

April 2018



Dear Parents,

What an unusual half term we have had! I would like to truly thank all our parents for their kind and patient understanding for the school closing due to snow and a suspected gas leak. As you will understand we do not take such decisions lightly and the safety of our children, and indeed yourselves and staff are of the utmost importance.

It is so wonderful to be back to normal days at school! May I take this opportunity to wish you all a wonderful, peaceful, and most of all chocolatey Easter, and to all our beautiful children, I hope the Easter Bunny visits you all.

I cannot wait until next term when we can look forward to so many exciting events.

Truly yours

Mrs F S Armour  
Headmistress



THE DUKE OF  
EDINBURGH'S AWARD

## Record Number of Awards

Well done to all our pupils who have successfully completed their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Awards and who have demonstrated such determination and dedication.

The Duke of Edinburgh award is designed to encourage anyone aged 14 to 24 to take on a range of activities that develop skills such as leadership, perseverance, team work and communication. There are three different levels—Bronze, Silver and Gold and four sections including volunteering, skills, physical and expedition.

For their expedition, the pupils attended the Danbury Outdoor Centre and Skreens Park, Roxwell. They had to walk in groups for a minimum of 6 hours on both days, carrying a full back pack. Over 25 pupils have completed their Bronze Award this year and several have begun their Silver Award.





## Parent Social Committee Mother's Day Sale

On Friday 9th March our Parent Social Committee arranged a special Mother's Day Sale. The children were able to buy gifts for Mother's Day on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> March.

In particular the plant containers supplied by Stock Brook Farm were a true success and added a delightful splash of spring colour to our sports hall and are hopefully now doing the same in your homes.

The day raised a further £700 for the Parent Social Committee.



## Report from PSC Treasurer

The Parent Social Committee organises various events throughout the school year including the successful Hotdog/ Donut Days, the Christmas Fayre, the Mother's Day Sale, the Easter Eggstravaganza and the Summer Fun Day. In addition to this, last year the committee held its bi-annual Christmas Shopping Evening which helped raise a staggering £1,200 in one evening.

Over the last year the PSC has raised approximately £7,500. So far this year, it has donated £7,700 to the school made up of £5,000 towards the resurfacing of the tennis courts and £2,700 towards gym equipment.



## BSMA Junior Festival

On March the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, 28 pupils from Upper 2 (Year 5) and Lower 3 (Year 6) represented St. John's School by singing at the Towngate Theatre, Basildon. Each primary school in Billericay took part in the annual Billericay Schools Music Association (BSMA) Festival, which was attended by over 300 children. The theme this year was *Around the World*, featuring over 17 songs and chants from different areas of the globe.

Our Orchestra players, Rhian Thomas (violin), Daniel Boboye (viola) and Imogen Turner (cornet), joined a huge combined orchestra of 40 players and wowed us all with the *Flower of Scotland*, *I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing* and a catchy rendition of *Mambo Italiano*!

Soloists Tia Halim and Annie – May Lamey sang a heartfelt, *A Whole New World*, with Imogen Turner and Imogen Taylor beautifully reading an extract from, *Treasure Island*.

Well done to all involved. Your hard work helped to make it one of the most successful and enjoyable BSMA concert series yet!



## Friday Afternoon Activities



The extension programme for Lower 3 (Year 6), Upper 3 (Year 7) and Lower 4 (Year 8) takes place every Friday afternoon. The programme is designed to encourage friendships, team building and to help with the transition from Junior School to Senior School.

