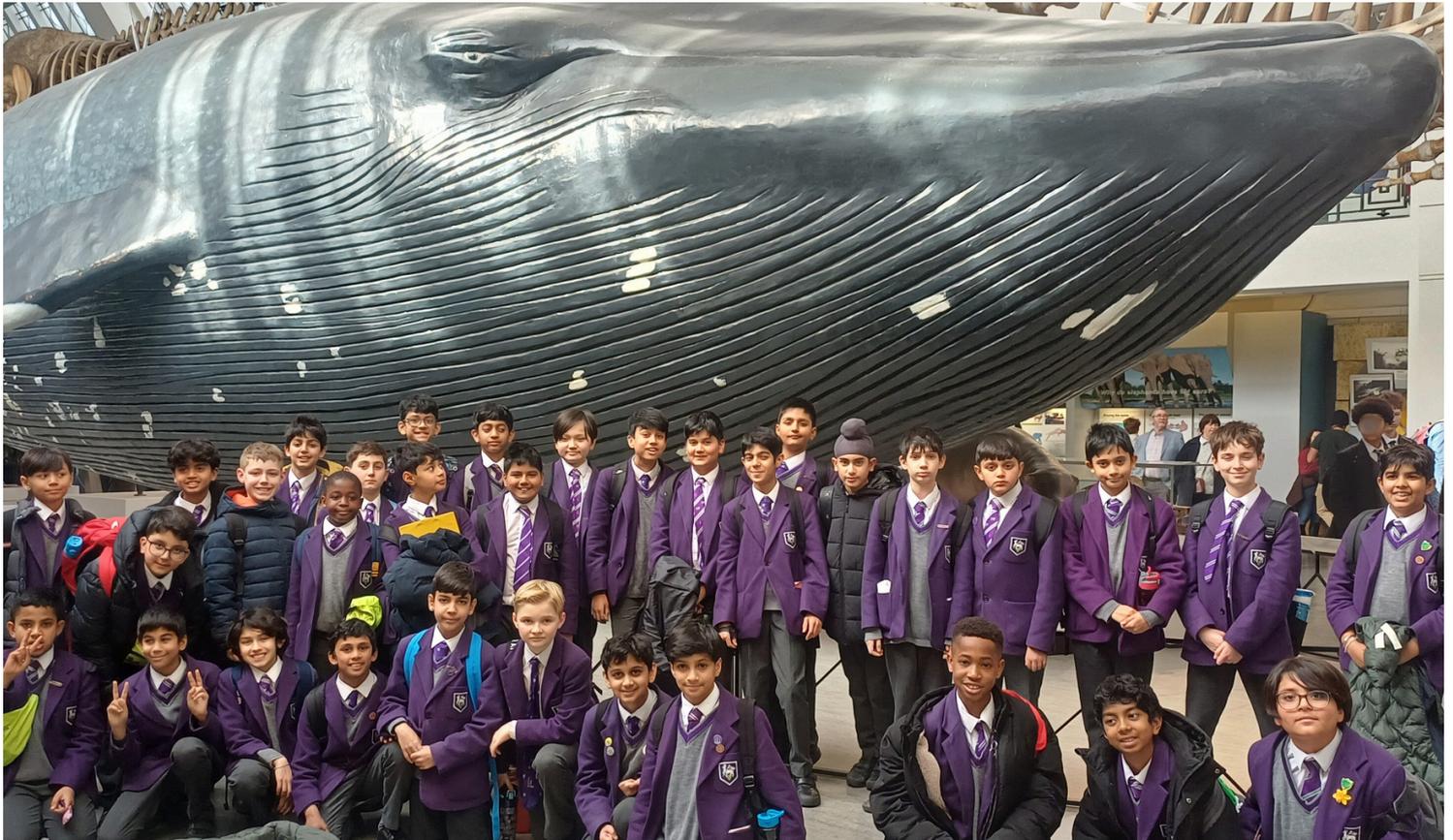




Year 6 had a whale of a time



The theme for British Science Week this year is 'Curiosity: what's your question' and St John's boys have been inspired and challenged by science this week. Year 8 were lucky to have a dry day for their trip to Kew Gardens to study biodiversity in the woodlands and enjoy the gardens in springtime. Year 6, meanwhile, enjoyed a stimulating trip to the Natural History Museum. The focus of their day was evolution. Years 3 to 5 are looking forward to science workshops next week. On Wednesday, Years 3 and 4 travelled back in time to Ancient Egypt for a day full of curiosity, creativity and historical adventure. We all enjoyed seeing the boys in their stunning costumes. Outdoors, boys excelled in hockey and rugby. We wish all the best to our Under 11 rugby team who are representing the School at Caldicott tomorrow. I forward to seeing you at the SJA Quiz tomorrow evening. May the best team win. Finally, I wish you all a happy Mothers' Day on Sunday.



