



# St John's CE Primary School Newsletter

## 09 February 2026

### **Prayer**

*Dear God,*

*Thank you for our bodies and minds—help us feel safe, strong, and well.*

*Give us kind hearts and brave voices to speak up for others when they need help.*

*As spring comes with sunshine and new life, help us grow every day.*

*Amen.*

## Message from Mrs Miles



Well we made it through the 764 days of January and I even saw the sun peeking through the clouds this week, spring is coming.....

We have gone back to basics this term with a big push on behaviour for learning in the classrooms. We have a consistent message from Reception to Year 6 - 'Voices off, hands still, looking, listening, show me you're ready.' This focuses the children and means that everyone can concentrate on the important lessons being given. We are also re-establishing the steps from the behaviour policy which always include reflection time and a restorative conversation, asking the children to think about their behaviour and how they would do things differently in the future.

At St John's, our aim is for the children to leave as articulate, confident people who are willing to be advocates for others. Some children have definitely shown this this term with posters being displayed asking people to save endangered animals, two children writing to me about a lunchbox issue and one of our year 6 children starting an online petition and writing to the local council about rising rent prices after finding out his favourite sweet shop was struggling to stay open. Amazing advocacy shown!

We have some exciting lessons planned for Wellbeing Week, leading nicely into a week off for half term - enjoy everyone!

*Mrs Miles*

## School activities



### **Young Voices 2026**

Our Choir went up to the O2 to perform at the Young Voices concert. There were nearly 9,000 children in the hall and when the lights went down and the torches went on, the atmosphere was electric!!!

A massive thanks to Mrs Becker in the office and Mr Bull, who helped with the organisation of this, and also Mrs Hoemke and Mrs Reynolds who came with us, along with Mrs Lam. All of their help was invaluable.

Year 6 girls made the most amazing poster with our name on and as we were right up at the top at the back of the hall, we were able to display it on the wall behind us very proudly. It was a very long day as we had a 3 hour rehearsal, followed by a nearly 2 hour concert.

Everyone enjoyed singing the songs plus the dance moves, and watching the Urban Strides with their amazing performance. As we came out of the O2, the heavens opened and we got absolutely drenched walking the short distance to the coach for our return journey, but we arrived home at 10.30 pm on the dot as Mr Bull had predicted.

Well sung to everyone! You are amazing and I hope you all enjoyed the day as much as I did. I was very proud of you all!

Mrs Hanna



### **Year 5 Step Back in Time: Greek Day**

Year 5 enjoyed an exciting Greek Day this week, designed to enhance their learning about Ancient Greece. Pupils arrived in magnificent costumes, helping to bring history to life—thank you for the wonderful effort.

The day was packed full of learning. The children explored the origins of our alphabet and deciphered Greek symbols to unlock names of gods and goddesses. In English, they investigated Greek prefixes, while in maths they explored angles in triangles testing some Greek ideas that "*the sum of the angles in a triangle equal 2 right angles*".

The day also included a Greek food tasting experience—thank you to Mr Kumchev for the delicious additions to our Greek feast. Many children tried foods for the first time, and some were pleasantly surprised to discover they enjoyed them!

In preparation for our very own mini Greek Olympics, children became citizens of the different city-states and created banners and mottos representing what was most important to each city-state. They then competed for honour, rather than winning, just as the Ancient Greeks did. Our tabletop version of the Olympics included events such as the Strength of Hercules, Straw Javelin, Tallest Towers, Discus and Paper Long Jump.

The children will certainly now be able to answer the question: What did the Greeks do for us?





