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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

UPDATE FROM MISS DONNELLY

Happy New Year 2026

It has been lovely to welcome our families back this week to a crisp start to the term, not only in the winter weather, but also in the smart appearance of our pupils in their winter uniform.

We hope all our families were able to rest and recharge over the Christmas break.

We began the week with an Act of Worship, reflecting on the meaning of resolution. The children were able to share their understanding of resolutions as goal setting, personal targets and aims linked to the decisions we make. We explored the idea of opposites, initially through clothing and then extending this to attitudes and behaviours. This led us naturally into the Bible story of Zacchaeus, the tax collector whose heart was changed, reminding us that we are all called to faith, accepted and forgiven, and given opportunities to change.

We linked this message back to school life, reminding ourselves that a new term offers a fresh start. As we move into the Spring term, we continue to hold high expectations for everyone and look forward to seeing excellent progress across the school in the weeks ahead.



Nursery enjoying activities linked to understanding the role of firefighters with the help of a Paw Patrol jigsaw



Y3 created freeze frames based on the book - Voices in the Park. The discussed the characters' thoughts and feelings.

New Beginnings - School Updates

As part of our ongoing school development, we wish to share some positive changes within our school.

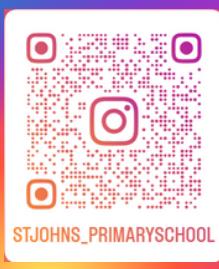
New staffing addition

We warmly welcome Miss Shilling, who will be working alongside Miss Watt this half term.

Miss Watt will be leaving us from 28th February to start her maternity leave. We are all very excited for the Watt family as they prepare to welcome the new addition into their homes.



Miss Shilling will be working alongside Miss Watt this half term overseeing the school receptionist and welfare role. We are confident she will be a wonderful addition to our team and a great support to the children.



ST JOHN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

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New Beginnings - School Updates Continued



Meal time supervisors

We recently said a fond farewell to our external Meal Time Supervisors, who have served our school community with dedication over the years. We thank them sincerely for their commitment and wish them every success in the future.

We are now delighted to confirm that lunchtime cover is being organised internally, ensuring continuity and a familiar presence for our pupils.

Painting and Decorating

Over the Christmas holidays, the painters and decorators were busy in the Year 4 classrooms and in Corridors areas near the upper school Hall. The school is looking bright and fresh.

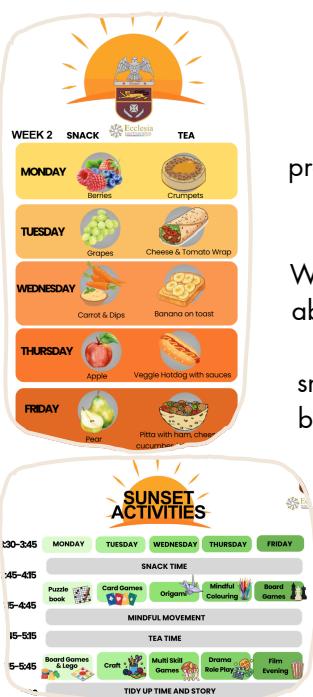
Watch this space this half term as we welcome some new signage in and around the school



Breakfast and After School Provision

We are pleased to share that our Breakfast and After School provision is now led directly by St John's, following the end of our contract with JAG providers at the end of last term.

We had a very positive and successful first week. We are excited about the new opportunities this brings and encourage parents to keep an eye on our Dojo page, where we will be sharing snippets of what the provision will offer, including crafts, drama, baking and cooking, problem-solving activities and much more.



All bookings will now be made through ParentPay, with a reminder that sessions must be booked by midnight the day before. We hope the reduced costs will be especially beneficial for our families, particularly working parents, and we look forward to seeing this provision grow quickly over the coming weeks.