From the
Headmaster



Year 6 visited the Natural History Museum

As part of our science week exploring the theme of curiosity, Year Six visited the Natural History Museum. They had a busy, fun packed day, with workshops on the topics of Evolution and Palaeontology. The boys also had time to visit the scary T-rex and the humungous Blue Whale. Of course the day was rounded off with a chance to empty the exquisite museum shop!





Year 8 studied biodiversity at Kew

The boys enjoyed the challenge of a practical biodiversity workshop in a woodland at Kew Gardens this week. Using quadrat, they identified and logged the total number of different plants and animals in a set area and then compared their findings with different sites. They enjoyed the peace and quiet in the gardens and were impressed by the rare tropical plants in the historic greenhouses.





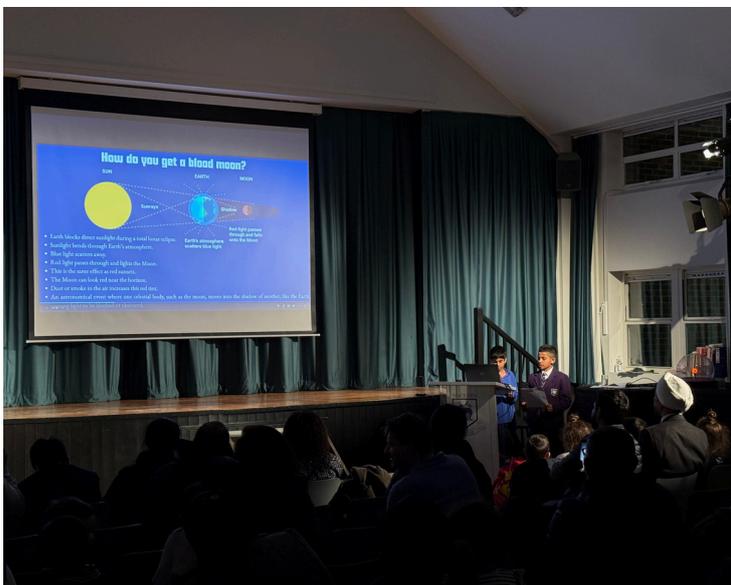
Year 8 studied biodiversity at Kew





Spring Astronomy Evening

We had an excellent turnout at the Spring Astronomy Evening last Thursday and, for once, we were fortunate to have a mostly clear sky. Mr Lawrence began the evening with a presentation on the history of the telescope while everyone settled in with drinks and snacks. Year Six pupils Ayad and Nayan then delivered an engaging presentation on lunar eclipses, the Artemis rocket, and other related topics. Afterwards, the Pre-Prep pupils went outside to observe the planet Jupiter through the telescopes, while Aaran and Riyan gave a presentation on the evolution of the universe to the Prep School boys and parents. Finally, the whole group headed outside to view Jupiter in all its glory, complete with its moons and distinctive cloud bands. A great evening of star-gazing for us all.





We had mixed fortunes at the Quiz Club science challenge. We entered two strong teams. Team A quickly moved into third position, however, a few tricky teasers pushed them down the ranking. Team B, after a slow start, steadily picked up the pace and ended up on the promotion board and have gone through to the semi-final to be held in April!



Reception boys made gingerbread men - they smelt and tasted delicious.



Boys from Years 4 and 5 took part in the U11 chess tournament at Habs last weekend and we are happy to say that they made it through to the National Primary Schools' Chess Championships semi-final in May. Well done boys!



Ajay and the Mumbai Sun

Quote - Mumbai lay spread below him -
 thrumming: people rushing around like ants,
 the fringe tops of green-black palm trees
 swaying like pipe cleaners, the silvery
 skyscrapers glittering like mirrors as they cut
 the sky, the patch of lime green that was
 the cricket ground lying like a postage
 stamp, the traffic roaring and honking.

