



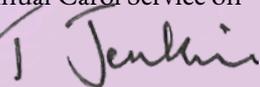
From the
Headmaster

Celebrating Christmas at St John's

Christmas is coming! Our trees and decorations are up, and there is plenty of festive spirit across the School. Pre-Prep children brought us the wonder and joy of Christmas this week with four magical Christmas shows, enjoyed by many parents and grandparents. They wore amazing costumes, spoke their lines beautifully, and sang their hearts out. Trips to the Panto, parties, House quiz competitions and Christmas jumper day await us next week.

Our Eco Council took an assembly on Monday which focused on energy saving, as part of 'Switch Off Fortnight'. Year 4 embraced the magic of The Chronicles of Narnia during an unforgettable Narnia Day yesterday. It was a day of creativity, fun and wonderful adventures in Narnia! Today, our older boys visit the Battle of Britain Bunker for an immersive historical trip.

Outdoors, rugby training continues and we look forward to competitive fixtures over the coming days, and in the Spring. Next week sees more festive celebrations: I look forward to seeing parents of older children at our annual Carol Service on Monday evening!





The joy and wonder of Christmas

The children were really excited to see their families in the Norman Hall. Proud parents enjoyed their enthusiastic singing and marvelled at all the lines they had learnt. The Lambs counted their way through “Christmas Counts”; Reception entertained us with the Christmas traditions round the world – “Children of the World”; Year 1 performed “Honky Tonky Donkey” and Year 2 “Ready Steady Elves”. Both of the plays were full of the joy and wonder of Christmas and a true reflection of the tremendous hard work put in by boys and teachers. We were very proud of the boys and hope you enjoy these photos.





