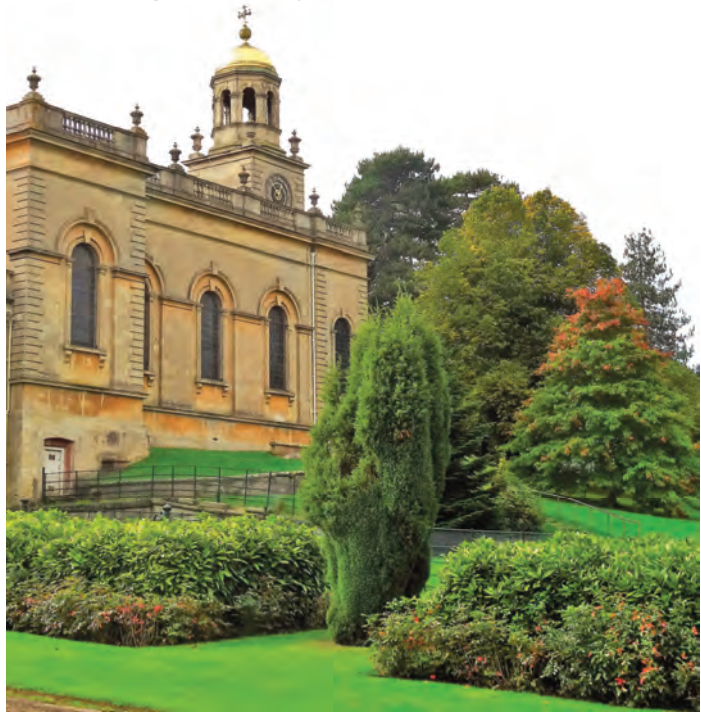
Christmas preparations are underway all around school and Christmas dinner at Bromsgrove School will be a lovely new addition this year that I'm sure our Year 8's will enjoy.

On that note, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We look forward to welcoming our pupils back in January 2020.



Year 6 Trip to Witley Court



September 17th saw the fourth annual Witley Court art trip. Once again all Year 6 pupils took advantage of the beautiful grounds and buildings taking a series of photographs and making some strong observational drawings.

Pupils said:

"It was really sunny so when the fountain was turned on the water glistened as it fell. It was hard to draw but the photographs look amazing."

"It's been my favourite trip, it's beautiful and I drew some good pictures I'm proud of. I've asked my mum and dad to take me back again soon"



2019 / 20 Music Mark School Member

We are very proud to announce that we have been awarded the School Members Music Mark 2019/20.

The Music Mark works to enable members, and the wider music education sector, to deliver high-quality musical and social outcomes for all children and young people.

We were nominated, and supported financially by Severn Arts (formerly known as Worcestershire Youth Music). They recognised the value that we place on music and requested that we become a Music Mark School Member.

Our staff work extremely hard to ensure that pupils are able to access and engage with a high-quality music education and our dedication to offering and delivering a broad and balanced curriculum has been welcomed and celebrated through gaining this award.



INFLUENCING
SUPPORTING &
CONNECTING

On 27th November Year 8 students visited MAZAK, a large factory based in Worcester. The company have several factories across the world but this is the only one in Europe. They design and manufacture large, high end CNC machines.

These machines can turn, mill and laser impressively large chunks of metal.

Starting prices are around £60,000 with the largest ones priced at around 3 or 4 million each!

The children learnt about the history of the company and its role in this modern technological world. They were allowed to handle a selection of metal objects produced on CNC machines to see if they could guess what the objects were, one being a metal knee replacement.

The pupils were then given a guided tour of the factory by a group of young apprentices and finished up in a large showroom filled with a variety of CNC machines, the end product!

So MAZAK make machines that make machines! This is the second year that we have taken the pupils to the factory and the children again enjoyed it very much, gaining a useful insight into one aspect of engineering, as well as life generally in the world of working in a factory.

