

I have talked in the past about the resilience and positivity of our pupils throughout this term. Our pupils continue to work hard, stay positive and enjoy their learning.

From the beginning of term, our pupils immersed themselves into daily school life and it has been good to see school visits and extra-curricular opportunities recommence to further enhance our pupils learning.

Our Under 10s Football team had their first outing in eighteen months! Our GCSE Music students enjoyed a visit to the Palace Theatre to see Little Shop of Horrors. Lower 2 (Year 4) visited Colchester Castle and Form 1 (Year 3) pupils visited a local church as part of their Religious Education curriculum.

Various ISA (Independent Schools Association) sporting events took place, and the Chelmsford Competitive Festival of Music and Drama started up again after a year's hiatus. My congratulations to all pupils who participated and to those who won trophies this term.

I wish you all a restful and enjoyable Christmas. We look forward to welcoming our pupils back to school in January.

Yours sincerely,

Andreas Angeli

Mr A Angeli, Headteacher

Helping Billericay Foodbank

This year, St John's families donated generously to the Billericay Foodbank by providing food items for Harvest. Community is an important element of our school and it has been extremely valuable and interesting for pupils to learn about the important work the Foodbank is doing.

Mr Ball, Site Manager, and his team took all of our families' generous donations to the Foodbank.

Mr Colin Hunt, from the Billericay Foodbank said, "A MASSIVE thank you to all at St John's for their kind donations. Please let parents and pupils know that we appreciate each item and will ensure that it is used for good with all our families in need".



For further information and regular updates please visit our Facebook page

A breath of fresh air at Forest School

From the beginning of term, our Kindergarten pupils have enjoyed using our very own Forest School weekly as part of their curriculum. Pupils started the term with digging for worms, climbing in trees and swinging on the rope swing and hammock. Upper Kindergarten (Year 2) have made items to sell in their new Forest School shop area. Lower Kindergarten (Year 1) embarked on making popcorn over the fire—it took some time but was worth the wait! Reception made flags using blackberries as natural paint and have enjoyed walking the rope walk. Meanwhile Pre-Reception have enjoyed making mud birthday cakes in the mud kitchen and bug hunting. Next term the children will have the opportunity to use our new bird watching equipment.



For further information and regular updates please visit our Facebook page



First term in Reception

Reception children have been busy learning 'All About Me' this term. The children have been learning all about themselves as well as each other and have been taking part in a variety of activities, in particular they have learnt that everyone is unique.

They have created handprint paintings, painted self portraits, used 2D shapes to make people and learnt to recognise 2D shape properties. On an autumn walk they used their senses to explore the trees and ground covering of the school site. Back in the classroom they made pumpkin faces and fitted together a puzzle of their faces.

In the second half term, the children studied the gunpowder plot and made their own rockets, took part in a science experiment to create fireworks in a jar and created onomatopoeia firework poems as well as learning about the festival of Diwali.





Lower 2 Visit Colchester Castle

Lower 2 (Year 4) really enjoyed their trip to Colchester Castle as part of their topic of the Romans. The excitement of being underneath the castle and learning about Roman life and Boudicca's Revolt, inspired the children. They enjoyed working in teams to build either a Celt Round House or a Roman Villa. Miss Blore and Mrs Turrell were so proud of the year.



Football success!

On the 7th October Mr Smailes took our Under 10s football team to the Independent Schools Association (ISA) Football Tournament. Well done, for representing St John's.



Form 1 visit Christ Church in Billericay

As part of their Religious Studies lessons, the children in Form 1 (Year 3) went on a visit to Christ Church in Billericay. The children had a wonderful time learning about the important features of the church as well as some of the ceremonies that take place there. They returned just before Christmas to learn more about the nativity.





Maths logic tested by Happy Puzzle Company



The Maths department organised the Happy Puzzle Company to return to St John's to provide workshops for pupils in Upper 3 (Year 7) to Lower 5 (Year 10). The workshops help students to improve their mathematical and logical problem solving skills, along with encouraging personal learning, thinking skills, team building skills and resilience.

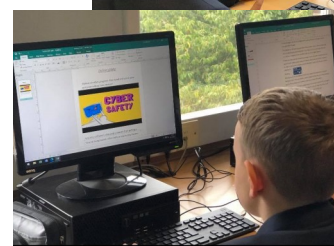
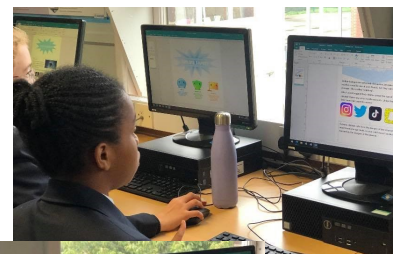
Pupils were given the opportunity to work in groups that they would not normally work with and it was very interesting to watch as group dynamics evolved. A selection of different spatial problems were given to the groups to solve. This provided some healthy rivalry between the groups and a few 'sneaky looks' to get clues were spotted. Even some of the staff got down on their hands and knees to lend a hand! You wouldn't think finding one solution from a possible 70000 would be so hard!

