



From the Headmaster

Welcome to this week's Lamb. All of the boys have had a chance to settle back to school and it has been really uplifting to see them in action.

The School Council have been voted in and held their first meeting this week, of course on a Google Meet. From reading the minutes they clearly exchanged some excellent ideas to take the School forward including opportunities for Year 8 to take a more responsible role within the School.

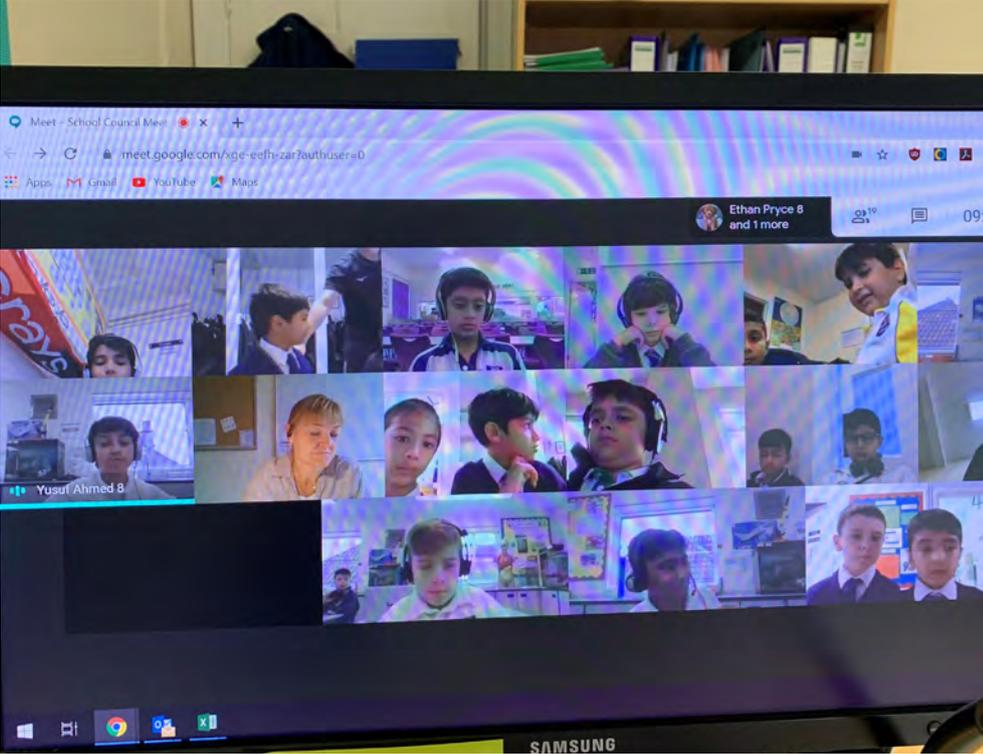
You will see on page 2 an article about Jean Kotchie who has sadly died. Jean was a member of the Norman family, who founded St John's and was a valuable link to that time. She visited the School a few years ago and was able to talk to some of the boys about her time as a pupil, one of the only-ever girls!. She had a fascinating role in World War 11 about which you can learn more on our website.

In sport the U13 and U12A teams enjoyed their cricket fixtures with Haileybury on Wednesday. Particular congratulations to Freddie and Hamza on their batting performances. Thank you for your fantastic support for Jeans for Genes Day in the Pre-Prep which raised over £300.

I hope you all enjoy a restful weekend and do take Mr Lawrence's advice and have a look at the sky tonight.

School Council at work

Our new School Council held their inaugural meeting on Wednesday using Google Meets and every member attended, which was a feat in itself! We studied the agenda carefully and discussed several topics including the new Covid-19 playtime arrangements and opportunities for Year 8 to take a more responsible role within the School. We talked about the importance of all boys at St John's being respected, regardless of religion, colour, race and appearance. When asked to indicate with a thumbs up if they thought this was true all Council members agreed. We look forward to our next meeting on 21st October. Thank you to the boys for their contributions and well done especially to the younger boys who concentrated for a very long time.



