



From the Headmaster

I was very proud of the role the Year 8 boys played in our interview process this week. They were fantastic ambassadors for our school. I always enjoy visiting the boys in their lessons and this week I was fortunate enough to watch a fascinating Science lesson with Year 7 on parallel and series circuits. As a Mathematician I was pleased to hear that approximately sixteen twentieths of Year 4 understand equivalent fractions!

I was inspired to read the Perfect Page stories, wonderfully creative, imaginative and moving writing from all the boys. Do take time to look at them on pages 6 and 7. Although Mr Haley has been holding Junior assemblies this half term, we haven't introduced assemblies in the Senior School. I am delighted that they will be starting again, with safety precautions, after the half term holiday. I shall be linking the assemblies to our important weekly Votes for Schools topic. Don't forget to read the slides and discuss this week's topic, "Have we forgotten about the environment this year?" Place your vote and comment. I am sure 6V will have plenty to say!

I look forward to meeting with Year 6 parents at our online Parents' Evenings next week. In the meantime I hope you all enjoy a restful weekend.

S. Robinson

Year 8 boys take on an important role

Many Year 8 responsibilities have been put on hold due to Covid-19 and the restrictions of having to work in year group bubbles. The usual duties organised by the Head and Deputy Head boys, Alexander, Rodrigo and Vishwadrik, such as lunch supervision, assisting in assemblies and meeting and greeting visitors, are all impossible at the moment.

They did, however, have a special job this week, and one that required all the authority that comes with their status as senior representatives of St John's pupils, as they assisted in the interview process to appoint a new member of staff. Joined by Ethan and Raffi they prepared a series of highly relevant questions for each of the candidates and, as a formidable panel, they asked them under the watchful eye of Mr Russo. At the end they fed back their thoughts to him and made their recommendations as to their preferred choice of teacher. They all carried out their roles with authority and maturity and were great ambassadors for the School.





Year 5 enjoy exploring their English texts with drama

The Year 5 classes put their directors' caps on and acted out key characters from their studied text. The boys had a great time dramatizing the Matron, Mr Spink and Jim, Street Child's protagonist and bringing the characters to life. Drama is an important element of the speaking and listening curriculum in

English. It enhances the boys' fluency in spoken tasks, it increases their confidence and it aids analysis of the studied texts, as it develops the boys' empathy. The boys are enthusiastic about drama and they give maximum effort. This focus is drawn onto their faces. *Mrs Rizava*



6V have adopted two Rhinos

One of the pledges for the planet made by 6V was to pay for the annual adoption of two of the remaining Northern White Rhinos to help fund vital research into preserving the species. The boys thought you might like to meet their rhinos. They are a mother Najin and her daughter Fatu and they live in the Ol Pejeta Conservancy in Kenya. They are the rarest mammals in the world.



HELPING RHINOS
helpingrhinos.org

"To lead conservation and education initiatives that will ensure the long term survival of the rhino and other endangered wildlife in their natural habitat"

Thank you for supporting the work of **Helping Rhinos**. We are passionate about protecting the world's remaining rhinos and aim to help achieve this by focussing our efforts in three key areas:

COLLABORATE - EMPOWER - SUSTAIN

Our mission is to rescue and protect rhino in their natural habitat by delivering tangible results in anti-poaching and habitat preservation. We will instigate educational initiatives that highlight the importance of conserving rhino and other endangered species and the benefits that can be derived from a sustainable co-existence between man and wildlife.

Rhino poaching has increased beyond belief in recent years. In South Africa alone the number of rhinos killed by poachers has increased from 13 in 2007 to 1,215 in 2014 – that's a 9,346% increase in just 5 years!

The rhinoceros has lived on our planet for more than 50 million years, but unless we act now it may not survive the next 20 years. By supporting the work of Helping Rhinos, you are already playing your part in protecting the rhino from extinction. **Thank you for your support.**

As a UK based, organisation we are very proud to be playing an international role by raising awareness around the globe and supporting our carefully selected projects that we believe will make a difference.



