

# West.

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

#### Headteacher's introduction

Dear Parents,

We are over halfway through the school year and it has been as eventful as ever at St. John's. We are busily preparing the pupils for their SATs examinations and they are working hard to meet the challenges of the few format.

We celebrated world book day and the children and staff dressed up as various characters from their favourite books and the image of Mr. Upwood dressed as Snow White with 7 pupils as dwarfs will stay with me for some time!

We not only strive for Academic success but look for a range of opportunities to develop the children at St. John's. In this regard I was delighted and proud to witness our pupils win the "Design an App" competition hosted by Worcestershire University and West Mercia Police. It will be exciting watching their design being developed,

produced and made available for download nationally. There have been significant sporting successes, referred to later in this newsletter, and the new Science prep room has been completed and we now have a full time Science technician. The "Stem" club is now running and we look forward to seeing opportunities for practical science grow.

I would like to thank all the staff for their hard work in providing the range of opportunities available to our pupils. I would also like to thank parents for their unwavering support to St. John's.

I wish everyone an enjoyable Easter and we look forward to welcoming the pupils back on Monday 11th April.



Mr. G. L. Roberts Headteacher



## Design an App Comp



Richard Upwood, Head of Year 7, Chelsea Storey-Jones, Charlotte Lightfoot and Flla Steer.

PUPILS from St. John's CE Middle School in Bromsgrove have snatched first prize with

their childsafety mobile phone app in a Dragons' Den style competition at Worcester University.

The app, designed to teach children how to be safe on the internet and on the streets, was highly praised by the Stay Safe, Be Aware judging panel which included Worcester-based BBC Dragon's Den entrepreneur Neil Westwood and West Mercia police and crime commissioner Bill Longmore.

Year eight students Chelsea Storey-Jones, Charlotte Lightfoot and Ella Steer took home £2,000 for their school and will now work with Worcester University to develop their winning app, named Choice, for public release.

Mr Longmore, said: "I realise we could only pick one winner, but throughout this contest the most pleasing thing for me has been seeing the response of young people. It's clear that they really do care about helping to prevent crime and increase safety, and they have some fantastic ideas to help achieve those goals.

"It's absolutely vital that we work with young people for help and solutions to the issues that affect them, and I am sure everyone

involved in this project has learned a lot which will ultimately help us all in the future."

The event marked the end of the PCC's Stay Safe, Be Aware project with West Mercia schools which saw thousands of pupils designing safety posters and apps targeting cyber and hate crime. Mr Longmore added: "I am very grateful to all the schools and teachers who have bought into this project and worked with us. Teachers already do so much great work to develop our children and turn them into responsible, well-rounded young adults.

#### Richard Upwood - Head of Year 7

A Round of 'App' lause for St John's!

Three year 8 pupils from St John's Middle School scooped the top prize at a recent 'Design an App' competition, run by West Mercia Police and held at The University of Worcester. After being selected as finalists within school, Charlotte Lightfoot, 13, Chelsea Storey-Jones, 13, and Ella Steer, 12, attended the finals on Thursday 11th February, having fought off 40 other entries in the county wide contest, and went on to win £2000 for their school with their educational App 'Choice', aimed at teenagers.

Head of Year 7, Richard Upwood, who launched the competition in school and supported the girls in their application, said: 'We are immensely proud of the girls, this is a massive achievement and a credit to their hard work and dedication and I look forward to seeing their app launched this summer. Well done girls!' The App 'Choice' will now be designed by the University's media team at Worcester and launched in App Store and be available nationwide for pupils facing the challenges of teenage life.)

# Update from the Year groups



Year

It seems incredible to say, but we are already rapidly approaching the summer term. September and the brand new start seems a long time ago now with year 5 well and truly settled as St. John's pupils.

Many are now looking forward with great excitement to the year 5 trips to Malvern in

May and June – an evening for parents of those going on the trips will be held early in the summer term to give more details and for the necessary paperwork to be filled in.

