

Wonderful poetry recitations



Our annual Hunter Jones Poetry Recital Competition took place on Monday, with an exceptional group of finalists judged by a team from Merchant Taylors'. Pre-Prep children sang and performed beautifully in front of parents at our Harvest Festival, as we raised funds and food donations for City Harvest. Charity Prefects received an invitation from City Harvest to attend the National Harvest Service at Westminster Abbey yesterday. The Queen was in attendance for this spectacular event, and it was a truly memorable occasion for them all. Meanwhile, younger learners have been excitedly preparing for Diwali, making colourful Art and listening to stories. Happy Diwali to all those celebrating! I hope all boys have a good rest over half term, spend time with their families and read some interesting books over the coming days. I look forward to seeing you all at Fireworks Night on 6th November.

From the
Headmaster



Hunter Jones Poetry Recitation Competition Finals

On Monday, Years 3 to 8 were treated to the finals of the Hunter Jones Poetry Recitation Competition in the Norman Hall. All boys from Year 3 to Year 8 were asked to learn and recite a poem and the standard of the finalists was very impressive indeed. We were very lucky to have four excellent judges, Lower 6th English Students from Merchant Taylors' School. They had the difficult decision of selecting a Lower School Winner from Years 3 to 5 and an Upper School Winner from Years 6 to 8. They did a tremendous job selecting winners and giving feedback and special mention to boys in each Year Group.

Junior Runner-up: Veer Patel with 'Jabberwocky' by Lewis Carroll

Junior winner: Jai Kotecha with 'I Am Angry' by Michael Rosen

Senior Runner-up: Shayan Bajwa with 'The Pale Blue Dot' by C Sagan

Senior winner: Aaran Gupta with 'Strict' by Michael Rosen





Excellent Hunter Jones Poetry Recitations





Excellent Hunter Jones Poetry Recitations





Attending the National Harvest Festival

“On the 16th of October, the Charity Prefects, along with Mrs Cooper and Mrs McSween were honoured to attend the National Harvest Service at Westminster Abbey. One of the charities we support is City Harvest, who supply food to people who are most in need, and they invited us to the Service. During the Service, we sang hymns and thanked God for the food we have. Emotive readings accompanied the meaningful prayers, allowing us the opportunity to realise how lucky we are as people who have a lot, and how much farmers and people who work with the land have to do to provide food for us all. The Queen attended, as well as many other famous people. Thank you to City Harvest for giving us this experience.” *Dev Year 8*



The Coronation Chair





The National Harvest Service

The Choir of Westminster Abbey sang an anthem written by OMT Bob Chilcott and the boys were lucky enough to hear the Poet Laureate read his poem “Bread of Heaven” standing only a few feet away from where they were sitting. They also saw the Coronation Chair and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The Year 6 and 8 boys represented St John’s impeccably.

All sit. Simon Armitage CBE, Poet Laureate, reads

DRESSED with a length of lining paper
the wooden trestle table sagged and groaned
with the heavy bounty of home produce.
Cabbages mooned like the faces of saints
in da Vinci’s *Last Supper*; onions
were squat bottles of precious oils
on a market stall next to sacred orbs
of beefsteak tomatoes and artichoke crowns.

But the bread was the thing, a giant loaf
in wheat sheaf form, baked and glazed
to a gold that might have glowed in the dark,
stove-heat cradled in its plaits and folds.

Alone after Sunday School in the church hall
I stood on tiptoes, poked my finger
through the toasted crust and hooked out
the plain white flesh – I wanted to taste
the words of the hymn, I wanted to feast
on food made only of summer and rain.

Bread of Heaven
Simon Armitage (b 1963)





Our City Harvest collection

After Mr Hopwood and Miss Little had finished counting the House collections, we carefully packed all the donations into crates, loaded up the City Harvest van and the driver was on his way. Good job boys!





THIS WEEK

The soup tasting was very popular this week

Our chef has been making delicious soup for us recently. Today boys in Years 3 to 8 enjoyed tasting the tomato soup. They declared it delicious and some returned for refills!





On Wednesday 16 boys accompanied by Mr Bleakley and Mrs Bourne visited MTS for the annual Maths afternoon. The boys enjoyed a Maths trail around the school before tackling some harder problem solving questions. Two of our boys took part in an Inter-Schools Challenge. Well done to Ayad and Avyan for representing the School, especially to Avyan who came joint second.



