



## Safe Cycling for Year 8 boys



**This week, a team of instructors from Hillingdon Council came to school to train our boys. It was a challenging week, not least because of our location on the top of a hill! At the end of the week, the boys were awarded with their Level 2 Bikeability badge which recognises their ability to cycle safely, including starting and stopping with confidence, passing stationary parked vehicles, understanding signals, signs and road markings and negotiating the road: including quiet junctions, crossroads and roundabouts and sharing the road with other vehicles. Well done boys!**



**St John's has** been a happy hive of activity this week. The tone was set by Chaplain James Fields who invited boys to reflect on our School values, and the importance of kindness, in our Monday morning assembly.

Elsewhere in this edition, we celebrate peddling, Pre-Prep poetry recitals, and Phab. Young engineers from eight local Prep and Primary schools enjoyed a day of creative challenges, team building and superhero costume design.

Our football season is underway, and 1st XI leaders, Shane and Emerson offer some words of encouragement and passion which I know will be replicated on the pitch next week. Thank you to all of the teachers and instructors who make this all possible!

*T Jenkins*



## Winner's tea with the Lord Mayor

**The Lord Mayor** and Lady Mayoress hosted a very special afternoon tea for the Lord Mayor's Show competition winners and their parents at the Merchant Taylor's Hall on Tuesday afternoon. Three of our pupils were prize-winners. Nishant won the Essay Competition, Josh won the Junior Photography prize and Hugo's winning flag design was waved by everyone at the Lord Mayor's Show in November.

"The Lady Mayoress explained why each winner had been selected. She said that she really liked my photo as it captured the new city against the backdrop of the historic old city, with people enjoying themselves – which is exactly how I wanted it to be seen! It felt good to be there with two other St John's winners, Hugo and Nishant. It was a great afternoon." *Josh Year 6*





## Phab assembly

We were really grateful to have Old Boys, Joe and Shivam from MTS, join our Year 7&8 boys this morning in assembly to talk about Phab, the charity which inspires and supports disabled and non-disabled children, young people and adults to make more of a life together. The boys talked about their charity fund raising activities, which included a gruelling walk from Rickmansworth to Central London, as well as a charity Rugby match to name but a few. Young people from

MTS and St Helen's then use their funds to provide respite care for families with disabled children in the local area, planning and providing for them what some young people fondly remember as 'the best week of their life ...ever!' We look forward to supporting the Phab initiatives during the forthcoming year. More about Phab can be found here:

<https://www.phab.org.uk/about-us-what-we-do>





## St John's Values - Kindness

We welcomed Merchant Taylors' School Chaplain, James Fields, to our assembly on Monday. He spoke to us about things in life that are more precious than money, such as our values and the people in our lives. He illustrated his message with the bible story about how difficult it would be for a camel to get through the eye of a needle. He challenged

Vivek in Year 3 to thread a needle during the assembly. Thanks to the boys' amazing DT&E lessons, this was an unexpectedly simple task.

Rev Fields had recently been given the 50p challenge - to spend a 50p piece in a meaningful way. In an act of kindness, he donated it to our school charity.





