



From the  
Headmaster

Mrs Savage presented assemblies last week on the real meaning of Christmas, focusing on what is important at this special time. At our final assembly online today, it was my pleasure to announce that Lincoln are the current holders of the Burton Page Cup and Lawrence are the leaders in the House Activities Cup.

Congratulations to all of the boys who ran so well in the House Cross Country events last week, in particular the medallists who put in excellent performances.

I know the boys enjoyed the parties last weekend. We are very grateful to the St John's Association for all their hard work organising these events. Christmas Lunch was very popular on Friday. Many thanks to Mrs Foley and her team for the delicious festive food. The House Quiz was an online affair this year. Congratulations to Lawrence who were the eventual winners.

Do read Mr Lawrence's article on page 6 about the unique chance to see the conjunction of Saturn and Jupiter in the night sky on 21st December.

Finally, I would like to thank all of you, staff, boys and parents for everything you have done to keep our community safe this term. Special thanks to Mr Barton, our cleaning supervisor and his team who have done a superb job for us. I wish you all a restful Christmas and look forward to welcoming you back in 2021

*S. Robinson*

## Tis the season to... ...wear a Christmas Jumper



On Friday the atmosphere at St John's was very festive. We all wore Christmas jumpers for the annual Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day and it was wonderful to be able to continue with this tradition and raise money for such a worthy cause. There were lots of smiling faces and fantastic jumpers and it was a wonderful way to enjoy our last day in school together this term. Thank you to everyone for your donations. We are thrilled to let you know that we have exceeded our target and raised £844 so far! The link to the [Just Giving Page](#) will be open for another week if you haven't had a chance to donate yet.







# THIS WEEK



## Christmas Jumper Day







# THIS WEEK



## Christmas Jumper Day







## Fond farewells in the Juniors

### Dee Barker 1995-2020

In 1995, St John's School bought Parkside Nursery, which I had managed for several years. Each year many Parkside boys entered St John's Pre-Prep, but now we too were actually part of the Merchant Taylors' Educational Trust. A big step but one we took in our stride with the help of the friendly staff at the School. In 2006 I made the transition myself from the nursery at St John's to the Main School, becoming the Teaching Assistant in Year 4.

Since then there have been a few changes of staff in Year 4 and I am very fortunate to be able to say that I have loved every day with each of them, never a moment when I did not want to come into school. I hope the boys always feel the same! The companionship, the friendly atmosphere and support of the staff makes this School a very unique place to be. I truly have loved working with the boys who make the days go quickly with their fun and laughter. I feel truly blessed for having been a very small part of their lives.

It is now my time to leave. I have very mixed emotions but my own little boys (grandsons) need their Nana while their Mummy returns to work and I will be very grateful and honoured to take up this new challenge! My love to you all. An enormous thank you to all the staff throughout the School, especially the 'Junior Block,' parents, both past and present and especially the boys for the most delightful 26 years with St John's – the School on the Hill. DB



### Kate Hallett 2003 – 2020

I arrived at St John's in September 2003 along with Mrs Kalirai and Ms Gilders, never imagining how long I would stay! The School has been an enormous part of my life. In fact, it's been a real family affair. In the early days, my dad volunteered to help with the Junior Chess Club and my mum has been a stalwart, attending every Carol Service for the last seventeen years. In 2009 my husband, Mr Hallett, came to join as Head of French for six years, my daughter Rachel worked part time for two terms in the Pre-Prep and lots of the boys will remember Miss Anna Hallett who was Mrs Shah's teaching assistant for a year.

Working in the Junior School was never boring. Mrs Murphy looked after me brilliantly from day one and we had a great team. I am indebted to so many colleagues for all their friendship and support but I would particularly like to mention my Year 3 partners: Mrs Emery, Miss Cooke, Mrs Seddon, Mrs Wagemaker and Mrs Reeves. The ties between many past and current staff members are strong and we are looking forward to a plethora of post-Covid celebrations. Indeed, Mrs Barker and I are already planning our new year coffee mornings for when everyone else is hard at work!

I am looking forward to a new adventure in a new location but will always have very fond memories of my time at St John's and would like to thank all the boys, parents and staff who have made these the golden years of my teaching career. KH





## Party like it's not 2020

**Whilst we may** not have been able to have our usual Christmas Bazaar, there was no way we were going to let Covid spoil our St John's Christmas celebrations this year. Thanks to the efforts of our wonderful St John's Association, Christmas parties were thrown online instead. Boys in the younger years had huge amounts of fun being entertained with magic, games and dancing. Some even landed up with pants on their heads!