Mathematicians at MTS



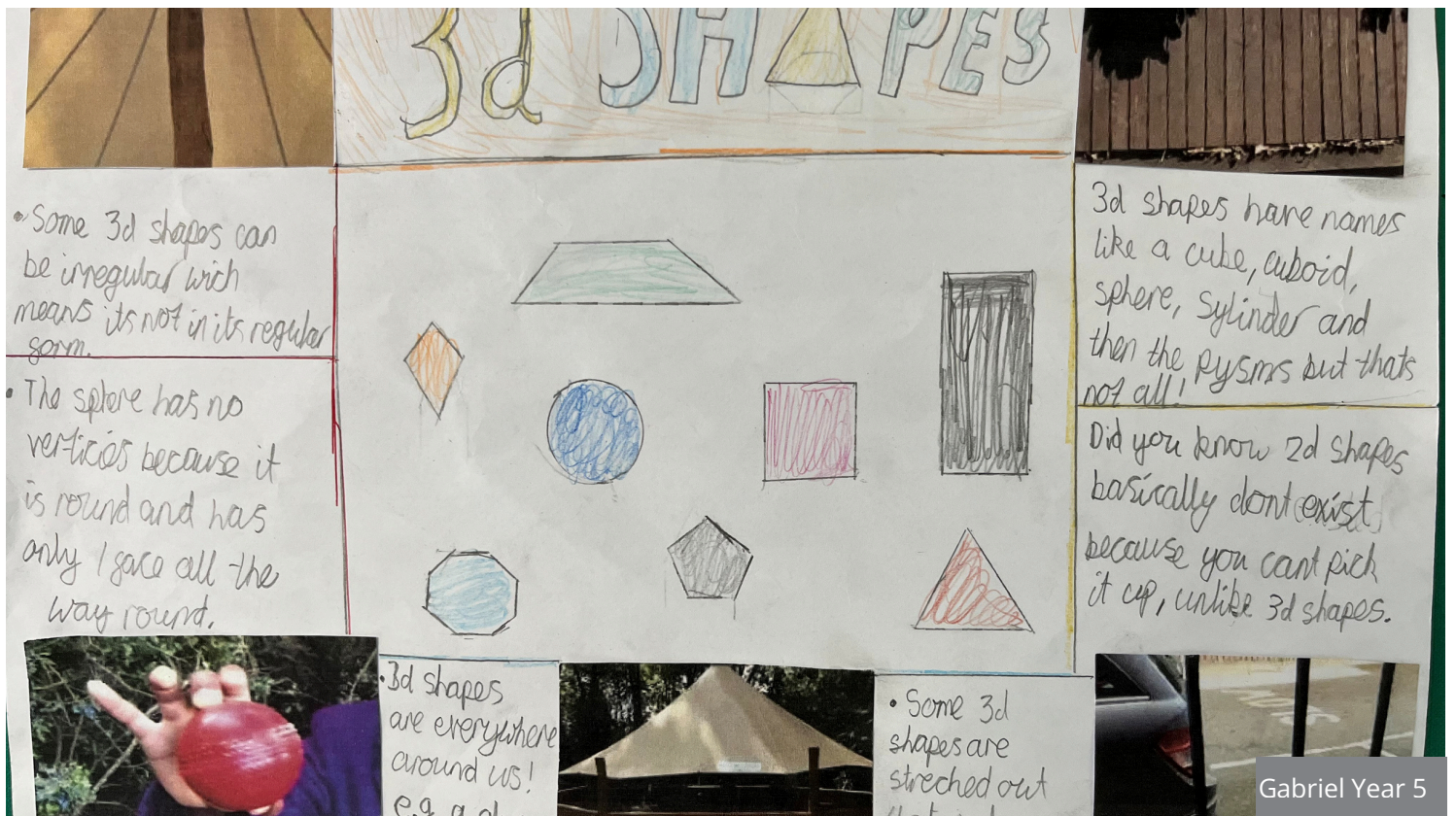
