

THE RED SWEATER LETTER

A newsletter from St. John's Middle School



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Message from Head of School

By Mrs A. Elwell

Summer certainly arrived for a day last Friday and we are hoping that the good weather continues for all of the exciting activities we have planned for this half term.

When warm weather is forecast can you please send your children to school with sunscreen applied and a named and already full water bottle. We also encourage named sun hats or caps for break times. On very hot days we announce to the children that ties can be removed and put in their bags for safekeeping, the children can then wear open necked shirts for the day which will help to keep them cool.

Welcome to our latest Red Sweater Letter.

See next page for more ...

cont...

I can't believe that we are already three weeks into the new half term! As always life at St John's has been action packed with visits to the Safari Park, Lakeside Outdoor Activity Centre, participation in the Maths Challenge competition and a very successful District Sports competition. In addition, end of year GL Assessments and Landscape of the Mind assessments are taking place to monitor both pupil's academic progress and to check in with every child regarding their emotional wellbeing. Individual child reports will be sent out later this term which will give you an overview of your child's performance and their next steps.

At this time of year we are working hard behind the scenes on transition for our pupils, whether that be joining the St John's family as a new pupil, moving up to the next year group or leaving us for pastures new. This year we are able to once again hold a transition afternoon for those children already in school, when children will meet their new class teachers and have a taste of their new year group. This will coincide with the town High School transition on Monday 18th July, when Year 8's will have a taster day at their new schools. We are always sad to see our pupils leave us, but are immensely proud of the young adults they have become during their time with us.

This Half Term we are looking forward to the many events planned to celebrate the end of term, this year these are even more welcomed after the restrictions of the past two years. If you haven't already done so, please take a look at our Twitter page where we share photographs and updates on many of our events and celebrations.

Mrs Elwell



Collective Worship

By Miss C. Russell

This Halfterm we continue to explore our value of INTEGRITY – thinking about hope, wisdom, and unity. We began our final series of the year by hearing the story of Pentecost, and reflecting upon what the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on all of God's people means for us, here, today.

On 24th June we celebrate the feast of our patron, St. John the Baptist's Nativity, hearing about the story of his miraculous birth, his extraordinary life, and his Martyrdom for daring to speak truth to power – a powerful example of maintain integrity, whatever the risk:



"God had set John apart for a special mission. He was to preach about repentance and to baptise people in water. He was also to preach about the Kingdom of God and prepare a people for the Messiah's coming.

That is exactly what John did. Instead of serving at the temple as a priest, he dressed in a camel's hair garment and a leather belt. He ate locusts and wild honey (Matthew 3:4). He told the crowds that came to see him that they needed to repent and that the Kingdom of God was at hand (verses 1-2). He preached the same message as Jesus Christ the Messiah (Mark 1:14-15) and prepared the way for Him (Matthew 3:3).

John the Baptist knew that he had been called by God to fulfil the prophecy of Isaiah: "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the LORD; make His paths straight'" (Matthew 3:3, quoting Isaiah 40:3).

John the Baptist didn't pull any punches. He called sin, sin. He even criticized King Herod for marrying his brother's wife and was thrown in jail (Matthew 14:3; Mark 6:17). After spending some time in his prison cell, John sent some of his disciples to Jesus. He wanted to receive confirmation about the work and mission of Jesus Christ (Matthew 11:2-6).

John believed that Jesus was the Lamb of God and the Son of God (John 1:29, 34). He also believed He was the Christ—the coming Messiah who will conqueror and rule. But perhaps he was expecting Christ to start conquering then instead of letting him remain in jail. That was not to be, however. While John was in prison, Herod threw a party. His wife's daughter danced and pleased him so much that he promised her whatever her heart desired.