Wow! Great Quote

'Mumbai lay spread below him - thrumming:
 The word 'thrumming' shows there is a lot
 going on and the hustle and bustle of people
 is showing. The use a colon to introduce a
 list which is also telling us there is a lot
 going on. 'People rushing around like ants' also
 show the hustle and bustle of people and
 the hurry they were in. 'The fringe tops of
 green-black palm trees swaying like pipe
 cleaners' shows there is a gentle breeze in the air.
 'The silvery skyscrapers glittering like mirrors
 as they cut the sky.' 'silvery skyscrapers'
 is an example of alliteration. 'Glittering like mirrors'

Helps the reader feel the excitement
 as they cut the sky. This simile shows
 they are so tall it was like they were
 reaching the sky. It shows the sun was
 bearing down on them, making them glitter.

A busy
 noisy
 place.

The patch of lime green that was the
 cricket ground lying like a postage stamp' is a
 simile. It shows it was well looked after.
 The traffic roaring a honking' shows a lot
 going on. Overall, the author is trying to
 show us that there is a lot going on and
 it is very busy. great.

'It was only at the end of the day, when
 the sky turned blue-black like a peacock's
 tail, that Ajay suddenly snapped his fingers.'

'The sky turned blue-black like a peacock's
 tail' is an example of a simile. It shows
 the sky is more dark, miserable and maybe a
 spark of uncertainty surrounded them.
 The word 'suddenly' signifies rapid change.
 It also shows that Ajay has thought of a
 good idea for his newspaper but maybe just a
 little late.

Year 5 have started writing PETAL paragraphs and extended analysis in their reading record as they begin preparing for their 11+ English assessments. Kiaan found some excellent quotes in his private reading and produced some brilliant analytical work that was extremely well presented. Well done Kiaan!



Mr Hopwood brought his Gamelan gongs into school for Year 5 to play - see p15



Fun in Clubhouse after school



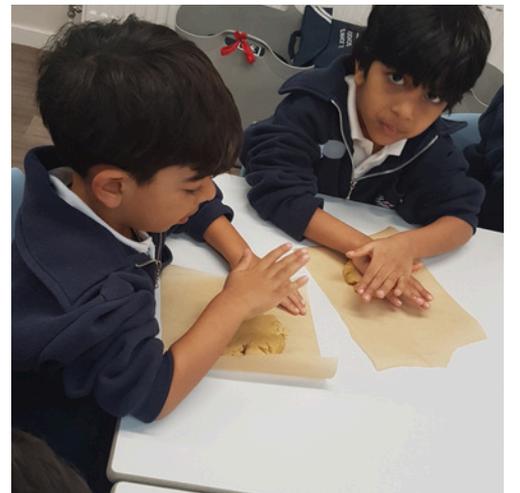
Flour, Spice and Everything Nice

There was a delicious, spicy scent wafting through the corridors of the Pre-Prep this week as Reception turned into a team of master bakers. As part of their Traditional Tales topic, boys have been diving deep into the story of The Gingerbread Man, exploring everything from the Fox's cunning plan to the rhythm of the famous "Run, run, as fast as you can" chant. After reading the classic book - and fortunately, nobody's snack actually jumped out and ran away - the boys got hands-on to bring the character to life. Boys learnt that baking is about much more than just a tasty treat; it is a lesson in science, patience, and mathematics. Delicious!





