



# Inspiring a love of reading and writing



This week, Year 4 and 5 boys braved the snowstorm to meet David Walliams, at St Martin's School. The renowned childrens' author talked to the boys about developing their love of reading and writing and offered practical tips to fuel their imagination. Our choristers were also out and about this week, singing at the Northwood Hills Big Christmas Switch-on last Saturday. This was a fantastic community occasion as we joined choirs from several local schools to celebrate the start of the festive season. In school, we focused on promoting kindness and preventing bullying, encouraging everyone to support one another to create a safe environment for all. Pre-Prep Boys especially enjoyed wearing their odd socks and playing in the snow!

This week we completed the last of our House football matches which have all been played with enthusiasm and respect. I look forward to seeing many of you at Arts Evening on Thursday next week. In the meantime, keep warm!

From the Headmaster



# Tips from David Walliams for Years 4 and 5

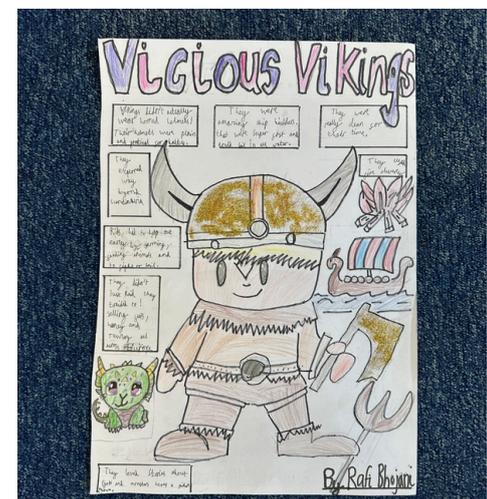
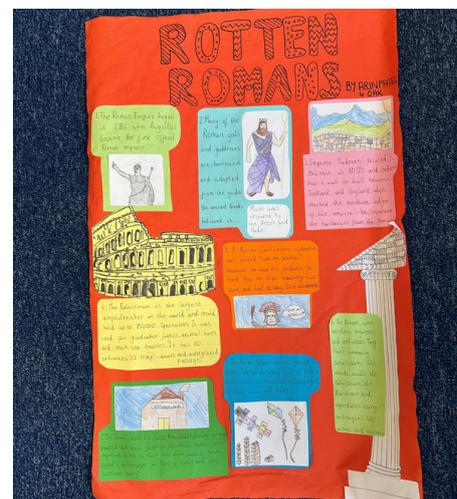
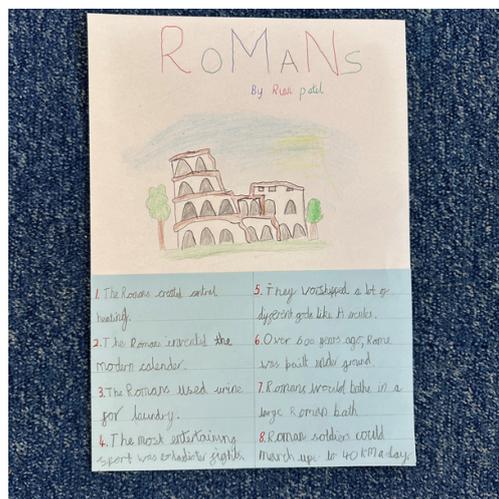
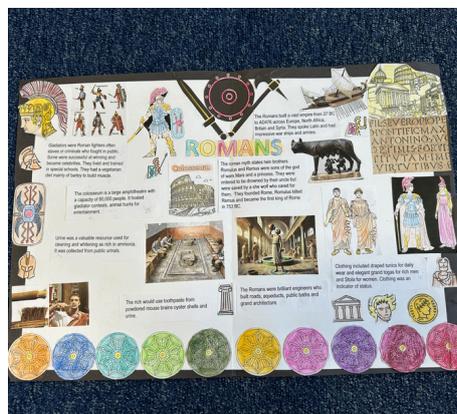
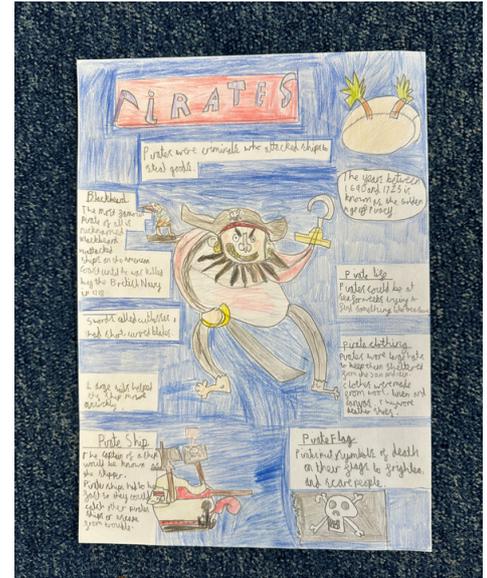
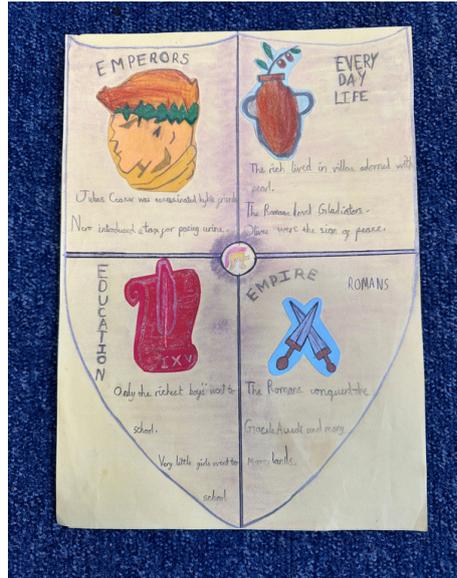
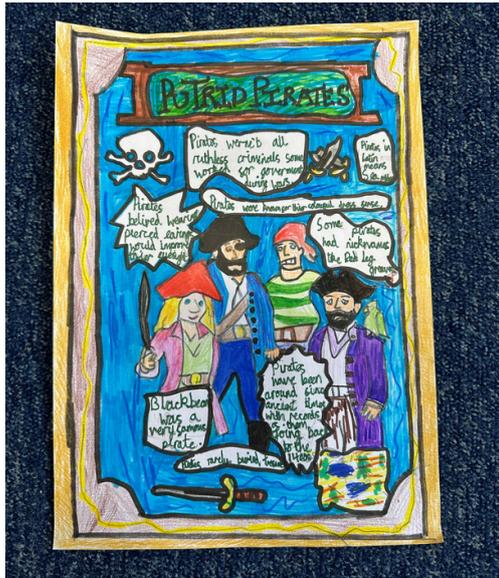
This week, our Year 4 and Year 5 boys were invited to St Martin's School to meet the popular childrens' author, David Walliams. The event, shared with over a thousand children, was a resounding success. David shared lots of wonderful advice with the boys to help develop their love of reading and writing, offering practical tips to fuel their imaginations. Most importantly, he delivered a powerful and kind message about being empowered by feeling different to others, encouraging self-acceptance and celebrating individuality. Our boys had an absolutely wonderful time, leaving the event inspired to recommend a good book to a friend and to start writing their own stories.