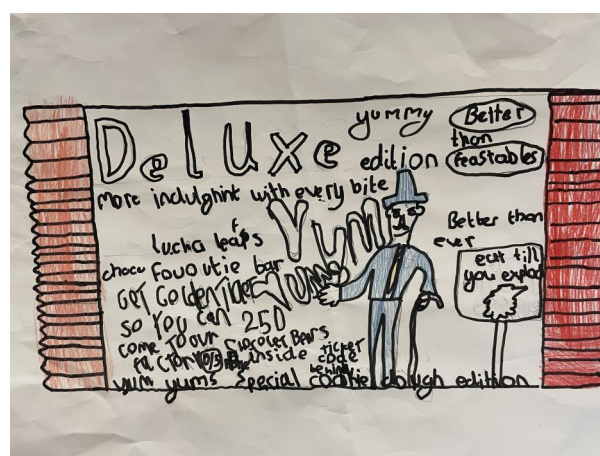
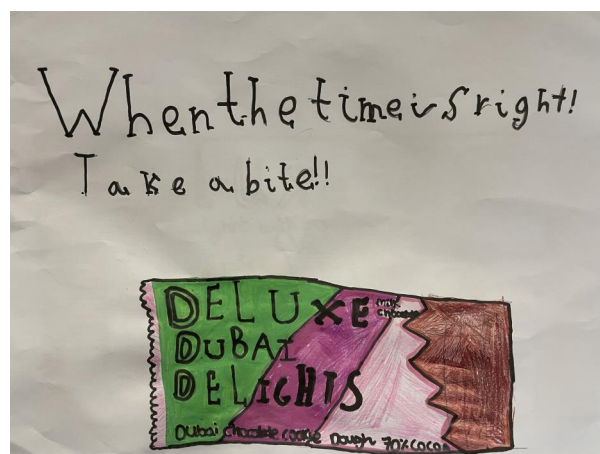
**"The Apprentice" comes to St John's**

On Tuesday 20th January, some of our KS2 children enjoyed an exciting trip to Young Voices, where they joined thousands of pupils to sing together at the O2. Meanwhile, the children who remained in school took part in a brilliant enterprise project inspired by *The Apprentice*.

Miss Forsey shared an email received from Lord Sugar setting them a design challenge. He asked the children to design a brand-new chocolate bar! Working in mixed-age teams, they created imaginative products, catchy slogans and eye-catching posters before presenting their pitches to the audience. The results were creative, appealing and full of original ideas. Most importantly, the afternoon was inclusive, fun-filled and a fantastic opportunity for teamwork, communication and creativity.

Each team received an award recognising teamwork, problem solving, writing the catchiest slogan, designing the most colourful packaging, and for designing the most scrumptious chocolate bar - to name a few.

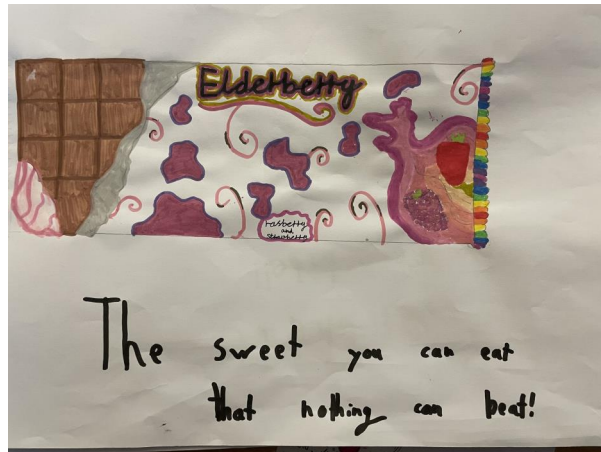
Why not ask your child to see which chocolate bar they designed and which award they won?



POPPING SUPRISSES!!  
 EVERY BITE IS FULL OF  
 SUPRISSES!!!



all kinds of strawberry	POP	dark chocolate
milk		light chocolate
popcorn		milk chocolate
pineapple		dark chocolate
berries		light chocolate
popcorn		dark chocolate
or so		light chocolate



### **Playtime Past History Workshop**

Year 1 were excited to take part in a history workshop week where we explored toys from the past, up to 150 years ago. Members of the Amelia Scott Museum visited our class and let us ask questions, explore and more importantly PLAY with a range of toys.

We were surprised to find out that some toys we play with today are actually very similar to toys that were popular in Victorian times.