Flour, Spice and Everything Nice





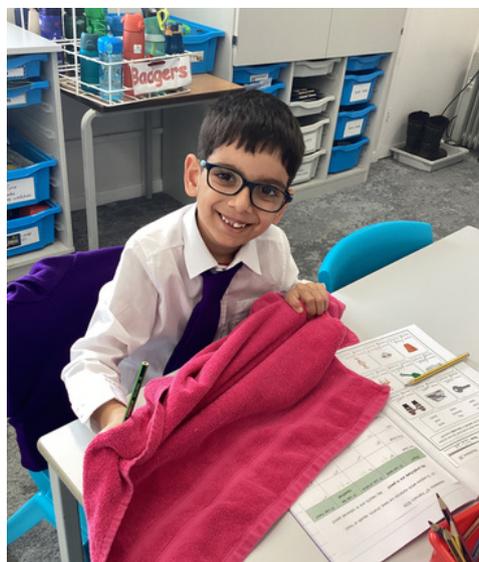
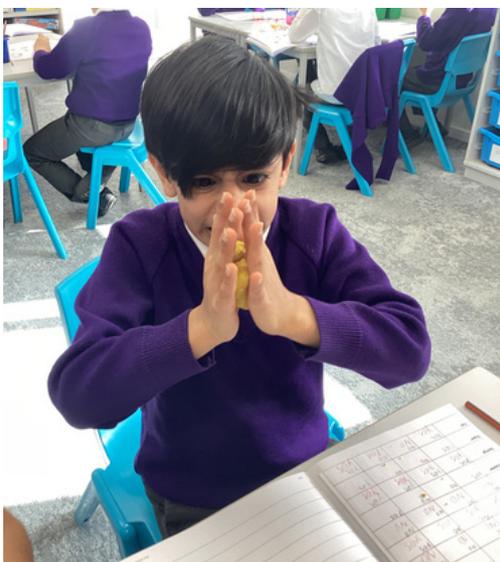
Year 2 solving ICT challenges





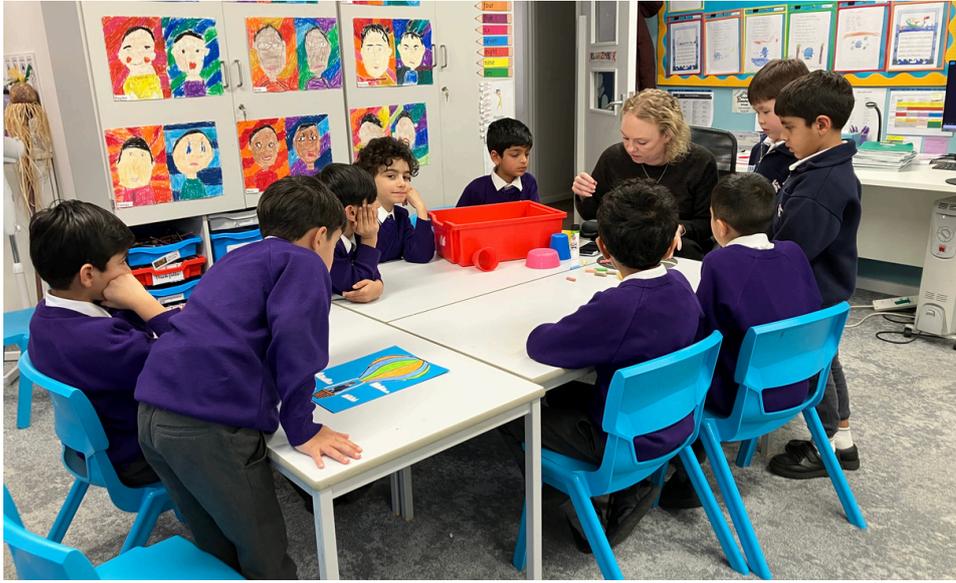
Year 2 were curious in Science Week

Year 2 have been showing curiosity in their science lessons this week by making paper aeroplanes, helicopters and spinners and testing how long each can stay in the air. They have also been testing different materials to check which ones can stretch, bend, twist or be squashed. They enjoyed making predictions and then writing their results into a table.





Year 2 enjoyed Bubble Art at Art Club





Egyptian adventures for the Juniors

Years 3 and 4 stepped back in time, straight into Ancient Egypt, swapping the classroom for the age of pharaohs, pyramids and plenty of excitement. From hands-on activities to discovering stories of the past, the day was packed with curiosity, creativity and a little bit of historical adventure. By the end of the journey, our young explorers had learned, laughed and proved that history really can come to life!





