St John's CE Primary School Newsletter 22nd October 2026

Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for all the wonderful learning, new experiences and happy memories we have shared this half term. Thank you for our school family, for the friendships we have made and for the opportunities we have had to grow and discover new things.

Please watch over all our families during the half-term break. Help us to rest, relax and enjoy time together, returning to school refreshed, happy and ready for all the adventures ahead.

Amen.

Message from Mrs Miles



I can't believe we are already at the end of our first half term, time really does fly when you're having fun and it certainly looks like fun is being had in our classrooms!

The children have been busy learning, exploring and creating, bringing all their hard work together in their fantastic showcase projects. From a *très bien* French breakfast in Years 3 and 5 to some delicious Mayan chocolate making in Year 6, there has been plenty to celebrate. It has been wonderful to see the children sharing their learning so enthusiastically and showing off everything they have discovered.

You can also read all about the amazing trips and experiences the children have enjoyed this term. Year 1 are now absolute local history experts, thanks to their learning about the Great Storm. Thankfully, nobody fell into the river on the Year 4 river trip and Year 2 have returned from their visit to a Victorian classroom at Kent Life with some strong opinions about Victorian school discipline. They told me all about the cane and I'm starting to think the Victorians were onto something.....!

We are also incredibly proud of our new Reception children. They have settled in so beautifully that it feels as though they have always been here. They have quickly become an essential part of the St John's family and it has been lovely to see them growing in confidence, making friends and embracing school life.

As we head into the half-term break, I hope all our families enjoy a well-deserved rest, some special time together and time to recharge. We look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for the next exciting half term - the one that leads us all the way to Christmas!

Mrs Miles

Sports roundup



Football

The football team recently played two competitive matches against Kemsing and St Katherine's. Despite putting in a great effort in both games, the team narrowly lost 1–0 on each occasion. The players showed determination and worked hard throughout, continuing to battle until the final whistle. Although the results didn't go our way this time, there were plenty of positives to take forward into the next fixtures. Well done to everyone involved for their commitment and teamwork!

ROBERT DRAPER
Removals & Storage
Sevenoaks
robertdraper.co.uk

Special mentions



YEAR 1

Sophie M - My silent helper. Sophie always helps everyone during tidy-up time, even tidying areas she hasn't played in.

YEAR 2

Olive - For working hard on her handwriting, and writing a brilliant fact file on endangered animals.

YEAR 3

Leo - For being focused and engaged during all lessons.

YEAR 4

Harriet and Freya - For a fantastic Geography project about the advantages and disadvantages of rivers.

School activities



Year 1

Year 1 Rabbits have been busy compiling footage for our showcase this term. We have taken turns to dress up as Michael Fish where we reported a very inaccurate weather forecast! We also made windsocks to measure the direction of the wind in autumn, but also to tell the story of the night of October 15th 1987 when the Great Storm hit. As detectives, we visited the site of the Vine, looking for clues as to what happened almost 40 years ago, and learning about the trees that were replanted alongside the super-strong 'King Oak'. This led to our advocacy-driver of planting horse-chestnuts at Forest School. It is important to look after our world, protecting our environment, encouraging new growth and also, as a way of remembering key moments from the past. We loved asking Bob Ogley, our special visitor, questions about the storm, and hearing about the amazing stories behind some of the photographs he took for the Sevenoaks Chronicle. We have fully immersed ourselves into our learning this term!




Now and Then







Year 3

On Thursday 9th October, Year 3 had a fantastic day at Knole House learning all about the Stone Age. They studied what Stone Age people wore and what food they would have eaten.



Year 4

On Monday 12th October Year 4 arrived at Lullingstone Country Park ready to become River Rangers and Water Cycle Detectives.

We walked along the side of the river and spotted a meander straight away! We sketched the river and discussed which way the water was flowing. After, we walked up to Lullingstone Castle and sketched this too!

When we got back to the river it was time to get in the water! The children braved the cold temperatures and went in the river to measure the flow of the water.

After lunch we did a range of activities looking at the water cycle, even investigating which materials let the most water through them. We tested rocks, soil, concrete and sand.

We had a brilliant trip and the children got to put all of their learning into practice!