Members of the School Council are voted for each term by their forms. The boys on the Council this term are:

- | | | | |
|----------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Otters | Niam and Ivan | 5WS | Alexander |
| Owls | Ali and Leon | 6A | Kabir |
| Badgers | Arjun and Dillan | 6M | Rahul |
| Eagles | Vir and Benji | 6V | Kian |
| 3H | Eliot | 7H | Ansh |
| 3W | Jay | 7J | Ansh |
| 4H | Abbas | 8B | Ethan |
| 4S | Hamza | 8L | Yusuf |
| 5C | Daanish | Head and Deputy Head Boys | |
| 5M | Rian | Alexander, Rodrigo and Vishwadrik | |



THIS WEEK



Losing a link to our past: Jean Kotchie (nee Norman) 1922-2020



We were sorry to hear the sad news that Jean Kotchie died recently. Jean was the daughter of Claude Norman, the founder of our School, and sister of the School's second Headmaster, Peter Norman. Jean

visited our school in 2015 meeting with the boys who are now in Year 7 and sharing her memories of St John's in the 1930s when she and her sister Kathleen attended as the only girls.

Mr Robinson, Mrs Wilson and Mrs Cooper visited Jean several times last year. She really enjoyed hearing about St John's boys and was proud of all their achievements. She enjoyed reading our Centenary book and provided many of the early photographs.

After St John's, Jean attended St Helen's School before starting work at Marshall and Snelgrove, a Department Store on Oxford Street. When the Second World War was declared Jean wanted to help the war effort. She joined the Wrens in 1941 and much to her surprise, was selected for Special Duties. She was trained to operate the Bombe codebreaking machines at Bletchley Park and Wavenden House. It

was hugely tiring work that required a high level of accuracy and concentration around the clock. Eventually this became too much for Jean and her next posting was to a Royal Navy mail ship off the Isle of Sheppey. These were happy years. She met her husband, a Royal Navy Officer, while she was there and they married in Pinner Parish Church in May 1945. They had a family and Jean went on to be a professional singer and entertainer, staging Gilbert and Sullivan productions for American tourists at grand country houses. Her love of Gilbert and Sullivan no doubt came from her father who was a much admired principal singer in the Hatch End Operatic Society for many years. Jean was a lovely lady and we shall miss her. To the end she was proud of the boys in purple.

A full interview with Jean is available on our website to [download here](#)





Studying the night sky

Unfortunately due to Covid-19 we have not been able to hold our Autumn Astronomy Evening at the School this term. However that doesn't stop you going out and seeing the marvels that the night sky has to offer.

The night sky is particularly interesting at this time, with a great array of planets on show. Even from a light polluted London sky you can still get to see the planets from your back garden, all you need is a low southern horizon.

The screenshot below is from the Stellarium App, showing the night sky for tonight. As you can see you have the moon, which will be in its crescent phase, along with the planets Jupiter and Saturn. Print out the picture and if there is a clear sky, look south and see if you can find them. Jupiter and Saturn will look like bright stars (Saturn is much dimmer than Jupiter) but if you have a pair of binoculars you might be able to see Jupiter's moons, which look like a line of four stars next to the planet. However if you want to see the rings of Saturn you will need a telescope for that.

If you stay up little later, at about 8.30pm, Mars will be rising on the Eastern horizon. It is really bright at the moment as it is only 63 million kilometres away! That's the closest it

has been for several years and it won't be this close again for decades more. It is now the brightest object in the sky after the Sun, Moon and Venus, which can be shining brilliantly in the East before sunrise.

Don't worry if you miss them, the moon will have moved but Jupiter, Saturn, Venus and Mars will be around for the next few weeks. Happy planet hunting!





Gardening Club has a lot of catching up to do

After six months the School garden certainly needed some TLC upon our return to school. First job was the weeding and there were copious amounts to deal with! Our team of keen gardeners comprising Ananda, Aaron, Daanish, Hrishi, Anay & Keshav (left to right in the team photo) set to work with vigour and we also cut the grass. Our autumn vegetables will be arriving soon, so it was important to prepare the ground quickly. The pear tree that we planted several years ago pleasingly and surprisingly has borne fruit as can be seen from the photo proudly displaying one solitary pear.





