



Headteacher: R Soper BA (Hons) PGCE
Chair of Governors: J Walker

Deputy Headteacher: J Morrish BA (Hons) PGCE
Assistant Headteacher H Chapman BEd (Hons) MA NASENCo Award



Through our love of God and of each other, our children will thrive personally and academically in a happy, safe place of faith and high expectation for all

Headteacher's message:

10.10.25

Another fabulous opportunity to celebrate our fantastic children and their achievements! A huge well done to all our Reception children who have joined us and have settled in so well already.

We continue to follow our St John's promise and fully embody our school values of **respect**, **resilience** and **kindness**.

This year our Forest School provision, **Where the Wild Things Are**, is up and running for Reception, Year 1, Year 3 and Year 5 this year. Years 2, 4 and 6 will continue to access swimming at the Leisure Centre.

We enjoyed our visits from Wood Green Animal Shelter talking to the children about how to look after animals. The feedback has been very positive.

Our Great Athletes visit last week was a huge success and we are very proud of all the children and staff who took part. The photos are on our facebook page and really highlight the fun we had raising money for the school as well as welcoming Sean Rose to the school to talk to us all about his achievements.

The St John's family are...

RESPECTFUL by

- being thoughtful
- being patient
- being silent when walking around the school
- SLANTing in lessons and Collective Worship

LOVING ONE ANOTHER by

- being kind
- caring for and helping one another across the school
- being polite

RESILIENT by

- being hard working
- verbalising our emotions safely
- being the best ME I can be
- believing in yourself
- always engaging in our challenging learning



THIS IS OUR PROMISE



We continued to support mental health of our children, families and our staff by supporting Young Minds and wearing yellow for the day! We will continue to focus on the mental health of our community this month by completing activities in school and talking about doing things that make us happy 😊. We will also be supporting Cancer research this month by wearing pink and raising awareness for Breast Cancer too.

For all our families, we ask that you attend our online parent/carers consultations this term and have a look at the learning on the website class pages so that you see the curriculum information for your child/ren: <https://stjohns.demat.org.uk/>

Kind regards,

Rebecca Soper (Headteacher)

Just a reminder that we are a Nut Free School so please ensure that any products, including drinks, do not contain any element of nut based produce. Thank you.





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News from around the school...

Early Years Foundation Stage (Reception) & Year 1,

This past 2 weeks have been so busy in EYFS and year 1.

In maths EYFS have been sorting and comparing with a focus on vocabulary. Using words such as equal, different, more, fewer, heavier, lighter the children have been able to use concrete resources to build on foundational mathematical knowledge.

In year 1 the children have been adding and subtracting using drawings and objects. We have also been using our retrieval practice to consolidate knowledge of numbers to 20 ensure this is secure. In English EYFS have had a focus on pencil grip, letter formation and identifying initial sounds in words. The children have also been working so hard in their phonics lessons developing the routines and understanding expectations. It's great to see them so focused and passionate about their learning. Year 1 have been revisiting our phonic knowledge before having a go at re writing the story of Hansel and Gretel.

Geography has continued to focus on spatial sense. The children created maps of their routes to school and used compasses to explore direction.

R.E has focused on the story of creation. The children can articulate that Christian's and Jews believe God created the world in 6 days and rested in the seventh. We focused this week on writing a prayer to God and thanking him for our wonderful world. This linked beautifully to our harvest festival and the children enjoyed being a part of this celebration.

Forest school has been our most exciting part of the past few weeks. Now that the children are comfortable in the environment they have become confident ex0lorers. We have had more hammock adventures and den building. Robins class created a 'campfire' from loose parts on the site. This inspired duckling class to build an area ready for a real fire and wrens helped to prepare the wood we need by cleaving it into small parts. It's fantastic to see such curiosity, resilience and engagement.





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Year 2,

Another great few weeks in **year 2**. As always, the children have been working extremely hard in lessons. In mathematics we have continued to look at place value and number. We have looked at the value of tens and ones, and the children have grasped partitioning. We have also started to look at our 2- and 5-times tables. This is something that we will continue up to half term. In our English lessons we have continued to develop our cursive joins. The children have been trying really hard to make their handwriting the best it can be. They have also started to apply this knowledge when they are writing longer pieces of work which have been lovely to see them applying their skills. We have looked at the story of Aladdin and the magic lamp. The children acted this out in groups so that they could build on their understanding of the characters' thoughts and feelings. This week we have been writing a narrative from a first-person perspective. All of the children have been able to write a wonderful story imagining that they are Aladdin. They used a range of sentences to explain what happened when Aladdin lost the Princess. We will begin a new story next week and apply our skills to go forward.