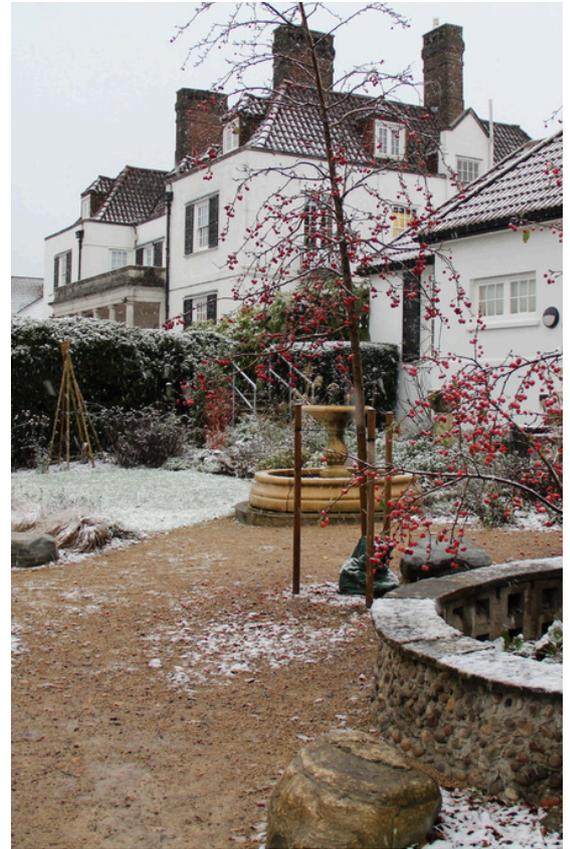
# Deputy Head's commendations

This week, Mr Russo would like to commend all Year 4 boys on all the hard work and enthusiasm they are putting into the preparation of their play. The boys are working really well as a team and rehearsals are progressing well. They have created some amazing posters on their topics and are now learning their lines very carefully.





In Assembly, Miss Morgan reminded us to be kind to each other



Magical scenes at St John's on Wednesday morning. We were all very excited!



Using presentation skills in Geography



Ladybirds matching odd socks in Maths



Robins odd socks - more odd socks on pages 10 and 11





## Creative commendations in Assembly



Well done for developing your innovative idea with confidence and commitment



For excellent learning and performing of BSL



Well done to our sport superstars this week



Well done for completing your portrait sculpture!



# The Night Sky

With the nights arriving earlier than ever, it has been a good time for our Nursery boys to talk all about day and night and the moon and stars. We have been pressing star cutters into night sky playdough, sticking and glueing with tissue paper for our day and night pictures, printing moons with tin foil and sprinkling glitter to decorate our suncatcher stars.



