

THE RED SWEATER LETTER

A newsletter from St. John's Middle School



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Train With Us

Message from Head of School

By Mrs A. Elwell - Head of School

Welcome to the latest newsletter.

It is an exciting time of year at St John's with the eagerly anticipated festive season officially starting today, with rooms and offices being decked with decorations, advent calendars being opened and even the appearance of a very mischievous elf. I think he may be receiving a few demerits during the next few weeks!

Since our last newsletter we have been inspected by a team of five Ofsted inspectors and our report has been shared with all parents and officially published. This was a rigorous inspection, with every area of the school being scrutinised and all stakeholders spoken with. We are immensely proud of the complimentary report and graded outcomes of the key areas. The hard work and dedication of the whole St John's team was recognised and should be celebrated. We intend to build upon this success in the future, ensuring St John's continues to perform at such a high level.



cont ...

Over recent weeks we have hosted prospective Year 5 pupils and their parents at our new intake open mornings. We have received fabulous comments about the welcoming atmosphere of the school and the confidence and conduct of the pupils they have met during their visit. I must give a special mention to the Year 8 tour guides who are a credit to the school, I truly believe they could conduct the tours and speak about every part of school life without any staff input. True ambassadors!

We are now looking forward to the end of term activities which include pantomime visits, bowling trips, Key Stage Christmas dinners, award assemblies, church Carol services and not forgetting finishing off this term's learning objectives. A busy few weeks await!

Have a lovely, if not a little chilly weekend.

Heads of Year Message

By Ms R.Bourne

Our Autumn term is nearly at an end; we cannot believe how quickly this term has flown by and our Christmas calendar is filling up fast.

Just a few short weeks left until the most wonderful time of the year and thanks to Epraise our pupils are all striving for positive points. Our trips are highly anticipated and pupils are encouraged to continue earning lots of housepoints in the run up to these end of term treats. Pupils are encouraged to earn points at every opportunity and to think about the choices they make - upholding our school values at every opportunity. Our Christmas dinner at Bromsgrove School is always a lovely event, with lots of smiles and plenty of full tummies! It really does get us into the festive spirit and we know our pupils will thoroughly enjoy themselves.

Furthermore our pupils will be taking part in a Christmas Enrichment day on the 7th so we expect to see lots of festive knitwear as it coincides with Christmas Jumper Day this year. This, along with our visits to Church, really do put smiles on faces and we would like to take this opportunity to thank parents for their continued support with supplying equipment (glue sticks on the list for Santa please this year!) and upholding our excellent reputation as a school.

“

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

”

Year 8 R.E. 'Places of Worship' Trip

By Mrs c. Woodward

On Wednesday 11th and Wednesday 18th October we took ninety-three Year 8 pupils on a 'Places of Worship' trip to Wolverhampton. This trip, which complements and supports the R.E. curriculum, aims to give pupils an understanding of different religions, beliefs and practices, which hopefully, then leads to mutual respect and tolerance.

Our first stop was at Jamia Masjid Aqua Mosque where we were met by the Imam who held our students attention with his gentle, informative manner. Our visit concluded with a tour of the mosque and the significance of its features being pointed out and explained.

The next stop was Guru Teg Bahadur Gurdwara. In one of the prayer halls, after being offered Karah Prasad – a blessed food shared with everyone to show we are all equal – the party was split into two groups. There was so much to see around the Gurdwara and it was very busy with worshippers, it was much easier for the pupils to hear what was being explained to them about Sikhism and worship. Pupils were then taken to the Langar where a vegetable curry was enjoyed by many!

The final destination was Buddha Vihara. This was a smaller temple than the previous two, but our welcome was just as warm. Here pupils listened to an explanation of the beginnings of Buddhism and an example of chanting. A volunteer was asked to light a candle in front of the Shrine as a mark of respect. The light from a humble candle is also said to symbolise the enlightenment of Buddha. Refreshments were offered before we left.

Throughout the whole day we were warmly and enthusiastically welcomed. Each member of the three religions were eager to impart much information about their beliefs and practices. Our Year 8 pupils were amazing and several people commented on how polite, respectful and attentive they were throughout both days. I would like to express my thanks to Wolverhampton Interfaith Forum who helped with the organisation of the trip, Mrs Keepax, a governor who joined us and the staff that accompanied us on the day.

Mrs Woodward



Our Experience of Careers Day

By Edith Plowman and Drew Anna Holder"

Careers day was an amazing experience, and it went from finding out how crime is solved, to seeing how some animals poop, we were also allowed to touch a Giraffes tail. It was great fun, and an experience we will never forget at St Johns school. It was very interesting to learn how structures for new buildings are constructed. Earlier in the day we discovered how sight is made through the lens of glass. They also showed us how these procedures are performed in a factory setting and the effort / hard work the employees put in.

We also learnt how to take a good picture with no shadows and light. All the students had a chance to take a picture and some of the faces pulled were horrendous.

What a day we really enjoyed the experience



The St John's Christmas Bake off

Are you a budding baker and architect?

Then look no further and find out how to enter our Christmas 2023 baking Competition.

We are asking you to design, bake and build a gingerbread house at home and bring it in on the day of the competition. You can be as creative as your imagination lets you!

£1 entry–All money raised will go towards the Design Technology department.

There will be two categories–KS2 and KS3 with prizes available for 1st and 2nd place.

Deadline 20th December



History Department News

By Mr. N. Edwards - Head of History

We have had another busy term in the History department. Year 7 have been busy re-enacting the Battle of Hastings and recreating the Feudal system (Please see photos of a happy King William and some miserable looking peasants). Year 5 have recently experienced the Roman invasion of Britain, making decisions on whether to fight or trade with the invading army. Year 8 have already put King Charles I on trial and are now analysing the significance of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade. Whilst Year 6 are assessing whether the Vikings were merely Bloodthirsty warriors.

Year 7 are also looking forward to their trip to Worcester Cathedral (On 5th and 6th February) after Christmas, when they will be learning about King John, as part of their new unit on Medieval kings.





**CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY
CAMP FOR 9 - 12YRS**

**@ Bromsgrove
Baptist Church,
New Road,
B60 2JD**

**28/29th Dec 2023
3rd, 4th, 5th Jan 2024
9am - 3pm**
Later pick up available for additional cost

To book a place, please
contact Dan Owen via email
do@thehubbromsgrove.org

**ENJOY FOOD,
CRAFTS, SPORTS
& MUSIC!**



**Non HAF places are £12 per child, per day,
20% discount if you book all five days**
A limited number of free places are available for children
in receipt of free school meals. (HAF places)



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