



St John's CE Primary School

Newsletter 13 October 2023



This week I would like to say a huge **THANK YOU** to the parents and children who gave up their time last Saturday to come and help clear the area by Year 1. They worked non stop and did an absolutely amazing job clearing out weeds, brambles, cutting grass and hedges.

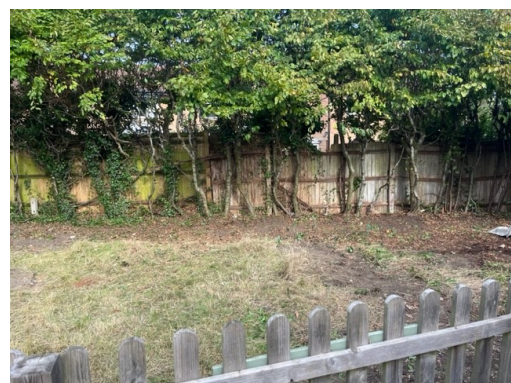
In amongst the clearing we also found newts, frogs and some baby animals that we think were Shrews! Here are some pictures of the transformation.

The area is going to become a Sensory garden/area and now that it is clear, we are able to move forward with the project by contacting companies to come in and give us some design ideas.

I have also heard this week that we were successful in our Bupa Groundwork bid, securing £2500. This money will enable us to buy some resources for the pond area, some will go towards the sensory area and some will go towards setting up a Forest school.

This is a great start to our outdoor learning project. I will keep you updated with the progress.

Mrs Pullan



Prayer

Dear God,
Thank you for
all those who
are sharing
kindness in our
community.
Thank you for
their acts of
kindness,
generosity and
love. Help me to
be kind through
my words and
actions. Please
let me be there
for my friends
or family who
need me.
Amen

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News: Laura Trott visits St John's!

On Monday morning, we welcomed Laura Trott to St John's.



Laura was given a tour of the school by our very own Year 6 school council lead Emily and her assistants, Hannah and Matthew.

Laura then led our Act of Worship, telling the children about her job and answering their excellent questions!

Trips: Reception went on a Bear Hunt!

On Wednesday Squirrel Class put on their coats and wellies, they packed their maps, binoculars and hiking sticks and went on a bear hunt!

It was a beautiful day and we weren't scared! We searched the field and found some bears and a lot more besides.

There were different shaped leaves from different shaped trees, feathers, berries and even a dragonfly. The children brought their nature finds back to the classroom to make some beautiful natural collages and to investigate sorting and classifying for maths, we then added the bits to the mud kitchen to cook up some very exotic dishes!



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Trips: Year 4 Horton Kirby Environmental Centre

As part of our geography learning, Owl class visited Horton Kirby to undertake some field work. We have been learning about rivers, how they are formed and their features. Our local river, the River Darent, presented the perfect setting to undertake our river study.

We looked at how the river and its uses have changed over time. Across two different sites: one on the straight and the other a meander, we did our data collection racing our rubber ducks.

We measured the depth and flow of the river at each site to determine whether there were differences which affected the speed of our ducks. We will use this data in class to further our learning.

After lunch, we impressed Mr Bonner with our rock knowledge that we applied in the classroom (a real Victorian one) to identify which rocks were permeable and impermeable. We learned that the River Darent is 1 out of 160 chalk bed rivers in England.

After that, we made our own model rivers to consolidate how rivers are formed and explored how flood barriers work!

A great day - packed full of river and rock vocabulary! We showed we were not only rock experts, but river ones too! Impressive clever Owls!

Thank you to all the parents and staff who made this enrichment of learning possible.



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Celebrating our children's success

Congratulation to Teddy (Year 6) for completing his 5th Park Run and coming a very impressive First place in his age category! Teddy finished in 49th place and was the 46th male out of a field of a whopping 587 parkrunners! Amazing Teddy!



If you would like to share your child's achievements, send them in to office@stjohnsevenoaks.co.uk and we will include them on the sports blog and in the newsletter!

Fundraising: Mr Gent is going to Brave the Shave!

After over 30 years since his last cut, Mr Gent is going to Brave the Shave and shave it all off to help raise money for the school! You can donate to this hair-raising challenge at the school office.



A very big thank you to everyone who donated much needed supplies for Loaves and Fishes foodbank.

Finally, you have also raised **£150** for Young Minds, helping to support more young people with their mental health.

It was so lovely to see all the children brightening up the school in their cheery yellow outfits!

Thank
you for
your
support

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Sports: Hockey

On Monday the Year 5 & 6 Hockey team played in the Sevenoaks Partnership Hockey tournament. In the pool games we beat Fordcome 5-0 and then lost narrowly to Lady Boswell's 1-0. This meant we were then put into the second place play off heat where we beat Seal 5-0 and Ightham 3-1. Special mention to Lottie and Mats for scoring hatricks!



Sports: Rugby

On Monday 9th October, a tag rugby team attended the Sevenoaks Rugby Club Tag Rugby tournament. We played Churchill, St Catherine's, Weald and St George's on the way to the final. We won every game which meant we went on to meet Anthony Roper in the final. When the final whistle went it was 2-2 so the referee decided to play longer which then ended with a 3-3 draw. Due to Anthony Roper scoring more tries in the previous game they were announced as the winners, however we feel that we deserved to win having been unbeaten throughout the entire tournament. Mr Bull would like to congratulate the team on a brilliant tournament.



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Special mentions—Week beginning 02 October



Year 1 — Dexter, for working so hard this week and making an extra effort to show excellent listening skills on the carpet.

Year 2 — Seren, your behaviour is always fantastic and you set such a good example for others. What a role model.

Year 3 — Shanaya, for being a true good Samaritan and a fantastic tidier, without even being asked!

Year 4 — Candle, you are always so polite and patient with your friends. Thank you for always using 'please' and 'thank you'.

Year 5 — Max H, for being a great Historian on our trip to Knole House and answering questions well with reasoning. Well done!

Year 6 — Mysha, for noticing when a friend needed kindness and compassion and being there for them.

Well done to you all!

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Special mentions—Week beginning 09 October



Year 1 — Harriet, for creating an amazing book about the Great Storm in Sevenoaks. We really enjoyed reading it!

Year 2 — Zed, for his incredible improvement in his handwriting and literacy skills—well done!

Year 3 — Nieve, for always showing others the right thing to do—keep it up!

Year 4 — Harry, for consistently working his best to ensure his work is beautifully presented and for persevering even when things can be a bit challenging. Thank you for working hard!

Year 5 — Henry, for always giving 100% effort across all subjects — well done!

Year 6 — Violet and Mel, for generously giving their own time to run origami club at lunchtime—thank you!

Well done to you all!

Dates for your diary

October

13.10.23 — Year 2 Forest School (Wallabies)

16.10.23 — Open Morning

16.10.23 — Year 5 Literacy Festival

17.10.23 — Year 3 Butser Farm trip

17.10.23 — Year 5 swimming

17.10.23 - PTA Second Hand Winter Uniform Sale

19.10.23 — 14.30 Sharing afternoon

19.10.23 — Year 1 trip to The Vine

19.10.23 — Last day of term

20.10.23 — **INSET DAY**

30.10.23 — First day of term

31.10.23 — Year 6 swimming

November

03.11.23 — Year 2 Forest School (Ants)

06.11.23 — Year 3 & 4 Hockey tournament

07.11.23 — Year 6 swimming

07.11.23 — Parents Evening

08.11.23 — Parents Evening

2024 Advance notice!

26.06.24 — Sports Day



You can find all of the dates for your diary and further information on the [School Calendar](#).

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