Highlighting online safety

Our Upper 3 (Year 7) pupils have been studying online safety as part of their Computing lessons this half term. They produced leaflets on how to navigate online platforms safely.

Further information and advice for staying safe online can be obtained by visiting; <https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/staying-safe-online/>

Further online safety information is available on the pupil and parents information page of the website.



Visit to the Palace Theatre

GCSE Music students enjoyed a performance of the Little Shop of Horrors at the Palace Theatre, Westcliff. It was an excellent opportunity for them to see their GCSE set pieces in context before they embark on a more detailed analysis in the Lent Term.

It was wonderful for our students to visit a live production in a theatre once again. Mrs Lane, Head of Music, said "I just hope the show hasn't given the pupils a phobia of the dentist!"



Term Achievements

Chelmsford Competitive Music & Drama Festival

St John's pupils achieved wonderful results at the Chelmsford Competitive Music and Drama Festival at the beginning of November. In total eight trophies in Acting, Verse or Prose and Verse were won.

In addition to the eight trophies above, one of our very talented Lower 4 (Year 8) pupils represented St John's and won trophies in the 12 to 13 age category and also in the grade 3 to 4 category for playing the harp. Mrs Lane, Head of Music, Miss Robinson, Head of Drama, Mrs Zoller and Miss Holt were all extremely proud of our pupils' performances and achievements.



ISA Swimming Nationals

One of our Upper 5 (Year 11) competed in the Independent Schools Association (ISA) Swimming Nationals at the London Aquatic Centre on the 28th November.

Representing St John's, he swam for Eastern Region in four races. He swam the 200IM, 100m Breaststroke and both the Medley and Freestyle relays winning a medal in each race; a bronze in the IM and relays and silver in the breaststroke. An amazing achievement.



Junior County Archery Success

One of our Upper 4 (Year 9) pupils was selected as first reserve in the Junior Essex County Archery Team.

He won the 720 Sunday event. Archer GB and clubs offer these rounds to allow competitors to become familiar with the rounds. The current Cadets' selection score for the GB team is around 640—660, so he is well on his way with his scores of 594 and 585.

Important Information



St John's
School Billericay

Diary Dates Lent Term 1st Half Term 2022

Tues 4 th January	COVID TESTING DAY FOR SENIOR PUPILS
Thurs 6 th January	FIRST DAY OF LENT TERM
	SENIOR ENTRANCE ASSESSMENT (EXTERNAL CANDIDATES)
Thurs 13 th January	ART GCSE MOCK EXAMINATION
Wed 26 th January	LOWER 4 (Yr 8) PARENTS EVENING (ONLINE)
Thurs 3 rd February	INTERMEDIATE MATHS CHALLENGE UPPER 4 (Yr 9) TO UPPER 5 (Yr 11)
Mon 7 th February	UPPER 4 (Yr 9) PARENTS EVENING (ONLINE)
Thurs 10 th February	LOWER & UPPER 5 (Yrs 10 & 11) DRAMA GROUPS VISIT TO BLOOD BROTHERS PSC HOTDOG AND DOUGHNUT SALE
Fri 11 th February	BREAK UP FOR HALF TERM HOUSE MUSIC COMPETITION
Fri 25 th March	END OF LENT TERM

**Further dates will be added. Please check our online google calendar located on our website;
www.stjohnsschool.net/school-life/school-calendar/**

Parent Social Committee Update

Despite the challenging times over the last year our Parent Social Committee have continued to support our pupils and this term were able to recommence their hot dog and donut sale day at the end of the first Half Term. On Friday 10th December they spent hours setting up our sports hall for the Christmas Bazaar. This year they had inflatables, a glitter tattoos stand, tombola and even Father Christmas was in attendance! Children from Pre-Reception to Upper 5 (Year 11) visited the Bazaar and had a wonderful time.

The Parent Social Committee always run a Christmas Raffle and this was drawn by the Upper 5 (Year 11) Prefects. The prizes winners were notified on 13th December. Congratulations to all the prize winners. The prizes can be collected from the school office.

Second Hand Uniform

Our Parent Social Committee collects previously used, no longer required uniform and resells this to parents with all proceeds going to the Parent Social Committee Fund. In the past the PSC had a stall at the parents' evening but unfortunately with these going online they are no longer able to sell in this way. If there is an item you require please contact stjohnspsc@gmail.com to see if they have stock.

Who to Contact

Child Absence

Absence Line

☎ 01277 623070 (press option 3)

✉ office@stjohnsschool.net

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

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

For further information and regular updates please visit our Facebook page