

# School Newsletter

## Autumn 2 2024

In harmony we  
Nurture, Inspire, Flourish



Well what a wonderful Christmas term we have had at St John's. We have been overwhelmed by your positive comments when joining us for our Harmony Week art exhibition and Inspire days. We are so grateful for all the support you have given your children in their learning and the values everyone continues to share. A particular thank you to our Year 6 children who led our Remembrance Services locally and at school, and who welcomed our local MP to St John's.

### Christmas Fayre

Thank you so much to everyone who came along to the Christmas Fayre and to our Friends of St John's, with a special thank you to Jane, Anneka, Danielle, Becky and Sarah for organising such a great event. Our Christmas raffle was hugely popular and we loved receiving a visit from Santa to share the Christmas story. We raised over £1850 altogether which Pupil Parliament would like to put towards a Forest School swing and equipment for our lunch zones and keep our minibuses running!

### Christmas Celebrations

Christmas is always a time of joy and we would like to thank all the children and teachers for their outstanding performances in the Early Years Nativity, Year 1, 2 and 3 Christmas performance 'Superstar the musical', and to our Year 4, 5 and 6 Carol Service. We would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Peaceful New Year and we very much look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 7th January 2025.

Kind regards

Mrs Fyson



**Just to remind parents/carers that if they take their children out of school without authority for 5 or more days (which do not have to be consecutive), then the following will apply:**

**1. If you have not incurred a penalty notice relating to this child/children in a rolling 3 year period since 19 August 2024, then the penalty notice will be charged at the rate of £160.00, per parent/carer per child, if paid within 28 days. This will be reduced to £80.00 if paid within 21 days of receipt of the notice. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in Surrey County Council considering legal proceedings against you in the Magistrates Court.**

**2. If you have incurred a penalty notice relating to this child/children since 19 August 2024, the rolling 3 year period will be activated from the date of the first penalty notice and the second penalty notice will be charged at the flat rate of £160.00, per parent/carer per child, if paid within 28 days. There will be no reduction for payment within 21 days. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in Surrey County Council considering legal proceedings against you in the Magistrates Court.**

**3. If you have incurred 2 penalty notices relating to this child/children in the rolling 3 year period since the first penalty notice was issued, then you will NOT receive a third penalty notice – Surrey County Council will have no option but to consider a prosecution, per parent/carer per child, in the Magistrates Court under s444 Education Act 1996.**

**Surrey County Council is not responsible for authorising pupil absence and therefore cannot withdraw any Penalty Notice requests without the written permission of the Headteacher.**

## Nursery Happiness Class

Nursery have been learning about the seasons and the changes between Autumn and Winter. They have been talking about different celebrations and how they celebrate these with their families. Nursery have discussed similarities and differences between how we celebrate special occasions.



We celebrated Nursery Rhyme week, and will be practising a large repertoire of songs for the Christmas production. Nursery will have the opportunity to be creative through making Remembrance Day, Diwali, Bonfire Night and Christmas art work this half term.



## Reception Kindness Class

We have had an action packed half term getting ready for our Nativity, which we loved performing to you all. Christingles were such fun to make too and we loved our first Christingle service. With the winter weather, we have been out on the farm and enjoying looking at the changing seasons. We have also had a lovely time learning with our teacher Miss Patterson who has been teaching us how to make porridge while we learnt about all our fairy tales, including Goldilocks and The Three Bears. We all got a golden award today for the best start to our learning at St John's and we are very proud of ourselves.



## Year 1 Love Class

Love Class has had an amazing term filled with exciting learning experiences! We have loved learning all about the Gunpowder plot, and preparing for our Christmas show. Our exploration of writing instructions was especially fun – we even followed our own steps to make delicious chocolate mug cakes!



During Harmony Week, we embraced creativity, producing beautiful artwork and fantastic writing inspired by Henri Rousseau's "Surprise." We have had great fun in the lead up to Christmas, making this term truly memorable.



## Year 2 Trust Class

Wow, what an amazing term we've had learning about the 'Great Fire of London'. We've been blown away by the children's enthusiasm and their ability to recall key facts.



Harmony week has been a great success with the children immersing themselves in the famous painting, 'Surprise' by Henri Rousseau. Using our knowledge of position and texture we have created jungle scenes. The children were very excited to share these at our Harmony Exhibition.



## Year 2 Trust Class

We had a great time team building at Sayers Croft. We completed lots of different activities such as a the blind fold trail, pond dipping, the maze and team challenges.



