

# THE RED SWEATER LETTER

A newsletter from St. John's Middle School



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## Message from Head of School

By Mr. H. Cheuk - Acting Headteacher

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am delighted to welcome our pupils back to school for another exciting half term.

We are now more than halfway through the school year and it has been as eventful as ever at St. John's. We are currently focused on preparing our pupils for their upcoming SATs examinations, and they are diligently working to meet the challenges of this important assessment.

I am delighted to report that our school's World Book Day celebration was a great success. Our students and staff members showed great enthusiasm and creativity in celebrating the joy of reading and the power of storytelling. More on this in the next edition of the Red Sweater Letter.



## Continued ...

Parents evenings will take place this half term and you will be provided with your second interim report of the year to ensure you know how your child is progressing. This report will be made available to you before parents evening so that you are well informed and are able to prioritise the appointments most relevant to your child's performance. We value your partnership in this process.

We continue to place a strong emphasis on the social and emotional wellbeing of our pupils. We believe that every child deserves a safe and supportive learning environment, and we are committed to promoting positive relationships, kindness, and respect amongst our pupils.

In addition to academic work, we have a wide range of extracurricular activities and events planned for your child throughout this half term including Bikeability, Easter Church service, trip to Worcester Cathedral, author visit and eco enrichment afternoon to name a few. These activities are designed to help your child develop their interests, talents, and social skills, and we encourage your child to take advantage of these opportunities.

Once again, I want to welcome you and your child to the new half term, and I wish you all a successful and fulfilling term ahead.

## Dates for the Diary

Bikeability  
*6th - 31st March*

*Parents Evening*  
*27th March*

7JD & 7MH Worcester Cathedral Trip  
*Monday 6th March*

*Eco Enrichment Afternoon*  
*28th March*

Oakerwood Information Evening  
*Tuesday 7th March*

Rehearsals  
*Thursday 30th March*

7JAB, 7WW & 7PM Worcester Cathedral Trip  
*Friday 17th March*

Easter Service  
*Friday 31st March*

Sports Relief  
*Friday 17th March*

**EASTER HOLIDAYS**  
***Monday 3rd - Friday 14th April***

Parents Evening  
*23rd March*

Start of Summer Term  
*Monday 17th April*

Peter Bunzl Author Visit  
*24th March*

# Collective Worship

By Miss C. Russell

On Wednesday 22nd February 2023 the church celebrated Ash Wednesday and entered into the season of Lent. During this time, we recall Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness, and the forty years the people of Israel spent wandering in the desert after their escape from slavery in Egypt. Lent is a time of waiting; but it isn't a stationary waiting; it is an active preparation, looking ahead to the events of Holy Week where we will journey with Jesus through the Last Supper, the Garden of Gethsemane, his arrest, crucifixion, and death; and then into the joy of Easter Sunday morning as we greet Our Lord risen from the tomb.

Lets take some time to reflect...

...think about the things that we've read today....

....Jesus spent 40 days in the desert and lived his life putting others first....

...Lent is a time when people who are Christians will try to follow the example of Jesus....

....over this week, and maybe for longer, we could try to do some good for others using the ideas we've talked about....

....or find some new ways of our own....

....I wonder how this might change our world?....

....think quietly to yourself for a few moments now....

*Here is a prayer that's been written especially for Lent. You might like to make it your own, or prefer to continue to be quiet with your own thoughts.*

*Loving God,*

*Help us to work together to share what we have, so that everyone has what they need. Help us to build a better world, where each of us can become the best person we can be. Help us to live differently during this season of Lent.*

*Amen*

*[based on a prayer written by CAFOD]*





## Epraise points

Tutor group	Points
5CW	13715
5MJ	13325
5CGO	13085
5AAL	13025
5SW	12950
5AKE	12949

6GM	12985
6ALK	12881
6RSE	12826
6CSS	12819
6BC	12233
6KD	11840

7PM	13125
7JD	12843
7JAB	12776
7MH	12225
7WW	11897

8MF	12446
8JCD	11947
8MMO	11946
8MC	10985
8KLN	10499
8NGE	10188



## Chocolate Tiffin



### METHOD

#### STEP 1

Butter and line a 15-20cm tin with baking parchment. In a large saucepan, melt the butter, sugar, syrup and cocoa. Stir through the biscuits and raisins.

#### STEP 2

Pour the mixture into the prepared tin and press down, then smooth the top with the back of a spoon. Microwave both chocolates in short 20 second bursts, stirring frequently, until melted. Pour them over the mixture in the tin. Use a palette knife or spoon to smooth over, so it's completely coated in chocolate.

#### STEP 3

Put the tin into the fridge and leave for about 2 hrs to set, or overnight. Run a kitchen knife under the hot tap then cut into squares.

### INGREDIENTS

- 150g butter, cubed, plus extra for the tin
- 3 tbsp caster sugar
- 3 tbsp golden syrup
- 6 tsp cocoa powder
- 225g biscuits, crushed
- handful of raisins
- 110g milk chocolate
- 110g dark chocolate

# Heads of Year Message

By Mrs C. Hirons - Head of Year 6

As we head towards the summer term, it is lovely to see the light returning to our days and small signs of spring erupting around us. It certainly felt like a long half term, but there have been so many fantastic things happening around school that we have been able to celebrate.