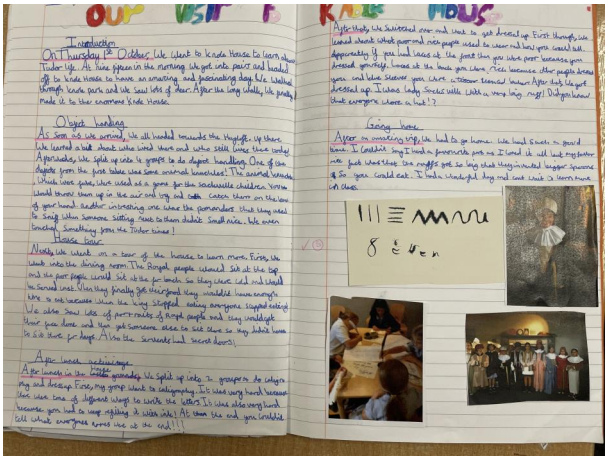




Year 5

On 1st October, Year 5 visited Knole House to bring their Tudor topic to life. We discovered more about how people lived, tools they used and how their clothing reflected their status and role in society. We enjoyed imagining what life might have been like in such a grand historic house. A highlight of the day was dressing up in Tudor-style clothing, followed by a chance to try calligraphy and practise writing with an elegant Tudor hand. It was a memorable day that helped everyone deepen their understanding of this fascinating period in history. The children love sharing their learning with anyone who is willing to listen and have learnt lots, so if you get a chance, ask them about their favourite facts.

Read Seren and Olivia's work to find out about some of their highlights!



Introduction

On Thursday 1st October we went to Knole House to learn about Tudor life. At nine o'clock in the morning we got into pairs and headed off to Knole House to have an amazing and fascinating day. We walked through Knole park and we saw lots of deer. After the long walk, we finally made it to the enormous Knole House.

Object handling

As soon as we arrived, we all headed towards the Haylofts. Up there, we learnt a lot about rats who lived there and who still lives there today! Afterwards, we split up into 4 groups to do object handling. One of the objects from the first table was some animal knuckles! The animal knuckles which were given were used as a game for the schoolville children. You would throw them up in the air and try and catch them on the back of your hand. Another interesting one was the pomanders. What they used to keep their homes smelling fresh as there didn't smell nice. We even touched something from the Tudor times!

House tour

Next, we went on a tour of the house to learn more. First, we went into the dining room. The Royal people would sit at the top and the poor people would sit at the far end. So they never ate and would be served last. When they finally got their food they wouldn't have enough to eat because when the king stopped eating everyone stopped eating. We also saw lots of portraits of Royal people and they would flatter you done and then get someone close to the face to try distract them to sit there for hours. Also the servants had secret doors!

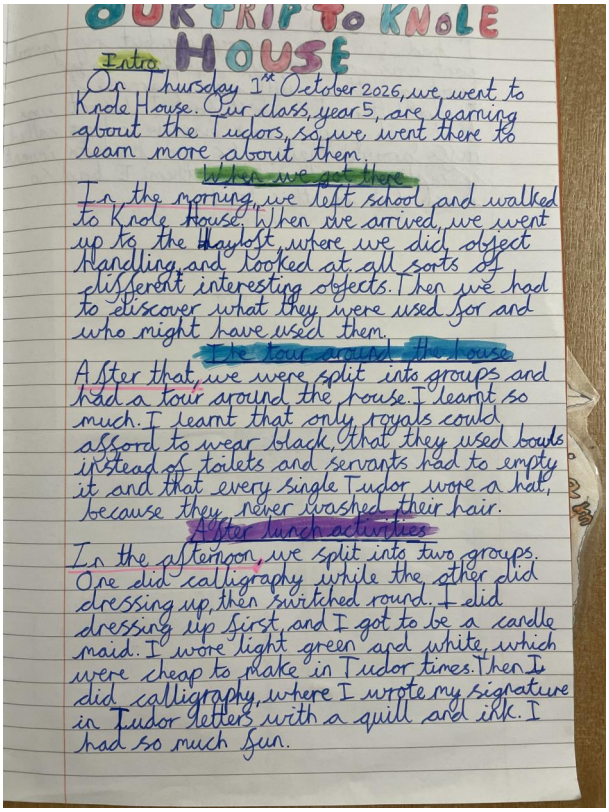
After lunch activities

After lunch we split up into 2 groups to do calligraphy and dressing up. First, my group went to calligraphy. It's also very hard because there were lots of different ways to write the letters. It's also also very hard because you had to keep refilling it with ink! After that the end you couldn't tell what everyone looked like at the end!!!

