



It's great to be back at school

It has been lovely to see the boys settling into the new academic year. Their sunny dispositions have matched the weather and there is an excited buzz about the School.

We have been busy over the summer, with the Site Team and contractors working hard on refurbishing some key areas of the School. Our younger learners in particular have loved

their new play spaces and updated classrooms. Parent information evenings have offered a lovely opportunity to meet new teachers; we look forward to welcoming Year 1 (Monday) and Year 2 (Tuesday) and both Year 7 & 8 parents on Thursday.

Sports fixtures commence shortly for our older boys, many of whom enjoyed some pre-season rugby training

led by Mr Spackman, our new Head of Games. Our vibrant musical and co-curricular programme also started this week and we hope all boys feel inspired and excited by the learning opportunities all around them.

I hope you enjoy this edition of The Lamb and wish you all a restful weekend.

T Jenkin



Welcome to all our new teachers

We welcome 15 new staff to St John's this term, some familiar faces and some new. Ms Gillen is back from maternity leave and Mr Wooldridge returns as Head of Cricket. Claire Hodges is our new swimming coach and Tina Serby has joined the catering Department. We also have some new Gap Year students and some new faces in our administration team who we will introduce next week.



Miss Shields – Head of French

I am excited to be joining St John's as Head of French. Since the first day I visited St John's, I have been made to feel welcome. I am impressed by the high standard of academic excellence and exceptional pastoral care, which is at the heart of the School. When I am not working, you will find me outside on a long walk in nature, singing or doing some form of exercise. As the first term gets into full swing, I am looking forward to getting to know the boys, the School and the families better over the coming weeks.

Mr Spackman – Head of Games

I am very excited to be returning to St John's after an absence of ten years. I have so many positive memories of my time at St John's and I can't wait to make many more. My vision for sport at St John's is for boys to love representing their school and playing with their friends. I want them all to enjoy the challenges that sport can bring and to develop them into resilient adaptable sportsmen. I would like all pupils to push to be the very best they can be, no matter what team they play for and in what competition or setting. I look forward to seeing parents on the sidelines very soon.



Mrs Spackman – Deputy Head Pre-Prep and EYFS, Lambs Teacher

I am delighted to be returning to St John's after five years away. I love coming into school every day, being a part of this wonderful community again. I moved back to the area over the summer with Mr Spackman and our two children. In my previous positions at St John's, I have been a Reception teacher and the Head of Modern Foreign Languages. My heart lies in teaching and guiding the youngest children, a truly magical stage in their development, where everything is learnt through play. Every day is fun, exploratory and exciting. I am looking forward to the adventures ahead at St John's.





Welcome to all our new teachers cont..



Miss Thompson – Head of SEN

Originally from the world of Business, I have been working in the field of SEN for over 25 years, within Education, Social Care and the Youth Work sector. I began in education as an English, Drama and ICT teacher and ran an internal inclusion unit for many years. I have worked as an SEN Adviser all over London and the Home Counties. I have always been passionate about inclusion and believe that all young people deserve the opportunity, and should be given the tools, to meet their true potential. I am delighted to have joined St John's, which I feel is a very special place.

Mrs Ward – Deputy Head of Juniors, Year 4 Willow Teacher

I am very excited to join the St John's community. I live in Ruislip with my husband and daughters, who are 10 and 7. My first career was in the Oil and Gas industry. I decided to re-train as a teacher and it's a decision that I have never regretted. I really enjoy challenging children to become independent thinkers and learners. I aim to instil in them the skills and mindset to excel in every aspect of their lives. I am looking forward to getting to know you and your children and I am excited for the adventures that lay ahead of us.



Mr Watts – Assistant Head of Professional Development

I studied sport and exercise psychology at University, and since then, I have led primary PE programmes, coached youth football, and I continue to support aspiring coaches. Alongside my teaching role, I will be spearheading the football programme and leading the staff professional development programme here at St John's. Since joining the school, I have been overwhelmed by the warm nature of the community, commitment to high standards and the pupils' appetite for learning. Outside of school, I am passionate about health and fitness, cooking, and enjoy combining my love for sport, history, and travel.