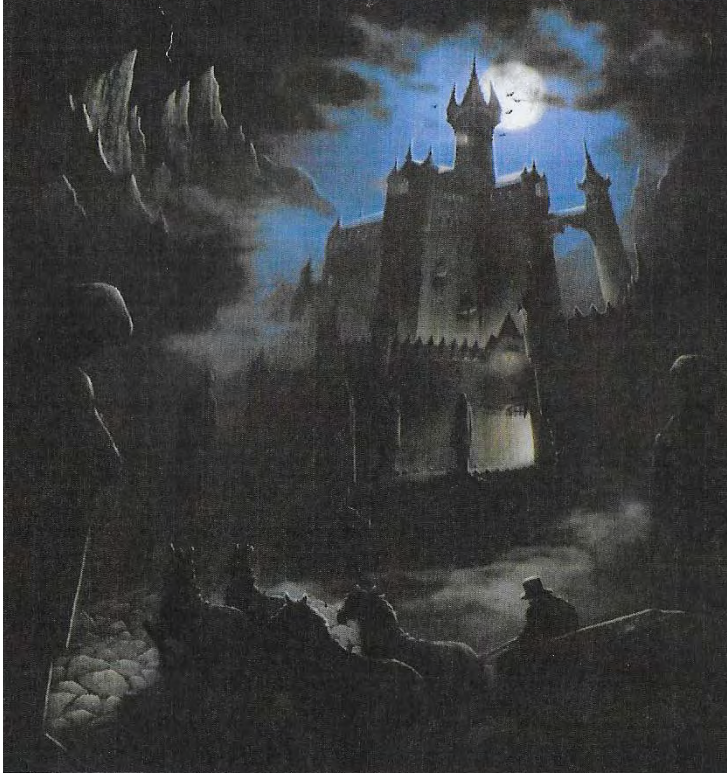






Year 6 Creative Writing Club

Our Year 6 Creative Writing Club members have been enjoying the Gothic horror genre! Their first challenge was to create a description based on a picture of a creepy castle. Much fun was had thinking up dramatic vocabulary and sensory imagery. These imaginative young men produced atmospheric pieces, really bringing the picture to life. Well done, Year 6! *Mr Wilson–Spellward*



The Creepy Castle!

Clickety-click! Clickety-click! The horses' hooves played a melody along with the cold, cobbled, path. Hiding behind the concealing mist, we peeked out between the gargoyles' long, stony, bony fingers. The castle turrets above speared the ebony black sky, like a silver sword slashing through silk. The mountainous, infuriated titans sneered down at the miniscule, insulting castle that lay at their feet, while the castle's protector, the moon, cast a benevolent gaze over it, and its surroundings. "SCREECH!" Our eyes darted round to our right, and settled on the portcullis. A few precious moments later, the dull grey mist dissipated, revealing a faint, glowing, golden-yellow light. Rested upon the wall above the portcullis, the spikey, stone edges were flames, joyous, and jumping happily about, separating from the dark, menacing figure of the castle. We edged out the mist and into the darkness ahead, to catch a better glimpse of the castle while we had time. We needed to find a way in. We were bursting to give the message. Then a faint glowing light caught our eyes. Our spirits lifted, filled with pride; we had found a way in! "Clap, clap." Footsteps approached, and then two large, black boots. "There they are! Scoundrels!" They had found us. There was nowhere to hide... *By Mihir (6M) and Aarav (6V)*

Mountain Biking adventures on a wet afternoon

The heavens opened as we rode out of the school gates. Possibly we could get some shelter amongst the trees in Oxhey woods but that was a hopeful thought. Nevertheless, our nine boys - Vihaan, Albert, Jacob, Ansh, Ishaan, Darwin, Benyamin, Niam & Anek - pedalled off smoothly into the soggy woods. Joshua, one of our regular boys sadly couldn't make it this week, (he must have seen the forecast!). The boys' skills and fitness have improved considerably, especially negotiating the muddy rutted tracks which are in abundance throughout the woods. In fact they have improved so much that our pace and the distance we cover have proportionally increased so full marks to all of them. One of our favourite spots is a cutting affording fast downhill runs followed by a steep uphill run, made even more tricky at the moment as it is covered with wet leaves and slimy mud. There were some heart stopping moments here this week! The picture shows one of the slaloms in this location with boys expecting the inevitable tricky descents watched over by a concerned Mr Lawrence.





Year 7 Drama Club alive and kicking

Year 7 have enjoying working on scenes from Alexandre Dumas' famous novel "The Three Musketeers" in a version adapted by children's dramaturg Brendan P. Kelso. It is a small cast of fifteen boys so everyone is delighted to have a named part with lines to

perform. Benjamin plays D'Artagnan and Darwin, Lucas and Albert are the Three Musketeers in this short comedy production lasting twenty-five minutes. The boys are looking forward to performing it in November.