The older years were treated to a street magic workshop with international touring magician Kieran, who has worked with David Blaine. Not only were they dazzled by magic, but they also learned some tricks so be prepared to be wowed.

Here's what some of the boys had to say:

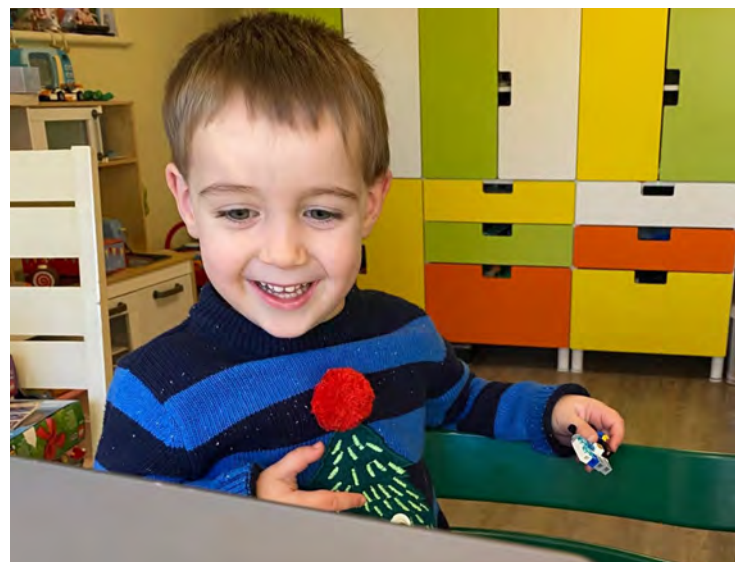
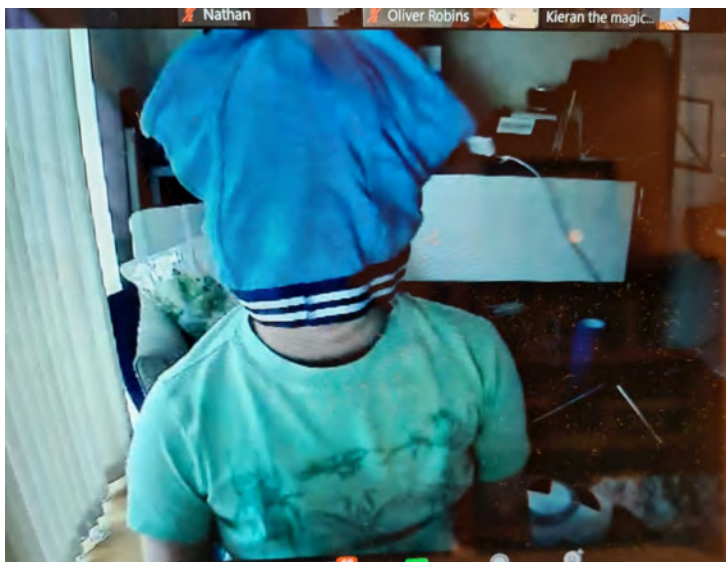
'In the Christmas party, Kieran the magician performed

lots of tricks. My favourite trick was when he had a piece of card with black dots on it and every time he turned it a new dot appeared until the card was full of dots. This was funny because Kieran could not see the dots changing and asked us to count the dots and he thought we were saying the wrong answers until he realised we were right when he counted himself!' **Maximilian Year 4**

'In the Christmas Party a person ripped some toilet paper and put it in his mouth and fixed it! We did a quick dance competition and it was very fun and I enjoyed it.' **Theodore Year 2**

'I didn't think virtual Christmas was going to be the same but when you have magic, it's fantastic!!!' **Alistair Year 6**

'That trick was insane.' **Year 8**







## The 2020 “Star of Bethlehem”

It is nice to have something to look forward to in these hard times, and Christmas 2020 is going to be special because it will have its own “Star of Bethlehem”. On December 21st and for a couple of days either side, the Gas Giants, Jupiter and Saturn will be closer than they have been for hundreds of years! If you look at the western sky, just after sunset, you should see the two planets, like two bright stars. This conjunction of the bright planets should be quite a spectacle!