## Year 3 Cooperation Class

In Year 3 we have been studying the poem 'The Tyger' by William Blake. We have written our own poems inspired by his atmospheric style.

We have also been exploring what the tiger would be looking at in the Henri Rousseau painting and imagining the forest through his eyes. We created a collage of the vegetation in the jungle and then we drew detailed studies of some of our favourite rainforest animals.

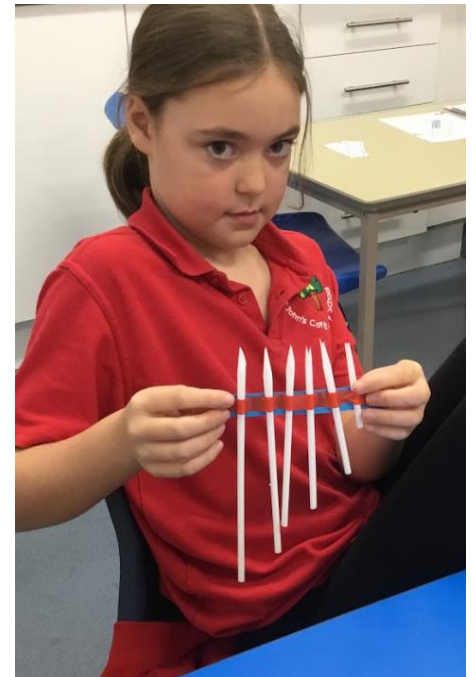
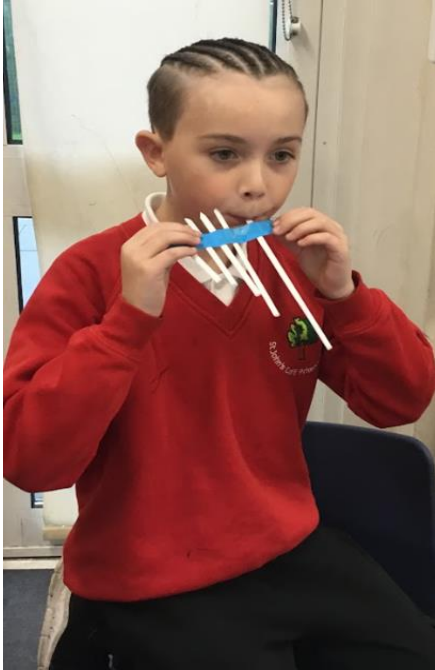
In DT we have been looking at nets of shapes to see identify their effectiveness for packaging. I wonder what we will put in them...



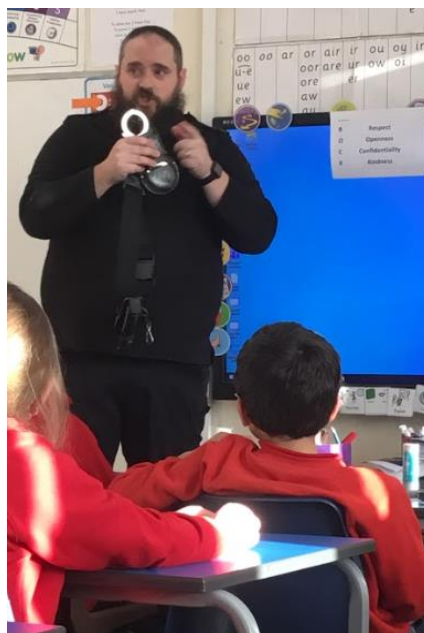


## Year 4 Resilience Class

We have had a very busy and noisy half term in Year 4. In our Science lessons we have been learning about how sound is generated and travels. We created our own straw panpipes to create different tones and pitches.

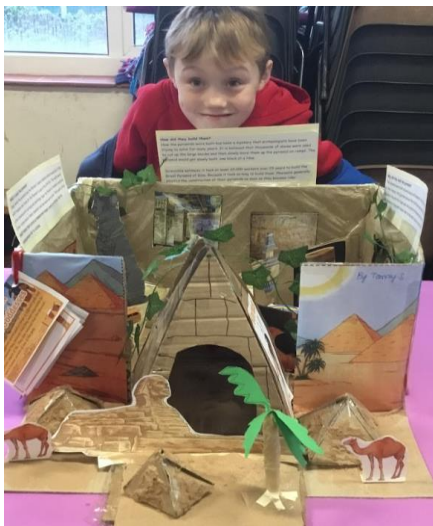


Resilience Class were very lucky to have a Youth Engagement Officer, James, come into visit us and teach us about his job role and ask some great questions that we had. We were very lucky to have a look at some of the equipment that Police Officers use as part of keeping us safe. Miss Belassie even got handcuffed and we hoped James wouldn't unlock the handcuffs.