More perfect pages

Last week we introduced the 'Perfect Page', a task which encourages boys in Years 5 and 6 to devise an exceptional piece of English written work. This week we showcase five more wonderful pieces of work.

Darsh's Perfect Page

I am sitting on this wet, frosty step of the orphanage. It is a cold, bitter day and everything is frozen. I am holding my young, sweet baby boy who is crying. My baby and I are shivering and freezing on this cruel day. I watch the people in the street with their warm jackets, with envy. Their laughter is my pain. The merciless cold is trying to grasp me tightly and freeze me to death! This cold air knows I am vulnerable and will do anything to kill me.

I am parched, sleepy and hungry. I haven't eaten for days on end. I have been begging for food and money, but no-one has the goodness of their heart to lend me a hand. Especially the rich, snobby people. The baby hasn't had any food either. That is why I am here on this orphanage step thinking "What if we had been rich?"

Angry but weak. Determined but

hopeless. So many thoughts are rushing through my head like a swarm of angry and provoked bees. I look at the baby. His teary-eyed face is pale and weak. He looks scared beyond belief, like he has telepathy, and he knows what I am thinking: should I leave the baby? In the orphanage he will get well educated and become rich! But they might mistreat him and let him suffer. There are no choices!

I can see and hear rich people staring down at me like I am some garbage, and they are muttering about me and making disgusted faces at me. How I wish this was all a dream.

Tears are slowly trickling down my cold and pale face. I am in pain and in grief. I do not want to leave my baby but what choice do I have? I am one of the victims of hardship. Through all my life my luck was low, but I never saw the day I would have to abandon my baby! I grimace in pain, in anger but also in weakness. This truly is the end of my happiness.

Ali's Perfect Page

It's dirty and there's rotten rubbish everywhere. I can taste it in my mouth creeping into my lungs but what am I to do? There are rats everywhere This step is grimy. There's nowhere for me to go. The bricks are rotting like mad! The road is wearing away.

It's full of mould here but there is nothing I can do. My clothes haven't been washed for months! This step is like a frozen massive block of ice. My baby feels frozen too!

I have no food, that means my baby won't get food. How will feed her? I am desperate! I need my baby to have food.

I have nothing to feed her with. I have no ideas. Should I give my baby to an orphanage?

I am famished. I've got no food. I need to feed her. I haven't eaten in days. I've got nothing. I need food to survive. I can't see or smell any food. I have only got this dirty germ-infested water. I am desperate. I am ashamed. My tummy is growling. My stomach went "GURGLE".

The evil snow will kill us. It has already started punching our feet. It is bullying us. I am destitute. The cruel wind is the evil snow's follower. It makes us feel super cold like it's cheering the snow on. Should I leave my baby by this orphanage? He will probably get a better life ...

Alistair's Perfect Page

I am the small dot in the night sky. I am the moon. I am all by myself like a cheetah that is hunting its prey all by itself. I am a baby compared to the night sky and the dark mist. The night sky and the grey fog are yanking and laughing at me because of how small I am. When they are laughing at me, I get sadder and sadder by the second. I can feel the tears that are starting to crawl down my face.

The devouring darkness is surrounding me like vile, vicious vultures circling their next meal. I am dead meat. The darkness is bullying me like I am its play toy. I can see that the darkness is getting closer and closer. The blackness is hushing me as if it is in charge of me.

The miserable marauding mist is coming to consume me like a lamb sprinting from a nasty fox. I am on the dinner table. I can smell my own fear. The fearsome fog and the dangerous, deep darkness are battling out for the





winning prize, me. Battling head to head. Battle that would last forever and ever and ever. The fog is pulling me one way and the darkness is pulling me the other way. I can hear, smell and taste the dreaded words, Death coming towards me.

I am doomed...

The Hungry Ocean

The Bomber. It bombs the sea with pollution. Helplessly, the boat floats in the pitiless, ruthless waters. Light reveals a monster. The tempestuous ocean roars and rages. It roars like a merciless lion. The deep dark blue ocean churns impatiently; hungrily it lurches at the boat – The Hungry Ocean is in action!