Picnicing in the autumn sunshine

The Year 5 boys have been enjoying their picnic lunch under the Oak tree this week. The acorns have already started to fall.





THIS WEEK



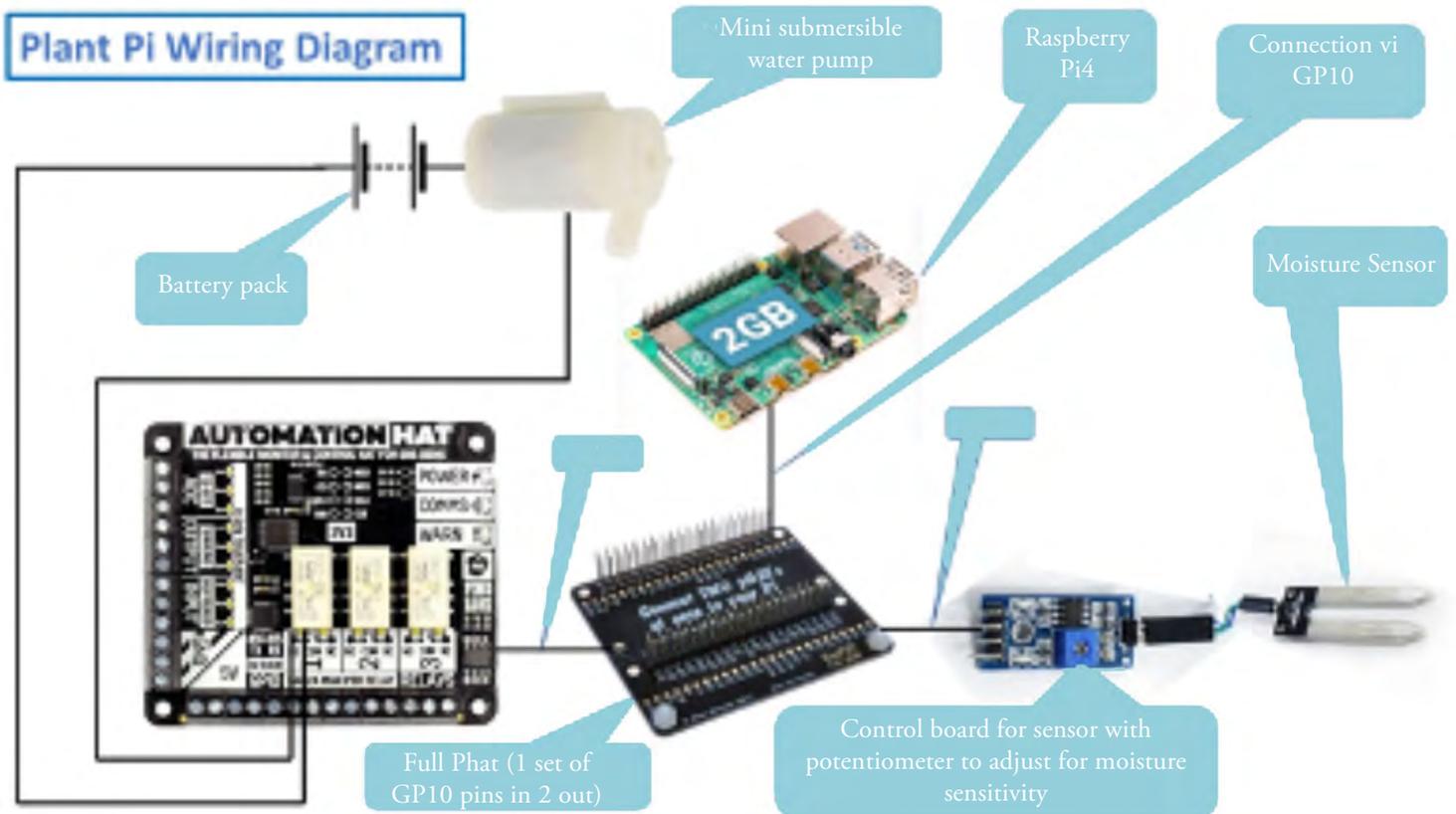
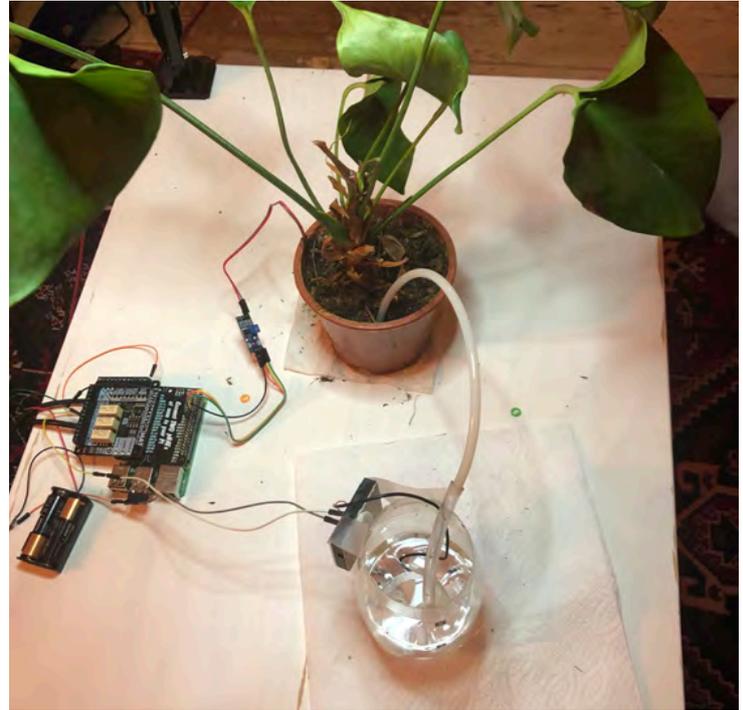
Our entry to the Raspberry Pi Competition