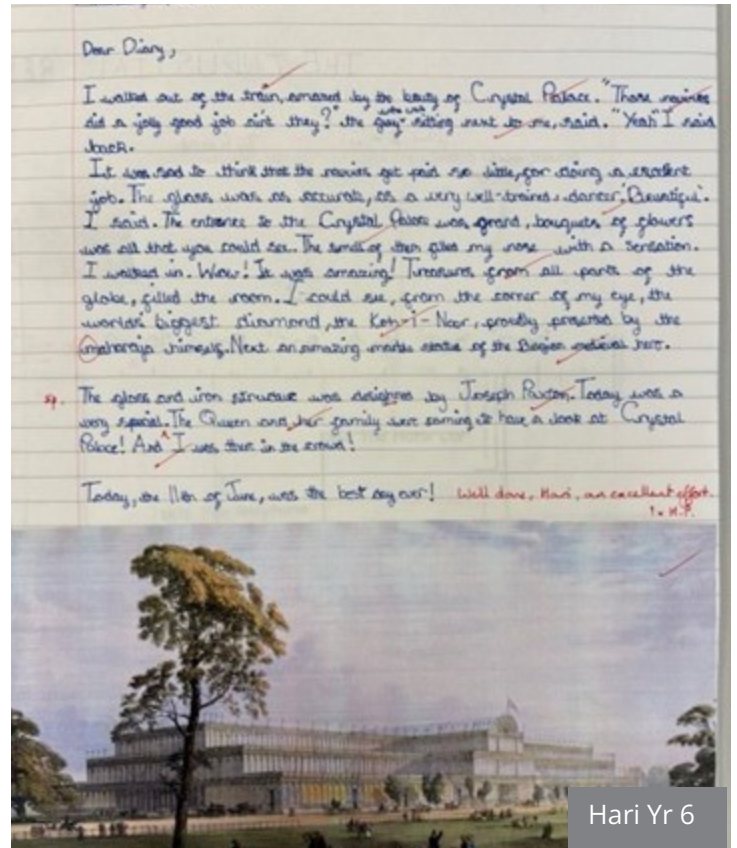
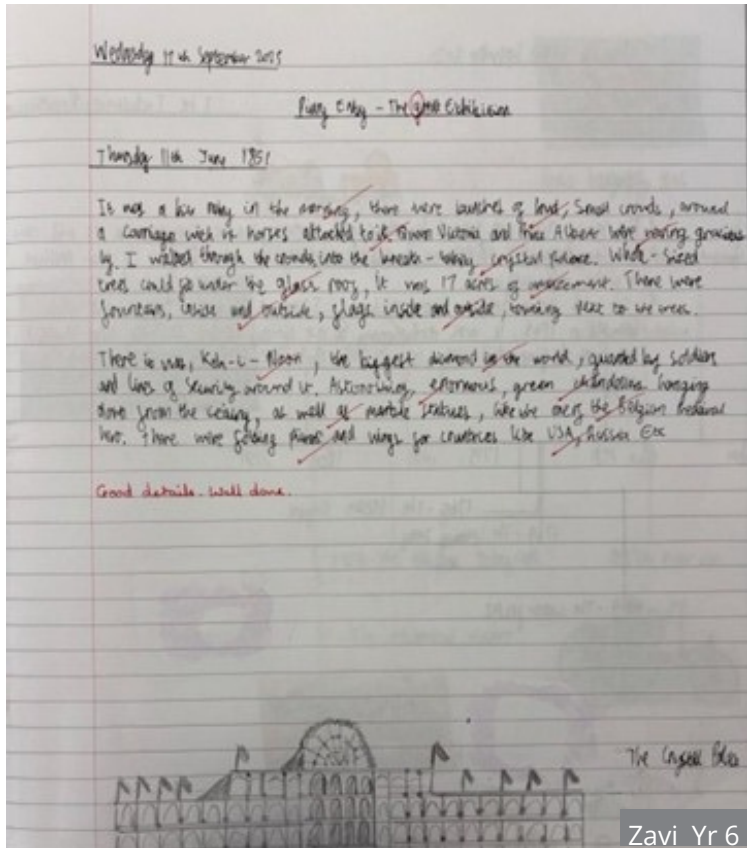
Out and about