## Monster Invasion!

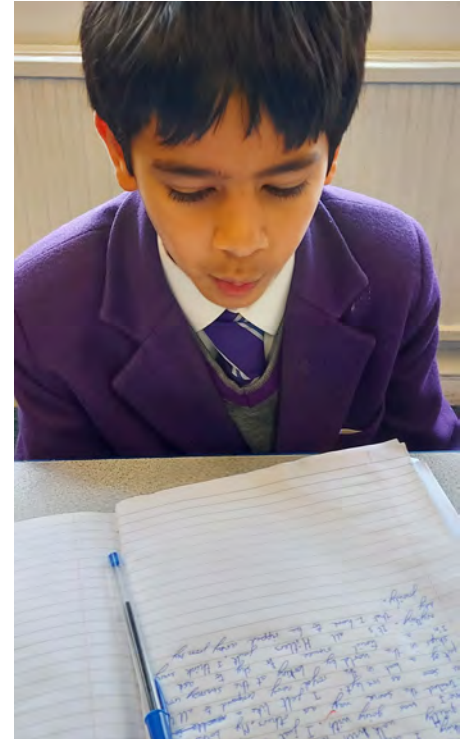
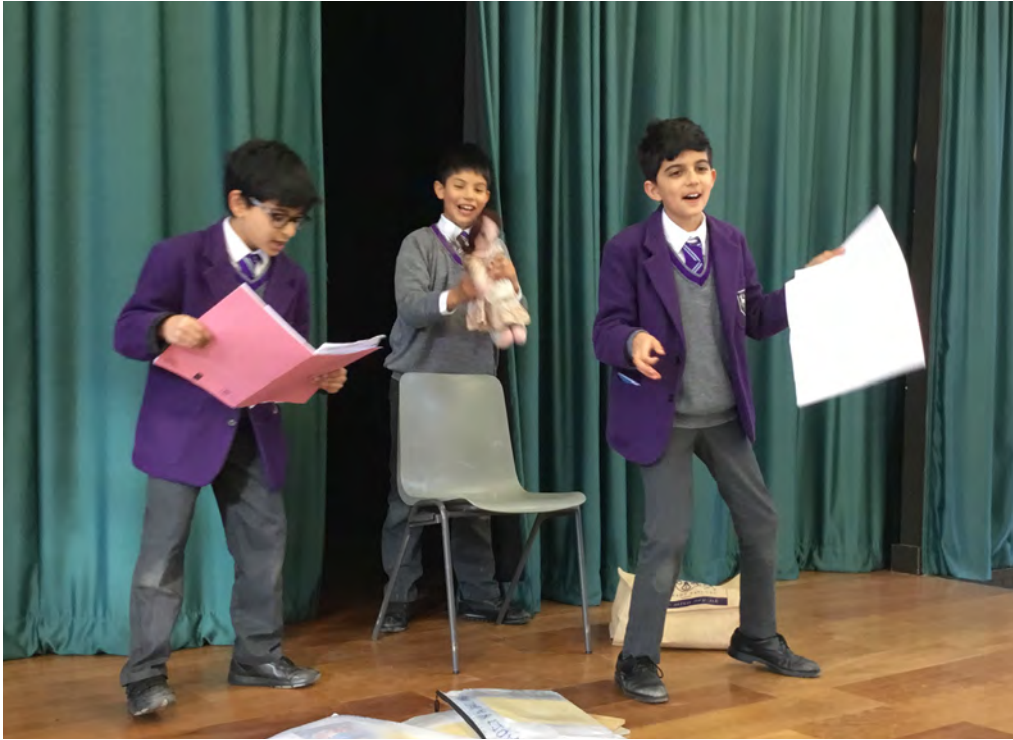
**This week** the Science Labs have become the new home for five mini-monsters in the form of Panther Chameleons. The five plucky little reptiles are only three months old and have been bred in captivity by a local animal enthusiast. They are settling-in well and have been delighting the boys with their feeding habits as well as their climbing antics. They can catch a cricket with their tongues from an amazing distance of 15cm, which is incredible considering that they are only a few centimetres long themselves. They have been lent to the school and as they grow, we will move them onto new larger homes.





## Year 5 imagine life as wartime evacuees

As part of their English study of *Carrie's War*, the historical novel by Nina Bawden, our Year 5 boys have been writing monologues from the point of view of evacuees in Second World War Britain. They have presented their writing in a variety of ways, performing short drama sequences, speaking in the forest and taking part in a hot-seating activity in role, during which they interviewed each other about their feelings, hopes and concerns as evacuees.





## Other things going on around school



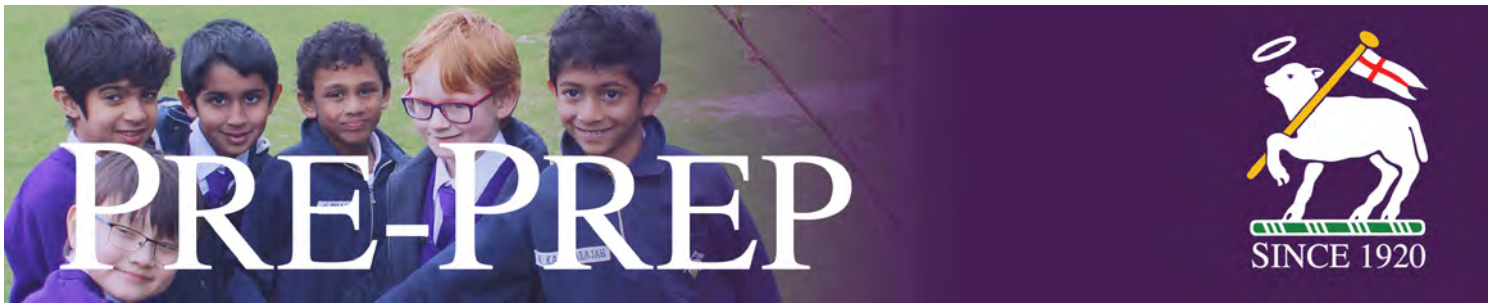
Boys from our Senior Choir are ready for the Young Voices concert at Wembley on Monday



Aary receives the first Gold House Points Certificate this year



5C have been exploring optical illusions in Art and form time



## Pre-Prep Poetry Competition 2023

**Every boy learnt** a poem for the competition, with subject matter ranging from fluffy clouds to vultures. The preliminary rounds were very difficult to judge, but eventually three boys from each class were put forward to recite their poem in the final.