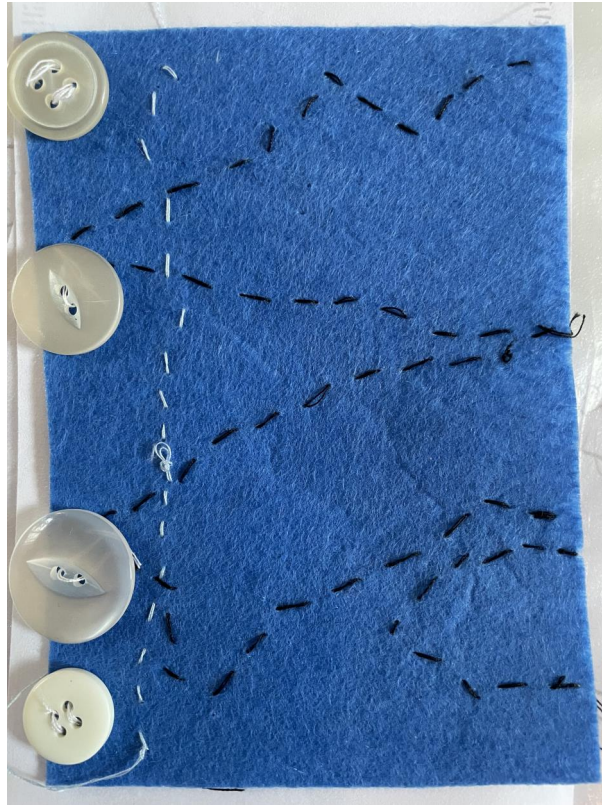


### **A token speaks a thousand words**

Year 5 were invited to take part in *A Token Speaks a Thousand Words*, a collaborative project with the National Trust and Coram, inspired by the work of the Foundling Museum. The project links to the history of the Foundling Hospital in Westerham, where in the 1700s mothers left small fabric tokens with their children so they might one day be recognised and reunited. Through this cross-curricular project we explored themes of belonging, identity, and emotional expression.

Each child created their own symbolic tokens discovering a real enjoyment of sewing and working with fabrics in the process. The project encouraged reflection, creativity, and empathy. 467 tokens will be selected to be displayed at the National Trust's Quebec House from April, connecting our pupils' work to this important historical story.

I wonder how many of our class' tokens may be lucky enough to be selected. I will keep you updated! The children's creations are amazing : all different and equally special! Here are just a few examples...







## Sport's update



### **Water Polo**

On 28 January, a team of pupils from Years 5 and 6 competed in the Sevenoaks School Water Polo Tournament, taking on teams from eight other schools in a fast-paced and exciting event.

Each match lasted five minutes and was played across different areas of the pool — the deep end, middle, and shallow end — keeping the players on their toes throughout the day.

The team got off to a strong start with a 2–0 win against Amherst, followed by an impressive 4–0 victory over Ightham. A closely contested match against Kemsing saw us narrowly lose 3–2, before bouncing back with a 3–1 win against Shoreham. Chevening proved a tough opponent, defeating us 6–0, but the team finished the tournament on a high with a 4–2 win against St George's.

Overall, the team finished joint third on goal difference, an excellent achievement. All players should be extremely proud — especially as some were playing water polo for the first time, while others brought valuable experience to the team.

Congratulations to Ted, Teddy, Harry, Betty, Huey and Sadie on a fantastic performance and a great display of teamwork and determination.

## Special mentions



### RECEPTION

**Stanley**, working so hard and persevering in his phonics sounds, tricky words and making great progress in his letter formation in writing! Well done!

**Zoe**, for sharing her knowledge and understanding in Maths - always engaging and taking part in group work and helping others!

### YEAR 1

**Aathirah**, for working hard to improve her maths skills, including 1 more and 1 less.

**Bella-Rose**, for making the right choices in class and learning to be a good friend.

### YEAR 2

**Ruby**, for thinking hard in our science lesson about the different stages of humans lives.

**Leo**, for sharing his animal facts with me and showing us his amazing juggling skills!

### **YEAR 3**

**Harriet**, for improved focus and effort in your learning - well done. keep it up!

**Arthur O**, for great focus in lessons and always trying your best. Well done Arthur!

### **YEAR 4**

**Molly D**, for a fantastic effort in Maths and wanting challenge questions too - well done!

**Freya**, for your thoughtful ideas in RE this week, thinking about how we can show love to our neighbours and what Jesus teaches us to do!

### **YEAR 5**

**Aaliyah**, for being a help around the classroom - a supply teacher noted how helpful and considerate you were, well done!