"The day was an inspiring event that many other children would enjoy. The factory was bigger than expected and very interesting. Overall an amazing event. Thank you MAZAK."

Lilly Carless – 8NB

"It was really interesting to see what jobs would be available when we leave school. The best part was the lasers, there were sparks flying everywhere! A wonderful experience."

Olivia Harvey – 8RSE



One hundred and ten pupils ventured to London over two Thursdays to learn how to 'Stick it to the Man!' as this year's London trip saw the pupils go and see School of Rock. The day started early with a visit to the Science Museum with the pupils looking around the special exhibit, Top Secret, which was all about spying through history right up to modern day cyber security, GCHQ and seeing if the pupils could crack the various codes to reveal the secret messages. After the Science Museum was the sightseeing tour which was expertly guided by Miss Devey on the first trip and Mr Roberts on the second, both seem to have another career to fall back on if they decide teaching isn't for them anymore. Then came the main event, School of Rock. What a performance it was, from the first scene to the last the energy was fantastic and the performers truly rocked! Despite it being a long day all the pupils were a real credit to the school and lots of memories were made.



A Trip to London



"Snow White" at the artrix



We are delighted to announce that the following pupils will all be appearing in the annual pantomime at the Artrix Arts Centre, Bromsgrove: Olivia Husbands 7JS Bella Bateson 7MAR Alivia Faulkner 6GM Verity Culleton 5KD. The performances will take place between 14th and 22nd December and if you would like to go along to watch the show tickets are available from the Artrix Box Office – Break a leg girls!



Eco committee

If you have any used batteries at home and would like to dispose of them please send them into school with your child who can then put them in the box outside the ICT room. Thank-you.

We are also collecting crisp packets, as each one takes 80 years to de-compose, so if children would like to bring those in as well, we can deal with those too !



ParentMail

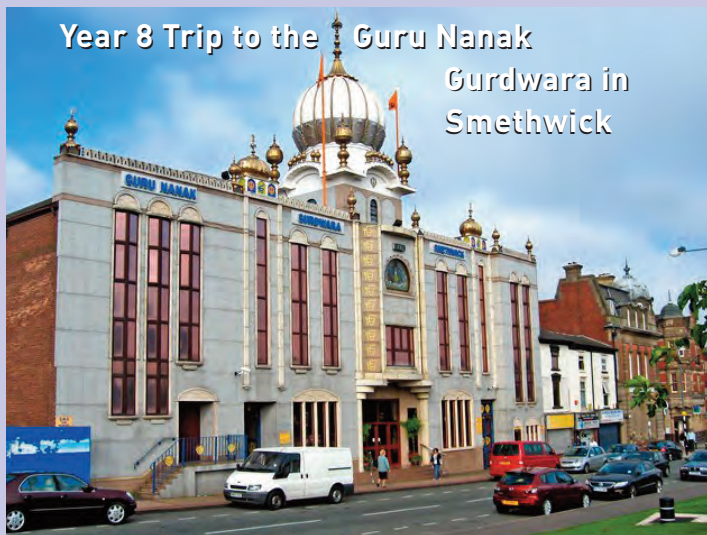


As we look forward to a new term, we would like to remind all parents / guardians to ensure they are registered to use ParentMail.

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.

Year 8 Trip to the Guru Nanak Gurdwara in Smethwick



On Wednesday 28th September some Year 8 pupils visited the Gurdwara in Smethwick. This trip was arranged as many of us were disappointed not to get on last term's trip.

Getting the opportunity to visit the Gurdwara is a memory that I will always be extremely fond of and a chance I will always be grateful for. It was an inspirational trip, in my opinion.

We were welcomed by two members of the Gurdwara who asked us to remove our footwear. Before we arrived we had fixed scarves over our hair as a mark of respect. Once we were ready, our hosts kindly showed us around the Gurdwara. We visited several prayer rooms, a gallery of paintings portraying key moments in Sikh history, the dining hall and a screening room.