Our Head and Deputy Head Boys

Many congratulations to our new Head Boy, Rian and his Deputies, Ayaan and Khyan. We wish them every success as they take on these responsible roles, assisting the smooth running of the School. They have already started to undertake their duties, as you can see.



“*I am excited and honoured to hold the position of Head Boy. I look forward to the roles and responsibilities entrusted to me and hope to strengthen and better the school community.* Rian



Collecting Pre-Prep boys for the School Council Meeting

“*I aim to be a positive role model for the younger boys* Khyan



Assisting the office with admin

“*I can't wait to give my suggestions to Eco Council* Ayaan



Year 8 practical maths

Here are some pictures of Year 8 boys using practical Pythagoras theorem around the school. They were finding out how long the ramps would need to be if we replaced the steps.





Vegetarian Society cooking workshop at St John's

Last week during staff inset, Mrs Foley and her team chopped and cooked their way through a vegetarian workshop day. They prepared and tasted six different meals led by expert trainers from the Vegetarian Society. At lunchtime staff were lucky enough to arrive in time to taste

the cauliflower and apple curry which everyone thought was delicious. We are looking forward to the School Council testing some of these dishes, and others inspired by the Vegetarian Society, and hopefully adding them as regular features on the lunch menu





Hitting the ground running

It may be the first Lamb of the new school year but there is no shortage of things going on to report on.



Our musicians passed by the Houses of Parliament on the way to their concert



The Air Ambulance landed on our field during the holidays, attending an accident nearby



Ayaan entertained us playing beautifully in assembly



Hitting the ground running



Having fun in Golden Time



Keeping cool in the hot weather



The School Council met for the first time this week



A new year in the Pre-Prep

Over 120 excited boys have started a new year in the Pre-Prep. They have been exploring new classrooms and play areas, catching up with their friends and chatting about their holidays. Everyone has settled well, and the boys are already very busy.



Welcome to our new Lambs



This year's Robins



This year's Squirrels



This year's Otters



This year's Owls



A new year in the Pre-Prep



This year's Badgers



This year's Eagles



The boys are exploring their new environment

Over the summer much of the Pre-Prep was re-furbished. You can see here what fun the boys are having with the learning equipment in their new outside playgrounds





Our lovely new dining hall

The dining hall has had a make-over this summer ready for first ever Lambs to have lunch in the dining hall. There are special low tables and chairs and the ceiling now has acoustic panels to help make a calmer environment. The panels are disguised as clouds and as one Pre-Prep boy remarked: *“It’s like we are having a picnic – it looks like outside in here”*





More fun in the Pre-Prep



Making a crocodile in the Lambs



Otters enjoying the outdoor instruments



Making the most of Golden Time



Sitting really quietly listening to Ms Gilders' poem



Owls getting outside on a nature walk



Otters going on a walk in the grounds



It's been wonderful welcoming back our Juniors

The sun has been shining, the children are excited to be back and everyone has made a fantastic start to our new school year. In Year 3, the boys have been getting into their new routines and they are wearing their new ties with pride. Upstairs in Year 4, we have begun reading *The Iron Man* and we are intrigued about where and why he was made. In Maths, we have revised our Place Value knowledge and we have started a unit of work on mental addition and subtraction.



3 Pine class photo



4 Beech class photo



4 Oak class photo



4 Willow class photo



The Juniors have been getting outside





Our wind and brass players enjoyed a special concert

On Wednesday a group of our wind and brass players had the honour of attending a concert given by the Band of the Royal Yeomanry at the Guard's Chapel on Birdcage Walk. The highlight of the evening was the performance of music from The Incredibles.



The fact that these people play instruments as a job is amazing. We enjoyed learning from the conductor.



I enjoyed the history associated with the music that was played



The sound of the Yeomanry Band was mesmerising



New adventures in music

All our groups started rehearsals this week and Year 3 boys have been enjoying their first lessons on new instruments. We have not one, but two orchestras this year, ensuring that every musician has a chance to play from Year 3-8. Seeing the Norman Hall full of our younger musicians was truly wonderful.