"So she, having been prompted by her mother, said, 'Give me John the Baptist's head here on a platter'" (Matthew 14:8). Herod was sorry, but because of his oaths he felt trapped into ordering John to be killed. (Summary from lifehopeandtruth.com)

*Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire
and lighten with celestial fire;
thou the anointing Spirit art,
who dost thy sevenfold gifts impart.*

*Thy blessed unction from above
is comfort, life, and fire of love;
enable with perpetual light
the dullness of our mortal sight.*

*Teach us to know the Father, Son,
and thee, of both, to be but one;
that through the ages all along
this may be our endless song:*

*Praise to thine eternal merit,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen
Sequence for Pentecost, Chant – 9th Century*

Attendance & Epraise points

Class	epraise Points	Attendance
5KLH	19339	97.2%
5SW	18753	97.8%
5CGO	19053	98%
5MJ	19974	97.9%
5CW	19743	95.3%
5AKE	19760	97.3%
6LF	20302	97.7%
6GM	17821	98.8%
6KD	18029	96.8%
6BC	18176	97.7%
6RSE	17940	97.9%
7WW	15588	95.1%
7PM	18043	95.2%
7MMO	16518	95.8%
7ALK	17237	95.7%
7MH	16063	96.5%
7JD	15737	98.1%
8JCD	17225	94.8%
8NGE	17689	93.8%
8MF	15646	95.4%
8KLN	15725	94.2%
8MC	16554	97.8%
8CSS	15254	93.7%

Ingredients

- 375g all-butter puff pastry
- flour, for dusting
- 2 tbsp apple sauce, pickle or chutney
- 400g sausagemeat or sausages, skins removed
- 1 egg, beaten
- 2 tsp sesame seeds or nigella seeds (optional)

Easy Sausage Rolls



Method

STEP 1

Roll out the pastry to a 35 x 30cm rectangle on a surface lightly dusted with flour. Trim the edges neatly, then cut in half lengthways to form two long strips. Spread with a thin layer of the apple sauce, pickle or chutney, leaving a border along the edges.

STEP 2

Tip the sausagemeat into a large bowl, add 3 tbsp cold water and squash together. Divide the mixture in two and mould each half into a cylindrical shape. Put each portion of meat into the middle of a pastry strip, leaving a border at either side. Brush the pastry border and the top of the sausage mix with the beaten egg. Fold one edge of the pastry over the meat and roll to encase, then use a fork to press the pastry edges together. Cut the sausage rolls into 5cm lengths and arrange on a lined baking tray. Chill for 20 mins. Can be made a day ahead or frozen for up to one month; to bake from frozen, add an extra 10 mins to the cooking time.

STEP 3

Heat oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6. Brush the sausage rolls with the rest of the beaten egg and sprinkle with the sesame seeds or nigella seeds (if using). Bake for 30-35 mins until the pastry is deep golden. Transfer the sausage rolls to a wire rack and leave to cool for 10 mins.

Heads of Year Message

By Mr D. Owen - Head of Year 5

As we rapidly progress through our summer term towards the end of the year, there has been so much to enjoy, but still so much to look forward to – many pupils enjoyed Oaker Wood, with its camping pods, camp fires, zip wire and paintball, or Arete with other wild and exciting outdoor activities. We also visited Lakeside for paddle boarding, orienteering and canoeing, a small group of year 5s visited the Safari Park, as well as trips to Worcester Cathedral and the Black Country Museum – a huge thanks to all staff who made those trips possible and to all the pupils who behaved so well on them, whilst making some brilliant memories to have for many years!

Still to look forward to are our celebration assemblies, Sports Day, St. John's got Talent and Funfest - It's great to see that so many pupils have received enough house points this year to qualify for the film afternoon or Funfest, which promises to live up to its name as previously – please remember sun cream, hats and water on the day which we hope will be necessary!

For all pupils, but particularly our year 5s, September 2021 and the start of their time at St. John's must feel like a long time ago having such an action-packed year so far - they have settled into middle school life remarkably well and have become a lovely year group which has been a pleasure to teach and lead through their first year. As we look further forwards towards the transition into their new year groups, we would like to remind all our pupils to continue giving of their best, right through the rest of the term so staff can pass on lots of positive information to their next class teacher.