Throughout our tour, our guides provided us with in-depth knowledge on the Gurdwara, its contents and the Sikh religion. We were told about the Gurus and were shown the Guru Granth Sahib- the Sikh Holy Book. We were graciously granted access to the prayer hall and witnessed some Sikh prayers.

In the screening room a video was shown which further educated us on everything to do with the Sikh religion. We will retain this knowledge for a great length of time. When lunchtime arrived we were welcomed into the Langar hall and were given a delicious meal. This consisted of two different curries, bread and a rice dessert. We sat on the floor with all members of the community.

I enjoyed the trip a great deal and it was a very educational morning.

By Isabelle Crunden 8NB



"Safeguarding Information" – School Gates

We would just like to clarify that the change for the opening time of the school gates is due to safeguarding procedures in respect to children that attend breakfast club and the staff that are in school. Unfortunately, we have had several adults enter the school via the pupil gates despite the signs asking all visitors to report to reception. On these occasions the visitor was not a risk to our children but that might not always be the case. We therefore need to ensure that the gates are supervised by adults to make sure that this can't happen again. Our teaching staff attend meetings from 8.15am and their directed time for supervision of children on their duty day is 8.40am, hence the time we can take responsibility for the children on our premises. We can offer breakfast club from 7.50am for children who need to arrive earlier to school at a small cost and will of course monitor the gate situation closely. As always thank you for your support.

Mrs Elwell-Thomas, Head of School

Fundraising

Children in need raised **£590.95**

Rosie Lee 8NB – Held a bake sale and raised an amazing **£332.20**

for Ladies Fighting Breast Cancer. Well done Rosie !



Cheerleading Fundraising

During the final two weeks of the Autumn Term the cheerleaders held a Christmas fundraiser in the hope that they could raise enough funds to be able to enter the into a National competition to be held in March 2020. The funds would be used for competition fees, transport and costumes. They organised a raffle and a 'guess how many sweets in the jar' for all pupils, The drawn took place on Tuesday 17th December and we will report back in the next newsletter as to how much they were able to raise – Good luck girls!



South Bromsgrove High School – Eisteddfod

Once again our Year 8 pupils were invited up to South Bromsgrove High School to watch the rehearsals of this year's Eisteddfod Festival on Thursday 14th November 2019, which always proves most enjoyable.

The afternoon consisted of a variety of drama and music performances. It was a lovely afternoon and great for our pupils to have a sample of High School Life and the opportunities for those interested in Music and Drama. Past pupils were pleased to see us and it was fantastic as always to be invited!

Reading Competition:

The reading competition will start again after Christmas. Earn reading points in registration and English lessons to be the top in the school! The top two children from each form will be invited on a reading reward trip in the summer term.

Last year the trip was to Harry Potter World but where will the surprise destination be this year? To be revealed at a later date. Get reading to earn those reading points!

Miss S Young - class teacher

Gifted and Talented Young Artists

Year 8 Gifted and Talented pupils in Art considered images from wars and those who fought in them to produce this piece which they decided to call. 'The Darkness of War'- Artists: Raajan Judge, Matthew Blundell, Anya Matrix and Kye Loynes pictured here on the right.

Also during the school enrichment day some of the year 6 and 8 Gifted and Talented artists produced some stunning work inspired by war, pictured below. They considered, texture, colour and iconic images. The pupils worked brilliantly together and have their work displayed around the school.



Success for Toby!

Over the summer holiday Toby Ward, 7MAR, competed in the County's tennis championship and won all his matches to become the 12U county champion. Toby knocked the number one seed out during the semi finals and then went on to play a flawless match in the final against his County team mate. Toby won 6-3 6-0 a great performance and fabulous result. Well done Toby!



Humanities Enrichment Day - 15th November

On Friday 15th November the school held a Humanities Enrichment day. The day embraced 'literacy across the curriculum', with the subject content provided by Mr. McEvilly Head of History and Mr. Hirst, Head of Geography.