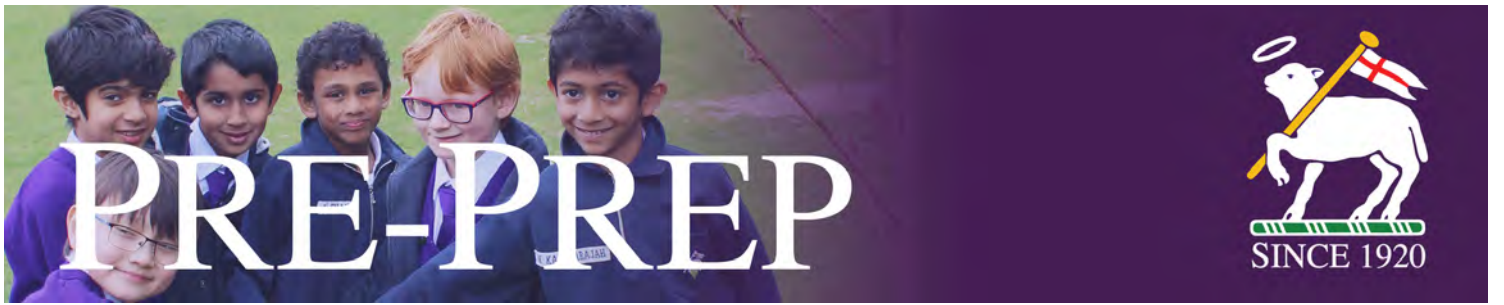
Mrs Quinlivan, from Merchant Taylors' Pre-Prep, was

faced with the difficult task of choosing the class winners and eventually the overall winner of the competition. Each boy recited his poem clearly and confidently. After much thought, Mrs Quinlivan announced that Vihaan in the Otters was the winner.

Well done to all the boys who learnt their poems so well.







# Pre-Prep Poetry Competition 2023





# Reception boys made a penguin in pairs





## Year 2 have been busy this week

By **mixing vinegar** and milk, they have made their own piece of plastic. The boys enjoyed the experiment...but not the lingering smell of vinegar in the classroom!





## Year 3 are learning about rocks

**Year 3** have been studying different type of rock. This week, we made sedimentary rock using biscuits! We crushed the biscuits into crumbs, like the sediment at the bottom of the ocean. We pressed the pieces down into the cups in layers. It took a lot of time and pressure (with the help of some melted butter!) to form the individual 'sediments' into 'rock'. It looked just like real sedimentary rock, with different sizes, shapes and colours on show in the layers!



Ayad explained exactly how the rock cycle works with examples of each type of rock





# Variety is the spice of life in the Juniors

The Juniors paired up with their buddies from a different year group in assembly this week and were challenged to play a different game at playtime with a different friend. Football at playtime can be wonderful but some variety is the spice of life.





## Junior code crackers

**Code crackers** wrote secret messages using a cipher code, put them inside a pen and hid them in the woods. We then hunted for the hidden pens, deciphered the messages and followed the instructions. We all enjoyed pretending to be spies for the afternoon!

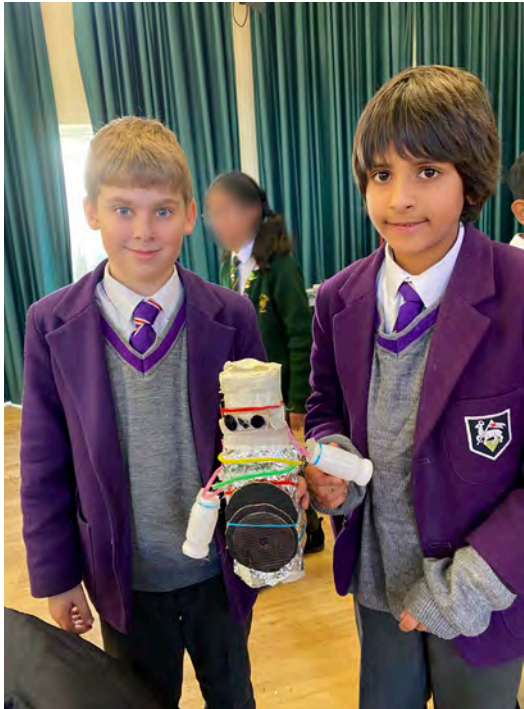




# Our annual Interschools D&T Challenge

**Young engineers from** our local area came together at St John's on Monday for our eighth Interschools D&T Challenge. We welcomed Year 5 students and their teachers from Devonshire House, York House, Pinnerwood Primary, Harvey Road Primary, Glebe Primary, Merchant Taylors' Prep, Hillside Junior School and St Helen's School to design