But the Bomber is not as dormant as Mount Vesuvius. One particular boy in the crew is called Theo, who is nicknamed, The Brave One. Funnily enough, this silly name just isn't true; he isn't intrepid but is a fearful being. His skin is as pale as the moon, a lunar, light white. He is up trying to rig the sails after hours of persuasion; after only a decade, he agrees. Another year he takes looking at the sails while making a decision. Now he is an old man. He reaches the top but tangles himself up and gets stuck. Unfortunately, the ship starts to wobble and wobble until Theo begins to feel sick. Slowly, his grey hair dies away, and when reality strikes him like a lightning bolt, he is still a youthful teenager. Now you know why this fearful boy is brave.

The water turns into a raging beast; it crashes and smashes as its stomach rumbles. Deafening, it rumbles like a thunderstorm as the ocean opens its mouth – a massive whirlpool begins to suck in the boat as it goes round and round in circles; so perfect that it feels like a dream. A colossal hand grasps out of the water and pulls The Bomber down

with it. The Ocean devours it whole. It belches, letting out a revolting reek. The taste of sour milk fills Theo's mouth. He retches before he goes under...

Salt invades Theo's mouth as he falls down; he secretly can't swim. Uncomfortably, the dampness starts assaulting his skin.

The boat lies down peacefully, and within seconds it becomes a habitat. It fits in with its surroundings. Yawning, it lies down in the homely heaven. As if it is blind, it doesn't notice the churning water above. The ocean squirms and squeals and gradually begins to rest.

The ocean is full!

Kabir 6A

The Hungry Ocean

As I tumbled into the cold, icy ocean, I knew my life was going to end soon. I saw the rest of my crew drowning as the ocean devoured them. It felt like the ocean's rough hand was pulling me deeper and deeper into a black hole. The ocean was grabbing my arms, stretching me and was restricting me from moving. It was like every bone in my body was

being crushed.

I could hear the sound of the ocean crashing against the eroding cliffs; it sounded like the crunching and crushing of bones. The fierce ocean roared at the cliffs. I could see one little member of my crew panicking as he was being gobbled up. I knew I was going to be dead meat soon.

The ocean's stomach gurgled as it looked for its next victim to gobble up with me. I was all alone in the cruel, cunning ocean as fear slowly rushed down my body. It was starting to feel like I wasn't able to breath. My mind felt like it was being suffocated as I couldn't think. The ocean had now fully taken control of my whole body.

The fierce ocean roared as it still searched for another victim. Merciless waves like sharp icebergs were stabbing at me as I was drowning. My body froze like I was dying and was losing all my thoughts; I knew my life was going to end very, very soon.

My life ended in a flash - as the ocean greeted me into its greedy mouth. THE OCEAN WAS FULL...

Danyal 6A





Handa's surprise in the Lambs

This week the Lambs have been acting out the story of '*Handa's Surprise*'. In the story Handa collects lots of delicious fruit to share with her friend. Later the Lambs tasted the juicy fruits to see which they liked best. The red ripe mango was the favourite, yummy!

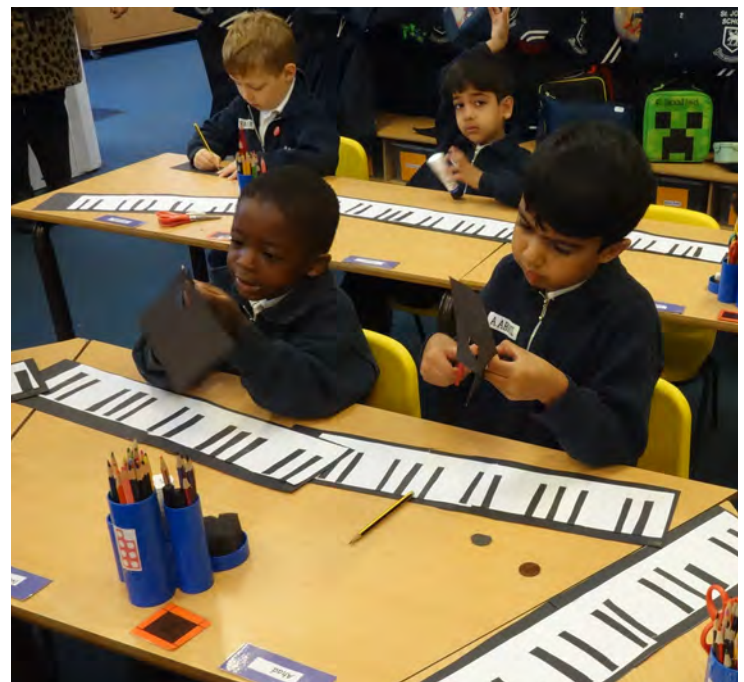




Year 1 study Beethoven

As **part of** our topic about 'Famous People', the Otters and Owls have been learning about the life of the composer Beethoven. We looked up information about his early life teaching music and his time in Vienna where he played his compositions in public concerts. We were amazed that he was able to carry on writing beautiful tunes even after he