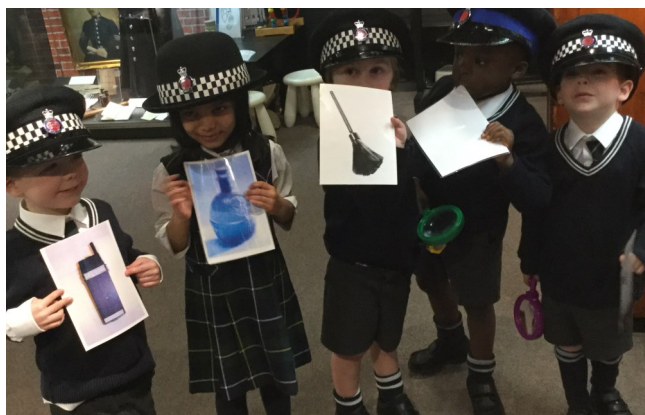
Activities are rotated every four to five weeks and include; Dry Slope Skiing, Cookery, Ten Pin Bowling, Self Defence, Rock School, Dare to Discover and Walk on the Wild Side in Norsey Woods.



For further information and regular updates please visit our Facebook page

## Reception visit to the Police Museum

On Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March, pupils in our Reception Classes visited the Police Museum where they learnt about different people who help us as this has been their topic for this half term.



The children had the opportunity to visit the Force Control Room - call centre. In one activity the children took their own fingerprints and talked about the importance of fingerprints in the Police Force.

In groups, the children took part in an activity where they had to be detectives and find the missing objects in the museum, which enabled them to see things that were used in the past. To finish off the day the children got a goody bag to take home.

## Lower 3 visit Life Expo

On Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> March, Year 6 visited Billericay Baptist Church to participate in their 'Life Expo' - an exhibition set up to explain the Christian belief in Jesus: his birth, life, and teachings. This was an interactive exhibition where the children scanned QR codes on their own tablet to unlock videos and lessons all about different aspects of the life of Jesus. It culminated in a video all about Jesus' death and resurrection and therefore the story of Easter.

This linked in perfectly to their Religious Education topic this term and the children impressed both the staff and teachers with their knowledge of Christianity already. The children were polite and well behaved.

At the end, they all took part in an interactive quiz and had to select multiple choice answers using their own buzzers to see how much they had remembered, whilst enjoying a drink and snack provided by the Church. It was an enjoyable morning and the children came away asking some very intelligent questions and showing that they had learnt a lot from the exhibition.



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# Senior Maths Challenge

On 1<sup>st</sup> February 2018 pupils from Upper 4 (Year 9), Lower 5 (Year 10) and Upper 5 (Year 11) took part in the annual UK Intermediate Maths Challenge. The UK Mathematics Trust (UKMT) is a registered charity whose aim is to advance the education of children and young people in mathematics. It was established in 1996 and in the last academic year over 600,000 pupils from over 4,000 schools took part in the three individual challenges, the UK's biggest national maths competition.

St John's Maths department encourages pupils to participate and over the years we have enjoyed many successes. However, this year is one of the best set of results we have received achieving 3 gold, 2 silver and 7 bronze certificates.



## Gold Award

N. Wood, O. Markscheffel and F. Smith

## Silver Award

E. Marsh and P. Masafwa

## Bronze

H. Spruce, M. Wilson, J. Athol, K. Cheek, C. Woodrow, L. Ashenden and J. Thomas.

However, what makes this year so special is that our three Gold Award pupils results were high enough to allow them to continue into the next round, the 'Pink Kangaroo and the Grey Kangaroo' (named as it originated in Australia). This is an amazing achievement the second round took place on the 15<sup>th</sup> March and we look forward to receiving the results.

# Working with Billericay Bees Rugby Club



Andy from the Billericay Bees Rugby Club has been into School this term coaching Upper Kindergarten (Year 2) in their Games lesson. They have been working on their passing & receiving skills and learning how to play tag a Rugby. They have enjoyed

it so much, some of them have been attending the sessions at the Club held on the weekend. Thank you to Andy and The Billericay Bees for working so hard with our children.





