



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:

26.09.25

Welcome to the first newsletter of the year!

We are so proud to welcome all the children back to school and say a big hello to all our new children and parents/carers joining us in EYFS this month. We continue to follow our St John's promise and fully embody our school values of **respect**, **resilience** and **kindness**.

We celebrate the efforts of our children with class dojos and encourage our children to share their achievements from outside of school as well. In school, dojos are awarded for showing positive behaviours from our SLANT message (Sit up straight, Listen, Ask and Answer questions, Never interrupt and Track the speaker) at St John's. As well as this, children will be awarded 5 dojos for demonstrating any of our three school values - Respect, Resilience and Kindness. Dojos will be collected across the half term, and the child in each class with the highest number of dojos will be invited to have lunch with the Headteacher as a reward.

### 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

Alongside the dojo system, children are verbally praised for positive behaviour and work, they will also receive positive comments in their work or a message to parents/carers to share any successes. Each class will also be awarding a Role Model of the Week, where each teacher has been looking out for a good role model who demonstrates our school values consistently. Another certificate which we will be continuing this year is our Let's Celebrate - where children will be celebrated within collective worship for something they have done that again, reflects our school values. We welcome any achievements made outside of school (sporting, music clubs etc) to be brought into school to share with the children's class and/or the school.

House points continue to be used predominantly for sporting events and with PE lessons.

For all our families, we ask that you attend our online parent/carer 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,

We are excited to share what our EYFS and Year 1 children have been learning so far. It's been a joyful and productive few weeks, filled with creativity, discovery, and lots of hands-on learning. Here's a look at what we've been up to:

#### EYFS Highlights

##### **Phonics:**

Our phonics focus has been on sound-spelling correspondence. Children have been tuning in to the sounds they hear in simple words, with a particular focus on the sounds a, i, m, s, and t.

##### **Maths:**

The children have been learning to compare, sort, and match objects according to shape, size, colour, or pattern. Through fun and meaningful hands-on activities, they have been matching objects that look the same, helping them to recognise similarities and develop early problem-solving skills.

#### Year 1 Highlights

##### **Phonics:**

Year 1 children have been working on building and reading simple words, and they've also had the opportunity to write short sentences using the sounds they've learned.

##### **Literacy:**

This term, our literacy work has focused on making predictions in stories. We've explored sentence structure, learned to identify verbs and subjects, and practiced using full stops correctly. We have been exploring these skills through the story of *Hansel and Gretel*.

##### **Maths:**

In Maths, the focus has been on counting forwards and backwards, identifying missing numbers, and beginning to count in tens. The children are developing a strong sense of number and increasing their confidence with number patterns. They have also been working on finding one more and one less than a given number.

##### **Science:**

In our exploration of the human body, the children have focused on the eye and ear. They've learned how light and sound travel and how messages are sent to the brain. We went on a sound walk to compare loud and quiet sounds and used a variety of musical instruments to explore vibrations and sound.

##### **Art:**

Our art lessons have centred on colour theory. The children explored secondary colours and distinguished between warm and cool tones. They also experimented with tints and shades, mixing colours to create lighter and darker tones. A highlight was creating a beautiful replica of Van Gogh's *Sunflowers*.

##### **Geography:**

We've been learning about aerial views and describing location. The children created their own signpost maps and used key vocabulary like *in front*, *near*, *far*, and *close* to talk about their surroundings.





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## RE:

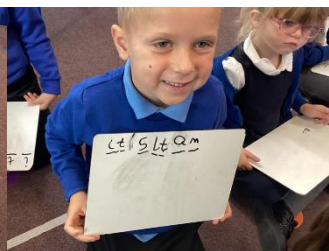
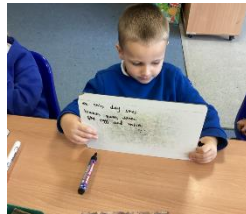
In RE, we've been learning about the Christian Creation story. The children explored the sequence in which God created the world, discussed why it is important to Christians, and even created their own dance performance to represent the days of Creation.

## PE (Physical Education)

In PE, the children have been learning to follow simple instructions and are developing their independence by practicing how to dress and undress for PE. They have been engaging in a variety of movement activities designed to build their core body strength and improve coordination and balance.

## Forest School

In Forest School, the children have been actively exploring their environment. They've enjoyed climbing trees, building structures, and discovering insects and bugs. The outdoor area has also inspired some fantastic role play, encouraging creativity, teamwork, and a deeper connection with nature.





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## Year 2,

Another great few weeks in **year 2**. The children have been working very hard and are showing real enjoyment with their learning. In mathematics we have continued to look at place value and number. We have continued to check in on the children to make sure they know how to spell their numbers to 100 and we are now looking at the value of digits in 2-digit numbers. The children have been using manipulatives to build a number so that they can see how many tens and how many ones a number has. We have been really impressed with how the children are progressing in this area. Their understanding of place value and number will help them throughout the year with the rest of the math's curriculum. Keep it up woodpeckers because you are all trying extremely hard.