Key Stage 2 pupils spent the day exploring the theme of Fair Trade. They began by attending an assembly on the topic, delivered by Mr. Hirst, before returning to their classrooms where each class was allocated a particular Fair Trade product to research. They then completed a series of activities, which would help them to complete the main activity - an illustrated narrative poem based on the theme of Fair Trade.

Key Stage 3 pupils explored the theme 'Shot at Dawn', considering whether or not the executions were justified and whether the heroes ever really received justice. They then analysed a range of World War poetry before producing their own illustrated narrative poem in the form of a short book, based on the theme.

In addition to the above, Mrs Davenport and Miss Sedgwick also ran art workshops during the day.



Praise Indeed !

Letter from Helen Marsh, Library Customer Adviser, Worcestershire County Council

"I am writing to highlight the valuable contribution your pupils have made in the local community over the summer holidays.

Each year Bromsgrove Library takes part in the Summer Reading Challenge, a national event to encourage young children to keep reading over the summer holidays.

Libraries recruit young volunteers aged between 12 and 22 to help deliver the Summer Reading Challenge.

They register children, keep records, and most of all act as reading ambassadors, talking to young children about their books and encouraging them in their enjoyment of books.



This year young volunteers in Bromsgrove gave a total of 469 hours of their time and helped 300 children to take part in the challenge.

The volunteers from St John's Middle School were:
Emma Chance - Naomi Curtis - Aiden Moore - Lily-Mae Venn - Jack Wright - Aimee Wood

While the library will be holding an event to celebrate their contribution, I thought you might like the opportunity to recognise their achievement and selfless giving of their free time over the summer break.

Kind Regards

Helen"

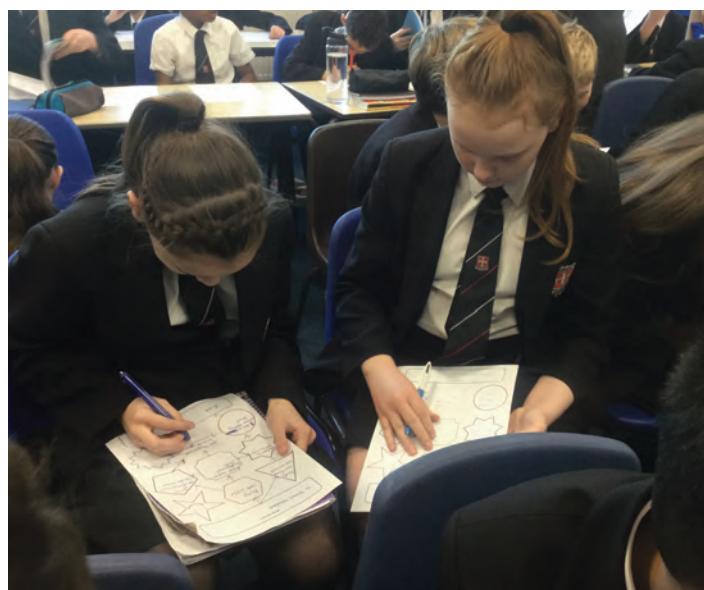
Year 7 Careers Workshop

On 4th December Annabel Collins from Worcester University came in to talk to us about careers. She told us about a range of courses that you could do at University and we had to think about the career that we might like and the route that we might go down to reach our goal.

I (Connor) said that I would like to be an author and I'm planning to study English and computing in the future. I like the idea of being an author because it's one job where you can express your imagination and have other people enjoy your ideas too.

I (Frankie) would like to be a mechanical engineer for the Royal Air Force. I like building and messing about with cogs and engines so I think that I would enjoy the work. It is a very important job in the RAF. We enjoyed seeing the variety of jobs, hearing that you don't need to choose at a young age and knowing that you can decide your future for yourself.