## Certificates of Excellence March 2018

Marnie Stockwell	Handwriting	Antonia Budge	English
Rae Townshend	Effort	Ellie Sobolev	English
Harper Finch	Maths	Maximus Brown	English
Freya Tsui-Rayment	Effort	M. Adyan Azhar	Gymnastics
Genesis Akerele	Outstanding work	Lorcan Moreira	Gymnastics
Jessica Pullum	Outstanding work	Rae Townshend	Gymnastics
Danielle Kanyasa	Outstanding work	Martynas Mazuaitis	Gymnastics
M. Ayaan Azhar	Effort	Riya Kanagasabai	Gymnastics
Samuel Soetan	Effort	Marnie Stockwell	Gymnastics
Blythe Drotman	Effort	Scarlett Kent	Gymnastics
Poppy Gould	Effort	Aurelia Skinner	Gymnastics
Sebastian Jeronimo	Effort	Jude Bennett	Gymnastics
Ruby Athol	Working very hard	Edward Fortune	Gymnastics
Sirat Khan	Mathematics	Zack Cannings	Gymnastics
Blake Webster	All subjects	Harper Finch	Gymnastics
Jake McPhail	Writing	Tifereni Dada	Gymnastics
Francesca Seyfried	English	Thomas Harrison	Gymnastics
Braiden Dolan	English	Elliot Scrimshaw	Gymnastics
Leo Xiong	English	Aiden Fleming	Gymnastics
Rochelle Roy	English	Tara Morafa	Gymnastics
Lillian Coulson	English	Afua Adjei	Gymnastics
James Donald	Sport	Maggie Moreira	Gymnastics
Maximus Palmer	English	Georgia Dixon	Gymnastics
Crystal Akerele	English	Royale Akerele	Gymnastics
Jessie Newman	English	Sebastian Wilson	Gymnastics
Mitchell Mortland	English		
Scarlet Lobb	English		



## Diary Dates Trinity Term

Mon 16 <sup>th</sup> April	RETURN TO SCHOOL (TRINITY TERM)
Tues 24 <sup>th</sup> April	OPEN MORNING TOURS AT 9.30AM AND 10.30AM
Wed 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	MUSIC FOR SPRING CONCERT 7PM
Mon 7 <sup>th</sup> May	BANK HOLIDAY
Tues 8 <sup>th</sup> May	OPEN MORNING TOURS AT 9.30AM AND 10.30AM
Fri 11 <sup>th</sup> May	SENIOR SPORTS DAY, BASILDON SPORTING VILLAGE 90 <sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY GALA BALL AT GREENWOODS
Fri 25 <sup>th</sup> May	BREAK UP FOR HALF TERM (FULL DAY)

## LAMDA Examinations

The LAMDA examinations will take place during the course of the school day on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> May 2018. Letters will be sent out after Easter with the time and the date of each child's examination. The Library and the Drama Studio are the examination rooms. Copies of all the pieces, introductions and the knowledge sections have been sent home so that pupils can rehearse during the Easter break. Mrs. Zoller and Mrs. Manders are looking forward to three busy days!

### Summer Uniform

Pupils may choose to come back to school after Easter wearing the summer uniform if they wish. This marks the return of short sleeve shirts for Senior, Junior and Kindergarten boys and short sleeve blouses for Senior girls. Girls in Kindergarten and Juniors can wear the new summer dress—these are now in stock in the uniform shop. Summer uniform is compulsory after the May Whitsun Holiday.

To request a uniform appointment please contact Miss Oddy via e-mail [uniform@stjohnsschool.net](mailto:uniform@stjohnsschool.net) and she will e-mail you a uniform appointment. As a reminder only cheques or cash are taken for uniform payment.

### Who to Contact

#### Child Absence

Absence Line

☎ 01277 623070 (press option 3)

✉ [office@stjohnsschool.net](mailto:office@stjohnsschool.net)

#### Fee Queries

Mrs Truscott, Assistant Bursar

☎ 01277 623070 (press option 2)

✉ [finance@stjohnsschool.net](mailto:finance@stjohnsschool.net)

#### Admissions

Mrs Cox, Admissions Registrar

☎ 01277 623070 (press option 1)

✉ [registrar@stjohnsschool.net](mailto:registrar@stjohnsschool.net)

Please state your child's name,  
form and reason for absence.