We have used our art lessons this week to link our knowledge of tints and shades to something within the school calendar. During this week we have been thinking about harvest festivals, and the children have kindly brought in many donations for the food bank. As a class, we have created some autumnal artwork that we can share in a whole school assembly. The children were mixing different shades of orange to create their sky before tracing over the silhouette of the tree with a charcoal pencil. For finishing touches we had some gold leaves to make some of them stand out. The pieces that the children created look beautiful, and I will be displaying them all in our classroom after the assembly on Friday!



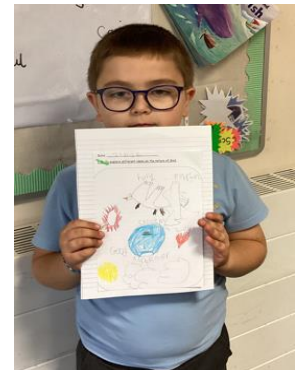
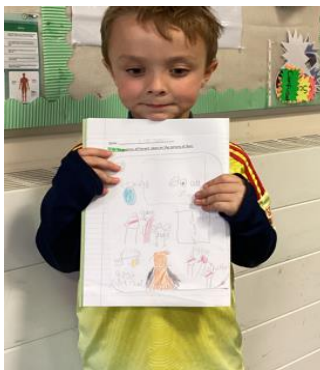


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In Science we have been learning all about the Human Body. The children have learnt about bones and muscles, understanding how they help us move. They have looked at the digestive system and what the different parts do to ensure humans get nutrients and vitamins from what they consume. This week we have learnt about the circulatory system; the children were able to understand the jobs of the heart, veins and arteries. The children had some wonderful questions about oxygen, and some children even shared knowledge of CPR, which was impressive. Geography we have been studying in our local area. The children spent the first 2 lessons gathering information and drawing a map of our school. This week we have looked at Human and Physical features on a map. Things that are man-made or things that have not been built they are part of nature. In PSHE we have been looking at friendships. The children have thought about what makes a good friend and why their friends are important to them. This week, in class we have thought about what makes us special. The children shared differences between them and their peers, and we highlighted how this makes them unique and special. We started to talk about the different types of families and how everyone is different. As always, the children are respectful and kind during these lessons, which is lovely and makes children feel confident to share their ideas. In RE we are looking at God and what Christian views of God are. We have looked at religious stories and have looked at the different ways that Christians worship God. This week we have been thinking about the views of God. Children were able to share that Christians believe God is; kind, caring, loving, forgiving, all knowing and many more. They could then group some of these ideas into what is comforting for Christians and what can be hard to understand.



Finally, in PE we have been working on our coordination and control of the ball. The children have been focused on their dribbling between cones and passing to each other. We are looking to think about scoring goals next week before we start practicing these skills in a game! Thank you for the continued support with home and reading each week; it is greatly appreciated. Progress is showing already!





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Year 3 and Year 4

Welcome to another exciting fortnight in Year Three! Here's what we've been learning, creating, and exploring.

Maths

This fortnight in Maths, the children have been diving into number lines up to 10,000! They've loved estimating numbers, comparing and ordering up to 1,000, and revisiting subtraction of two-digit numbers with growing confidence. We've also been counting in 50s and tackling real-life, practical number problems. It's been brilliant to see their enthusiasm for problem-solving — their reasoning skills are really starting to shine!

English

In English, we've been exploring the exciting world of speech! The children have been identifying key features, learning how to punctuate direct speech correctly, experimenting with reporting clauses, and practising subordinating conjunctions. The children's confidence as young writers is really growing! In handwriting, we've been practising joined-up writing using the Debbie Hepplewhite method, developing fluency and neatness. A handwriting guide is enclosed at the bottom of the newsletter for practising at home. We're also super proud of the children for completing their first assessed piece of creative writing! They planned, wrote, and edited their stories with great imagination — their creativity has truly shone through.

Art

In Art, we've been exploring how artists use line to show form. The children created incredible 3D hand drawings, giving the illusion of depth and shape with careful pencil work. We also studied Hokusai and his woodblock printing technique. Inspired by him, the children designed and printed their own pieces using foam blocks and ink — producing some fantastic results!

History

This fortnight in History, we've travelled back to the Iron Age! The children discovered that iron is stronger than bronze, which allowed people to make tougher tools like weapons, ploughs, and cooking implements. We also learned how Iron Age communities defended their land with hill forts. To bring history to life, the children wrote diary entries from the perspective of an Iron Age person — full of creativity and historical detail!