“Christmas Counts” by Nursery





"Children of the World" by Reception





"Children of the World" by Reception





"Honky Tonky Donkey" by Year 1





“Honky Tonky Donkey” by Year 1





“Ready Steady Elves” by Year 2





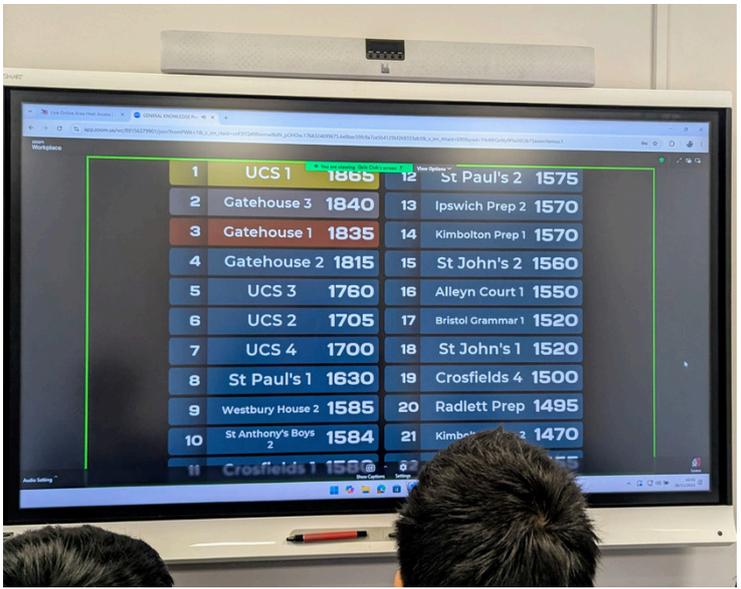
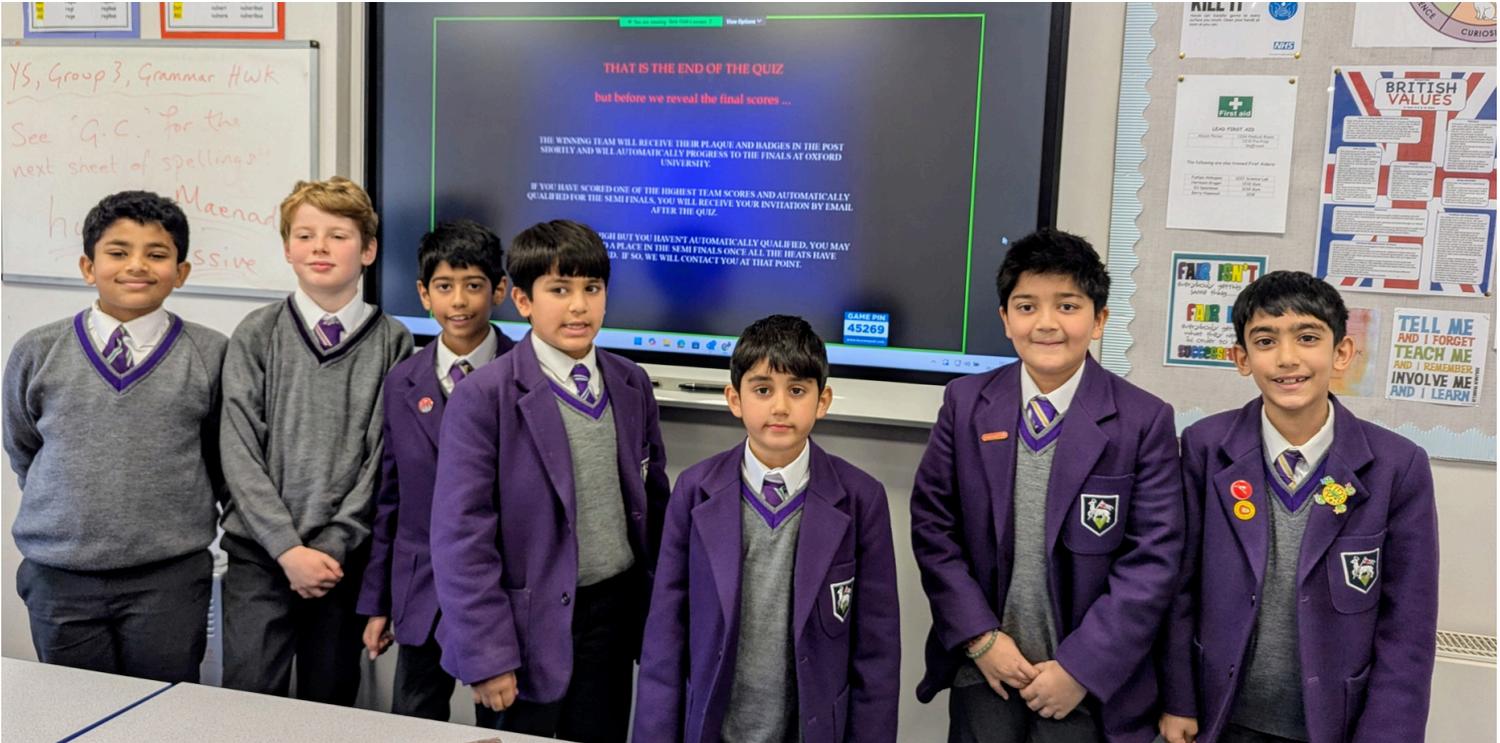
“Ready Steady Elves” by Year 2