became deaf. We have listened to well-known pieces such as Für Elise and the Moonlight Sonata, as well as his soothing Pastoral Symphony and his popular Choral Symphony. Then we each made a model of a piano keyboard whilst listening to Beethoven in the background. Do you have a favourite Beethoven piece?



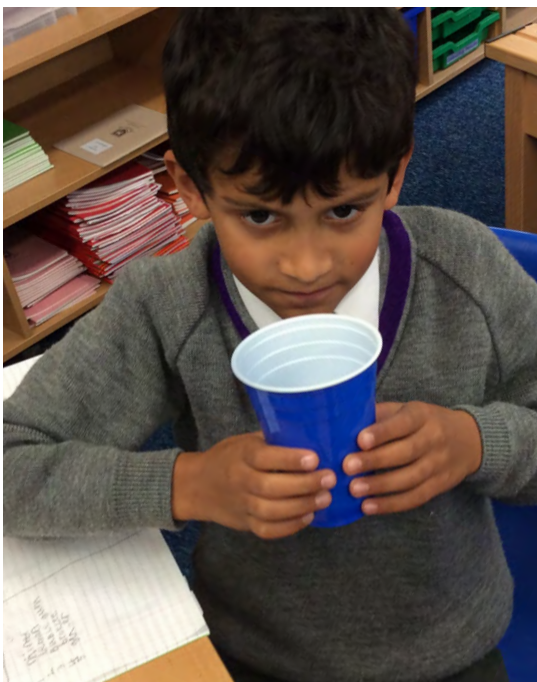


Year 3 learning about our senses

Year 3 have been learning about Life Processes in Science this term and this week we focused on ‘sensitivity.’ We have five senses which are sight, hearing, touch, taste and smell. We tested our sense of smell by guessing what Mrs Wagemaker and Mrs Hallett had put in each cup. Next, we tested our sense of touch by holding two pencils together and gently pressing them to

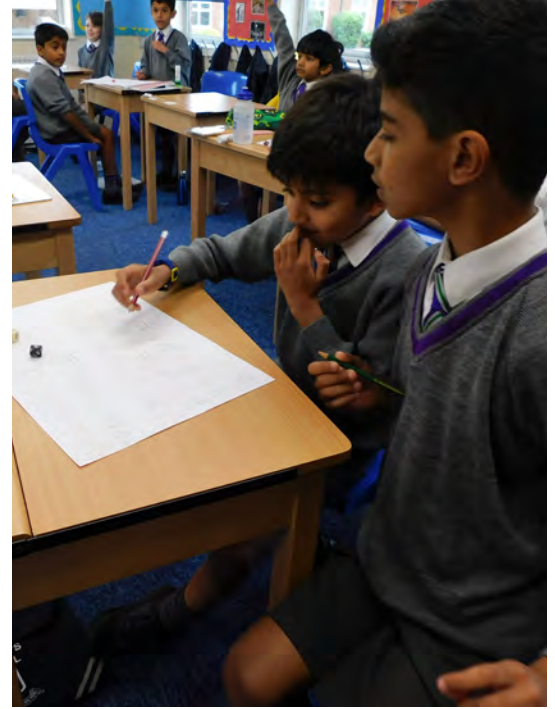
different parts of our bodies.

We discovered that when pressed to the back of our hand, it felt like one pencil however, when we pressed it to our fingertip or lip, we could feel the two different points. This is because there are more nerves on our fingertips and lip than on the back of our hand!





Year 4 having fun with fractions



Year 4 have been studying equivalent fractions this week. It would be ambitious to claim that 100 per cent of the boys had completely cracked it but without doubt a very significant proportion have. Hopefully your sons could tell you that eight

tenths of the boys were now experts, or even four fifths or was that sixteen twentieths.....Whatever the exact number everyone enjoyed playing a competitive game where the boys rolled dice and had to find the lowest common multiple.





