

Michaelmas Term 2019

Next Open Morning

Wednesday 5th February 2020

Tours at 9.30am & 10.30am

Dear Parents and Pupils

As I write my last introduction to 'The Owl' I look back over the past term with undiluted joy. We've all had such a marvellous time, going to the pantomime, enjoying our Christmas Concerts and parties, our Carol Service and Christmas Bazaar.

So as the ink dries on the last reports, and I walk down corridors glistening with fairy dust, I truly wish you all a very, very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous new year!

I cannot wait to see your beautiful children return to school in January with many stories of Santa coming down the chimney.



With Kindest Festive Wishes



Mrs F S Armour, Headmistress



Introducing your new Headteacher

When we return to school in January 2020 our new Headteacher will be in position. Mr Andrew Angeli, is looking forward to meeting you all over the coming months and leading our school for the coming years.

Mr Angeli is no stranger to St John's School, having been the Deputy Headteacher of St John's for the last eleven years. He has a sound understanding of the school's principles and ethos and is keen to ensure that every pupil continues to achieve happiness and success at St John's.



Memories from Mrs Armour's Years at St John's



For further information and regular updates please visit our Facebook page

Junior Science

Our Junior pupils have been undertaking many science experiments during the Michaelmas Term.

Lower 2 (Year 4) have been busy exploring their new science topic: electricity. They started with one cell, two wires and a light. Then, after learning about the positive and negative ends to batteries and how to make a circuit, the children were able to increase the number of wires and lamps whilst still using just one cell.

Lower 3 (Year 6) were investigating physical and chemical changes. They went outside with Mr Bradley to have fun with a chemical change by making mini rockets. They mixed bicarbonate of soda and vinegar together to create carbon dioxide gas (and make the little canisters pop!) They learnt that this was an irreversible change.

Then, inside with Mrs Littlefield, they made mug cakes. They mixed ingredients together to form a batter and understood this was an irreversible, physical change. But once they were cooked, they learnt it was a chemical change as the batter had now become a delicious chocolate cake.



Design and Technology Victorian

As part of their Design and Technology our Lower 3 (Year 6) pupils have been busy designing and making Victorian picture frames. Not only did they make the frames they also dressed up in Victorian costumes, posed and placed the pictures in the frames. Mrs Gregory, Design and Technology teacher thought they looked fantastic.



Introducing the New School Councillors

Every academic year pupils across all parts of the school are invited to campaign to take on the role of school council representative. This is an important role and is based upon the votes of the pupils.

We are delighted to introduce our Kindergarten and Junior School Council for 2019 to 2020. The pupils are proud to represent their classes at the School Council meetings which are held each half term.



Last year our School Council made many suggestions including, purchasing football tables for the playground, changes to the timings at lunchtime and suggesting new ideas for clubs. We always look forward to hearing all of their suggestions and ideas.

Duke of Edinburgh Awards

More pupils than ever are participating in the Duke of Edinburgh Award at St John's. At the beginning of our Michaelmas Term 24 of our pupils in Upper 4 (Year 9) and Lower 5 (Year 10) took part in their Bronze Practice Expedition in fine weather. When it came to the actual assessment weekend, the weather was not so kind, our pupils certainly battled the elements to all achieve a pass for their expedition.

The Bronze Award consists of more than just an expedition. The pupils have to commit to a number of weeks of volunteering and are also required to learn a new skill as well as take part in a physical activity regularly. The scheme helps build confidence, independence and overall life skills.

In total 34 pupils have achieved their Bronze Award and this Summer four of our pupils attended Buckingham Palace to receive their Duke of Edinburgh Gold Awards, something very few young people achieve.



Trophies Galore at Chelmsford Festival

St John's School, is celebrating after the largest number of pupils won awards at the Chelmsford Competitive Festival of Music Speech and Drama.

Pupils participated in group choral speaking, verse speaking, prose reading, Dickens reading, solo and duo acting. They were up against other children aged between five years to fifteen years. Not only were these enthusiastic pupils awarded Honours and Distinctions in many sections, they were also the recipients of twelve cups or trophies and there were many class winners.

Mrs Armour, Headmistress said "Music, Speech and Drama is an integral part of St John's School both within the curriculum and in extracurricular activities and lessons. Enormous congratulations go to all our pupils who so deservedly won these cups and trophies after much practice for the Festival". She added "Taking part in such events is a great way to increase pupil's confidence and presentation skills, both useful skills for their future".