[@stjohnsmiddle](#)



*BE A
RAINBOW
IN
SOMEONE
ELSE'S
CLOUD*



PE update

By Mr. M. Cowdery - Head of PE

Commonwealth Games Cycling Festival

30 children across KS2 and KS3 attending a cycling festival at the Ryland Centre. The purpose was to promote the Birmingham games and to offer cycling opportunities to all. The children completed time trials, balance tracks and cycling proficiency activities.



Girls Football

Our KS3 and KS2 teams played one final game for the year against neighbouring Parkside Middle School. In two closely fought encounters the St John's teams came out victorious. KS2 winning 3-2 and KS3 winning 1-0. Well done to all the girls who played.



Cricket Competitions

Our year 5 pupils attended a cricket festival at Bromsgrove Cricket Club and played against teams from Aston Fields Middle School. Although they didn't win the festival, they gained valuable experience for future competitions.

KS3 were invited to a T10 cricket competition at Stourport Cricket Club. For some of our children this was their first experience of hardball cricket but they acquitted themselves superbly. A lot of fun was had and experience taken for future encounters.

Swimming Gala

Teams from KS2 and KS3 attended a swimming gala at Bromsgrove School. All of our swimmers were brilliant and the competition was a close one. Our KS2 swimmers came away with Silver medals whilst our KS3 team went one better to win their category. Well done to all our young swimmers.

KS3 District Athletics

Teams from Year 7 and 8 competed against local middle and high schools from the local area at the Abbey Stadium in Redditch. We returned a magnificent 38 medals across both track and field. We were delighted to find out that our Year 8 Boys and Girls teams won their individual team competitions. Congratulations to all competitors.



Oaker Wood Leisure

Year 5 Camping Residential 2022

Oaker Wood is based in North Herefordshire. In 175 acres of mature woodland, in the heart of the countryside. It is half an hours drive from Hereford, 1 1/2 hours from central Birmingham yet once you arrive you feel a million miles away.

Children experience a magical adventure at Oaker Wood, sleeping in Wooden Pods, learning to light camp fires, scaling trees, taking on the challenging assault course or racing the length of the lake on a raft.

Accommodation is based in Glamping Villages which are exclusive to each school group. Children sleep in bunk beds in wooden pods which they share, maximum 8 to a pod.

School teachers are allocated separate pods.

Camp Procedures

- Each school will have exclusive use of a Camp Village.
- Between groups the camps are cleaned and sanitised.
- Children are not permitted in each others sleeping pods.
- Our site toilets are allocated for each school group so at no point will different schools have to share facilities.
- All equipment is sanitised between groups. All touch points are cleaned and sanitised regularly.

"We just wanted to pass on our sincere all the staff that organised the trip to Oakerwood and gave up your weekends to take the children. Our son had an absolutely amazing time. He was so upset to miss out on his residential at First School because of covid and I'm sure you're aware just how excited he has been! He hasn't stopped telling us all about the 'best time of his life' - in fact his voice is going (quiet day tomorrow!) Thank you all again for making this possible for them."



Arete - Year 8

By Miss K. North

Monday 23rd - Friday 27th May, 65 Year 8 pupils went on a weeks residential to Arete Outdoor Centre in Llanrug, Wales.

They took part in bouldering and weaselling through the hills and around the lake, rock climbing, gorge walking, hiking, underground mines, body boarding, abseiling, surfing,

"Gorge walking and rock climbing was a lot of fun. Facing my fears by sliding head first down the water falls made me feel really proud. Also walked up half of Snowdon!" - Freya

"I don't think I've ever felt my heart beat so fast whilst coasteering and cliff jumping! From the top of the cliffs the jump looked huge. It was so fun and if I had the chance I would definitely do it again." - Lucie



St John's Got Talent

By Miss K. Devey

St John's Got Talent is a talent competition, where YOU can compete for your house (and for yourself), to win! It will be taking place on Tuesday 19th July 2022. The finalists will record their performances and the show1 will be streamed live to classrooms!