A conjunction happens when the line of sight from Earth brings two planets (or more!) close together in our sky. As the planets go round the Sun in their orbits they do occasionally line up, but the solar system isn’t perfectly flat, so usually they pass above or below each other in our sky. For the same reason we don’t get eclipses every month. They rarely get as close as this, on conjunction they will appear closer than a quarter width of the Moon. The crescent moon will also be close by a few days earlier, creating an even more mesmerising event!



It wouldn’t be very wise to follow the “star” as it is going to be in the Western Sky, so you wouldn’t get anywhere near Bethlehem if you followed it! Also on the afternoon of 14th December there was a total eclipse in South America, so it would be worth looking at the news reports and learning all about how Solar Eclipses work. I have provided a link to a recording.

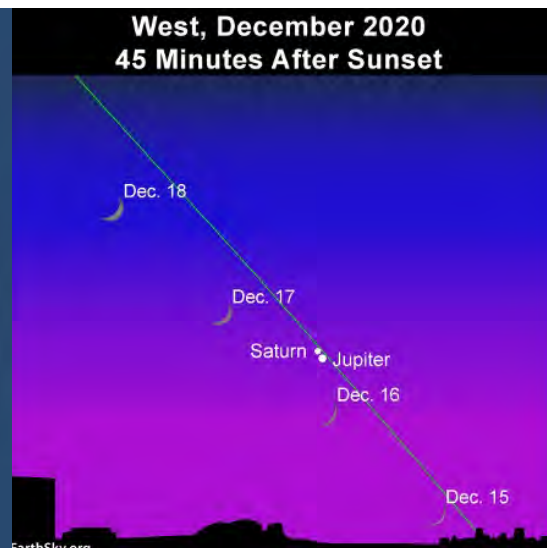
For information about the conjunction, 21st December  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GGO47tC0Ar4>

Conjunction live stream on this website

<https://astronomy.com/news/2020/12/jupiter-and-saturn-will-form-rare-christmas-star-on-winter-solstice>

Solar Eclipse recording

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zEHcZE4qcDE>





# THIS WEEK



## Chanukah celebrations with Alexander and Otto

**This week we** are celebrating Chanukah. Chanukah is the Jewish festival of lights and lasts for eight days each December. Chanukah means “dedication” and we remember the 2000-year-old story of the rededication of the Jewish Temple.

King Antiochus of Syria wanted to abolish Judaism until one group of brave soldiers called the Maccabees stood up to him. They fought hard against the King’s army and, against all odds, they won. They reclaimed the Jewish Temple and wanted to rededicate it to G-d.

Once inside the Temple they realised there was only enough oil left to keep the lamp burning for one day. G-d performed a miracle where he made the oil in the temple burn for eight nights when there was only enough left for one. This gave the Jewish people the time they needed to collect more oil.

During Chanukah, each night we light candles in a special candelabra called a Menorah. On the first night we light one candle. On the second night two candles, and so on, until the last night when all eight are lit. We eat delicious treats such as doughnuts and potato latkes (hash browns), both of which are cooked in oil. Children receive gifts from their parents. Our family also sings traditional songs. It is definitely one of the favourite holidays in our house.

With each candle we light, we are reminded to work to find light in the darkness and to keep the light of freedom burning for everyone.  
*Alexander and Otto.*







# The longest Christmas lunch ever

**After the House** Cross Country week (see page 25) we were all famished and more than ready for our traditional Christmas lunch. Boys and staff alike tucked into turkey with all the trimmings with a delicious vegetarian alternative available too. In order to keep our bubbles separate, lunch was served in six sittings and ended up taking over three hours! It was worth it, however, and the turkey was still warm for the final sitting. We are very grateful to Mrs Foley and her team for such a marathon effort and wish all of them a very festive Christmas.







The longest Christmas lunch ever cont...







Still the longest Christmas lunch ever







## Better to give than to receive

**This term** has been a different one for our fundraising events but we have tried to keep our charitable donations going to support those who are less fortunate than ourselves. We are very grateful to all pupils, staff and parents for their donations to our charities who have been hit harder this year, than ever before. Let's have a little look back at where our donations have gone:

September saw our Virtual Macmillan Coffee Morning taking place, run by the wonderful SJA, and we estimate that over £400 was raised. The Pre-Prep raised a fantastic £333.80 for their efforts supporting Jeans for Genes day, well done boys!

In October, our charities website launched allowing for all donations to be made online, preventing the spread of COVID-19 but also providing us with a way for all members of our school community to see our fundraising at a click of a button. The teachers were the first to trial this new system, raising £155 for Think Pink by wearing items of pink clothing, thank you staff.