Year 4 Lego creators

Year 4 Lego Club: Although the day has changed to Friday this has not dampened the enthusiasm of the boys for this club. Their creations go from strength to strength and their ability to use their imagination to complete their ideas is a joy to see.





Year 3 young artists

Year 3 have been learning all about mixing primary colours together and the colour wheel. From the three primary colours, (red, blue and yellow), they enjoyed making secondary colours, mixing yellow and blue to make green, red and blue to make purple and red and yellow to make orange.





Art clubbers at work

Junior Art clubbers created leaf printed clay trinket dishes. Look at the lovely autumnal colours they have used to paint them with.



Portfolio Art Clubbers have been having fun creating screen prints. Here they are in action.

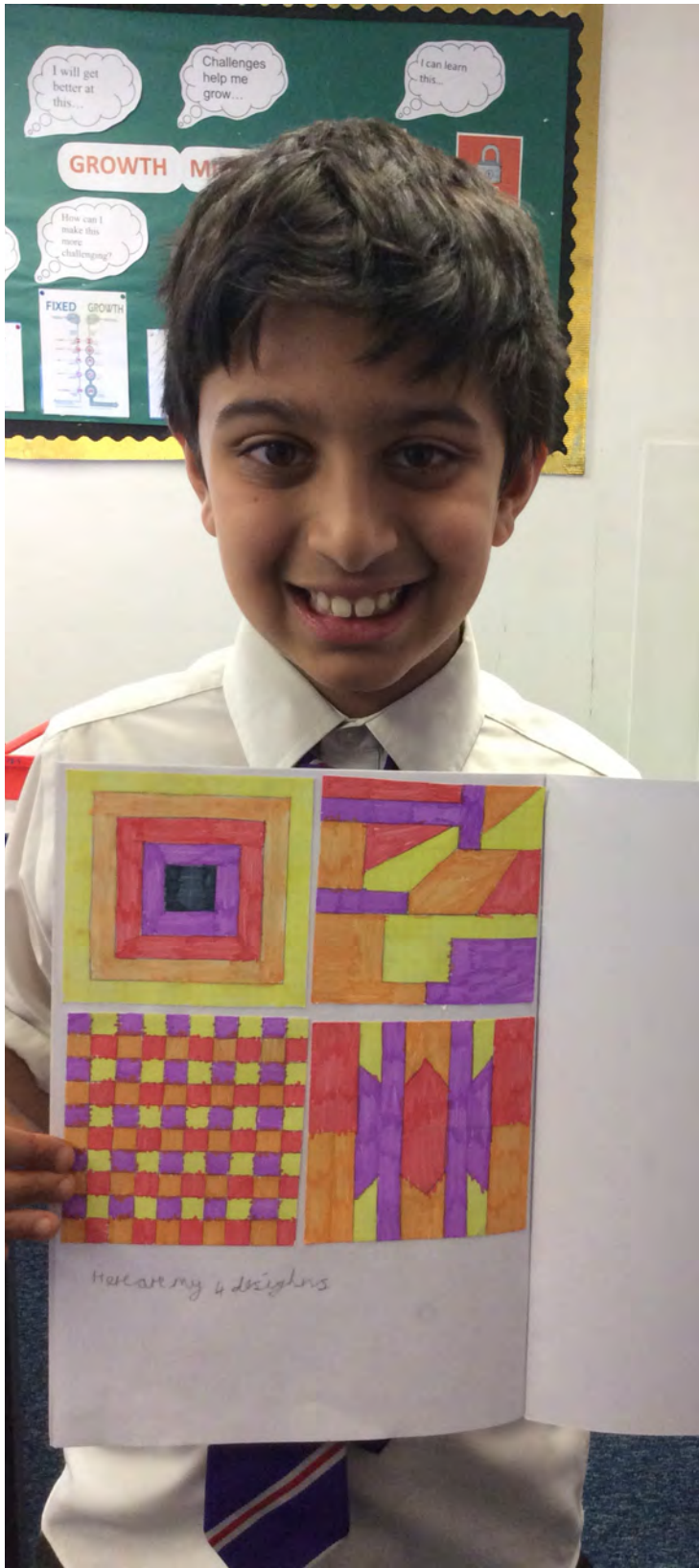


Charlie in 8L is using oil pastels on his cupcake drawing. It looks delicious!





