

Message from the Headteacher

What a lovely week it has been! Spring is (almost) here and we are finally back together as a community. The school has been a hub of activity this week with children enjoying science activities as part of National Science week, making Roman shields in Year 4, creating stained glasses crosses in Year 6 and all year groups spending time outside at forest school.



Upon their return the children have been introduced to our new behaviour policy. At St John's Primary School we expect and encourage good behaviour and self-discipline from all pupils in order to achieve an environment which enables emotional development, effective learning and high standards. We are restorative in our approach, using a range of methods and strategies in order to maintain positive relationships. We achieve this through visible consistency which has been tightened through three simplified core rules:

*We are **ready** to listen and learn
We are **respectful** of ourselves, others and our property
We are **caring** and compassionate to others*

If you would like to find out more about our new policy you can find it on our website under the key information section, we would welcome any feedback you may have.

Mrs West-Gaul

Strava Outdoor Year group Challenge - Final Results

Thank you to all of you who have been involved in our school Strava challenge. Here are the final Strava scores over the 3 weeks. Well done to Year 3 for coming first, year 6 for coming second place and Year 1 for achieving third place.

1st place- Year 3- 955.7 miles	5th place- Year 5- 318.51 miles
2nd place- Year 6- 867.85 miles	6th place- Year 4 - 293.8 miles
3rd place- Year 1- 545.23 miles	7th place- Reception - 39.6 miles
4th place- Year 2 - 496.38 miles	

Winning family - Edward & Austin Hebbard (Year 3 & 6) / Runners up - Patrick Beakhurst (Yr 6)

Well done to Year 3 you all worked really hard! You will receive your outdoor games over the next two weeks. The winning family and Patrick Beakhurst will also receive some sports equipment soon!



Forest School & PE kit

Please can we ask that all pupils bring their PE kit with them every Monday and leave it in school all week so that they have the correct clothes with them for PE. We will be encouraging pupils to make full use of our outside facilities this term which may include some outdoor learning throughout the week.

Please can we ask pupils to bring in named wellies and waterproofs in a carrier bag on a weekly basis.

Classes will be taking part in forest school activities weekly as listed below. Please can children come to school wearing their school uniform on forest school days (with the exception of reception) but bring a spare change of clothes with them. If the weather is nice they won't be required to get changed.

Monday - Ash class (1A), Pine class (5A)

Tuesday - Birch class (1B), Chestnut class (2A)

Wednesday - Elm class (2B), Holly class (3A), Sycamore class (6A)

Thursday - Hazel class (3B), Oak class (4B), Willow class (6B)

Friday - Acorn class (Reception), Maple class (4A), Rowan class (5B)

Star of the week

Well done to all our pupils who achieved star of the week this week.

Acorn class	Soraya W
Ash class	Elliott C
Birch class	Teddy B
Chestnut class	Mason F
Elm class	Nyla W
Holly class	Ethan S
Hazel class	Ruben L
Maple class	Rosie W
Oak class	Rebecca P
Pine class	Lauren G
Rowan class	William D
Sycamore class	Lucas K
Willow class	Ruby H

Red Nose Day 2021

This year we would love to raise money for Comic Relief by asking you to donate to dress up as a Superhero (real or made up!) If you would rather you can dress up in red for the day, but whatever you do we want you to have some fun!

Our school council are also running a competition to design a Superhero Red Nose! Please can these be handed in to the office by Wednesday and they will judge the winners on Friday.

During the day each year group bubble will be taking part in some fun activities including joke telling, comedy sketches, quizzes and talent shows! This year you can donate through our

[Justgiving page](#) or bring us your change and we will have some collection buckets on the gate on the Friday morning!



Thank you for your support!



19 MARCH 2021



Breakfast and After school clubs

Our Breakfast club is available to all pupils from Nursery to Year 6 and runs daily in the school hall from 7.30-8.30am. Sessions can be booked in advance on ParentPay at a cost of £2.50. Pupils are offered a breakfast on arrival and afterwards play board games, colouring or reading in the school library.

After school sports clubs will start after Easter on the following days. These can also be booked in advance via ParentPay at a cost of £2.50 and run from 3.00-4.00pm.