Geography

In Geography, we've been comparing San Francisco and London, looking at their human features and the differences between environments and man-made landmarks. The children have also been learning to find places on a map using grid references, improving their map-reading and navigation skills.

Science

In Science, we've been exploring the digestive system! The children have been following the journey of food from mouth to stomach and through the intestines, learning about each organ's role. We've also discussed how the digestive system breaks food down into nutrients for energy, growth, and repair. The children have loved labelling diagrams and understanding how all the organs work together as a team to keep us healthy.

PE

In PE, we've been sharpening our basketball skills! The children have practised dribbling with control, shooting accurately, and passing effectively to teammates.





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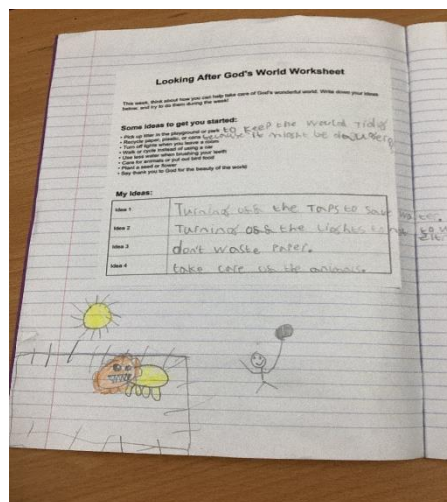
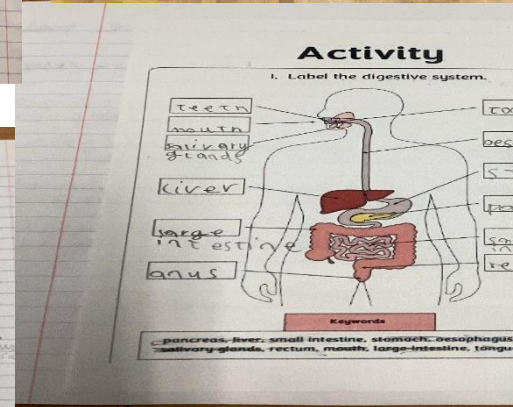
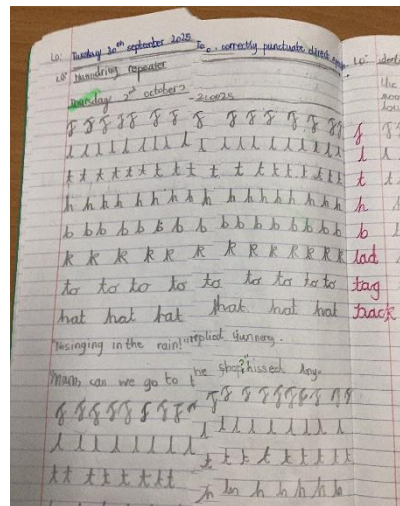
We've also focused on coordination, spatial awareness, and teamwork, encouraging the children to communicate and support one another. Their confidence and skills have improved brilliantly week by week!

RE

In RE

we've been exploring what Christians do because they believe God is the Creator. The children read a case study and discussed how people try to follow God's guidance and be stewards of the world.

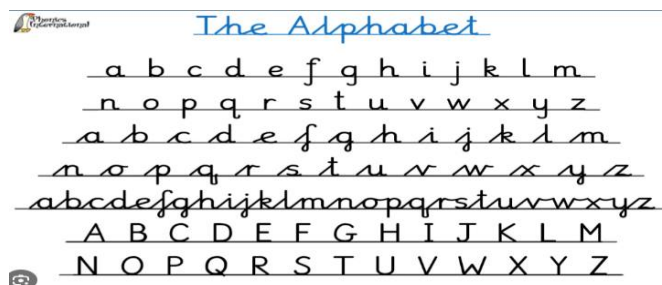
We also talked about practical ways we can be stewards in everyday life — like recycling, protecting nature, and using resources responsibly. The children explored the Creation story and considered its lessons for both Christians and non-Christians. Through discussions and recorded reflections, they really enjoyed thinking about how we can all make a positive difference in the world. What a fantastic fortnight — the children have worked hard, been creative, and shown real enthusiasm for learning!





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Year 5 and Year 6



In maths in **Year 5**, the children have been counting in decimal number steps forwards and backwards through zero. They have counted in steps of 0.1 and 0.5 forwards and backwards starting with a positive or a negative number. We have looked at the fluency of these skills and problem solving using



real life scenarios. They have also been revising their understanding of Roman Numerals and learning to sequence, complete operations and read years.