Year 5 have been learning about the quilters of Gee's Bend. Anay in 5M has coloured in four beautiful patch designs.



James in 6A is pleased with his 3D arctic fox portrait.

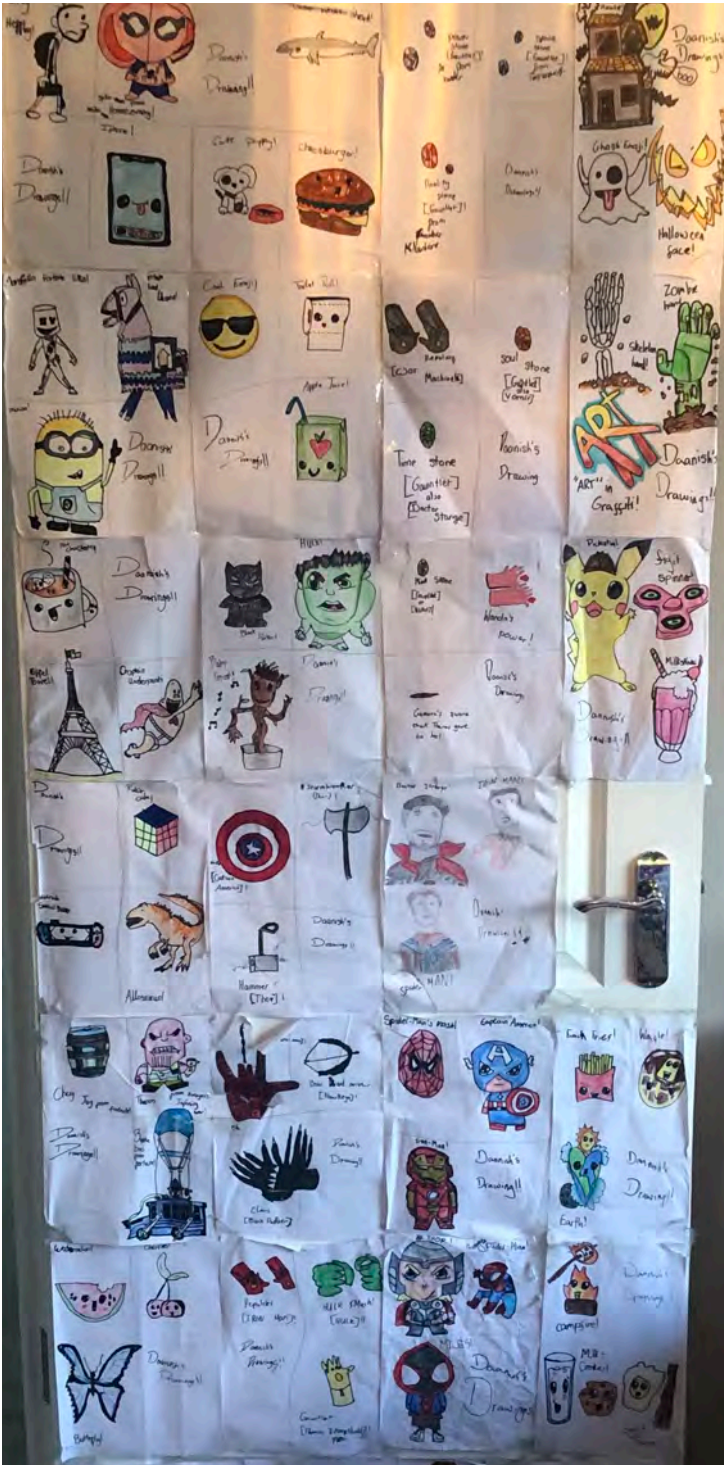




Daanish's Drawings

One of my favourite hobbies, in my spare time, is to draw, so I started to draw things and stick them on my door. I finished the first side of my door one year ago. Each page has three drawings and I named each page 'Daanish's Drawings.' Towards

the end of lockdown, I started drawing for the other side of the door but I haven't finished it yet. I have a lot of fun drawing the characters and sticking them on my door.
Daanish 5C





Years 5 and 6 get started with rugby

With a late start this half of term, Year 5 and Year 6 have thrown themselves back into rugby with great enthusiasm. Though the current climate has been very restricting and the weather conditions have been less than ideal, the boys have shown great tenacity in the drills and matches alike.