Helping to count the donations



Deputy Head's Awards for Excellence this half term





Happy Diwali to all families celebrating



DIWALI

The victory of light over darkness
good over evil
wisdom over ignorance



A special present for Miss Morgan





Pre-Prep Harvest Festival was fun!

Harvest Festival was a joyful occasion this week. Reception to Year 2 sang their hearts out and the Year 2 narrators spoke with confidence and clarity. Well done boys, you were all amazing!





We loved singing the Bean Song





...and freeze!

Pre-Prep boys enjoyed a Perform Drama workshop last Friday. A relaxing activity on World Mental Health Day!





Harvest time is here again!

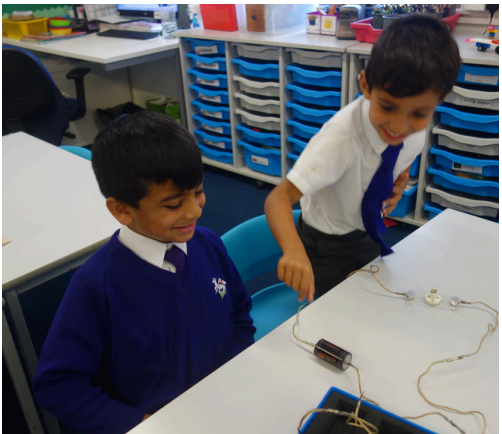
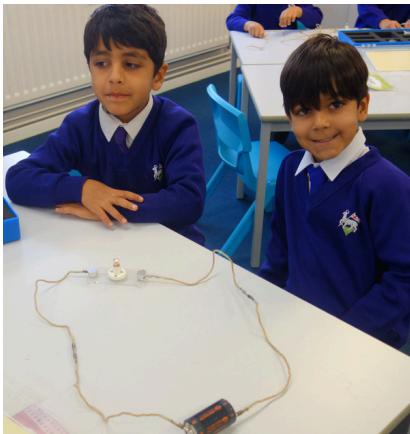
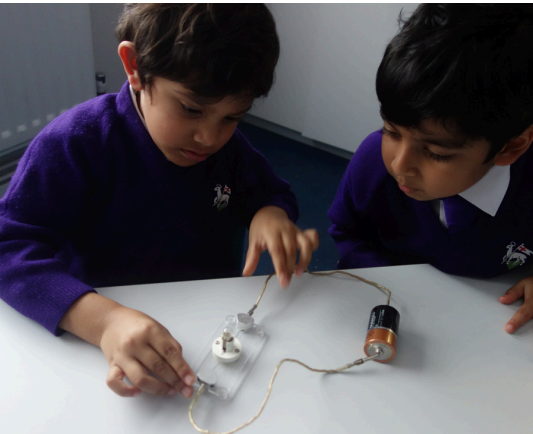
Nursery boys have been exploring lots of seasonal vegetables, trying to guess if there might be seeds inside each one as we opened them to investigate and noticed all the new aromas. They have been using their fingers to tap pegs into all the pumpkins, a new skill for many and the boys were determined to have fun and succeed.





Great collaboration in Year 1

Year 1 boys actively collaborate in practical tasks. Look at them creating a painting using splashes of colour, inspired by Jackson Pollock and working together in illumination and propellor investigations in Science.





Diwali celebrations in Pre-Prep





Diwali celebrations in Juniors

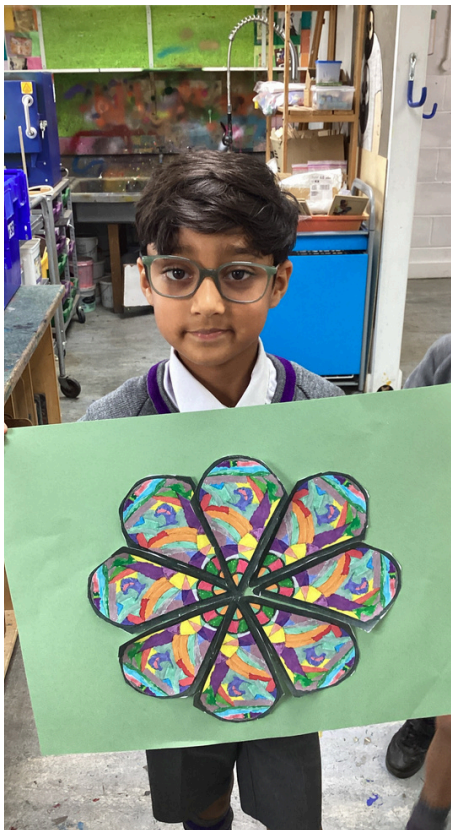
In Juniors, handmade rangoli keyrings & diyas have sparked this week. Wishing you all a very Happy Diwali!





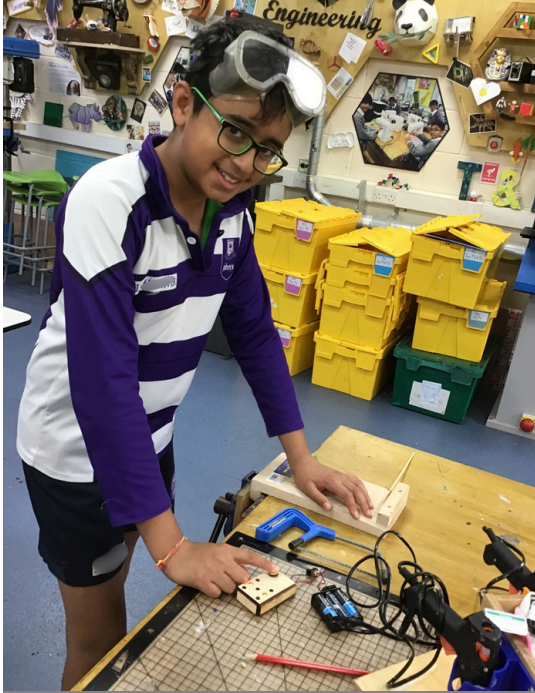
We're proud to show you our kaleidoscopes

It's been a colourful week in the Art room, with Year 3 putting the finishing touches on their kaleidoscope patterns.