Throughout October, we encouraged boys to don their running trainers and take part in Moor Park's Virtual Fun Run. We were thrilled with the number of boys and staff who got involved and were overwhelmed with the support, raising £2294 for the Mount Vernon Cancer Centre.

In November, we supported the British Legion's Poppy Appeal and have raised £439 to go towards supporting war veterans. All boys were able to take part in the two-minute silence, which was incredibly important to us as a school, and we were still able to lay our school wreath at the Northwood Cenotaph, which many parents spotted.

As the busy term drew to a close, we once again supported Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day, and whilst having fun we managed to raise £844.

We cannot thank you enough for continuing to support our causes during this turbulent time and I know that all donations have been greatly received, more so than ever this year.

Thank you, Mrs Walker



### Christmas Wishlist Toy Collection

Louise Ashman and the Children's Wishlist Charity have been amazed at the generosity of St John's parents. You donated over four hundred beautiful gifts, many of which have been distributed to local families, hospitals and a school in Northwood. The Charity would like to say a massive thank you on behalf of everyone who has received the gifts.

*Louise Ashman*



### Fantastic Foodbank response

We were astounded by the amount of food we collected from the St John's School community. We would like to thank everyone for their support in helping make this Christmas a more memorable one for those in need. Food was taken to Hillingdon Food Bank this week and you can watch their [video message of thanks here](#). We hope you all have a fantastic break and thank you once again for your support.  
*Mehul & Saavan Manek on behalf of the SJA*





## It's Christmas in the Pre-Prep

**The classrooms are** decorated, there is glitter everywhere and there is an excitement in the air. Christmas has well and truly arrived in the Pre-Prep. We have all worked hard this term and so to end the term we partied just as hard, dancing, playing bingo and tucking into party food. With a little of Miss Morgan's special magic and despite COVID-19, Santa was able to chat via Google meet and was even able to send some sweet treats as an early gift. The Pre-Prep staff all wish you and your families a healthy, safe and fun filled Christmas.







# PRE-PREP



## Lambs Christmas party

**The Nursery became** a party venue for the afternoon. Tables were cleared, snacks were enjoyed and everyone became king of the castle.







# PRE-PREP



## Christmas fun in the Robins and Squirrels

**The Robins and Squirrels** made Christmas tree cards decorated with beautifully coloured baubles. They enjoyed a game of musical chairs at their party.







# PRE-PREP



## Christmas fun in the Otters and Owls

A lovely variety of Christmas cards in the Otters and Owls for lucky parents to cherish. Smart hats too!





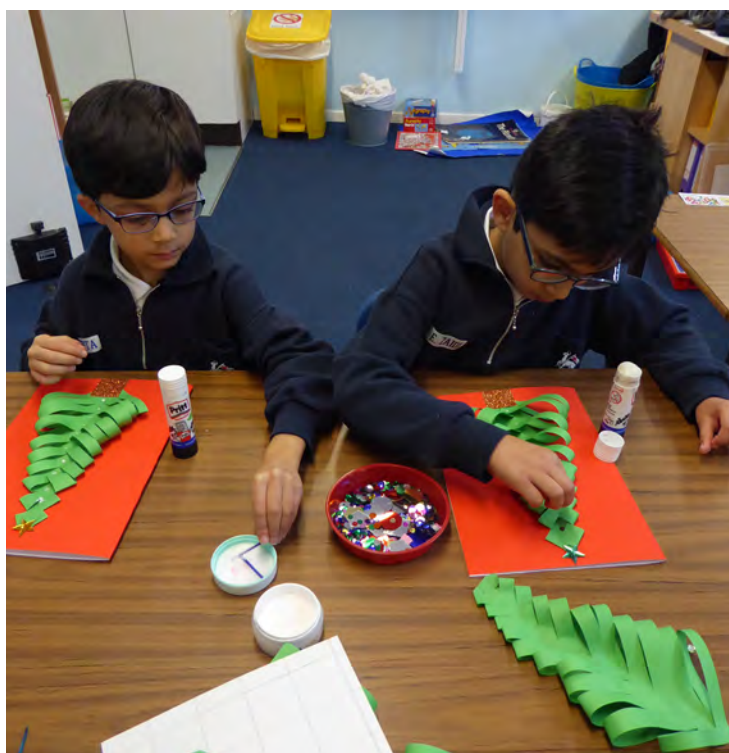


# PRE-PREP



## Christmas fun in the Badgers and Eagles

The **Badgers and Eagles** made glittery decorations, Christmas cards and delicious chocolate crispie cakes. The teachers organised a lovely Christmas party for them and they really enjoyed the game where they had to put newspaper pages in order.