Monday - Multi Skill (All years)

Tuesday - Football (KS2 only, shin pads must be worn)

Thursday - Invasion games (All years)

Nursery Holiday club

During the Easter and Summer school holidays we are able to offer a limited number of places for pupils in reception to attend a holiday club at our onsite Nursery. The cost is £5.50 per hour and spaces are available from 8.30am - 5.30pm. If you would be interested in your child attending please contact the school office.

We also have pre-school spaces available at nursery for pupils wishing to start in September 2021. Please contact Suzanne or Tash at nursery on nextsteps@stjohnsmsn.co.uk if you would like more information or to arrange a tour.

Outdoor projects

We must say a big thank you to all of the staff and pupils who have been working hard to prepare our vegetable beds during the past few weeks. Each year group will be allocated a bed which they will grow vegetables in from seed. We look forward to seeing and tasting the results at Harvest time.

You will also have notice that the disused flower bed in front of the pagoda has been fenced off. This area is to be turned into a wild flower meadow. We are



very grateful to Tesco Midsomer Norton for donating some summer flowering seeds, bulbs and vegetable seeds to the school to support these projects.

We are also very grateful for a kind donation this week of 26 used tyres! We will be recycling these to create another woodland area at the bottom end of our playing field. This will provide another learning environment and an alternative area for our pupils to play at break and lunchtimes.

Lent Resources

'Walk Through the Bible' has produced a series of engaging videos and resources for 9 - 11 year olds based on the Old Testament stories.

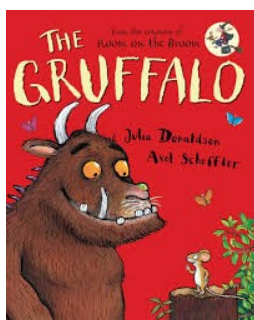
Children in Year 5 and 6 will come home today with the resources for you to explore at home as a family.

Link: <https://vimeo.com/showcase/7480939> Password: **bible**

Year 6 Book recommendations

Year 6 have been discussing books that they would recommend to their friends and younger readers. Here is some of their recommendations.

Poppy P recommends



Key Stage 1: **The Gruffalo by Julia Donaldson** - I recommend this book because it's about a scary Gruffalo and a cute, little mouse.

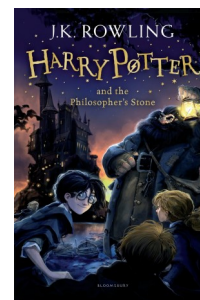
Key Stage 2: **Captain Underpants and the Attack of the Talking Toilets by Dav Pilkey** - I recommend it because it is funny and it makes me laugh out loud.



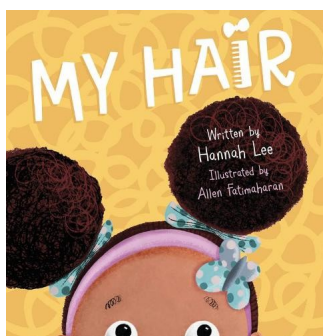
Jack T recommends

Key Stage 1: **The Gruffalo by Julia Donaldson** - The Gruffalo is a book about a small, brown mouse who goes through the woods and encounters many different creatures, including the monstrous Gruffalo.

Key Stage 2: **Harry Potter by JK Rowling** - Harry Potter is a young boy whose parents were killed by a dark wizard with no clue of his powers. When he turns 11, he receives a letter from Albus Dumbledore - the headmaster of Hogwarts.



Mr Yarlett recommends



Key Stage 1: **My Hair by Hannah Lee** - A beautiful story that all children should read to see diversity in hair and the styles worn in different cultures.

Key Stage 2: **Pax by Sara Pennypacker** - A moving story of the extraordinary friendship between a boy and his fox, and their epic journey to be reunited.



Nursery learning


This term our theme is 'Are we there yet?'. Nursery children have been learning about different modes of transport. We have talked about how we get to places locally, in our own country and the wider world. So far this term the children have enjoyed the role play 'car wash' in our playground, the train track set up with natural materials to resemble Midsomer Norton nature reserve and water play with boats. We have had construction vehicles with messy chocolate moon sand and pattern making with vehicle wheels in paint. Children have been looking at the globe and maps and are beginning to make their own maps. Next week we will be constructing vehicles with modelling materials, exploring speed with different sized cars and ramps and floating and sinking.