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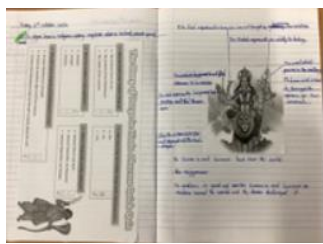
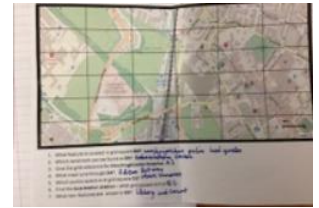


We are continuing to enjoy our book "The Boy at the Back of the Class," and have been deepening our understanding of compound and complex sentences. The children have been identifying and applying both coordinating and subordinating conjunctions to add more detail to independent clauses. We have been looking at what they add to the meaning, character behaviour and content of text and how they can use them to great effect. Today, we have planned our character descriptions about Ahmet to organise our ideas for when we come to compose on Monday.

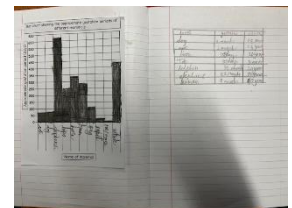
In History, we have submerged ourselves in our own "House of Wisdom." The children had a variety of activities such as fact files to explore, timelines to build, sorting tasks and comparing Baghdad 900CE to European civilisations at the time. They completed their own "knowledge tickets," to record their new learning and add in books.



We have rehearsed some map reading skills in Geography, to extend our understanding of coordinates, grid references, and scale to demonstrate location skills. We kept it local by using maps of Huntingdon, which proved popular because these were all familiar places we were locating using symbols e.g. bus station, Library and they could visualise the town centre and the hospital giving purpose and perspective to our learning.

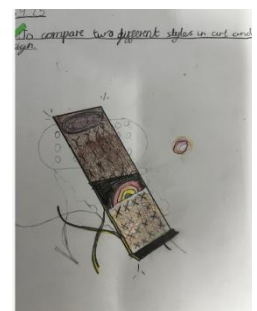


In Science the children have been learning about fertilisation, gestation and comparing the life stages of different animals to that of humans. The children were very interested to learn that some insects only had lifespans of a couple of days, and other animals' gestation periods were 2 months or 22 months!

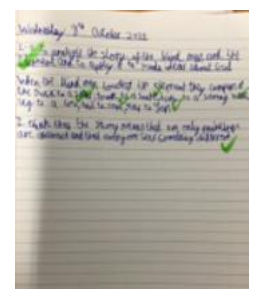


In Art, children have designed chairs in a modern style: simplistic, straight line, little decoration using modern fabrics and manufactured on machines.

In RE the children have looked at the meaning of stories and symbols; specifically, the Blind men and the Elephant and Ganesha. They were able to articulate strong understanding of the narratives and deep connections with the meanings to demonstrate the relationship Hindus have with their Gods.



The children continue to show great resilience as they settle into Year 5 as well as accountability and responsibility towards their learning. This has been the focus of PSHE discussions to ensure everyone feels confident and happy within our classroom environments to learn and share understanding. We are focusing on handwriting and spelling to show pride in our learning and rehearse high frequency words for our independent writing.



This week in **Year 6**, we had a fantastic visit from a representative of Wood Green Charity, the animal's charity, who delivered a wonderful session on animal welfare. The children were completely engaged as they learned about the essential things every animal needs to live a happy and healthy life.

The talk was centred on the five key welfare needs of our animal friends:

- A suitable home: A safe, comfortable, and appropriate environment.
- A healthy diet: The right type and amount of food and access to fresh water.
- Good health: Protection from pain and disease, including regular vet care.
- Suitable companionship: The choice to be with or apart from other animals or people.
- The ability to show normal behaviour: Having the space and opportunity to act naturally.

The session was a brilliant reminder of the responsibilities that come with owning a pet and inspired lots of thoughtful discussion among the pupils. A huge thank you to Wood Green for sharing their important work with us!



Renaissance Canvases of Plaster

Continuing our journey into the past, our art lessons this week have been inspired by the artists of the Renaissance. We learned how masters from this period didn't always use paper or canvas; they famously painted onto plaster to create magnificent frescoes and murals.



To experience this for themselves, the children have been painting their own designs directly onto Plaster of Paris disks. This technique required a different set of skills, including careful brush control on the unique surface and planning a design to fit a fixed shape. The pupils worked hard to mix colours and apply their patterns with precision, creating some truly beautiful and vibrant results that echo the decorative arts of the period.

Wishing all our families and friends a fabulous weekend