## Reception raising money for the Mukti Project

**Some Reception boys** and their families have been taking part in a sponsored Winter Fun Walk/Cycle prior to the Christmas break to raise funds for the Mukti Project, which raises funds for children and women in India and the UK who lead challenging lives. So far, they have raised £1,652. Sam, Kiaan, Aarav D, Rhys, Kian S, Aarav B, Tasav, Reuben and Anay are very excited to be taking part and they have been completing their "trails" in a variety of locations some of which are pictured below. Well done to all the boys and many thanks for all the donations to Mukti. If you would like to read more, the link to the Just Giving Page is [here](#).







## Santa's grotto challenge

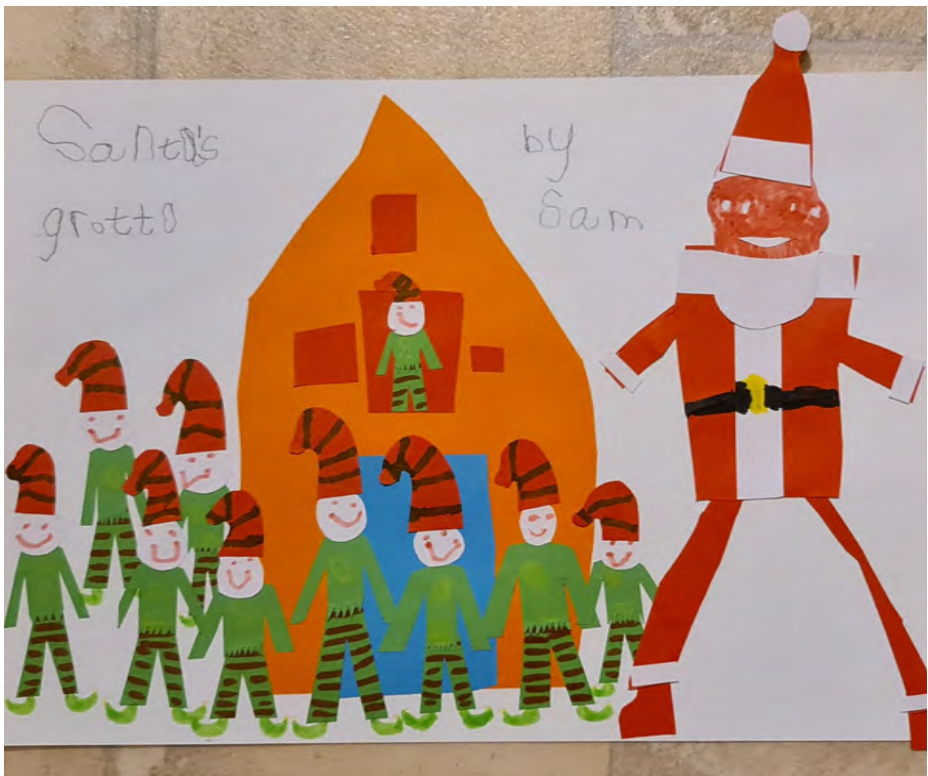
With school going online it was time again for another Miss Morgan challenge. The Pre-Prep were asked to create a grotto for Santa. There had to be room for the elves! The boys imaginations started whirring. Lego, junk and soft toys were all enlisted to create the masterpieces. I think Santa may be calling on some of these designs for any future grotto extension he requires.







Santa's grotto challenge cont...

