



From the
Headmaster

Spring is in the air at St John's. The bluebells are out, and the grounds are bursting into life. The boys have been experiencing an extraordinary range of learning opportunities in our wonderful outdoor environment. Year 6 have enjoyed Adventure Camps, connecting with Year 7 and 8 boys to experience a "micro-adventure." Years 6 to 8 have been challenged by Mr Vince to learn outdoor survival skills in our forest. Year 6 have been cycling around our local roads on their Bikeability course, and Year 5 enjoyed a Forensic Science workshop, learning about fingerprints, evidence gathering and modern techniques that help solve crimes.

As a School, we have also reflected on the life and message of the pope, and considered the challenge and inspiration from the London Marathon, which many of our children supported or participated in at the Junior level.

We wish all our boys and staff safe journeys next week as they set off on residential trips and a restful bank holiday weekend to everyone else.

T Jenkin

Inspired by outdoor learning opportunities





Team learning in our wonderful grounds

As part of their mentoring programme, boys were inspired by the new rope shape challenge. Team leaders were shown a shape by their teacher and then had to help the team create the shape they had seen. It was great fun!





Pioneering skills challenge with Mr Vince

Years 6 to 8 have been challenged by Mr Vince to learn outdoor survival skills. They have worked in teams to create tarps, start fires and forage in our forest.





Our green-fingered gardeners

Gardening club have been busy in the Spring sunshine, pruning, watering and planting with Mr Lawrence. Great work boys!





Safe cycling for Year 6 boys

This week, a team of instructors from Hillingdon Council came to school to train our Year 6 boys. It was a challenging week, not least because of our location on the top of a hill and the very warm weather. At the end of the week, boys were awarded with Level 1 and 2 Bikeability badges. Well done boys.





Our Year 8 Team retained the trophy in the Merchant Taylors' Schools quiz competition. It was a closely fought event with Josh B leading the team to win against MTP by a solitary point. Great work, boys!



In computing, Year 4 have been coding model products and toys in preparation to pitch their ideas to a panel of Dragons. This week saw a fantastic final, with Krish taking the overall win with his idea of 3D football player collectables. Well done to all Year 4 boys involved!



Boys enjoying some early morning tennis lessons at the start of a glorious day



We love a shady swing together and definitely needed those sun hats this week.



Miss Bullock's very stylish cellists preparing for the Summer Concert on 15th May



Junior boys practice their reportage skills as the cricket season gets underway. Senior boys co-operated patiently.



In assembly we reflected on the life and message of Pope Francis, "It is in giving that we receive."



Anything Goes Club in our forest among the bluebells.



Year 6 boys took part in the first heat of this year's UK Prep Schools Maths Quiz Club Competition. Competition was fierce and the boys worked brilliantly, placing 34th and 43rd out of 80 teams.



Reception designed shelters for animals

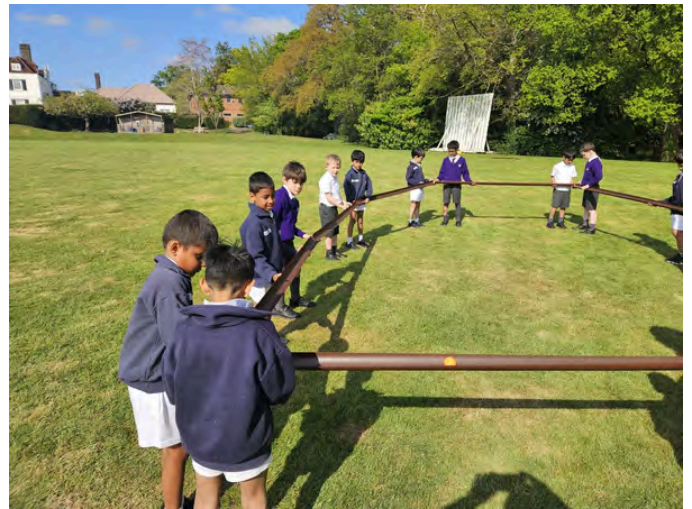
This week Reception took part in a STEM outdoor learning challenge to design a shelter for animals. The boys enjoyed being outdoors and engaged in hands-on learning. By using natural materials to create animal shelters, the boys used think creative and critical thinking while exploring basic engineering concepts.