St John's CofE Nursery & Primary School
122 Stanmore Hill, Harrow, HA7 3FD
"I can do everything through Christ who gives me strength/ Philippians 4:13"

About our school
We are a small, vibrant school tucked away from the bustle of Stanmore Village's high street - a hidden gem in the London Borough of Harrow. We strive to become a part of your family and recognise the importance of a supportive, high-quality environment where your child has the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Delivering the future
Dedicated to nurturing the academic, spiritual and personal growth of every child, our commitment to excellence means that every child is special. Before our thriving Nursery and Reception classes offer an exceptional start to your child's educational journey.

Join our Nursery
Please evaluate for 2 years
Secure your place now!

Learn and play with us at nursery school

- Government funding is available for free 15 hours per week
- Flexible booking for more hours if needed
- Half term day sessions available
- Bespoke curriculum with varied activities
- We offer 30 hours of provision for some eligible
- Fantastic outdoor spaces to offer extensive outdoor learning.

www.stjohns.harrow.sch.uk

Growing Nursery

Finally, our nursery continues to flourish. This week, we were delighted to welcome three new pupils to our St John's family, further enriching our vibrant and growing community.

Reception Places 2026-27

Just a little reminder that the deadline for Reception 26-27 places is Thursday 15th January. If you know any families interested in joining out St. John's family, remind them to book into a tour this Tuesday!

Our strengths this week!

Nursery



Nursery pupils have begun their new topic, People Who Help Us, focusing on firefighters. They learned about fire safety and the important role firefighters play. Nursery also welcomed some new children who have settled in very well.

Donaldson



In Reception, pupils explored The Three Little Pigs, focusing on key vocabulary and repetition. In Maths, they worked on finding one more than a number up to 10 and settled back into routines well after Christmas.

1 Byron



It has been a lovely start back to the new year in Year 1, and the children have settled back into routines beautifully. This week they exploring numbers from 20 to 50. Pupils enjoyed practical activities and began using groups of 10 to count larger numbers efficiently.

2 Pilkey



Year 2 have been busy creating their freestanding houses. They used their DT knowledge and skills to join pieces of card together to create a wide, open structure.

3 Wiltshire & Morris



It has been a great start to the new term in Year 3. In English, the children have been enjoying Voices in the Park and The Tunnel by Anthony Browne. They really engaged with the characters' thoughts and used their inference skills to explore the texts in more depth.

4 Banksy & Kusama



This week, Year 4 have begun exploring their new English text, The Spiderwick Chronicles. They have enjoyed role-playing and hot-seating as the main characters. In Geography, we have started our Earthquakes and Volcanoes unit, where the children excitedly shared lots of facts they already know.

5 Beethoven & Fitzgerald



Year 5 have been working hard since their return and have enjoyed exploring their new text, One Plastic Bag, in English, which links to our exciting Green Project. They have also explored the country of The Gambia and learned some interesting facts.

6 Lennon & Williams



Year 6 have had an excellent start to the Spring term. This week, they began their science unit on evolution and inheritance. The children explored characteristics that are inherited from parents and those that are acquired. They had great fun creating their own offspring using Mr Men and Little Miss characters.



Theme of the week

Epiphany

Bible Reference

Matthew 2: 1-12

The Big Question

How do you think the Wise Men might have felt when they found Jesus?

This week, Lyndon led our Act of Worship, focusing on the Feast of the Epiphany.

We learned about the three Wise Men:

Melchior, Caspar and Balthazar, and explored the significance of the gifts they brought to Jesus: gold, frankincense and myrrh, symbolising kingships, divinity and suffering.



Rev. Lyndon also spoke about the importance of the star, which guided the Wise Men on their journey, reminding us of how faith and hope can help guide us in our own lives



Let us pray

Heavenly Father,

As we remember the journey of the Wise Men, we think about how they might have felt when they finally found Jesus. After travelling so far and searching for so long, they may have felt joy, awe, and peace, because they had found the One they were looking for.

Help us to recognise Jesus in our own lives, to feel that same joy when we discover your love, and to offer our gifts, our kindness, our time, and our care for others, just as the Wise Men did. Guide us, like the star, to follow your light each day.

Amen.