## Year 4 Resilience Class

We have really enjoyed our Egyptian learning this half term as well, getting really creative. Resilience Class have learnt how to make papyrus paper and then designed their own scrolls using Egyptian symbols to say something about ourselves. The class have also been working hard on their Egyptian Tomb projects, thinking about all the parts that were included.



## Year 5 Courage Class

Year 5 started their Ancient Greeks topic this term. We are reading Percy Jackson's 'The Lightning Thief' in class so expect your children to wow you with their new knowledge about Greek Gods and Goddesses! We had a great time immersing ourselves in all things Greek in the workshop at the end of term. We learnt about ancient democracy and key battles and played a battle strategy game. We took part in Greek theatre (definitely some budding performers!) and even competed in the mini-Olympics!



## Year 6 Respect Class

Year 6 have had an exciting term learning across the curriculum. In Science, we have studied blood and the circulatory system : investigating the components of blood and creating our own in test tubes (which involved some careful estimations and calculations of percentages.) Scientific discovery is often driven by curiosity and many of us wanted to know what a real heart looked like. Having made predictions about what we expected to find, we were able to see a real lamb's heart thanks to a local butcher.



In our RE topic, we studied Judaism and were able to visit the Kingston Liberal Synagogue to make sense of the question : “What does it mean to be part of a synagogue community?” Our amazing guide showed us many items that we had learned about and some we hadn't! We were also allowed to try on prayer shawls and hats, use the yid to explore the Torah and even try to blow the shofar to make the noise we had heard in class. We were also introduced to the new rabbi who was happy to talk about being a rabbi and what that means to him and also his community.



## Year 6 Respect Class

Harmony Week saw us bring lots of our learning together as we took on the challenge of writing environmental speeches. Taking inspiration from Martin Luther King's "I have a dream" speech and watching Greta Thunberg and Sir David Attenborough deliver impassioned speeches, we wrote our own.

Thinking of our learning from Judaism about tzedek (where there is a drive to champion justice and to strive to make a change in the world) we looked for how we could take our words beyond the classroom.



We know that MPs are elected to represent us in Parliament and so we asked to be heard ... and were thrilled when Chris Coghlan (our local MP) accepted our invitation to be lobbied on behalf of the environment. We then had our own "Question Time" where Chris answered a range of questions from the Year 6 audience!

## Remembrance Service

Every year, St John's children in Year 6 visit The Quick Response Memorial Woodland for Fallen Soldiers in Holmbury St Mary's. This is a garden of reflection, and we are invited to join local veterans in a service of remembrance to mark those who gave up their lives whilst serving for Surrey Regiments. This links to our topic on World War 2 and is a unique opportunity for our children to show that they still respect and remember the sacrifices made by others, and to use this moment to pray for peace.



The community are always delighted to share this special service with the Year 6 at St John's, who take part through readings, prayer and song. This year we extended an invitation to the children in Year 6 at Surrey Hills All Saints who also joined so that they too could share in this important local event and lay wreaths. Children at Surrey Hills also made wreaths and poppies alongside our Open The Book worship team and laid them in the community for all our link Churches.

# Author Visit with Rowan Foxwood

We had a visit from an author Rowan Foxwood. Who spoke about her new book 'Heart Seer The Tale of Anise Star'.

The children really enjoyed the visit, hearing the story and asked lots of questions at the end.



# Year 5 Boys Football Tournament

Well done to the St John's football team for and competing in the football tournament. We are all incredibly proud of you all!





# Christmas Tree Recycling

## Recycle your real Christmas Tree

Please sign up (sheet in entrance hall) to recycle your **real** Christmas tree. We can't accept trees which have any coloured spray, fake snow or glitter as we do not want to contaminate our school grounds with chemicals or plastic.

We are collecting your trees (40 max) so that we can use the wood for den poles or cutting discs during our Forest School/Outdoor Learning sessions this year. As an Eco School, it is an important part of being sustainable too!

I will be on the school playground, nearest to our Jolly John's Farm, on Monday 6th January 2025 from 10.30-11.30am to receive your trees. Any help to carry them down on the farm would be gratefully received! (At your own risk, of course!)