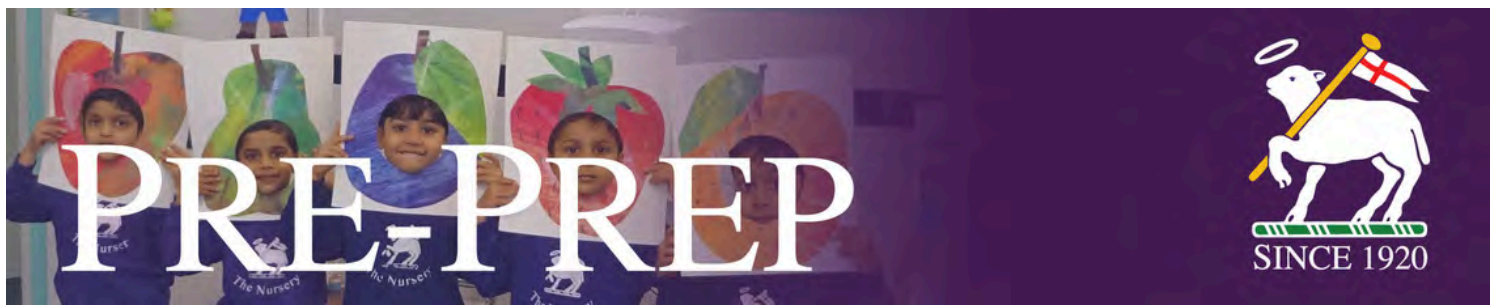




Outdoor Creativity Club

For their first session this term, boys enjoyed playing with either a golf or tennis ball and a piece of guttering. Working in pairs, they had to keep the ball moving back and forth without letting it fall out. They enjoyed testing out ideas of movement, balance, forces, gradients, energy and teamwork. We finished with joining all the pieces of guttering, making a circular track, and working together to move the ball around the loop. Everyone had a ball!

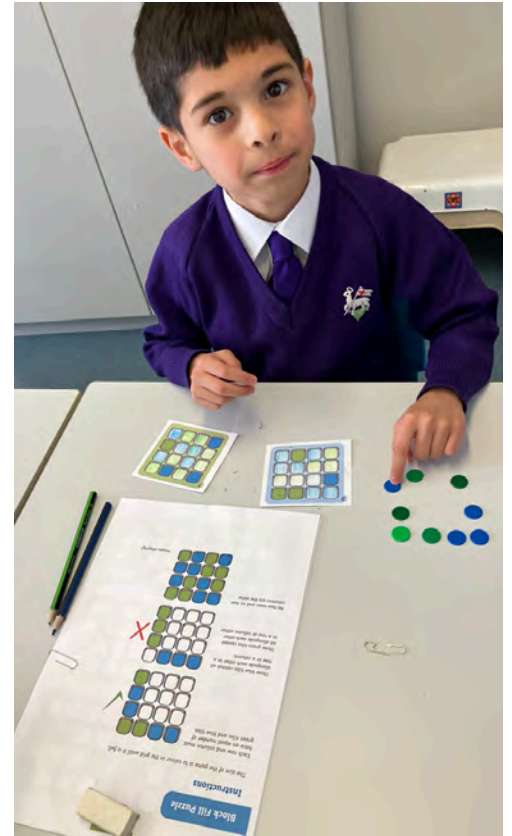
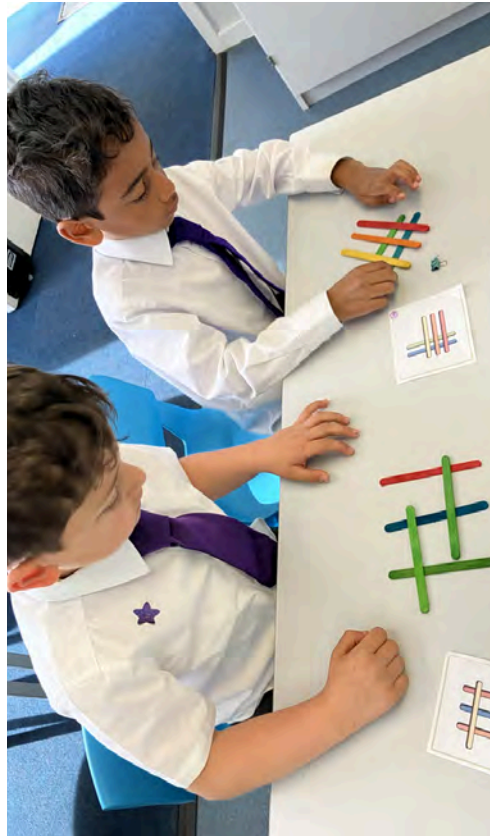