On Monday Mr Lawrence submitted an entry to the annual PA Consulting Raspberry Pi Competition. Darius and I have made a fully automated plant watering system. It is designed to be used in your house or greenhouse to make keeping plants hydrated easier and to make the watering process more precise. Plant Pi is a smart system which puts exactly the right amount of water in the soil when it is needed, ensuring that your plant will always be happy.

To set it up all you need to do is fill up the reservoir, put the moisture sensor in the soil and place the tubing into the plant pot. After this, run the code and then you can leave it to do all the work to help your plant rehydrate. You can go to the website to see if it's watering the plant or not and look at the moisture levels in the soil. The system will also send you push notifications, when your plant is being watered. Below is a diagram of how the Plant Pi is wired up.

Here is a short YouTube clip provides details on how it works: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U54YIEykF7E>

Fingers crossed we do well, as the winning prize is £1000.
Darius and Cyrus



PRE-PREP



Pre-Prep Jeans for Genes day

Last Friday, despite the boiling hot day, the Pre-Prep boys and staff came to school wearing their jeans. They have been raising money for the charity Jeans for Genes - Genetic Disorder UK. The monies raised will go to help children with genetic disorders

around the world. The boys learnt that it is their genes that make them all different and who they are. The Pre-Prep raised £333. A big 'Thank you' for your generous contributions.



FOR THE 1 IN 25
CHILDREN
WHO HAVE A
LIFE-ALTERING
GENETIC
DISORDER





Forest time for the Lambs, Robins and Squirrels



The Lambs have really enjoyed forest time, playing with the sticks, sand and making mud pies. We even went on a bear hunt!!!