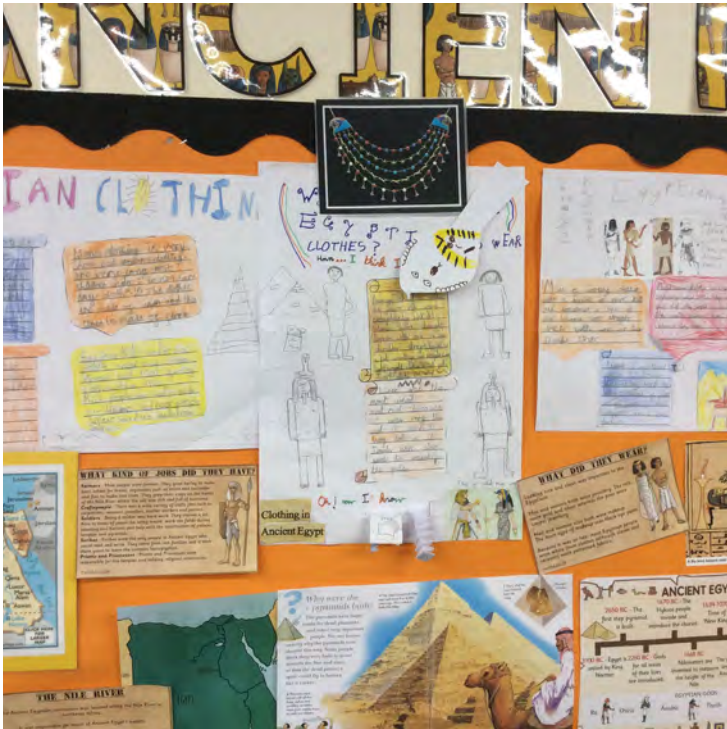






# Dress like an Egyptian

As **part** of their history topic on Ancient Egypt, Year 3 have been learning about ancient Egyptian clothing. For homework they were asked to do some research and then they worked in partners at school to create a colourful and informative poster. As you can see, the boys have produced beautiful pieces of work which are up on display in the Year 3 classrooms. The Egyptian theme was carried on at the Year 3 party where they played Simon Says and turned themselves into mummies.







## Goodbye to Henry

The boys in Year 4 made a card full of memories for Henry to say goodbye and wish him good luck in the future on his last day at St John's. He is moving to North Yorkshire with his family and we all wish him all the best at his new school.



## Artistic gifts from Lucas

Lucas in 3W made beautiful paintings for his teachers as Christmas gifts. Thank you Lucas from Mr Robinson, Miss Morgan, Miss Wagemaker and Mrs Reeves.

## Junior Christmas Quiz

Heads were scratched and chins stroked sagely as teams of Juniors tackled one of the more challenging traditions of the St John's festive season: Mr Haley's Christmas Quiz.







# Creating an impression in Year 6

**Year 6 boys** have been learning about the French Impressionist, Claude Monet. Here are some of the poppy field paintings they have painted using his thick, quick, brush stroke technique. 1. Luca 6V, 2. Luke, 6M, 3. Emeka. 6M, 4. Kush, 6B.







# Reindeer and Gingerbread Men in Year 4

Year 4 have been painting reindeers and crafting gingerbread men. 1. Henry and Josh, 2. Enzo and Aariz, 3. Arnav and Max, 4. Liam, 5. Neil and Yuvraj.







## A dramatic performance for the Year 7 players

**On Sunday last** week our Year 7 cast gathered for a final technical rehearsal of Alexandre Dumas' "The Three Musketeers." The comedy version, by Brendan P. Kelso, saw Leo trotting around the stage dressed as a horse and Benjamin bettered by Ansh S's Bond-style villain with a scar on his face.

There were sword fights galore as they timed their choreography to the sound effects and the technical team got to grips with changing the backdrops and lighting.

Darwin, Albert and Lucas delivered polished performances as the eponymous Three Musketeers before the cast and staff tucked into a pizza picnic in the Norman Hall to round off a productive morning.

The cast presented their performance on Monday to an audience of Year 7 boys and staff. A live audience always brings out the best in the performers and it was a memorable afternoon for everyone. Well done to all involved.







# House Cross Country: the results

**For the first** time we ran all the House Cross-Country races during the week for various age groups and we were very fortunate that the weather remained dry and perfect for running. The first House race started with Year 4 on a glorious crisp day with perfect conditions to run the course and all the pupils completed it with determination and teamwork. Lawrence certainly dominated the top ten positions by taking 1st, 4th, 5th and 6th positions. In a very close finish, Zachariah just pipped Aariz at the finish line. Arnav ran strongly to come in 3rd. However, overall all the boys have improved hugely in their fitness levels and well done to all who completed the challenging St John's Cross-Country Course.

Years 7 and 8 followed and in the Year 8 race, Ethan flew around the course, winning by some margin. Sam and Edward ran strongly to finish in 2nd and 3rd place. However, for a few others it was tough but all the pupils successfully completed the race. Year 7 was much stronger as a year group and Daniel came in first, Thomas followed just after in 2nd place with Oscar coming in with an excellent 3rd place. But a mighty finish by Oates who took 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th position helped them to win this age group. The support from all the Year 7s for those who came in later was fantastic to see and showed great team work within the year group.