There's a Pre-Prep Club for everyone!



Puzzle Club



Rounders Club





Impressive musical creations

Witness the impressive musical creations of our talented boys! Tasked with a design brief to build instruments with adjustable volume and pitch, they rose to the challenge with remarkable ingenuity. These photos capture the diverse range of their projects, from strumming guitars to melodic pan pipes, rhythmic drums, shaking maracas, sweet harmonicas and even a soothing rain stick.





A fabulous organ workshop at MTS

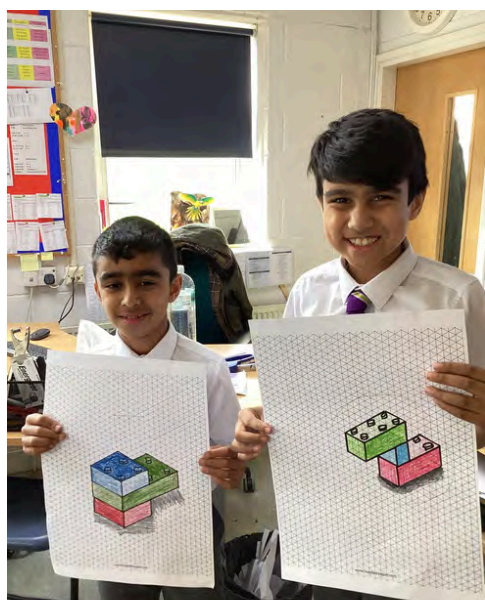
This week, seven pupils from Years 3-5 had the opportunity to take part in an organ workshop at Merchant Taylors' School. The event was part of the Royal College of Organist's, "Play the Organ Year", an initiative to encourage more young people to start to learn to play the organ. The boys had a wonderful time listening to Alex Hamilton play the organ in the Great Hall. He is an ex-music scholar of Merchant Taylors' School who is about to take up a new post as Director of Music at HM Chapel Royal, Hampton Court Palace. Each boy also had the chance to experience playing the organ for themselves.





Drawing and hammering in the Art Room

Year 4 have been learning about texture. Year 5 have been creating isometric drawings and Year 6 have been making lots of noise hammering nails!





Mini Marathon success!

On Saturday, St John’s boys showed great spirit, energy and determination as they took part in the 40th Mini London Marathon. This inspirational event was bigger than ever, with more than 18,000 4 to 17 year olds taking part, racing, running, walking or wheeling along a one-mile (2.6km) course. Like the marathoners themselves, the young participants crossed the iconic finish line on The Mall, just past Buckingham Palace – soaking up the same “I did it!” moment that makes the event so special. From start to finish, the atmosphere was buzzing, and it was a brilliant day of fun in the sun. A huge well done to all involved.





We've all been working on our skills