In school, recent events have included the fantastic World Book Day fancy dress, with many of year 5 making a huge effort to come as their favourite character. Many keen readers also took the opportunity to find something new to read in the book swap event.

In the last few weeks we have also had more recipients of the Headteacher's Awards with Jack Wright and Katie Irons being acknowledged for their excellent effort and attitude to learning, whilst Marshall Jones and Lucy Cashmore were more recent recipients for their consistent positive behaviour and hard work.

In other achievements, 5MR are currently leading the way on the House points chart with Windsor House still out in front with the most House points collectively in Year 5.

Mr. D. Owen - Head of Year 5



#### Year 6

As we rapidly approach the new National Curriculum tests in May 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 to more pupils than ever before extra help and

support in the build up towards May, I would like to pass on my sincere thanks to all staff and year 8 pupils for giving up their time to pass on their knowledge. We will also be offering for the first time ever a day's extra tuition for year 6 pupils during the Easter Holidays to help boost their subject knowledge.

However it is not all work and no play in year 6. We enjoyed a very fun Christmas Disco helping raise funds for our year group charity, CLIC Sargent. Some of the dancing was very interesting to say the least (the less said about Mr Cowdery's the better) and the whole disco singing along to Frozen was the clear highlight of the night. We also have the Paris and Drayton Manor trips to look forward to after the May tests, both of these will be a great treat after working so hard.

The current class with the most Housepoints are 6MC with an impressive 5630, working out as an average of 194 per pupil. 6SY have the highest number of stamps as a class with a pupil average of 525 stamps per pupil. 6CH top our class attendance charts with an average attendance of 97.90%. Well done to all three classes for topping the leader boards, but there is still plenty of time left for all to change before the end of year 6.

Finally everyone associated with Year 6 would like to with Mrs Hirons all the best when she attempts the London Marathon, she has worked very hard to get ready for the race and been a real inspiration to everyone in the year group showing what hard work and determination can achieve.



ear 7

The Year 7 class league tables are still being hotly contested, the winners for December to February are as follows,

House Points – 7SD with 1224

Stamps – 7KC with 4335 (93.5%)

Attendance - 7JD with 98.5%

Congratulations to the winning classes and remember it there is a reward trip for the wining class in each category during the summer term.

Year 7 is buzzing this term with many pupils involved in Tenner challenge! We have lots going on including cake sales, car washing, craft items and much more! See our Tenner article for more information.

With only 8 weeks to go, 90 odd year 7 pupils are looking forward to an action-packed PGL week at Boreatton Park in May, and following the recent Parents' Information Evening, should have now started to prepare their kit. If parents or pupils have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

I would like to remind all pupils in year 7 that may consider applying to become Head boy/girl, prefects and sports captains next year that we are already watching you. With so many excellent pupils in the year group we expect competition for the roles to be fierce - what can you do to stand out from the rest?

Mr. R. Upwood - Head of Year 7



'ear 8

Well the weeks have flown by here in Year 8 with us already hurtling towards the end of our second term. We were incredibly proud of our year 8 girls, Charlotte Lightfoot, Ella Steer and Chelsea Storey-Jones, who won West Mercia Police's 'Design an App' competition with the support of Mr Upwood on February 11th, and we eagerly

await the launch of their App 'Choice' by the media team at Worcester University this summer.

Once again year 8 hosted the wonderful 'Spoz' and 'Dreadlock Alien' for our annual 'Poetry Slam' on 2nd March 2016. Our pupils were converted from poetry phobics to poetry addicts within the space of a few short hours. RAP competitions throughout the day culminated in a grand finale, where four groups battled it out to go through to the next round, held at The Palace Theatre, Redditch on 26th April.

The winning team 'The Lyrical Limericks' (Michael Jones, Daniel Read, Sean Ricketts, Georgina Berreen-Worrall, Harriet Vicary, Kira Brookes and Ciara Lane) were chosen with their poem 'Today's World'. Let's hope that they follow in the footsteps of our previous winners, who went on to scoop first prize two years running!