By Connor Gibbs (7MM0) and Frankie Brewer (7MM0)



Assembly on Knife Crime

As part of the national on-going Knife Crime prevention awareness campaign, pupils were visited by PC Neil Sharpe who delivered a hard hitting assembly emphasising the dangers of knife crime. PC Sharpe was keen to stress that Bromsgrove is a very safe area to live but wanted to raise awareness to our pupils in KS3 about making the right choices when it comes to carrying a knife and what to do if they know someone has a knife. PC Sharpe's informative presentation, helped to clarify some misconceptions around knife crime, explained how young people can stay safe and talked through the effects on everyone involved in a knife crime incident. During PC Sharp's talk the children watched some carefully selected videos that really hit the message home with regards to how devastating knife crime can be to both the victim and

perpetrator, their families, friends and wider community. If you have any concerns about knife crime, would like further information or want to report an offence please contact one of the numbers or websites below.

 West Mercia Police www.westmercia.police.uk Webchat us or report crime online	 CrimeStoppers 0800 555 111 100% anonymous, always
 West Mercia Police 101 – In a non-emergency 999 – In an emergency	 Victim Support 0808 1689 111 www.victimsupport.org.uk
 Childline 0800 111 Online, on the phone, anytime	 Fearless www.fearless.org Anonymous, 24/7

#lifeorknife

Visit by Bishop-Designate of Dudley

On Monday 4th November, St John's was thrilled to host a visit from the newly announced Bishop-Designate of Dudley, the Venerable Martin Gorick (currently Archdeacon of Oxford), accompanied by Dr John Inge, The Bishop of Worcester and Margaret James, Diocesan Director of Education. Our guests toured part of the school, answered questions posed by some of our pupil worship-leaders, and took part in Collective Worship with Year 5 where we considered what it means to be 'Wonderfully Made', reflected whilst listening to the choir perform 'Kyrie Eleison' and collectively sang 'O God You Search Me and You Know Me' by Bernadette Farrell, which Archdeacon Martin told us was one of his favourites! A huge congratulations to the soon-to-be Bishop of Dudley from all at St John's! Miss Russell – Head of Music and Worship "We were delighted to host the new Bishop Designate of Dudley, it was an honour and a privilege to share his special day and the children very much enjoyed meeting both him and Bishop John, the Bishop of Worcester. We wish Bishop Martin every success in his new role." Geraint Roberts, Headteacher, St John's Middle School





BRANDON HUNT, a singer songwriter from Scunthorpe, tipped by the BBC to be the next George Ezra, visited school as part of the PSHCE programme.

During an assembly on Friday 8th November a solo musician, Brandon Hunt, was invited in to give a talk and musical performance to KS3.

Brandon's talk was linked to his own experiences of suffering an injury that left him unable to pursue the career of a professional dancer. He reflected personally on the affect this had on his mental health, the reality of his struggles and his recovery.

The importance of staying safe online was a clear message in Brandon's talk and the pupils reflected on key elements including avoiding sharing information, not giving personal details out and protecting devices.

Issues relating to cyberbullying were also discussed and Brandon urged pupils to speak to someone if they are uncomfortable with anything happening online. These reflections on positive relationships were well received by the pupils and many commented on the fact that they related to Brandon's message given his closeness in age and life experiences.

As part of the visit, the pupils also had the opportunity to watch Brandon perform his own songs and work from other prominent artists.

"I really enjoyed his performance and his story was really emotive. It was also really inspiring- imagine the perseverance necessary to continue after losing your dream! His song choices were really good and I could tell that everybody had fun listening to his voice. Overall, a really great performance!"

Olivia Harvey-8RSE

"I really enjoyed Brandon's performance, he was really inspiring and he had come to perform for such a good cause. I liked his voice and how he sang- you could tell he really meant what he was saying. The way he spoke was inspiring too, and his job is very cool!"

Matthew Blundell- 8RSE



Football

Football has again been a hugely popular club across all year groups. Year 5 have been working really hard with Mr Hill and are looking in excellent shape for some friendly football festivals in 2020. Year 6 continue their training with Jon Newton and his highly skilled team and have a County cup game against Alvechurch Middle school to look forward to in the New Year.