QuizClub General Knowledge Competition

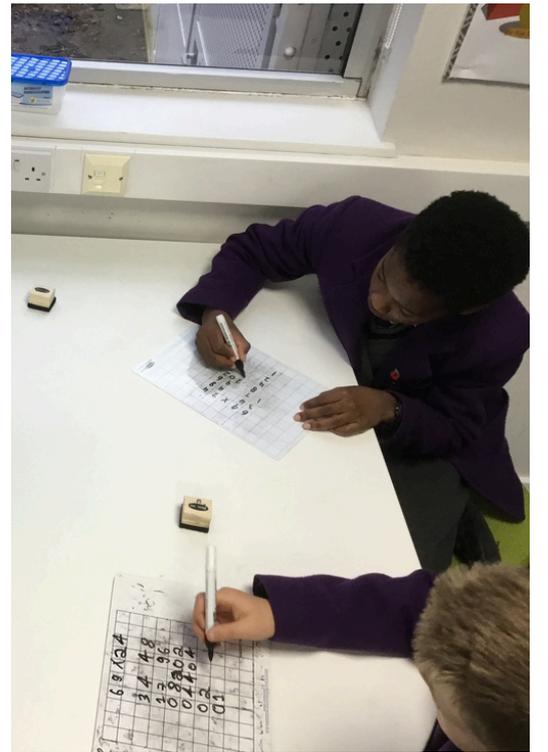
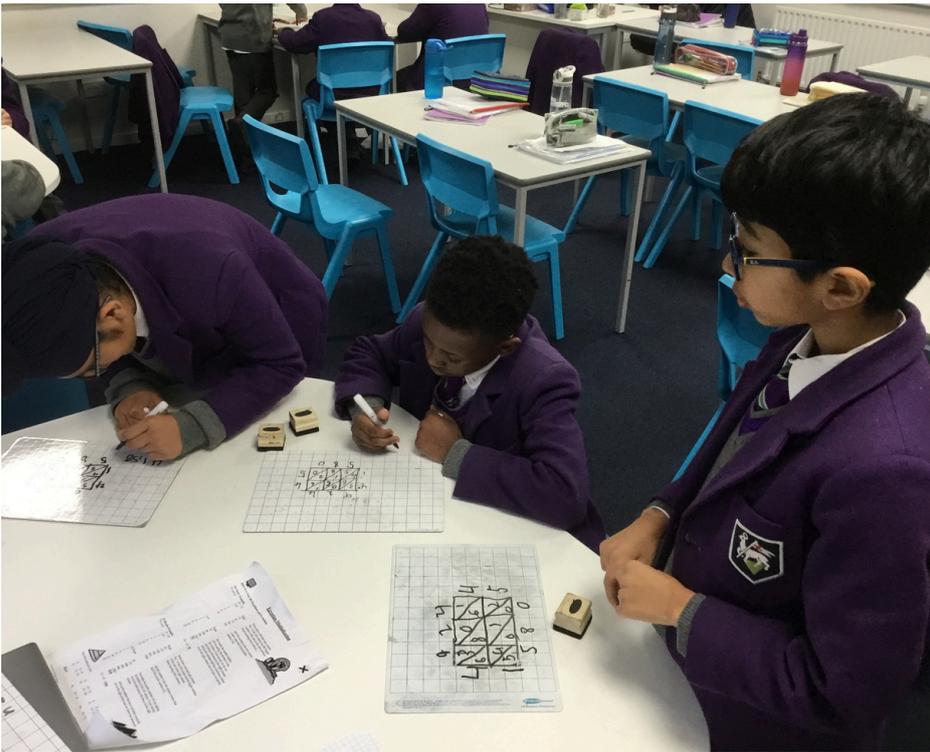
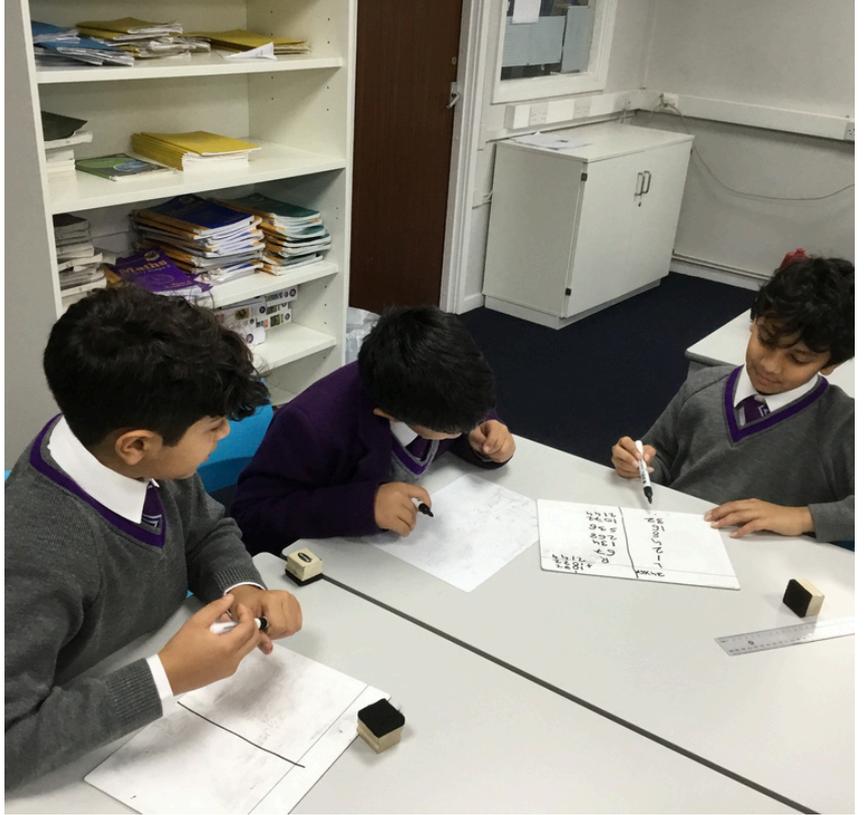
Mr Russo is proud to let you know that on Friday 28th November we had two teams competing in the QuizClub General Knowledge heats. Boys from Years 3 to 6 made up the teams and they competed online in the competition. Both teams performed very well, especially in the final round where all questions were worth 100 points. St John's 2 finished 15th and St John's 1 finished 18th which meant that they both went through to the semi-finals. We wish the boys good luck in the semi-finals and hope they make it through to the finals which are held at Oxford College in the Summer term. Here are the teams:
 Team 1: Ryan - 3 Pine, Jai - 4 Willow, Sanav C Year 5 and Aaron P Year 6 (Team captain)
 Team 2: William - 3 Beech, Aiden - 4 Oak, Ben B Year 5, and Ayad Year 6 (Team captain)