South Bromsgrove High School have extended a warm invitation to our year 8s on 10th March to attend their Eisteddfod event for the afternoon. It's always lovely to see past pupils doing so well and inspiring our current pupils to take up the arts.

Our Skiiers have safely arrived in Risoul this week, with the final miles in the coach only being achieved with the aid of snow chains. Mr Cowdery is having a wonderful time on the slopes and has sent photos of the snow to make us all jealous!

Mrs R. Bourne - Head of Year 8

# **Ash Wednesday Service**



Our Ash Wednesday Service- 10th February 2016

A huge thank you to
The Venerable Nikki
Groarke; Archdeacon
of Dudley, Revd. Ray,
staff, Worship
Leaders, singers and
musicians who
helped us deliver a
wonderful Ash
Wednesday Service
this year ready for
our season of Lent.





Mrs L. Singh, Head of RE and Worship

# **Fundraising**









**KS2 Christmas Disco £ 705.45** raised at school disco. Thank you to all staff who helped and Pupils who attended. Mrs C. Hirons - Year 6 CLIC Sargent Children's Cancer Charity

Christmas Jumper Day - £519.86 - Save the Children World Marathon - £250 - Leukaemia Care World Book Day - £376.48

#### From the Vicar

I would like to thank all the staff and pupils at St. John's school for their warm welcome into the school community. For the last two terms I have been at school visiting classes on a Thursday afternoon and helping out at the school Christian Union. It has been a fantastic experience getting to know the school and I feel deeply honoured that the Church has such a vibrant school attached to it.

The school held its Ash Wednesday service at the church and we had a special guest with us, the Archdeacon of Dudley. She was deeply moved by the whole experience and I do hope that all the boys and girls are managing to keep track with their Lent choices.

Easter is the most important of all festivals, it reminds us of the power of light and the hope of New Life; it is why I am a Christian. The cross where Jesus died is the greatest expression of God's love for you and Jesus rising from the dead should challenge us to take seriously this person called Jesus. Can I encourage you to come to one of our Easter services, on Good Friday we will be having a

morning of activities that come together in an act of worship (there will also be Hot Cross Buns as well!!) and we have the great celebration on Easter morning.

May I wish you all a most happy and holy Easter.

Reverend Ray Khan Parish of Bromsgrove Team Vicar

St John the Baptist & St. Andrew's Charford





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 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!

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, contact Annabel Collins on, a.collins@worc.ac.uk



## **Poetry Slam 2016 Winners**

Once again St John's hosted the wonderful 'Spoz' and 'Dreadlock Alien' for their annual 'Poetry Slam' on 2nd March 2016. Year 8 pupils were converted from poetry phobics to poetry addicts within the space of a few short hours. RAP competitions throughout the day culminated in a grand final, where four groups battled it out to go through to the next round, held at The Palace Theatre, Redditch on 26th April.

The winning team 'The Lyrical Limericks' were chosen with their poem 'Today's World'. Let's hope that they follow in the footsteps of our previous winners, who went on to scoop the prize two years running! Good luck!



# School Council: KS2 – Years 5 & 6

As school council, in our meetings we have discussed a few new things and made suggestions for improvements and new additions to the school. Some changes have already been made, and some are still being considered.

#### **Bike Rack**

We discussed the issue of bike racks and undertook a survey to see how many people thought a bike rack at school would be useful. The number of people who wanted bike racks was quite high. So it has been agreed that the school will investigate the possibility of installing bike racks.

#### Cafeteria food

School council suggested that pupils would like to see new items of food in the cafeteria. We suggested Pizza, Soup, Mash and sausages, Chicken korma and noodles. They were all very popular, but before we ask the Kitchen Manager to consider our proposals we need to come up with a healthy recipe.

#### Clubs

The School council have suggested a more diverse range of clubs at break times. We have already requested a Minecraft club which is now run by our ICT Technician, Mr Chadwick. As the pupils already know, this club is a huge success! "HAPPYDAYS". We are also suggesting that the school introduces a netball club for each year group on a named day.