Egyptian adventures for the Juniors





End of topic performances in the Music Department

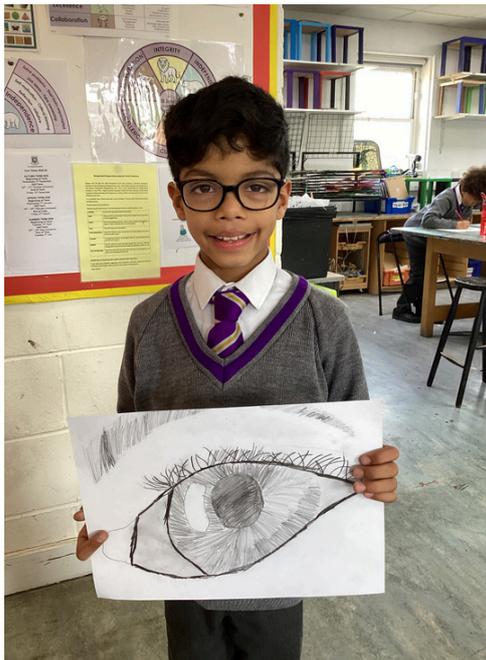
In Music this term, Year 1 have been learning a song about the Fire of London to enrich their topic. They enjoyed performing it for us in assembly. Year 5 boys have been exploring Gamelan music from Indonesia this half term. They wrote their own cyclic patterns and then tried them out on some authentic gongs from Southeast Asia.

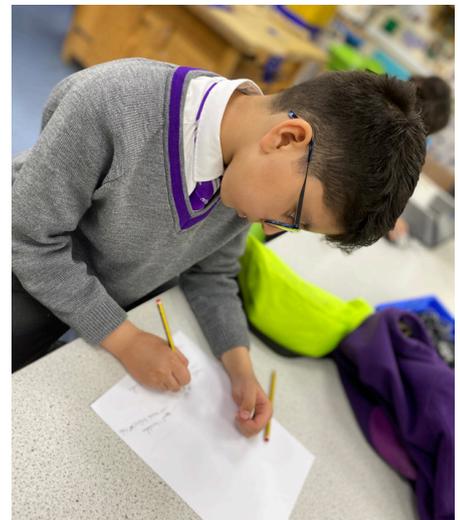




An eye for detail in the Art Room

Boys in Year 3 have been learning about one-point perspective. They created brightly coloured landscapes inspired by the work of American artist Grant Haffner, focusing on bold colour and strong lines that lead towards a single vanishing point. Year 5 have been developing their drawing skills. They practised carefully observing shape, shade, and colour, drawing realistic eyes, and koi carp fish.







HANDS ON! MINDS ON! EDUCATIONAL CAMP FOR 5 -13 YEAR OLDS

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We love our sport at St John's



Human curling



Pulling together



U10D v Lockers Park



Sports Psychology session 2 for U11A rugby team



Year 5 B team won 5-4 against St Martin's



U13B Hockey winners v St Martin's

EASTER HOLIDAY SPORTS CAMP

MONDAY 30TH MARCH –
THURSDAY 2 APRIL 2026

9am to 4pm

Monday –

Tuesday –

Wednesday –

Thursday –

Boys and girls from any school welcome (Year 1 to Year 8)

DISCOUNTS:

★ **3 DAYS: £7.50 OFF** (Code: DFW124)
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More adventures after school



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St John's End of Term Clubhouse Party

27th March 2026, 12noon - 4pm



“ My child was so excited to attend Clubhouse Adventures over half term. It gave us real peace of mind knowing he was so happy while we managed our work commitments ”
Parent of a Reception child



Scan for FAQs and
booking form for
new enquiries

After school
until 4pm
£25 including
lunch and
party games

Booking for current parents via the booking tab in Involve: <https://app.involveeducation.com>

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st John's Clubhouse Adventures

Easter Special 7-13 April, 9am-4pm



Craft and sporting activities daily for all ages

- Tues 7th** | Easter eggs decorating, football fanatics, woodland adventures
- Wed 8th** | Easter egg hunt, table tennis league, wheeled adventures
- Thurs 9th** | Bug/minibeast hunt, modelling madness and quick cricket/ball games
- Friday 10th** | Forest foraging, football fanatics, movie and popcorn, cake decorating
- Mon 13th** | Table tennis league, basketball mash up, Easter crafts and quick cricket

Under 5s - £55 per day (15 hours free available over 3 days*)
Over 5s £45 per day
£200 for all 5 days

£25 per day for 3 days: £10 per day for resources and £15 per day for hours beyond the 15 free hours, to cover the full day (9am-4pm).

Booking for current parents via the booking tab in Involve: <https://app.involveeducation.com>