Year 7 and 8 clubs have been well attended with a number of cup fixtures already completed. Both the Year 7 and 8 'A' teams lost very narrowly on penalties to St Bede's and Tudor Grange respectively in the ESFA national cup. The Year 8 'B' team lost to a very strong Sandwell Academy side in the same competition. There was more joy in the County cup with the Year 8's defeating Woodfield High School 2-0. They will meet Alvechurch again in the next round. The boys will have plenty of friendly fixtures from January onwards and plenty of chances to represent the school.

Girls football continues to be popular at St John's with good numbers attending our after school club. The girls have also enjoyed playing their national cup games.

Netball

We have had nearly 100 girls attending netball over our two evenings which is fantastic. Some of the pupils have already played some friendly matches and all our teams are looking very strong!

Sports Council

Our sports council reps have once again offered some valuable insights which the PE department are looking to implement. Following feedback we will be installing clocks in the gym and changing rooms. They also suggested some after school club activities such as self-defence and aerobics which we are now looking into offering over the spring or summer term.

Sports Leaders

Once again, boys and girls from Year 8 have been selected to act as sports leaders for the coming year. They have already attended a number of events and received rave reviews from the people running them. In 2020 they will also continue to organise and officiate at local sporting events.

This year Mr Cowdery has also launched our Junior Sports Leader programme. This team is made up of Year 7 students who will be responsible for organising in-school sports events and helping to get pupils active on the playground during lunchtimes. Thank you to all those who signed up.

Rugby

Well done and thank you to all the children who continue to commit and represent the school in rugby. We are really pleased that Steve Husbands continues to lead rugby sessions for us. The rain has not been kind to us this term and our pitches are looking rather water logged! Fingers crossed for less rain after Christmas when we plan to launch our Year 5 rugby club.

Inter House Cross Country

Over 180 pupils volunteered to take part in the inter-house cross country competition !! KS2 ran 900m and KS3 ran 1.25km.

Despite the wet and cold weather, many turned out to run the distance and the whole school results were as follows.

Position	House Points
1st STUART	236
2nd WINDSOR	238
3rd TUDOR	325
4th HANOVER	357

District Cross Country

We took almost 70 children to Bromsgrove School to compete in the District Cross Country. There were some fantastic individual performances and we eagerly await the overall team results. These will be shared in the next edition of the Red Sweater Letter.

Well done to the following participants who performed particularly well.

Ollie Edrop 1st in Year 6 boys
Leo Cerrone 3rd in Year 6 boys
Olivia Walker 10th in Year 6 girls
Max Carter 8th in Year 7 boys
Lucy Stewart 5th in Junior completion (Year 8/9 girls)

A special well done to Lucy Stewart who represented Herford and Worcestershire earlier this year helping the team to finish 5th overall.

Sports Colours

Next term we will begin awarding Team Colours for students in Years 7 and 8.

Students could be awarded with a badge or tie if they are selected. The award of colours should be the ultimate accolade for any student at St John's Middle School. It should be the goal that they strive for and as such are a wonderful motivational tool. Here is a reminder of the criteria. The teacher in charge of a sport may nominate a student in their particular sport who has played regularly for the 1st team (A team), noting the following considerations:

- The student has shown particular commitment to the sport throughout their school career.
- The student has shown good leadership skills and qualities.
- The student has shown greater ability to work together well with his peers in a team context than might otherwise be expected.
- The student has shown high levels of dedication and determination to succeed in an individual or team sport.
- The student has to have set an exceptional example: they have been a good 'role model' for the rest of the school.
- The student has to have been consistently highly motivated and shown a positive attitude towards his sport in both training and in matches.

B and C team players are also awarded for the commitment with a positive postcard / certificate.

We look forward to giving out our first round of badges in February.