New adventures in music





Happy to be back in the Art Room

We've all had a busy first week back in the Art room. Year 3 boys have been looking through kaleidoscopes and creating kaleidoscopic pictures. Year 4 have been learning about the artist Paul Klee and Year 5 have enjoyed using the paint pens to draw detailed patterns in the style of the artist, Gustav Klimt.





Rugby Season is here

We would like to introduce our U13 A Rugby Captain Marcus and Vice Captains Thomas and Gen. The boys can't wait for the start of the rugby season. They are all following the Rugby World Cup and are ready to inspire all the St John's teams and challenge other schools' teams. "Come on the Lads!"



All boys in Years 5 to 8 have already been put through their paces by the games staff led by Mr Spackman. In the recent hot conditions we've been taking plenty of water breaks. There have been some fantastic skills on display. Matches will start in earnest for the Year 7 & 8 boys on Wednesday 20th September against Davenies.





Rugby Season is here cont...





ST JOHN'S SCHOOL

OPEN MORNING

Wednesday 4th October, 2023 from 9.15 a.m



Register for our Open Morning at www.st-johns.org.uk or scan the code below

Potter Street Hill • Northwood • Middlesex • HA6 3QY
T: 020 8866 0067 • E: admissions@st-johns.org.uk • W: www.st-johns.org.uk





Important dates and contacts

Monday 18th September: Year 1 Information Evening (3.15-3.45pm)

Tuesday 19th September: Year 2 Information Evening (3.15-3.45pm)

Hockey THL League starts: U13, U12 away at MTS
St John's Association Meeting (7.30pm)

Wednesday 20th September: Travelling Book Fair
Rugby v Davenies: U13 A, B (a) U12 A, B (h) (2.30pm)
Colts Rugby Festival, Saracens Stadium, Allianz Park (3.30pm)

Thursday 21st September: Geography Field Trip (Year 8)
Year 7 Information Evening (6.30pm)
Travelling Book Fair

Friday 22nd September: Jeans for Genes Day (Lower School)

Sunday 24th September: Moor Park Fun Run at Merchant Taylors' School

Updates: Please continue to visit www.st-johns.org.uk for all the latest information on sports fixtures and results.

You can also follow us on twitter [@stjnsnorthwood](https://twitter.com/stjnsnorthwood) and our sports department [@StJohnsNwSport](https://twitter.com/StJohnsNwSport)

Mailings: To be sent a copy of the Lamb each week, please email: Lamb Editor with your contact details.

Photographs: Do please continue to send in pictures to lambeditor@st-johns.org.uk for inclusion in 'The Lamb'.



Since the start of term it has been hot enough to exchange school uniform for PE kit and summer dress which may explain why the boys have been so energetic.

Notices and reminders

Travelling Book Fair 20th and 21st September: The Fair will take place in the Pre-Prep Library 3.00-4.00pm and in the White House Library for Prep and Juniors 4.00-5.00pm. Please see the letter from Mrs Rizava for details.

Friday 22nd September is Jeans for Genes Day in the Pre-Prep: Here is the link for donations [Jeans for Genes](https://www.jeansforgenes.org.uk)



Moor Park Fun Run Sunday 24th September: We hope as many as possible of you will be able to join us for the Moor Park 10K and Fun Runs at Merchant Taylors' School.

The event raises money for the Mount Vernon Cancer Centre. Boys should run in white school PE kit and wear a school tracksuit before and after the race. Here is the link should you wish to [make a donation](https://www.moorpark10k.org.uk). The entry form can be found here www.moorpark10k.org.uk

Open Morning 4th October: We look forward to seeing you. Please [register here](#) or use the code on page 22

Votes for Schools: This week's question: Do we need to change our attitudes to recycling e-waste? 76.7% said yes. Next week Years 3-6: "Are you resilient when things don't go to plan?" Years 7&8: "Are you scared of failure?"

House Points: 1st, Oates 2.77, 2nd, Lincoln 2.75, 3rd, Lawrence 2.51, 4th, Churchill 2.33

Have a lovely weekend