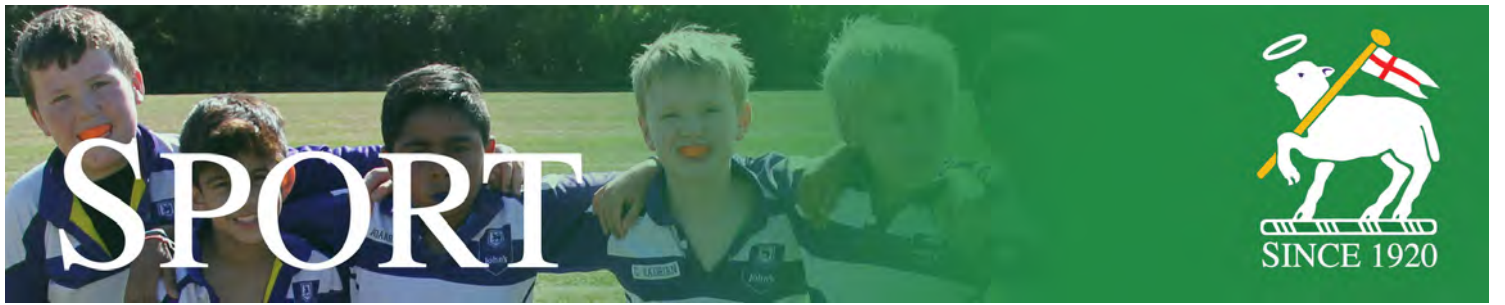
Year 3's had their first introduction to the St John's Cross-Country race and the excitement was evident as they got themselves ready for the start of the race. They started very strongly with Teddy leading from the front and going on to win the race. Micah came in 2nd and just behind in 3rd place was Luca. Lawrence as a House ran very well, coming 1st, 4th, 5th and 6th.

The final race of the week was run by year 6 and this was one of the most competitive races this week amongst the Houses. Oliver W ran strongly from the front and led the whole way to finish ahead of Emerson and George L. But the first three runners all got times under 14 minutes which were impressive results. The rest of Year 6 all ran well and again Lawrence got five pupils in the first 12 places.

Well done to all the boys for completing the House Cross-Country this week and hopefully we can attend some away and home events next term.





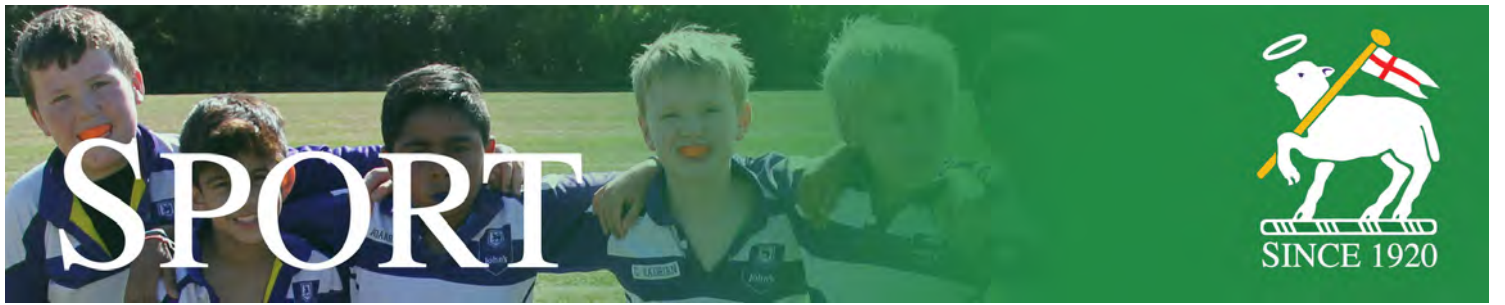


# Year 3 Results

Name	House	Position	Time
Teddy	Lawrence	1st	15:03:00
Micah	Oates	2nd	15:09:00
Luca	Lawrence	3rd	16:04:00