Thank You to the Parent Social Committee

Every year our Parent Social Committee works tirelessly to put on fun events for the pupils of St John's School. Since the beginning of this academic year they have hosted a Hot Dog and Donut day prior to the October Half Term, held a non uniform day in aid of chocolate donations towards the Christmas Bazaar and they have held the bi-annual Christmas Shopping Evening. The term culminated with the highly enjoyable Christmas Bazaar.

Whilst every event further enhances your child/ children's time at St John's the money raised by the Parent Social Committee goes towards important projects around the site. This year the PSC has donated the table football tables, made a massive contribution towards ten new recycled plastic picnic benches for the playgrounds and most recently have paid in full for an additional trampoline.



Mrs Armour, said "Our Parent Social Committee helpers are truly committed and the attention to detail with any event is second to none. The new trampoline will be a wonderful additional resource that will be extremely well utilised. Thank you from the bottom of my heart".

Michaelmas Term Highlights....



With so many new pupils a Team Building Day was a great way for Upper 3 (Year 7) pupils to bond



As part of our Gifted and Talented Programme a number of Kindergarten Children attended a coaching session by Chelsea Football Club Coaches.



Lower 4 (Year 9) pupils made Stone Age Instruments



Upper 5 (Year 10) Geography Fieldtrip to Flatford Mill



Upper 5 (Year 10) Educational visit to Barcelona



Lower 2 (Year 4) Trip to Colchester Castle



Uniform Appointments

From January 2020 all pupils from Reception through to Lower 2 (Year 4) will recommence their weekly swimming lessons at the First Strokes, Billericay pool that has now reopened after a period of refurbishment.

All pupils will be required to wear St John's swimming costumes or swimming shorts as well as swim hats which are all available from the St John's Uniform Shop. Ms Oddy will be available from Wednesday 8th January and her opening hours are 8am to 10am Monday to Friday and 3pm to 5pm on a Tuesday and Thursday. To book an appointment please e-mail Ms Oddy via uniform@stjohnsschool.net Please remember that only cheque, cash or BACS is accepted and will need to be paid on the appointment day.

Diary Dates 1st Half Lent Term 2020

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| Thurs 2 nd to Wed 8 th January | SENIOR SCHOOL SKI TRIP TO AUSTRIA |
| Wed 8 th January | START OF LENT TERM 2020 |
| Thurs 16 th January | UPPER 4 (YEAR 9) THEATRE TRIP - WOMAN IN BLACK |
| Tues 21 st January | VIRTUAL REALITY ANTI BULLYING WORKSHOPS (SENIORS) |
| Thurs 23 rd January | SENIOR ENTRANCE ASSESSMENT (EXTERNAL CANDIDATES) |
| Fri 24 th January | CHARITY BAKE SALE |
| Tues 28 th January | TOURS OF JUNIOR SCHOOL FOR CURRENT KG PARENTS |
| Wed 29 th and Thurs 30 th January | SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS |
| Mon 3 rd February | E-SAFETY TALKS FOR PUPILS & PARENTS |
| Wed 5 th February | WHOLE SCHOOL OPEN MORNING (TOURS AT 9.30 & 10.30) |
| | UPPER 3 (YEAR 7) AND LOWER 4 (YEAR 8) PARENTS EVENING |
| Thurs 13 th February | PSC VALENTINES FAIR |
| Fri 14 th February | HOUSE MUSIC COMPETITION |
| | BREAK UP FOR HALF TERM |
| Tues 25 th February | RETURN TO SCHOOL SECOND HALF LENT TERM |
| Thurs 27 th February | UPPER 4 (YEAR 9) OPTIONS PARENTS EVENING |
| Thurs 27 th & Fri 28 th February | SENIOR SCHOOL FIRST AID TRAINING |
| Fri 27 th March | BREAK UP FOR EASTER HOLIDAY |

Who to Contact

Child Absence

Absence Line

☎ 01277 623070 (press option 3)

✉ office@stjohnsschool.net

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

Fee Queries

Mrs Truscott, Assistant Bursar

☎ 01277 623070 (press option 2)

✉ finance@stjohnsschool.net

Admissions

Mrs Cox, Admissions Registrar

☎ 01277 623070 (press option 1)

✉ registrar@stjohnsschool.net

For further information and regular updates please visit our Facebook page