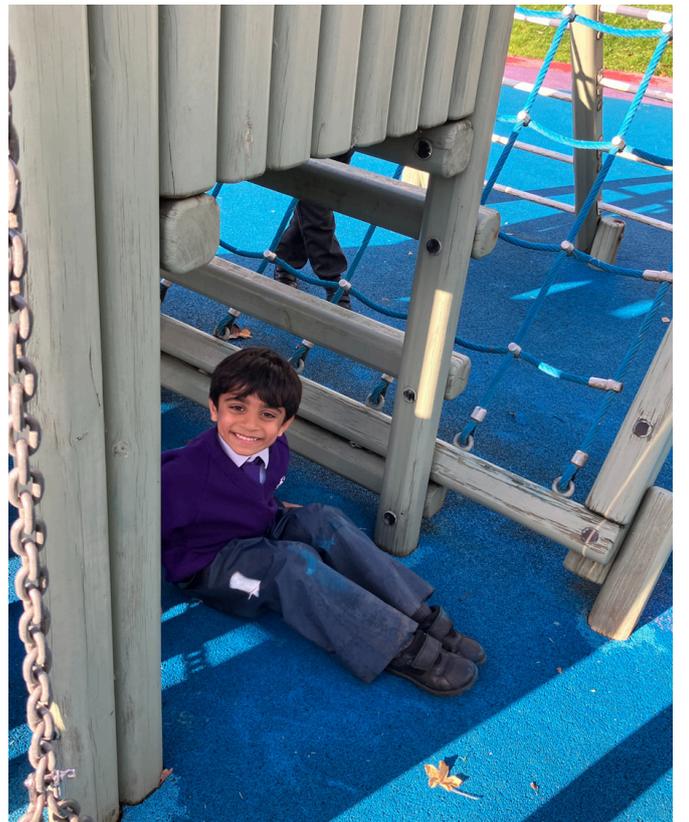


# Otters enjoying forest play





# Owls enjoying the climbing frame





# Wearing odd socks to show that we are unique

We all wore odd socks on Monday to celebrate how different and unique we all are. Throughout the week, we have been talking about what makes us different. We realised that being different makes us special. If someone is different you can still be a good friend and be kind with your words and actions.



Otters



Owls



Ladybirds



Squirrels



Wearing odd socks to show that we are unique





# Northwood Hills Big Christmas Switch-on

The festive season officially started last Saturday as our choirs joined many children from Hillside Infant and Junior School and Harlyn School at the Northwood Hills Big Christmas Switch-on. All the children sang beautifully. The Mayor of Hillingdon thanked us all for attending and led everyone in the countdown to the Big Switch-on which lit up the lovely Christmas tree donated by St John's, and all the lights along Joel Street.





## It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas in the Art Room

Year 3 are painting wintry patterns while Year 5 have finished their hand-sewn winter decorations and have been creating 3D snowflakes. Year 6 have been painting wintry birch tree scenes, just in time for the snow!





# D T & E



## Splendid work boys!



Brothers helping each other at lunchtime club



Slender towers challenge. Can you make a tower with a width: height ratio of 1:10?



Splendid sewing Year 6!





# DT & E

Splendid work boys!







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**HANDS ON! MINDS ON! FESTIVE FUN!**

📍 15th - 19th December 25 🌟 For ages 5-13 🎯  
Flexible booking – come for a day, a week, or the whole programme!

- Mon 15th Dec: Engineering Challenge – Design and build Santa's Sleigh. Team fun and Christmas crafts.
- Tue 16th Dec: Simple circuits, building a Santa Alarm, Morse Code, and a Christmas lights coding challenge.
- Wed 17th Dec: Make a light-up Rudolph and fizzing Bath Bombs. Soldering option for older children (Year 5+).
- Thu 18th Dec: Design and create custom Sublimation Socks. Science exploration of salt/ice and making a gnome decoration.
- Fri 19th Dec: Physics experiment making a take-home Snow Globe. Science snow fun and Christmas games.

(Note: All days include outdoor woodland play and fire pit time.)

Find out more and book through the website: [www.stemden.co.uk](http://www.stemden.co.uk)

✉ Email Us: [stemdennorthwood@gmail.com](mailto:stemdennorthwood@gmail.com)

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





Scan to book!



# House football

This week we completed the last of our House football matches. Passion, commitment, skill and teamwork were all clearly evident in the excellent matches. All boys raised their game to compete for their Houses.



Lawrence in action



Churchill taking their chances



A shot for Oates



Lincoln in action for Year 5



Fair and firm challenges



# Our sporting week



U8C v York House



U11A v Radlett Prep



Head over heels for gymnastics



Year 5 at York House



# Rugby season starts



Smiles for miles



Rugby fun



Hanging tough



Rugby in action



## 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. Our current focus is Resilience.