Team work in Year 5 Maths

Year 5 enjoyed the challenge of teaching each other different multiplication methods.



AROUND SCHOOL



The boys are loving exploring our fantastic woods and have been splashing about in the stream. (Wellies and waterproofs essential.)



Junior boys enjoying outdoor music-making in the winter sun



Shining Stars and Caught Doing Good awards



Our award assembly



Creative commendations in assembly



Super engagement and curiosity from 5E about how to create a tower to combat the force of the wind



Well done for your beautiful painting skills this week!



Well done for showing true ensemble skills





Building with spaghetti & marshmallows

Year 1 STEM Club tackled an exciting engineering challenge: building the tallest free-standing structure using only spaghetti and marshmallows! The children used brilliant problem-solving and structural design skills to create some incredibly creative and sticky towers. After the judging, the dedicated builders enjoyed a well-deserved treat, eating the remaining marshmallow "supplies" to celebrate the end of a successful STEM term.





Year 4 Narnia Day Fun

Year 4 enjoyed a fun and productive Narnia Day. The boys spent time creating some excellent artwork, specifically producing fantastic pieces depicting the great lion, Aslan. They also made special Christmas cards for their families, featuring the image of stepping through the wardrobe. The atmosphere was cosy as they watched the cartoon version of The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, complete with warming hot chocolate and Turkish delight, of course. There was even still time for the boys to rehearse for the upcoming Carol Service.



THIS WEEK





Non-Fiction November Champions

The results for this year's Non-Fiction November writing competition have been announced. Congratulations to our four finalists from each class (photographed). The winners are: The Compelling Concert Award - Aadam (Beech); Most Interesting Facts Awards - Dylan (Pine); Best Presentation Award - Arin (Oak) and Non-Fiction Hero Award - Ishaan (Willow).



Pine Finalists



Oak Finalists



Beech Finalists



Willow Finalists



It's Christmas time in the Art room

The Christmas tunes have been playing in Art this week. Year 4 have been creating symmetry snowflakes, while Year 6 have been crafting 3D giant snowflakes and using oil pastels to create colourful, delicious candy canes.





DT & E



Splendid work boys!



Making a washing line to demonstrate tensile strength before building bridges





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- 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

✉ Email Us: stemdennorthwood@gmail.com

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





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