We were delighted to invite SPOZ back into school for our Year 7 'Poetry Slam', it was a great opportunity for our pupils to show off some of their greater hidden talents and perform in front of their peers. On 17th February the pupils were reminded about internet safety with our 'Safer Internet' assembly and this coincided with mental health week with our 'Dress to Express' day, where the pupils were invited to wear an item of clothing that allowed them to express one element of their personality. Along with the wealth of extra-curricular clubs that have taken place before and after school, it certainly has been a busy half term for our pupils.

Our pupils continue to excel when it comes to following expectations and overall, they have achieved over 230,000 house points since September, with 5CW taking the top spot for the highest number by class.

As we are now half way through the school year, please could you check with your child that they have the correct uniform and equipment ready for their return to school on Monday 27th February. The basic equipment they need every day includes: a blue handwriting pen, pencils, ruler, a sharpener, rubber, glue stick and scissors. They must also come to school in the correct uniform or PE kit, with no makeup, nail varnish and no jewellery other than a watch and one pair of earrings.

Please could you also remind your child that although we allow mobile phones to be brought into school, they must be switched off once they come through the school gate and must not be used in school under any circumstances. We ask this in order to ensure that all pupils and staff in school are safe. If you need to get a message to your child, please contact our office who will be more than happy to help.

We thank you for your ongoing support.

“

*BE A  
RAINBOW  
IN  
SOMEONE  
ELSE'S  
CLOUD*

”

# P.E Update

By Mr. M. Cowdery - Head of PE

As we pass the mid-point of the term, we in the PE department are delighted to see the warmer weather returning and our outdoor facilities becoming more accessible. Pupils have now completed their second unit of the term. Dance and healthy lifestyles have been taking place within the gym and hall whilst games lessons have continued outside. It is always our aim to offer pupils a wide and diverse curriculum to allow them to develop a passion for being physically active and healthy.

Extra-curricular clubs have continued to be popular amongst students. We are delighted to have established a relationship with Legacy Martial Arts Club who have been holding sessions for our KS2 pupils. We are extremely fortunate to have so many dedicated members of staff who are willing to give their time to offer the opportunities we do. We are beginning to plan for our summer programme of after school sport and will be circulating this to parents in the next few weeks.

Children have this term been competing in the regional Indoor Athletics competitions at South Bromsgrove High School. All of our pupils showed fantastic effort and perseverance and were a real credit to the school. Our KS2 Boys and Girls teams both finished 3rd whilst our Year 7 Boys team also won bronze in their competition. Our highlight was the Year 8 Boys who came a very close second to Aston Fields in their competition. All pupils can be very proud of their commitment and achievements.

Our Year 8 and Year 5 netball teams have completed their district competitions. All players played with great spirit and enthusiasm and were a credit to the school and to their coaches Lorraine and Caitlin.

The Year 5 team even managed a third place finish in their competition which for a newly formed team was hugely impressive.

The PE diary looks very busy in the weeks and months to come. We have our Year 5 bikeability sessions, more District Netball competitions and County Cup football fixtures which will be sure to keep all pupils and teachers on their toes.

Finally, we would like to welcome Mr Downing into our department. Mr Downing is a student teacher who joins us for his second placement from South Bromsgrove High School. He has already made an excellent impression on the pupils he has been working with and we wish him a very happy time at St John's.

## Tweets from @sjmspe

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St John's Middle PE & Sport Retweeted



**Bromsgrove Swim Club** @Bromsgrove\_SC · Feb 20

What a lovely bunch! Well done to all of our swimmers that did Bromsgrove SC proud at the Worcestershire County Championships 2023!



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**St John's Middle PE & Sport** @sjmspe · Feb 22

It's been great fun having our friends from @LegacyMAFamily in school over the last 6 weeks. The children have really loved the sessions and embracing the black belt attitude. Looking forward to the next sessions already #GiveOfYourBest



# Poetry Slam

By Miss K. Devey - Head of English

On 27th January, Year 7 pupils at St John's Middle School once again welcomed two poets in to school for the ever-popular annual Poetry Slam day! Special guest poets Spoz and Kurly worked with students, inspiring and supporting them to create their own pieces of original performance poetry. There were some excellent final pieces, making it a very difficult decision picking a winner. Our victorious group will go forward to perform on stage at the Palace Theatre in Redditch in March! Well done to all Year 7 pupils who took part!



# Safer Internet Day

By Mr. B. Clements - Head of ICT

On Tuesday the 7th February was Safer Internet Day. It was a day that was to promote discussion around online safety, as well as ways in which the internet can be used to help us. The theme of the day was 'Want to talk about it?' where the children were given the opportunity in computing lessons to talk about how they use the internet, how they stay safe on the internet and what they would like to see happen to the internet in 10 year's time.

# Pastoral Room

By Mrs. K. Gallinagh - Deputy Headteacher

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

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



# Strike Closures

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

Please refer to ParentMail for further details.

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



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



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

email: [ttenquiries@st-johns-bromsgrove.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:ttenquiries@st-johns-bromsgrove.worcs.sch.uk)

tel: 01527 832376



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Tweets from @stjohnsmiddle

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Active Herefordshire & Worcester... @Activ... · Mar 2

In pink, representing the @YourSchoolGames value of passion, we have the schools from North Worcestershire!



@WittonMS @Alvechurch\_PE @WestacreMiddle  
@Catshillmid