Forest time in jeans

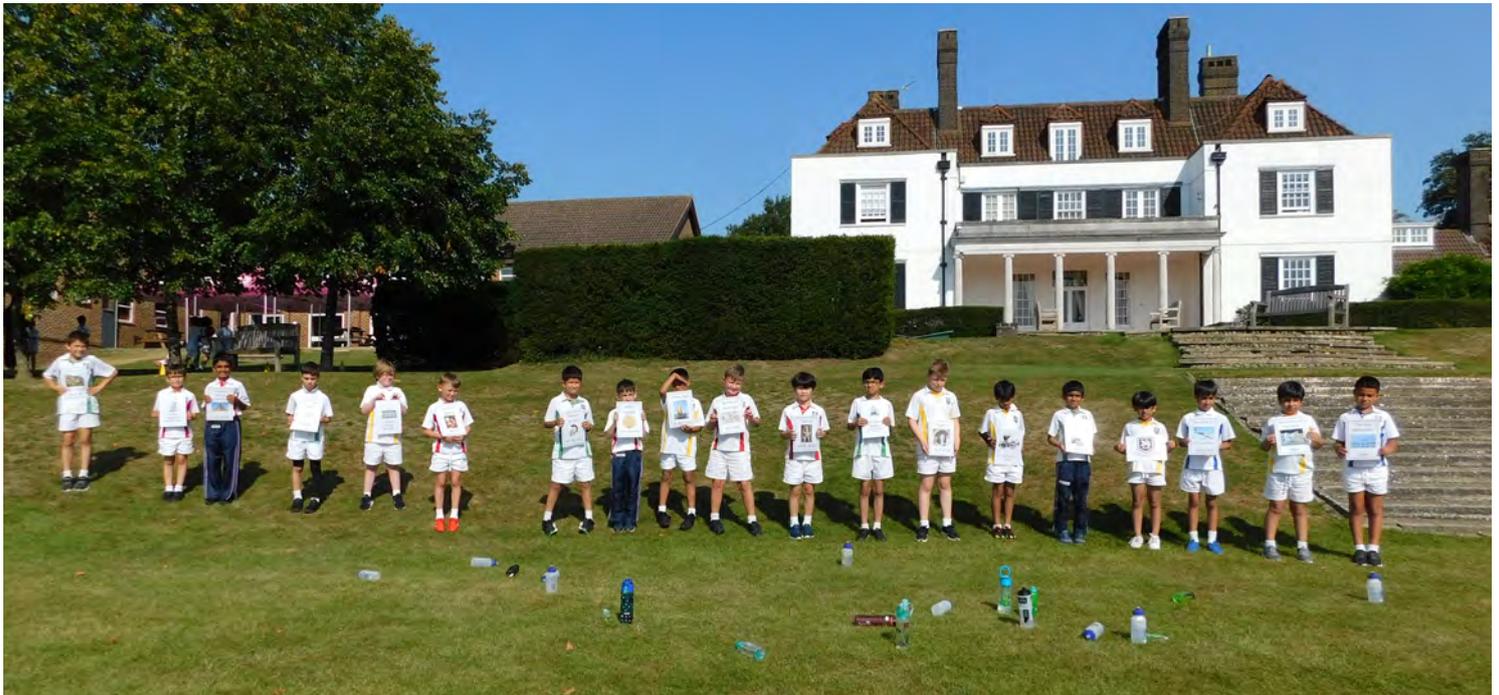




Year 4 are getting in order

Life in the Juniors seems to be ticking along very well. The boys are well and truly settled, the nights are drawing in and we are very much back in the rhythm of school. The boys in Year 4 are occasionally told to sort themselves out and did so with great accuracy when learning about chronology this week.

After mastering the concepts of AD and BC and even discussing CE and BCE, they formed a human timeline and most managed to smile for the camera. Let's hope they maintain this good humour over the weekend.





Cartoon superheroes

In **cartoon club** this week, the boys had fun watching an episode of Spiderman and then created wonderful pieces of art! They started by colouring a picture of Spiderman and then used a silver pen to draw a web onto a background. The

finishing touch was then to decorate with glitter to create these eye catching pieces! As you can tell, Cartoon Club is great fun and if anyone else would like to join, we still have spaces!





Kaleidoscopic visions



Year 3 boys created colourful kaleidoscope patterns, this week. 1. Aarav K 3H, 2. Ryan A 3H, 3. Micah S 3H, 4. Aary P in 4H has been using his water colours beautifully., 5. Kian J in 6V is making a 3D dog and cat portrait.





U13 A against Haileybury

A **brilliant result** for the U13A boys. The hard work they have put in over the past two weeks really shone through on a cloudy, murky day against a strong Haileybury team.

Bowling first, Arian set the tone with a brilliant first ball of the innings to dismiss the opposition opener. This was followed up by tight bowling from Freddie who also picked up a well-deserved wicket. The bowling unit kept up the high standards as captain Arian rotated his options and the wickets kept falling steadily. A late flourish from the Haileybury lower order guided them to a respectable 79 for 9 (Rodrigo 2 for 5). A special mention to Reece who was keeping wicket for the first time and did a brilliant job behind the stumps.