#### Match attax

We decided that Match attax cards were getting a bit out of hand, so we banned them for a period of time. But as people were being more sensible with them, we decided we would bring them back, but under certain rules. After a discussion, we decided this needed further consideration so nothing concrete was adopted.

By School Council KS2: Max.W, Harmony.S, Tristan.N, Poppy.T-R, Alice.W, Hope.A, Joe.R

## **Maths Scholarship**



Congratulations to Jacob Lynch who has been offered a maths scholarship at the Kip McGrath education centre. This is the second of our pupils to be given this wonderful opportunity

# **Year 5 Malvern Outdoor Centre Trip**

The Year 5 residential trip to Malvern is rapidly approaching and will take place over two weekends; 20th - 22nd May and 10th - 12th June. Pupils will be treated to a fantastic outdoor weekend with the opportunity to learn new skills and experience exciting activities, from orienteering and low ropes to climbing, high wires and canoeing. There will be an evening for parents to come along to and

learn more about the weekends just after the Easter break, with the date to be confirmed.





# **World Book Day**

On Thursday 3rd March the pupils (and staff!) at St John's dressed up as their favourite book characters to celebrate World Book Day. Once again we were bowled over by the response of our pupils, there were so many incredible costumes! Congratulations go to Millie Adams (winner) and Lauren Moss (runner up) in the individual costume competition in KS2, and congratulations to KS3 group costume competition runners up 'Alice in Wonderland' (Holly Deam, Morgan Williams, Lacey Leddington and Tiffany Harris) and winners 'Peter Pan' (Eden Banner, Courtney Johnson, Lani Melvin, Georgia Rundle and Holly Munn).



# **Maths**

The first ever St. John's Maths Wasp (inspired by the recent Spelling Bee) took place last half term, with all children from sets 1 to 4 involved in the first round. There were 4 finalists from each year group who answered quick-fire mental questions against the clock and 4 winners were crowned: Jack Wright (Year 5), Leo Cadman (Year 6), Connor Robinson (Year 7) and Alistair Clarke (Year 8). Leo was the quickest of all, beating the Year 7s and 8s! This competition will be repeated next year.

#### Winners and Finalists





### **Maths**

Year 5 pupils from Sytchampton Primary School visited St. John's pupils on March 1st for a problem solving morning. They collected information to discover the most popular chocolate in the Heroes box and whether gender affected people's choice. They presented their findings in a range of different charts and tables. A great time was had by all involved.







Four pupils from Year 8 (Alistair Clarke, Luke Henning, Jenna Thomasson and Joe Rooney) attended the regional final of the UKMT Team Maths Challenge in Birmingham

on March 8th. The team worked through four challenging rounds against 25 other teams, most of which were made up of Year 9 pupils. We were proud to finish 12th despite our competitors being some of the youngest there.

Lunchtime mentoring for Year 6 pupils has been taking place for the last 13 weeks leading up to the SATs tests in May. Thank you to the Year 7 and



8 pupils who have given up their time for this, it has been really appreciated by the Year 6 children and their families.

Most students in school have been given a login to the Mathletics website. This site can be accessed at home and allows children to play against friends and carry out mathematical activities to earn points. It requires fast-paced thinking and mental calculation and is a great way to improve ability outside school. Please encourage children to try logging onto this at home when possible.

# Magistrates Mock Trial Competition

On Saturday 12th March, fifteen year 8 pupils took part in the local heat of the Magistrates Mock Trial Competition. It was a fantastic day, we competed against ten different schools to act out a trial but two pupils also took part in a separate competition for best court artist and court reporter. Sara Rashid won the court reporter competition and will go forward to the regional finals. Holly Edwards came second as court artist and Morgan Williams was runner up for the most outstanding pupil of the day award. The pupils have been working towards this for 15 weeks and should be very proud of themselves and their commitment throughout.



