

# NEWSLETTER

## ST JOHN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

OUR VISION: '.....I CAN DO EVERYTHING THROUGH CHRIST WHO GIVES ME STRENGTH'

[Click here for upcoming dates or check your Class Dojo events](#)

### UPDATE FROM MISS DONNELLY

It's been another fantastic week at St John's.

As we move into December, we are celebrating the season of Advent - a time of anticipation and preparation for the celebration of Jesus Christ's birth, and what a way to start this, with a week filled with wonderful events.

#### Turn on the Stanmore Christmas Tree Lights!

It was wonderful to see such a fantastic gathering of family, friends and those from the Stanmore community as our children sang Christmas Carols. The children also had the privilege of meeting the Mayor of Harrow, hearing about the importance of this time in the Calendar for Christians, and significance of the symbol of light, for all faiths, in our diverse borough of Harrow. Two of our pupils, Fabion and Teagan also supported the Mayor in turning on the lights.



#### Christmas Tree Festival

On Thursday, All Saints Church hosted the Christmas Tree Festival, welcoming our school to host performances by our impressive Orchestra and Choir.

It was especially lovely to warmly welcome back a number of past pupils who returned to play alongside the Orchestra, reminding us of the strong musical community that continues long after children leave our school. We were also treated to wonderful performances from several soloists, each showcasing remarkable confidence and talent.



#### Year 3 Eucharist

On Thursday, Year 3 lead us in worship in their first ever Eucharistic service! The children spoke beautifully and sang with lots of enthusiasm and energy. They explored the theme of advent as the arrival of Jesus and discussed the advent wreath and how different candles are lit to represent various aspects of the Christmas story such as the first Sunday of this December being the candle of Hope.



**Newsletter continued** 



# ST JOHN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

OUR VISION: '.....I CAN DO EVERYTHING THROUGH CHRIST WHO GIVES ME STRENGTH'



## Year 5 V&A Museum Trip

This week, our Year 5's went to visit the Victoria and Albert Museum. This was a chance for the children to be inspired by art and fashion and gain ideas for their upcoming DT sewing project. They had a walk through different eras of art, focusing on designs and patterns. In the workshop activity they discussed making prototypes and discussed the thinking and making process. The children were fantastic all day and represented St John's brilliantly.



## Lollies 2025

The Laugh Out Loud Book Awards 2025 (the Lollies) celebrates the best and funniest children's books in the UK and Ireland, voted for by children. A few children from our school were able to meet a selection of variety of authors like Liz Pichon author of the Tom Gates books and even the legendary author Michael Rosen! Alexander 6W brought a piece of dragon fiction writing to showcase to one of the authors; they were blown away by his creativity and imagination! A future Lollies winner for the future...



## Parliament Trip

This week a few children were able to visit the Houses of Parliament they had a detailed a tour around and learnt about more information about the House of Commons and the House of Lords. The children were able to see different rooms and even see the King's entrance including where he sits in the House of Lords.

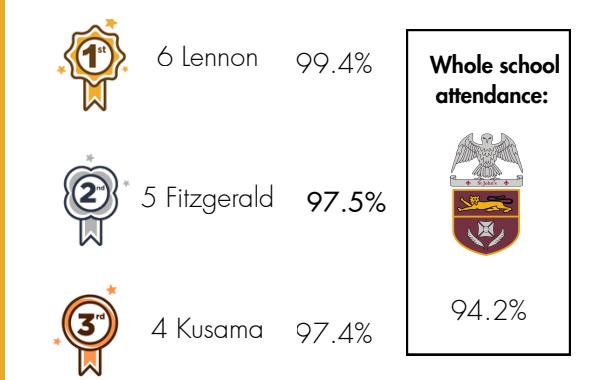
Have blessed weekend, Miss Donnelly

## IMPORTANT DATES

### December

- 8<sup>th</sup> English morning - all parents are welcome
- 8<sup>th</sup> SingUp St Luke Church Carol Service
- 10<sup>th</sup> KS1 (Y1&2) Nativity 2:15pm Lower School Hall
- 11<sup>th</sup> Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Dinner Lunch
- 11<sup>th</sup> Year 4 Statutory Multiplication Test workshop 2pm
- 12<sup>th</sup> Christmas Fair and Mufti Day 3:30-6pm
- 15<sup>th</sup> Reception Nativity 2:15pm
- 15<sup>th</sup> Y1 trip to the V&A toy museum
- 17<sup>th</sup> Parent workshop: Phonics in EYFS and KS1 9am
- 17<sup>th</sup> KS2 Christmas Carol Service - St John's Church 7pm
- 19<sup>th</sup> End of Term - School finishes at 1:30pm

## ATTENDANCE MATTERS



# Our strengths this week!

## Nursery

This week in Nursery, the children explored the traditional tale 'The Three Little Pigs', they used this as a focus for some of their activities; one including using their fine motor skills to design and build their own houses, carefully selecting materials and thinking about how to make our structures strong. The children also started to name and identify 2D shapes: circles, squares, triangles and rectangles!

## Donaldson

This week in phonics, the children have been independently using their sounds to segment and blend words, allowing them to write short, simple sentences with growing confidence. In P.E, they have enjoyed moving characters from the story 'The Gingerbread Man', using their large motor skills to run, jump and travel in different ways while joining in with the repetition from the story.

## 1 Byron

As part of Year 1's History unit, they have been exploring toys from different eras. This week they enjoyed exploring toys from the past, and loved playing with toys like 'Jack in the Box', 'Pick up Sticks' and 'Metal Jacks.' The children are really looking forward to their visit to the V&A toy museum on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December!