We are looking for YOU to show us your talents!

- *Can you dance?*
- *Can you sing?*
- *Are you in a band?*
- *Can you play an instrument?*
- *Do you have a different, more unusual talent?*

We are looking for pupils IN ALL YEAR GROUPS to take part in St John's Got Talent.

The categories will be:

Dance (can be solo or group dance)

Music (can be singing, instrumental, solo or group performance)

Other (any other talent that you would like to perform at the show – this could be juggling, stand-up comedy, acting....)

There will also be an art and photography competition which will take place separately to the main show.

If you would like a chance to perform and compete in this year's St John's Got Talent, you need to start planning your performance!

Auditions for ALL performers (dancers, singers, musicians, as well as any other talents) will be taking place on Thursday 23rd June during lunch time and after school. You will need to show us a short section of your performance at audition (approx. 1 minute long). Your final piece can be longer (2 minutes, approx.)

This show will only work with your help as we need performers...

SO GET PRACTISING!



Platinum Jubilee Day

By Mr. D. Owen - Assistant Head

On Friday 27th, we celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Children were invited to come to school wearing red, white and blue or dressed as a member of the royal family, even the Queen herself!!

Not only did we invite the children to dress up and organise a lot of exciting activities throughout lesson time ... We also invited all pupils to a picnic on the school field! There was an ice cream van, so children are welcome to bring a small amount of money if they wish to purchase. We also planted two tree's, donated by Singletons Nursery and The Jungle Club, on the school playground as part of the Queen's Green Canopy Project.



Trip to Westmidlands Safari Park

By Mr. D. Owen - Assistant Head

A small group of year 5 pupils had a brilliant time at West Midlands Safari Park today, even seeing baby rhinos and having fun on some rides! The weather was very kind and the pupils were brilliantly behaved with one member of the public even coming to let me know that the children were an absolute credit to our school.



Dates for Your Diary

Summer Term 2

STEM/Careers Problem Solving Workshop for Year 8's
Wednesday 29th June

Children's University Graduation
Thursday 30th June

Art Gifted and Talented Day Year 8
Tuesday 5th July

Sports Day
Wednesday 6th and Thursday 7th July

FUNFEST
Friday 8th July

St John's Got Talent
Tuesday 19th July

Year 8 Leavers Celebrations
Wednesday 20th July

END OF YEAR 2021/2022
Thursday 21st July

Links ...



Outdoor Activities, Paintballing & Glamping in Herefordshire

Our activity centre in Herefordshire has an amazing variety of outdoor activities for kids and adults -

Best outdoor activity centre & school residential -UK |...

Arete Centre outdoor activity...
aretecentre.co.uk



Topsoil & Turf Supplier Birmingham | Bromsgrove | Redditch | Singletons

Singletons Nurseries have been supplying quality screened topsoil and carefully sourced turf to the West Midlands for over 70 years. Collect from our...



The Jungle Club - Indoor Plants and Pots

Welcome to The Jungle Club plant...
thejungleclub.online

Tweets by @stjohnsmiddle

St John's CE Middle School Academy
@stjohnsmiddle
It's such a nice touch that they are all individually packaged 🌞

HAPPY BIRTHDAY 🎉
<https://twitter.com/mazbrew1987/status/1540231925855576066>

45m

St John's CE Middle School Academy Retweeted

Jo Wyatt
@JoWyatt80
@sjmspe @stjohnsmiddle Had a fun afternoon watching the year 6 boys play cricket and scoring for them. They all played fantastically and should be very proud of themselves! Bring on the year 7 tournament!! 🏏🏏

18h

St John's CE Middle School Academy
@stjohnsmiddle
Robotics Challenge WINNERS!!



19h

St John's CE Middle School Academy
@stjohnsmiddle
🌟🌟🌟 The Spirited Arts Competition deadline is TOMORROW! 🌟🌟🌟
We have had some lovely entries so far! #SJMS #GOYB