# **Tenner Challenge @ St Johns**



This year St John's Middle School are running the Tenner competition for the first time and it certainly has created a buzz around the school. We have 13 teams comprising of almost 100 Year 7 and 8 pupils taking part and competition is rife. The challenge? Attempt to run a

sustainable business for 4 weeks starting with just £10 – can they turn that tenner into a profit?

A selection of KS3 students were offered the opportunity to submit a business proposal to Mr Upwood and Miss Pemberton for consideration and as a result the 13 successful teams were given their tenner just before half term. The businesses started trading on 22nd Feb and will run until 24th March with a number of competition challenges along the way.

'Tenner' is a nationwide competition run in partnership with 'Young Enterprise' to find the next generation of budding entrepreneurs. The Tenner Challenge is for young people aged 11-19 who want to get a taste of what it's like to be an entrepreneur. It gives them an opportunity to think of a new business idea and make it happen,

using real money to take calculated risks in the business field, make a profit and make a difference.

Head to www.tenner.org.uk if you would like more details.



# Science STEM Club



The STEM Science Club started on Tuesday 1 March with 16 Year 7 and 8 pupils. It involves practical activities and is a powerful and highly enjoyable way to engage students. It can be fun and fulfilling for students and club leaders, and have positive impacts for the school. Through STEM Clubs, students gain practical, team work and leadership skills, and their confidence and engagement in STEM increases.

So far the students have made bouncy balls which was a great success and are looking forward to making rapid ice cream in the lab!

Big Bang Fair - A group of students went out on Wednesday 16 March to the NEC the UK's largest celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths for young people. The pupils were able to take part in hands on activities, workshops and theatre shows and talked to people from industry about a variety of STEM issues.









# **Sports**

#### **Football**

Year 8 District 5 a-side football tournament to be held on the 14th March 2016 in

Boys and Girls from Year 7 (plus 2 Year 5s) qualified for a Regional 5 a side tournament at Derby's Soccer Dome. Both acquitted themselves well with the boys winning 2 and losing 3 games and the girls winning 3, drawing 2 and losing just 1.



Boys:
Back: Left to Right
Connor McCann,
Zac Bennett,
Devante Adams,
Joe Clayton
Front: James Hulme,
Jack Price,
Sam Carter.

# Girls: Back: Left to Right Rosie Swann, Ava Freer, Naeve Foy, Eloise Parry Front: Meg Lindsay, Grace Daly, Charlie Atkinson



### Rugby

Since September rugby has had a great reception from the children in St John's. We have had over 120 children attend the rugby club and have set up teams for boys and girls across all ages here. The Year 7 and 8 boys team have played Alvechurch twice, showing great improvement in the matches as well as recording a fantastic 76-14 win against Bishops Perrone in Worcester. In our 'in school' competition over the world cup the New Zealand team won the tournament with great skills put on show. Years 5 and 6 have been training well in contact and as the years go on we will hopefully be able to arrange fixtures for them. The Year 7 and 8 girls have worked very hard to develop their game and have got their first fixture on December 2nd here and all support is welcome. Finally we arranged for an exciting trip to Twickenham to watch Oxford and Cambridge Universities take each other on in their annual varsity match. This be an exciting opportunity to see the great skills on display and will hopefully inspire all of our players to give of their best.

#### Winter School Games

District Indoor Athletics competitions for KS2 and KS3 pupils were held at South Bromsgrove High School in January. St John's had some great success, with the Yr 5/6 Boys team coming 3rd and Yr 7 Girls and Yr 8 Boys teams both coming 2nd. However, the Year 7 Boys and Year 8 Girls teams won their categories and went on to represent North Worcestershire at the Winter School Games Indoor Athletics competition, at Worcester University on Tuesday 1st March.

While they competed well against some strong opposition, the Boys team came a respectable 4th place and the Girls achieved bronze medals, winning 3rd place. Both teams performed extremely well and had a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon.