This week nursery children have enjoyed 'Science Week' each day they have taken part in doing experiments to learn about static electricity, how rain falls from clouds, how germs can be dispelled with soap and how different fluids can be used to create a 'dancing rainbow' We used our new 'Scientists' book to find out about science and famous scientists.

A note from the wellbeing team

A little bit of rain is okay



We understand the toll the last year has taken, and you may feel like you have to be a superhero all the time. Remember **R.A.I.N.**, the four-step mindfulness process to help you acknowledge your emotions and stop being hard on yourself.

R	A	I	N
Recognise what's going on	Allow it to be there, just as it is	Investigate with kindness	Natural awareness, these feelings will pass

300 Year Anniversary

This year marks the 300th anniversary of St John's Primary School which has been based in Midsomer Norton since 1721. We are hugely proud of the long history in our community and are looking forward to celebrating this momentous year with our current pupils and the local community. We would love for our past pupils and staff to share their memories with us and also send us any photographs that they may have so that we document the changes which have occurred during the last 300 years.

We are also excited to share that we have commissioned local artist Edgar Phillips to produce a stained glass window for our school hall which can be enjoyed by our current school community as well as by members of the public who travel past the school. Many of you will have seen his work at Bishops Palace, he has designed and made the wings which are displayed throughout the grounds. The commission will cost £6,000 so we are hoping that donations from our current and past parents and pupils and members of our local community however large or small will help us to reach our target.

We are looking to seek input from our pupils and staff, as well as members of the local community, to help us design the window so that it reflects the ethos of the school community as well as it's history.

We have set up a fundraising page to allow contributions to be made, <https://gofund.me/09844bd6>. If you know of any local businesses who might like to contribute to our pot please do send this information on!

School Uniform reminder

A reminder that pupils are expected to be wearing full school uniform, this includes ties. We appreciate that some children's school shoes may no longer fit. Pupils should still be wearing black shoes to school (not boots), black PE trainers will be allowed for a short time.

Large headbands and jewellery are not part of school uniform. Pupils with long hair should have this tied up, dyed hair and makeup are not acceptable in school. Small stud earrings may be worn but must be removed by your child for PE.

Also a reminder to parents/carers to ensure that social distancing is being adhered to in the playground when dropping off and collecting children. Parents of Reception pupils should use both gates and do not need to queue.

Lockdown Olympics

Event 3 of PH Sports' Lockdown Olympics is Really Rapid Relays! You can find out more information on the website: phsports.co.uk/lockdown-olympics.

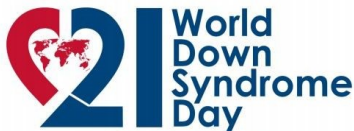
The deadline for scores to be submitted is 9am - Monday 15th March 2021.



Down Syndrome Awareness Day

World Down Syndrome Day is a global awareness event which we support every year. Not only is it important to raise awareness and funds for this charity, but we also like to show our support to April and her Family in Year 3 Hazel class and to use the day to highlight the amazing differences between all of our school family.

We would like all of our staff and pupils to help us promote awareness of Down Syndrome by coming into school on Monday 22nd March 2021 wearing brightly coloured socks, mismatched socks or brightly coloured tights! Why the odd socks? Well, a chromosome looks a little like a sock and people with Down's syndrome have an extra copy of the 21st chromosome.



www.worlddownsyndromeday.org



PTA Easter raffle

Easter raffle tickets have been sent home with pupils this week. Please can these be returned to the school office via your child's teacher ASAP. Due to lockdown restrictions our usual PTA events have been unable to take place so your support in purchasing raffle tickets is much appreciated. Mrs West-Gaul will draw the winners on 31st March 2021.



PTA School Uniform donations & clothes bank

Please be reminded that the PTA have a recycling bank outside the school office. Items including clothes, shoes and bags etc. are all accepted. All items go to people in the UK or overseas and any unsuitable items are recycled. The PTA are paid by the kg so the more items donated the better!

Parking for school pick up & drop off

We have been contacted today by the Manager of Pet's Corner who has asked the school to remind all parents that the car park outside Halfords and Pets Corner is for customers only and not to be used for school drop off and pick up.

Parking is available on the surrounding residential roads around the school as well as at Somervale School and South Street car park.