## 2 Pilkey

This week in Maths, the children have been learning to identify and describe 2D shapes as well as find lines of symmetry. They have also been working hard in their Nativity rehearsals in readiness for their performance on the 10<sup>th</sup> December.

## 3 Wiltshire & Morris

In Year 3 have been learning about multiplying and dividing by 4 using a range of strategies. In Science, the children have explored what joints are and the different types of joints that they have in their bodies that help our skeletons to be able to move.

## 4 Banksy & Kusama

This week, Year 4 led their Eucharist on the values of the Kingdom of God. They did a fantastic job with their presentation which they had worked very hard towards. Well done Year 4!

## 5 Beethoven & Fitzgerald

In Geography this week, the children have been learning about compass points, they enjoyed their practical lesson, whereby they had to guide someone using the correct directions. We also had a fantastic day at the V&A museum.

## 6 Lennon & Williams

This week, Year 6 completed their art unit by painting their dragon eyes using all the skills they have looked at throughout the unit. The level of creativity and imaginative sculptures were fantastic.



## Theme of the week

First Sunday of Advent

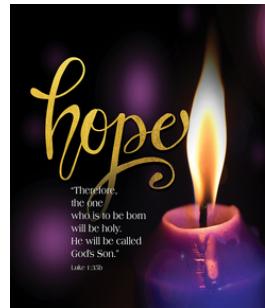
## Bible Reference

Matthew 24:36-44

## The Big Question

**How do you think Christians 'get ready' for Jesus' return?**

Rev. James led our Wednesday worship by reminding us of the season of advent: discussing how during this season it teaches us the importance of being patient. We discussed the advent wreath and although it is great to have presents on a typical advent calendar, that the joy comes from the different values we get during this time of eager anticipation. We were reminded how the candle we lit for this week was the purple candle of hope.



## Something to pray

Heavenly Father,

As we come to the end of this first week of Advent, continue to open our eyes and awaken our hearts.

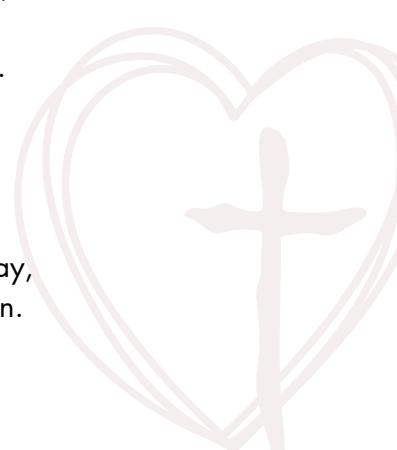
Your Son taught us that no one knows the day or the hour of His return - not the angels, not even the Son, but only You.

So teach us to watch, to wait, and to walk faithfully every day.

When the world feels busy or distracted,  
help us stay rooted in Your peace.

When fear rises, fill us again with hope.  
Let our lives reflect Your light  
so that whenever Jesus comes,  
He finds us ready, loving, and faithful.

Prepare our hearts to welcome You today,  
at Christmas, and at Your glorious return.  
Amen.





# PARENT WORKSHOPS

Committed to educational excellence

## NOVEMBER SCHEDULE

**THUR  
13**

### Y6 SATS WORKSHOP PART 1

Spelling, Punctuation & Grammar and Reading  
Upper School Hall at 9-10 am and repeated again at 5-6 pm

### MATHS: FLUENCY & CALCULATION

Understand what fluency is, and how to use the St. John's maths calculation policy to help your child flourish with number.  
Upper School Hall at 2:15-3:15 pm

**THUR  
20**

**THUR  
27**

### Y6 SATS WORKSHOP PART 2

Maths Papers: Arithmetic, Reasoning 1 & 2 and KS2 Writing  
Upper School Hall at 9-10 am and repeated again at 5-6 pm

"THERE IS NO SCHOOL EQUAL TO A DECENT HOME AND NO TEACHER EQUAL TO A VIRTUOUS PARENT." - MAHATMA GANDHI



At St. John's, we make a difference!

BACK BY  
POPULAR  
DEMAND!



# PARENT WORKSHOPS

Committed to educational excellence

## DECEMBER SCHEDULE

**MON  
1**

### HARROW FAMILY HUB - BEHAVIOUR

This session will explore: Positive parenting strategies, Managing feelings, Sibling relationships, Routines and Setting boundaries  
Upper School Hall at 9-10 am

**MON  
8**

### ENGLISH MORNING

Join us in class during our English lesson, understand how it is taught, and support your child in their learning  
Your child's classroom from 9-10am

**THUR  
11**

### Y4 MULTIPLICATION TEST

Understand the statutory assessment, and how to support your child in learning and recalling their timetables.  
Upper School Hall at 9-10 am and repeated again at 2-3 pm

**WED  
17**

### PHONICS IN EYFS AND KS1

Understand what phonics is, why it is important and how you can support your child in their learning  
Upper School Hall at 9-10 am and repeated again at 2-3 pm

"BEHIND EVERY YOUNG CHILD WHO BELIEVES IN HIMSELF IS A PARENT WHO BELIEVED FIRST" - MATTHEW JACOBSON,



## Christmas Lunch

### MAINS

Roast Turkey  
Vegetable and Cranberry  
Slice

### SIDES

Roast Potatoes, Stuffing,  
Sausage Carrots, Peas and  
Gravy

### DESSERTS

Vanilla Christmas  
Shortbread

\*Menus may be subject to change

Chartwells