The county team consisted of the following pupils:

Year 7 Boys Year 8 Girls **Devante Adams Eden Andrews Toby Payne Amelie Shorrock** Joe Clayton **Eloise Gayle Finton Hutt Katie Stewart Oliver Beyene Suzie Dunster** Sam Carter **Fave Wells Henry Collard Ava Freer Olly Holder** 





We would like to wish the following runners the very best of luck at the Winter School Games Cross Country competition on Friday 11th March:

Isaac Bridge – Year 5
Kyle Shaw – Year 5
Louise Chapman-Hart – Year 6
Finton Hutt – Year 7
Ava Freer – Year 7

These pupils came within the top in their race at the District Cross Country competition in November and will now represent North Worcestershire in this County event.

#### **Netball**

Year 7 girls (Jessica Burford, Esme Elwell-Thomas, Molly Irons, Niamh O'Malley, Molly Costello, Courtney Johnson, Grace Biddlestone and Zoe Law) took part in the Year 7 District Netball Tournament at Bromsgrove School on Tuesday 2nd February. They played a very high standard of netball, winning 3rd place. Well done girls!

St John's was host to the Year 8 District Netball Tournament on Thursday 25th February. A total of 5 schools entered the tournament and the St John's team fought their way to victory, winning every game and becoming the district champions.

The team, which consisted of: Eden Andrews, Charlotte Nock, Amy Reeves, Katie Medlicott, Georgina Berreen-Worrall, Hannah Dodd, Amelie Shorrock and Ava Freer, went on to represent North Worcestershire at the County Netball Tournament on Tuesday 1st March at Malvern St James School. The girls played to a very high standard, coming up against a variety of Private and High schools, winning 2 of their 5 games. They should be extremely proud of all they have achieved this year.

# **Diary Dates**

**Thursday 24th March** Term ends - 3:15pm

**Monday 11th April** Restart - Summer Term- 8:50am

Friday 29th April Staff Professional

Development/Pupil holiday

May Bank holiday/Pupil holiday **Monday 2nd May** 

Friday 27th May Half Term Ends 3:15pm

Monday - Friday 30th May - 3rd June - Half Term

**Monday 6th June** Restart - 8:50am

Friday 10th June Year 8 Leavers Photographs

**Thursday 7th July** End of Year Reports to Parents

Friday 8th July "Give of your Best" Trip

**Thursday 14th July** Sports Day - Field Events

1:15 pm - 3:15 pm

Friday 15th July Sports Day - Track Events

9:15am - 12:15pm

Monday 18th July Common Transfer Day

**Thursday 21st July** Year 8 Leavers Prom

Term ends for pupils

Friday 22nd July Staff Profession Development

> **Year 6 National Curriculum Tests** Monday 9th May 2016

> > Friday 13th May 2016

#### Internet Safety - useful contacts and links for parents:

www.childnet-int.org

leaflet for parents on how to use socialnetworking sites safely www.myguide.gov.net

on line safety training for parents www.thinkuknow.co.uk



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### **Telephone** message

At the moment the school is receiving a lot of calls from parents with messages for their children. Unfortunately the school would prefer not to receive messages from parents to pupils if they are deemed non-emergency. Pupils do not return to their classrooms at the end of the day but are dismissed from their lessons. This means that office staff have to interrupt a lesson to pass on a message which can cause quite a lot of disruption. Therefore can we please ask that you contact the school with a message for your child in the case of an emergency only. Thank you for your support.

#### **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.

♣ ParentMail

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 save us money!
- You can download the App for free from Apple Store or Google Play Store.

# **EASTER SERVICES**

@ St. John's Bromsgrove & St. Andrew's Charford

MAUNDY THURSDAY 24th March

Holy Communion @St Johns

7.30pm

25th March @ St. Johns

ALL AGE WORSHIP

10.00am 12.00 noon

Prayer Space music & stillness The Last Hour music & readings 1.00pm 2.00pm

EASTER SUNDAY

27th March

Sunrise Service @St John's Holy Communion @ St Andrews 6.00am 9.15am

Family Communion @St Johns

10.45am