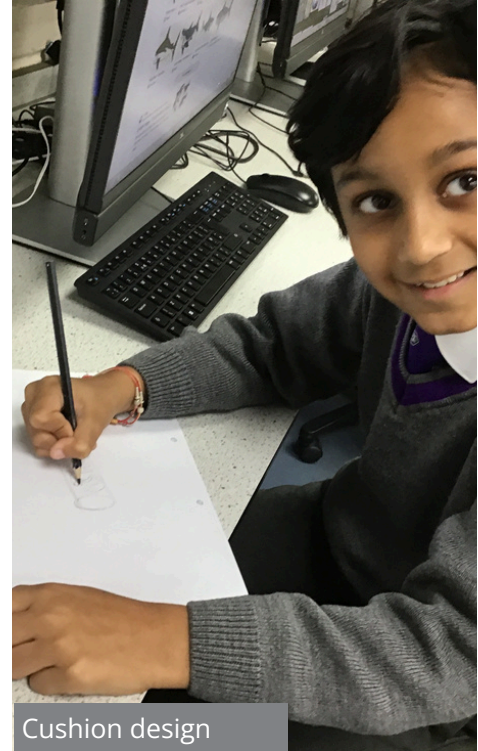
Aiming for excellence in DT&E



Making electronic dice for a board game



Does my boat float?



Cushion design





STEM DEN OCTOBER CAMP 2025

ONE WEEK OF HANDS ON! MINDS ON! FUN!

📍 20th October – 24th October 🍷 For ages 5–13 🎮
Flexible booking – come for a day, or the whole programme

- 🗓 **Mon 20 Oct – Delightful Diwali**
Build lanterns, craft clay diyas, and code dazzling rangoli designs.
- 🗓 **Tue 21 Oct – Shadow Puppet Theatre**
Design puppets, explore the science of light and shadows, and film your own show.
- 🗓 **Wed 22 Oct – Spooktacular STEM**
Pumpkin carving, creepy crafts, and coding your own haunted house!
- 🗓 **Thu 23 Oct – Mechanical Marvels**
Discover crankshafts, build moving automata, and take home your invention.
- 🗓 **Fri 24 Oct – Time Flies**
Craft a working wooden clock, then tackle the Longest Marble Run Challenge!

Find out more and book through the website: www.stemden.co.uk

✉ Email Us: stemdennorthwood@gmail.com

📍 Find Us: St John's School, Potter Street Hill, Northwood HA5 3ZF



Scan to book





Football at St John's hit top form this week

Our Year 5 team played brilliantly against St Margaret's, Year 4 enjoyed a competitive fixture with MTP, and Year 8 took part in an exciting quadrangular tournament against York House, St Martin's and MTP. Meanwhile, our Year 3 boys proudly hosted St Martin's in a fantastic display of enthusiasm and teamwork. It's been wonderful to see so much fun, learning and development across all age groups. We look forward to even more football and cross-country after the half-term break — and to making the exciting switch to rugby as the season turns!



Year 3 EFG teams at MTP



Year 5 at St Margaret's 10th October



Under 9



Under 8F



Year 3 home v MTP



5B home v St Margaret's



Congratulations on running the 5K for GOSH!



Under 8 A & B v St Martin's 16th October

OCTOBER HALF TERM SPORTS CAMP

20TH – 24TH OCTOBER

Girls: Netball, Football, Hockey
Boys: Hockey, Football, Court Sports



KRÜGER SPORTS CAMPS

www.krügercamps.co.uk





Language of Learning at St John's

Our Language of Learning at St John's is an integral part of our teaching and learning across the School as we aim to develop well-rounded, happy, compassionate, and successful boys. We focus on one of our core values each half term. When we come back after the break, we will focus on Resilience.





SJA PRESENTS

2025

**FIREWORKS
NIGHT**

SAVE THE DATE

**THURSDAY,
NOVEMBER 6, 2025**

 Food |  Drinks |  Fun

MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW

This Event is Managed and Supported by
St John's Association