and make a suitable superhero costume for Baymax from the movie Big Hero 6. Year 8 DT&E scholars enjoyed their leadership responsibilities as they supported young students during the day. While awards were given following the rigorous testing procedures, the importance of iteration, resilience and teamwork were also highly celebrated.





## Focus on football

I am delighted to introduce myself as the 1st team football captain. I have played football since I was a toddler, and I had the best coach and mentor - my dad. A few years ago, I was scouted for Crystal Palace FC and attended training sessions with their underage teams, from which I learnt a lot. Anyone who knows me, knows that I am an avid Manchester United supporter. I have visited Old Trafford many times and have been inspired by some of their all-time greatest players, such as Roy Keane, for his no nonsense leadership qualities and of course the fantastic Ronaldo for his determination, work ethic and mindset towards not only matches but also training.

As you know, the Spring Term at St John's means only one thing... football fever! My aim as captain of the 1st team in this fantastic school, is primarily to be a great role model for all of the younger boys. I would like to encourage younger boys to approach me with any football queries, or to just talk about the latest match on TV.

So far, despite the frozen ground, our U8s made a great start to the season last Thursday against St Martin's. The first 1st XI match of the season will be against Thorpe House next week and we are also looking forward to the annual Belmont tournament in March, involving the Colts A and our 1st team. Best of luck to all of our teams this season, let's play to the best of our ability and make our teachers proud. Go St John's! *Shane 8M, captain*



I am honoured to be this year's vice-captain. This is the second football season at St John's and our teams are raring to go! My passion for football began when I started playing aged 3 and I have continued to train and progress ever since, reaching the Excel Football Academy in 2018. Last year, my Academy team won the U13 League which was a great achievement and I am hoping to bring my enthusiasm, experience and encouragement to the St John's 1st XI team this season. I am looking forward to walking out with Shane and Mr Bleakley, our coach. Shane and I have been playing football for many years and enjoy some friendly banter over his team (Man Utd) and my team (the Mighty Arsenal) and he has recently gone quite quiet! Come on the Purples! *Emerson 8M, vice-captain*





# SPORT



## Focus on football: 1st team training



# SPORT



## Our football teams



The U10 Ds



The U9 Bs



The U8 Cs



The U9 Es & Fs



The U8 squad

# SPORT



## Under 8s playing Haberdashers 2nd Feb



### Krüger Sports Camps



The February Half Term Camp is open! With lots of variety to support the main sport this term, football. A cricket day for early practice for the summer term and the popular Courts Sports on the Friday to bring in even more variety for our youngsters.

MON—Cricket  
TUES to THU—Football  
FRI—Court Sports

For more information & bookings go to [www.krugercamps.co.uk](http://www.krugercamps.co.uk)





## Important dates

**Monday 6th February:** Young Voices at Wembley Arena (7.00pm)

**Tuesday 7th February:** Safer Internet Day

**Wednesday 8th February:** Football v Thorpe House: 1st, 2nd X1 (a) 3rd, 4th X1 (h) (2.30pm)

Year 5 Parents' Meeting (L-W) (6.00pm-8.00pm)

**Thursday 9th February:** Eco-Council (1.20pm)

**Friday 10th February:** Lord Mayor's Visit to St John's

## Contacts

**Updates:** Please continue to visit [www.st-johns.org.uk](http://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](mailto:lambeditor@st-johns.org.uk) for inclusion in The Lamb. Many thanks.



Mr Lawrence was pleased to see these young ornithologists participating in the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch last weekend.

## Notices and reminders

**Young Voices Trip Monday 6th February 2023:** Your son should wear his own clothes, including his YV T-Shirt. Please remember to make a packed tea for your son. We look forward to seeing you back at school after the concert when you collect your son.

**House Points:** 1st Churchill 78.87, 2nd Oates 74.93, 3rd Lincoln 74.38, 4th Lawrence 72.78

**Votes for Schools:** this week's questions:  
Years 6-8: Are you interested in Harry and Megan?



Years 3-5: Do you know what disrespect looks like?



**Next week's questions:** should influencers be responsible for our online safety?

Have a great weekend