Many thanks,  
Vicky Russell (Forest School Leader)



# ND LIVE WEBINAR FOR PARENTS/CARERS DELIVERED BY LEARNING SPACE

Book a place on this two hour live webinar exploring neurodivergent conditions, with a particular emphasis on autism and ADHD; whilst also looking at PDA and anxiety (including a question and answer session)

This webinar is for **parents and carers** of any child or young person with an ND need, whether diagnosed or not.

## Dates

Day 1: Weds 15th Jan 11:45am-1:45pm with Emma & Sarah

Day 2: Mon 27th Jan 5:45pm-7:45pm with Emma & Sarah D

Day 3: Weds 26th Feb 11:45am-1:45pm with Emma & Sarah D

Day 4: Weds 12th Mar 11:45am-1:45pm with Emma & Sarah D

Day 5: Weds 26th March 11:45am-1:45pm with Emma & Sarah D

**PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE OR ENTER THE LINK BELOW TO BOOK**

**[HTTPS://FORMS.OFFICE.COM/E/5UC5GEUCVW](https://forms.office.com/E/5UC5GEUCVW)**



# NO LIVE WEBINAR FOR PROFESSIONALS DELIVERED BY LEARNING SPACE

Book a place on this two hour live webinar exploring neurodivergent conditions, with a particular emphasis on autism and ADHD; whilst also looking at PDA and anxiety (including a question and answer session)

This webinar is for any **professional** working in an educational setting

## Date:

Weds 5th Feb 3.45pm-5.45pm with Emma & Sarah D

**PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE OR COPY THE LINK BELOW TO BOOK**



<https://forms.office.com/e/jt3NBjaLDX>

# Diary Dates 2024/25

<b>21st-5th January</b>	<b>Christmas Holidays</b>
<b>January</b>	
<b>6th January</b>	<b>Inset Day</b>
<b>7th January</b>	<b>Children return to school</b>
<b>8th January</b>	<b>Workshop Circus Skills</b>
<b>10th -14th Jan</b>	<b>Year 6 Bikeability</b>
<b>14th January</b>	<b>Year 4 RE Trip-Shah Jahan Mosque</b>
<b>16th/17th Jan tbc</b>	<b>Year 5 Buddhist Temple Trip</b>
<b>27th January</b>	<b>Year 6 Imperial War Museum Trip</b>
<b>30th January</b>	<b>Year 3 Painshill Park Trip</b>
<b>February</b>	
<b>11th Feb</b>	<b>Year 3 Deepdene Trail</b>
<b>17th-21st Feb</b>	<b>Half Term</b>
<b>24th February</b>	<b>GST Inset Day</b>
<b>March</b>	
<b>3rd March</b>	<b>Incredible Eggs-Ducklings</b>
<b>18th March</b>	<b>Year 1 Hever Castle Trip</b>
<b>19th-21st March</b>	<b>Year 4 PGL - Overnight Trip</b>

# Diary Dates 2024/25

<b>24th March</b>	<b>Year 6 Chartwell Junior Trip</b>
<b>26th-28th March</b>	<b>Year 4 Bikeability</b>
<b>April</b>	
<b>1st April</b>	<b>Year 3 Wisley Gardens</b>
<b>4th April</b>	<b>End of Term Finish 1.15pm</b>
<b>5th - 21st April</b>	<b>Easter Holidays</b>
<b>23rd April</b>	<b>Year 1 Wisley Trip</b>
<b>24th April</b>	<b>Reception Bocketts Farm Trip</b>
<b>29th April</b>	<b>SES Reservoir Trip</b>
<b>May</b>	
<b>5th May</b>	<b>Bank Holiday</b>
<b>12-15th May</b>	<b>Year 6 SATs Week</b>
<b>26th -30th May</b>	<b>Half Term</b>
<b>June</b>	
<b>2nd -6th June</b>	<b>Year 6 Isle of Wight Trip</b>
<b>18th June</b>	<b>Year 6 The Life of Christ Trip</b>
<b>24th June</b>	<b>Year 5 Wisley Gardens Trip</b>
<b>July</b>	
<b>1st July</b>	<b>Year 1 Reigate Beekeepers Trip</b>
<b>17th July</b>	<b>End of Term-1.15pm Finish</b>

# Diary Dates 2024/25

**July**

**18th-22nd July**

**Inset Days**

**23rd July-Sept**

**Summer Holidays**