**Hugo**, for creating an amazing mythical beast in English and using fabulous descriptive words to describe it. His beast name was Artikar!

### **YEAR 6**

**Amy**, for working hard in maths and keeping focussed in class!

**Iris and Seb**, for being great house captains and organising the day - a great effort!

## Fundraising



### **Blue House Charity Day**

A big thank you for all of your generous donations towards our two charities for Blue House Charity Day; GOSH and Cancer Research UK. We raised an impressive **£255.95!**

A big congratulations to the winners of our games:

Beat the goalie : **Polly** (year 2)

Tennis: **Harry** (year R)/ **Max** (year 3)

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# PAWS & PALS DOG WALKING

Reliable & Fun Walks by Responsible  
Year 6 Students near St Johns School  
50% goes to charity!



**MEET OUR DEDICATED TEAM:**

 Betty	 Candle	 Matilda C	 Matilda P	 Amy
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- **Flexible Availability:** After School & Weekends (Outside School Hours)
- **Unbeatable Rate:** Just £4 Per Walk!

**BOOK YOUR DOG'S NEXT ADVENTURE TODAY!**

Ask your child to talk to us if interested !

1 - Paws and Pals Dog Walking

Celebrating our children's success



**Phoebe** (year 3) competed for Sevenoaks Hockey Club at a hockey tournament in Herne Bay. Despite miserable wet weather, her team were undefeated and won the cup.



**Luna** (year 2) completed a match day in tennis at Sevenoaks Sennocke Centre and she won her match against a good opponent.

She was very thrilled and excited to share her news.



## Notices



### **Children's Mental Health Week**

This year, Children's Mental Health Week 2026 will take place from 9-15 February 2026

The theme for Children's Mental Health Week 2026 is 'This is My Place', and the aim is to support the systems around children and young people to help them feel they belong.

Children's Mental Health Week takes place every February. It was started in 2015 to give a voice to all children and young people and to raise awareness of children and young people's mental health.

If you would like to find out more, please visit [Place2Be's Children's Mental Health Week - Official site](#).



## Diary Dates



Please check Parentmail/[school website calendar](#) for full details.

Please note that for some future events, details may not have been sent out yet and are to follow.

### **February**

10.02.26 Year 3 Swimming

13.02.26—'Wear it Bright' Day

13.02.26—14.30 Sharing Afternoon

13.02.26 Year 6 Forest School

13.02.26—15.10 PTA Parentine's Sale

13.02.26—Last day of Term 3

23.02.26—First day of Term 4

24.02.26 19.00 — Parent Consultation bookings open

24.02.26 —Year 6 swimming

25.02.26— Green House Charity Day

27.02.26— Year 3 Forest School

### **March**

02.03.26—In-person Parent Consultations

05.03.26—In-person Parent Consultations

09.03.26—Online workshop (Understanding Sleep and Autism) - see ParentMail for details

13.03.26—Mother's Day collective worship (*time tbc*)

20.03.26—Own Clothes Day

20.03.26—PTA Quiz Night

23.03.26—STEMQuest (*details to follow*)

24.03.26—Online workshop (Understanding Neurodiversity) - see ParentMail for details

25.03.26—KS2 Disney's The Lion King, London

27.03.26—PTA Bunny Hop Disco (KS1 15.15-16.30/KS2 16.45-18.00)

### **April**

01.04.26—Easter Church Service (*time tbc*)

02.04.26—PTA Easter Egg Hunt

02.04.26—Last day of Term 4 (**13.30 finish**)

20.04.26—First day of Term 5

25.04.26—Mini Marathon

### **May**

01.05.26—Red House Charity Day

04.05.26—Bank Holiday

08.05.26—09.15 Year 1 Class Assembly

13.05.26—15.05.26—Year 5 PGL

22.05.26—14.30 Sharing Afternoon

22.05.26—Last day of Term 5

### **June**

01.06.26—INSET Day

02.06.26—First day of Term 6

08.06.26—12.06.26—Year 6 Normandy residential

16.06.26—Sports Day

## July

08.07.26—District Sports

08.07.26—Wimbledon

09.07.26—RESERVE Sports Day

07.07.26—Year 6 Disco

21.07.26—Last day of Term (**13.30 finish**)