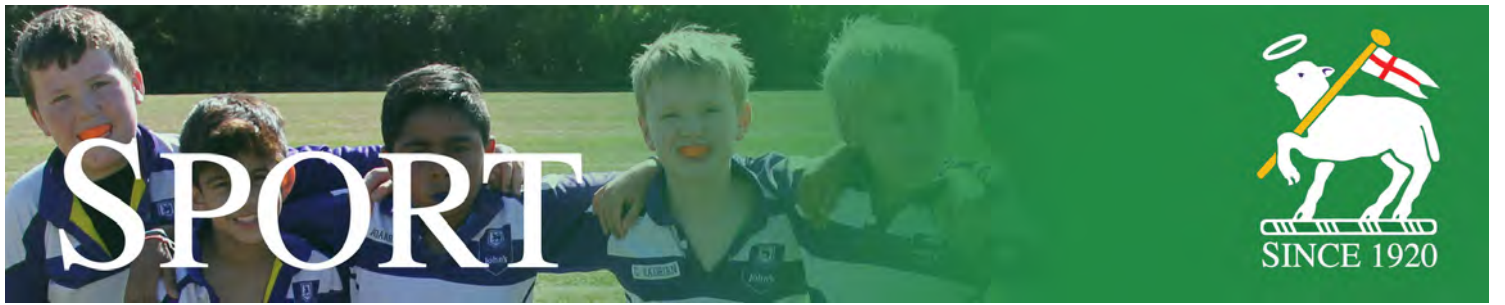


# Year 4 Results

Name	House	Position	Time
Zachariah	Lawrence	1st	15:04:00
Aariz	Churchill	2nd	15:09:00
Arnav	Oates	3rd	15:18:00







# Year 6 Results

Name	House	Position	Time
Oliver	Lawrence	1st	13:09:00
Emerson	Churchill	2nd	13:56:00
George L	Churchill	3rd	13:57:00







# Year 7 Results

Name	House	Position	Time
Daniel	Churchill	1st	12:48:00
Thomas	Lincoln	2nd	13:15:00
Oscar	Churchill	3rd	13:21:00







# Year 8 Results

Name	House	Position	Time
Ethan	Lawrence	1st	11:39:00
Sam	Lincoln	2nd	13:08:00
Edward	Churchill	3rd	14:07:00





## Calendar & important dates Contact details



Aikam in the Badgers was presented with the 'I did my best' cup by Mr Robinson

**Monday 4th January:** Staff inset 4+ assessments

**Tuesday 5th January:** Staff inset 4+ assessments  
Year 6 in school for MTS entrance examinations

**Wednesday 6th January:** Beginning of Spring Term  
Aldenham 13+ exam at St John's

**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. The website will have announcements in case of emergency.



You can also follow us on twitter @stjnsnorthwood and our sports department @StJohnsNwSport

**Mailings:** If you have received The Lamb from someone else and would like to be sent your own copy direct each week, please email: Lamb Editor. Let us know your contact details and you will be added to the list.

**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.

### NEW CURRENT AFFAIRS QUIZ

We are running last week's Current Affairs Quiz for another week. It would be really good if you could take the time to complete the quiz with your son. He will need to log in to his google account to access the Google form and slideshow. *Mr Russo* [Link to the quiz](#)

Please use the link below to fill your answers in on a Google form.

[Submit your answers here](#)

## Notices and reminders

**Calendar:** The School calendar for next term will be available online from 20th December. Paper copies will be given to the boys on the first day back to school.

**Prep School Spring term activities:** The website and sign-up pages will be available this week. An email will be sent out from Mr Kruger confirming registration is open. The deadline for registrations will be the 23rd December. It is important to note that no entries or changes will be allowed after this date.'

**After School Activities:** These will start on 11th January.

**House Music Competition:** This will run as normal this year. It is open to all boys in Years 3-8, whether they learn inside or outside school and they may enter on more than one instrument. The closing date for entries is 5pm Tuesday 5th January. The rounds will start anytime from Monday 11th January. Full information, competition rules and the entry form are on the Music Department website [here](#).

**Votes for Schools:** Last week's question was "Are we too influenced by the USA?" 62.3% said yes, 22.6% said no and 15.1% were undecided

**House Points:** House Points. Well done to everyone for amassing House Points this term. You should be very proud of your achievements. As Mr Robinson said this morning, Lincoln are very narrowly ahead as we finish this term but there is all to play for so keep up the good work!

**Year 5 and 7 examinations:** Revision guides for boys will be available on the Parent Portal from today. The examinations will take place on 19th and 20th January and a timetable will be published in advance of these dates.

St John's wishes everybody a merry Christmas and a healthy and peaceful 2021. Enjoy the holidays and we look forward to welcoming the boys back on Wednesday 6th January.