In reply, St Johns lost a few early wickets and found themselves in trouble with the score 15 for 4. Fortunately the calmest man in Hertford was at the crease, Freddie. He batted with intent, showed great composure and punished the talented Haileybury attack to all parts. Seeing the team home Freddie finished with a brilliant 33 not out and in the process only faced 25 balls. St John's won by 4 wickets with 4.2 overs still remaining.

It was a great team performance with some exceptional individual displays. Lots to work on during the winter months but a solid platform to build upon.





U12 A against Haileybury



On an inclement autumnal Wednesday afternoon St John's arrived looking smart at the splendid looking Haileybury grounds. New captain Hamza lost the toss and St John's were put into the field full of focus and positive energy. Unfortunately, the bowlers demonstrated their competitive lockdown rust, bowling too many extras and were duly punished by some decisive batting from the Haileybury openers. Stand out bowling performances are awarded to Amos on debut, Aryan and Ishaan (1 for 8). Haileybury amassed a strong total 157 for 2 (18 overs)

Zac was looking strong before being run out comprehensively early in the innings. In walked the captain who demonstrated great composure against a strong bowling attack. Working the ball into the gaps and running hard, putting the fielders under pressure, whilst putting away the occasional bad ball. Unfortunately his 31 came to an abrupt end, stumped, as the run rate soared out of control. One other innings demonstrated potential, that of Nayan (15). St John's finished 49 runs short in their 18 overs on 108 for 5. Well done all. Lots to target over the winter for further improvement.

Congratulations Hamza

Hamza (7J) won the U12 singles championship at his tennis club (RLTC) Rickmansworth Lawn Tennis Club on Sunday – well done Hamza.



OUTLOOK



Important calendar events

- Tuesday 29th September **Happy Puzzle Company Years 3 & 5**
- Tuesday 29th September **Year 7 Online Information Evening** 5.30pm
- Thursday 1st October **Quiz Club Science Finals Years 6 & 7 on Google Meet**
- Friday 2nd October **Merchant Taylors' Prep Schools Maths Afternoon** - tbc
- Friday 2nd October **Pre-Prep Individual Photographs**
- Wednesday 7th October **Virtual Open Morning for Prospective Parents** 9.15am
- Tuesday 13th October **St John's in the Community Meeting** 7.00pm
- Monday 19th October **Year 6 online Parents' Meeting A-M** 6.00pm
- Tuesday 20th October **Pre-Prep online Parents' Meeting** 6.00pm-8.00pm
- Wednesday 21st October **School Council**
- Wednesday 21st October **Year 6 online Parents' Meeting O-W** 6.00pm
- Thursday 22nd October **Pre-Prep online Parents' Meeting** 3.30pm-5.30pm
- Friday 23rd October **Hunter Jones Poetry Recitation**
- Monday 26th to Wednesday 28th **Nursery closed – 3+ assessments**
- Thursday 29th October to Friday 6th November inclusive **Half Term**

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 @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: 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



Votes for Schools. Last week's question 'Are 'staycations' the future?' 100% of boys said no. How long will they have to wait for that foreign holiday? This week's question 'Would you donate your organs?' View the slides on Google Classroom Votes for Schools class (code: tcl5eou), place your vote and make your comment.

Request from D&T We would love to see what you have been designing and making while you have been at home. Please send in any pictures showing you and your project with a short description explaining what it is. You could feature on our D&T 'Wall of Fame'. So far I have seen some amazing Lego projects, programmed boats and even a classic car! I look forward to seeing whatever you have made no matter how big or small. Mrs McSween vmcsween@st-johns.org.uk

Rugby a reminder that rugby starts next week. Please refer to Mr. Kruger's email regarding the kit required

Year 7 information evening The code to join the Google Meet has been sent. Any problems please email Mrs. Savage

House Points: Totals so far: 1st Lawrence 5.52; 2nd Lincoln 4.73; 3rd Oates 4.07; 4th Churchill 3.87

Enjoy the weekend.