In our English lessons we have been working on our cursive joins. We have spent time practicing our handwriting and writing some letters so that throughout the year we can build on this. The children have shown pride in their work and have started to use their diagonal joins when writing at length so that is fantastic. We have now started reading our Class Book the 'Arabian Nights'. As a class we have been reading about Aladdin and the Magic Lamp. Pupils have been able to write compound sentences using 'and' to add more detail to their writing. Over the next few lessons, we will be continuing this skill and building our confidence in this area so that the children feel ready to apply the skills into their independent writing. 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. In our next few lessons, we will be looking at the circulatory system and what this does for us as humans. It was lovely to see the children had researched many different facts about the Human Body, it was great to read them and for the children to want to get involved.

In Art we have been looking at colours. The children have identified primary and secondary colours that are warm and cool. We have also looked at tints and shades. The children have used their knowledge of tinting and shading to create a piece of artwork in the style of Paul Klee. The outcomes were fantastic; I am sure you will agree!

In Geography we have been studying 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, as a class we have





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thought about how we make friends and how we keep our friends. The children discussed the qualities that they think are important when making friends, for example; Happy, Kind, Funny, helpful and many more. 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. We have been thinking about some of the different ways that Christians worship God. We listened to some hymns, and the children were able to suggest the meaning of them.

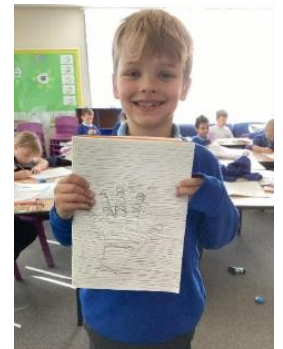
Lastly, I want to thank you for your help in writing manifestos for your children. Some of the speeches were lovely and well thought out. The children really enjoyed the voting process and are excited to find out the results!

### Year 3 and Year 4

We've had another fantastic week of learning in **Year 3**. The children have been working hard, showing curiosity, and developing their skills across all subjects. Here are some of our learning highlights from the past couple of weeks:

We have been strengthening our number and place value skills in lots of different ways in maths. The children practiced rounding numbers to the nearest ten, which helped them estimate answers more quickly and confidently. We also worked on plotting numbers up to 1000 on a number line to see how they fit together, and explored how numbers change when finding one more or less, ten more or less, and one hundred more or less. To support our understanding, we used Base 10 resources, which gave the children a hands-on way to visualize numbers and build confidence.

In English, the children drew on the grammar skills they have been developing over the past two weeks to plan and write a biography. First, they studied the features of a biography through the example of Clive King, the author of *Stig of the Dump*, which they are enjoying in guided reading. They then applied what they had learned to plan a biography about a well-known and inspiring figure, Sir David Attenborough. Finally, the children wrote their biographies, carefully using a mixture of simple, compound, and complex sentences to bring their ideas together in a clear and engaging way.



Our Science learning this week focused on the brain and its important role in the body. The children discovered that the brain is the control centre of the nervous system, helping us to think, feel, move, and respond to the world around us. We explored how messages travel from the brain to different parts of the body, and the children were fascinated to learn just how powerful and important this organ is for everything we do.



In Geography, the children have been learning how to use grid references to locate places on a map. They practised reading maps carefully and using coordinates to find exact locations, which really built their confidence as young geographers. We also explored physical similarities and differences between two different locations, encouraging the children to





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think about how landscapes can look alike in some ways but be very different in others. This sparked some thoughtful discussions and curiosity about the wider world.

In history, we moved on from our recap of the Stone Age to begin learning about the Bronze Age. The children were amazed to discover how bronze was made thousands of years ago and how it changed the way people lived. They compared the Bronze Age to the Stone Age, noticing the big differences in tools but how there are some similarities too. The children were full of wonder as they began to imagine what life might have been like during this exciting period in history.

In art, the children continued to explore the use of lines, this time through the inspiring designs of Henry Moore's sculptures. They looked closely at how he used line in his sketches and then applied their own line knowledge to create a 3D drawing of their hand. This activity encouraged careful observation and creativity, and the children were very proud of the unique artworks they produced.

We are so impressed with the children's enthusiasm and effort across all their learning this week. It is wonderful to see their confidence growing day by day, and we can't wait to see what they achieve next week!



In **Year 4**, we have been focusing on consolidating our understanding of place value through adding four-digit numbers, crossing zero into negative and solving problems with such numbers in different contexts. There, of course, has been a big focus on learning our times tables too. In English, we have focused on recording direct speech and reporting clauses. We have used these skills to record our own dialogue based upon a scene from Oliver Twist. We have also learnt and included expanded noun phrases, prepositional phrases and a variety of sentence types within our writing.