This term we decided that three pupils were ready to receive their full sports colours tie. Congratulations to **Lucy Stewart, Charlotte Whitehurst and Henry Parsons.**



Come and catch the spirit of Christmas

Services leading up to Christmas

Sunday December 1st 6pm

DARKNESS TO LIGHT

candlelit service, with music & readings

Wednesday December 11th 6.30pm

COMMUNITY CAROL SERVICE

Sunday 15th 5pm

CHRISTINGLE

Sunday 22nd 6pm

NINE LESSONS & CAROLS

Christmas Eve Tuesday 24th

5pm - **SCRATCH NATIVITY**

Children come in nativity costumes for this fun filled service

11.30pm **MIDNIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE**

Christmas Day Weds 25th

9.15am- **CHRISTMAS COMMUNION**

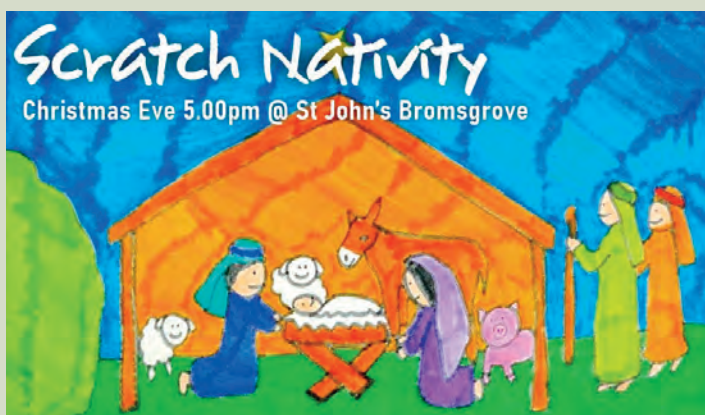
@ St Andrew's Charford

10.45am- **FAMILY SERVICE**

@ St John's Bromsgrove

There will be lots in this newsletter celebrating the achievements of the pupils and school in many areas. It is important to recognise and celebrate those achievements. But I also know that there are achievements that will not be there. The way a pupil has managed to control their temper or cope with frustration; a pupil that offers friendship and support; a teacher that has gone the extra mile to support a pupil or a lunchtime member of staff who sticks around with a pupil who is a very slow eater. These things are equally important and celebrated, but may not appear all the time in a newsletter. These "small things" often underpin the "big things", they reveal the values and ethos,

the care and attention of the whole school community. And this is one of the things that underpins the Christmas story, there are the big things, Emperors, Kings, Governors, large cities and a superpower. But these are not the important things, it is the small things. A teenage girl who says yes to God; a man who tries to do the good thing; a baby born in a stable and those who get interrupted on a night shift. These "small things" are what makes up the story of Christmas, without them we just get the usual history. So this Christmas don't neglect the "small things", the cheap gift that someone saved to give you or the act of kindness a stranger gives. These make the sparkle of Christmas. But even more don't overlook that strange small boy born in a stable, who would one day grow up and show us the meaning of love and the nature of God. May you all have a most blessed Christmas and I hope that our paths cross at one of our Christmas services at St. John's - **Reverend Ray Khan - Parish of Bromsgrove**



DATES for your DIARY

Autumn Term Ends Thursday 19th December 2019 - 3:15 p.m.

Teacher Education Day Friday 20th December 2019

Spring Term starts Monday 6th January 2020 - 8:50 a.m.

School play - "Paws & Claws"

Wednesday 12th February 2020 School hall 7:00 p.m.

School play - "Paws & Claws"

Thursday 13th February 2020 School hall 7:00 p.m.

Half Term Monday 17th to Friday 21st February 2020 inc.

Parents Evening Tuesday 24th March 2020 3:30 - 7:00p.m.

Parents Evening Thursday 26th March 2020 3:30 - 7:00p.m.

Parents Evening Monday 30th March 2020 3:30 - 7:00p.m.

End of Spring Term Friday 3rd April 2020 - 3:15 p.m.