In PE we have spent a lot of time introducing new skills as well as refining old with both year groups as the game develops for them. There has been a specific focus on functional movement and cardiovascular fitness across all sport sessions.

Continued overleaf..





Years 5 and 6 get started with rugby cont...



This has transitioned especially well into Friday Games sessions, where the boys have a chance to implement their newly acquired skills into matches and tailored games such as rugby ready. Though this has been the first time playing rugby again for a long while for some, the skill retention has been excellent and both year groups seem to be thoroughly enjoying themselves. Boys fitness levels are generally good too thanks to some great work done at home through the lockdown plus the drills and all the preparatory work done earlier in the term in PE lessons.

We are still immensely grateful for the fantastic grounds at our disposal, and the fact we have the opportunity to get stuck into rugby once again. The boys are really enjoying it and hopefully we will be able to continue as we are, just with a little more sunshine!



OUTLOOK



FOLLOW US ON   @MOORPARK10K

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1053338

10^k & funruns MOOR PARK

MOOR PARK

VIRTUAL

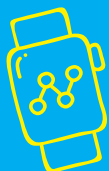
10K & FUN RUNS



In aid of the Mount Vernon Cancer Centre and Lynda Jackson Macmillan Cancer Centre.
Providing the best care for local patients with cancer by funding medical equipment,
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From 1st October – 31st October 2020

For all ages and abilities!



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OUTLOOK



MERCHANT TAYLORS' COMPANY

photo²⁰²⁰ graphy c o m p e t i t i o n

Entries are now welcome from pupils and staff across the school for the Merchant Taylors' Company Photography Competition. This year's theme is **Hope** and photographs should be accompanied by a title and, if you wish, a short description (of 12 words maximum).

Our school's selected photographs will be exhibited at Merchant Taylors' Hall in the City of London in December and early next year, with cash prizes awarded to the winners and runners-up in each category of Junior (Years 1-8), Senior (Years 9-13) and Staff.

For further information and to submit your entries - by Friday 23 October 2020 - please contact

Ms Gillen
Ggillen@st-johns.org.uk



OUTLOOK



Picture of the week



Not long to go. The covers are off, the lights are on and we are very nearly ready to move in to the new St John's Sports Hall just in time for the winter.

Contact details

Updates: Please continue to visit 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 @stjohnsnorthwood 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: We cannot always be on hand every event with a camera and rely on photographs from parents and supporters. Do please continue to send in your pictures to lambeditor@st-johns.org.uk for inclusion in The Lamb. Many thanks.

Notices and reminders

Important dates for your diary:

Monday 19th Oct **Year 6 online Parents' Meeting A-M**
(6.00 - 8.00pm)

Tuesday 20th Oct **Pre-Prep online Parents' Meeting**
(6.00 - 8.00pm)

Wednesday 21st Oct **Year 6 online Parents' Meeting O-W**
(6.00 - 8.00pm)

Thursday 22nd Oct **Pre-Prep online Parents' Meeting**
(3.30 - 5.30 pm)

These will take place via Google Meet. Parents will be sent a code in advance of the meeting times.

Merchant Taylors' Company Photography Competition:

Have you been thinking about the topic – 'Hope.' Send your entries to Ms Gillen Ggillen@st-johns.org.uk by next Friday 23rd October. All the information you need for entering the competition is on page 20

Moor Park Virtual Fun Run: With a weekend forecast of light winds and light cloud, it might be a good one for a run....there are more details of the virtual run and how to raise money on page 19 and on the [charity website page](#).

Votes for Schools. Parents, please continue to discuss the weekly topic with your children. Encourage them to give arguments for each side of the debate as this will encourage critical thinking. Last week's question was 'Does the curriculum represent you?' 61.5% said yes and 38.5% said no. This week's question is 'Have we forgotten about the environment this year?' Boys, enjoy discussing this topic and then place your vote and make your comment, we look forward to hearing your views.



House Points: Totals so far: 1st Lawrence 16.63; 2nd Lincoln 16.23; 3rd Churchill 15.63; 4th Oates 14.60

The Lamb will not be published next Friday. The next edition will be Wednesday 28th October so that we can include all the activities to the end of this Half-Term. Enjoy the weekend.