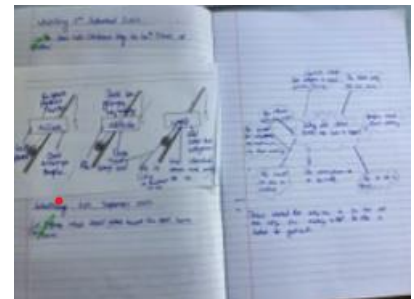


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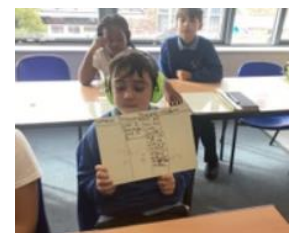
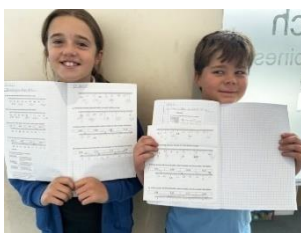


In Geography we have learnt about more features of map reading and the knowledge we can gain from them. We have discussed how to use grid co-ordinates to locate certain places on a map, and we have learnt to use scale to measure distances and plot routes. In History, the children have enjoyed learning about the Ancient Greek civilisation. We have looked at the different warring city-states, the difference between the Spartans and the Athenians, and we have looked at the Persian wars and the battles that took place. In Science, Year 4 have looked at the digestive system. The children have studied the different types of teeth, the inside of a tooth and the organs which our bodies digestive system uses. We have been studying light and dark in Art and have practised the techniques used to cast shadow and give atmosphere. We have used pencil, chalk and charcoal, and water colours to show still life subjects. In PE we have been learning all about the techniques and skills needed to pass and dribble in Basketball, and in PSHE we have been learning all about friendships. In RE we have continued to study the Gospels.



## Year 5 and Year 6

This week in maths, **Year 5** have been working on number sequences, especially counting in powers of ten. This has helped the children see how numbers grow in regular patterns and strengthen their understanding of place value. Falcons have also started exploring negative numbers. The children enjoyed thinking about where we use them in real life, such as below-zero temperatures or lifts that go underground. They then learned how to add and subtract with negative numbers, using number lines to support their thinking. This has been a great way to stretch their reasoning and apply their calculation skills in a new context. In Red Kites we have extended our focus on counting in powers of ten and steps on 0.1 and reading numbers to 2 decimal places. The children have been marking numbers on a number line and counted through tenths and tens of thousands in steps of 0.1.



In English, Year 5 have been consolidating key grammar skills. We have practised using adverbials at the start and within sentences to add detail about time, place and manner. The children have also worked on using commas correctly in lists to ensure clarity in their writing. In addition, we





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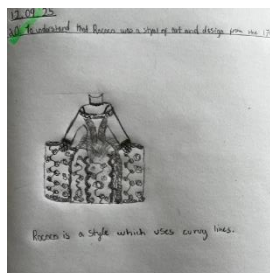


have focused on apostrophes: both for contracted forms (e.g. don't, couldn't) and for showing possession (the boy's bag, the children's voices). To apply these skills in context, the class have written diary entries based on our guided reading book *The Boy at the Back of the Class*. This gave them the opportunity to experiment with adverbials, punctuation, and accurate grammar choices while also writing in role and capturing a character's thoughts and emotions.

In Science, we have been furthering our understanding of 2 of the stages we go through in a human lifecycle. We looked at puberty, during adolescence and the physical and emotional changes all our bodies go through at the stage. We have then studied the aging process and how our bodies find it harder to repair itself, slows down and changes as we advance into old age. The children have added to a timeline of stages within a lifespan with extra detail that they have learned within the learning objectives.

In RE, we have continued our topic of Hinduism and looked at specific stories of Gods and deities and asked ourselves "What can we learn from stories about Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva?" The children have collaborated in groups of 4 to read, discuss and answer questions about Hindu stories. The children, in their groups, read the stories in depth, thought about what the stories and images say about the deities, before sharing their ideas with the group and then the class. In History we explored the House of Wisdom in Baghdad 900CE and learned about how people journeyed from across the world in search of knowledge but also to teach and develop new thinking in Science, Literature, Art and Maths. We learned that books we translated from many different languages, and their library housed one of the largest collections of books anywhere in the world. We have also been learning about the important layout and position of the city by the River Tigris and on established trade routes. Each week the children are adding to a knowledge poster about their new learning. We have been learning about how cartographers plan the precise locations of places on maps using longitudinal lines, latitudinal lines and coordinates in geography. We have also looked at the importance of scale and consistently applying this scale to the map created. This makes directions and planning journeys easier and finding locations simpler.

In Music we have started our topic on Jin Go La Ba, music from Western Africa by listening to a piece c by the Nigerian drummer Babatunde Olatunji. We are revising "call and response" and syncopation to remind ourselves of rhythm, beat, off-beat and chanting. We will then practice our rhythmic beats on djembe drums. In Art the children have been studying the elaborate, decorative Rococo style and having a go at carefully recreating it! In PE, we have continued our invasion game play and developed our skills in effective team play, pass making, defense and offence in live game situations.







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This week in Geography, our classroom was transformed into an airport as the children became globe-trotting explorers! Armed with their very own passports, they “flew” across continents, solving clues to discover which country or city they had landed in. Once they’d touched down, the challenge was to work out what time it was in their new destination compared to home. There were plenty of “jet lag” jokes, lots of excited stamping of passports, and a real buzz of adventure as the children realised just how tricky (and fun!) time zones can be when you’re travelling the world



*Wishing all our families and friends a fabulous weekend*