After finally we finished our visit to Knole House we learnt about what purpose it used to have and how you would tell. Apparently if you had access to the front then you were very important and if you had access to the back you were a servant. Also we learnt that you have different seasons in different months. After that we got dressed up. I was a lady and it was very long, huge! Did you know that everyone wore a hat!?

Going home

After an amazing trip, we had to go home. We had 5 mins to get our bags. I couldn't stop. I had a fantastic day as I loved it all but my favourite one was that the ruffs got so big that they invented bigger spoons so you could eat. I had a wonderful day and can't wait to learn more on class.



Our trip to Knole House

Intro

On Thursday 1st October 2026, we went to Knole House. Our class, year 5, are learning about the Tudors, so we went there to learn more about them.

When we got there

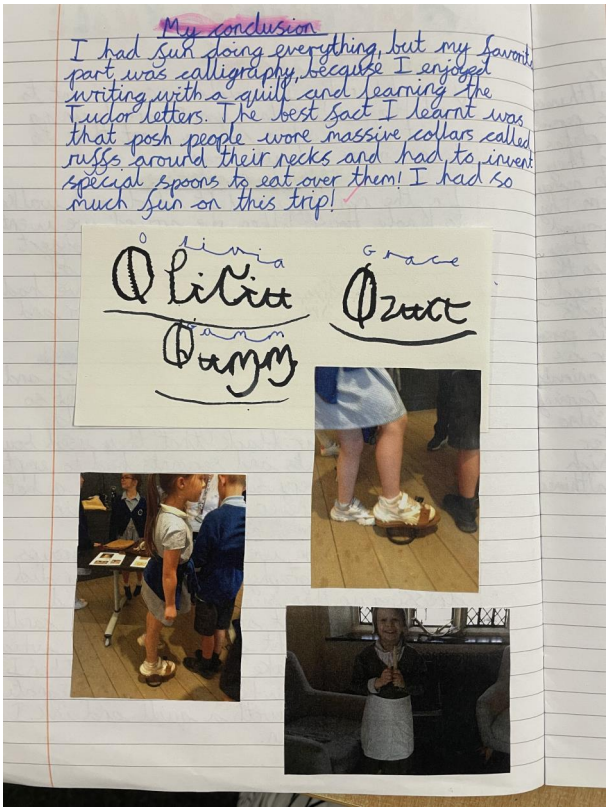
In the morning, we left school and walked to Knole House. When we arrived, we went up to the Hayloft, where we did object handling and looked at all sorts of different interesting objects. Then we had to discover what they were used for and who might have used them.

The tour around the house

After that, we were split into groups and had a tour around the house. I learnt so much. I learnt that only royals could afford to wear black, that they used bowls instead of toilets and servants had to empty it and that every single Tudor wore a hat, because they never washed their hair.

After lunch activities

In the afternoon, we split into two groups. One did calligraphy while the other did dressing up, then switched round. I did dressing up first, and I got to be a candle maid. I wore light green and white, which were cheap to make in Tudor times. Then I did calligraphy, where I wrote my signature in Tudor letters with a quill and ink. I had so much fun.



Bonjour! A Fabulous French Showcase!

On Monday afternoon, Year 3 and Year 5 came together for a fantastic French Showcase! The scene was set with French bunting, flags, a Parisian backdrop on the big screen and the air was filled with gentle, autumnal French café music. As the music played, the children moved around "our little corner of Paris", stopping to greet a new partner whenever the music paused. They enthusiastically introduced themselves, asked names, ages and how their partners were feeling, all in French! It was lovely to see so many smiles, growing confidence and fantastic teamwork between the two year groups.

To finish our Parisian afternoon, we shared some delicious croissants and enjoyed a little taste of France!

Bravo, Year 3 and Year 5! We are so proud of you overcoming your nerves, and encouragement of one another.







Celebrating our children's success



Sevenoaks Sharks Lacrosse finish 4th!!!!!!

Message from Mike Barrett - Director, MB Coaching & Teaching Services.

Please celebrate the achievement of Thea Miller being the inaugural Sevenoaks Sharks U12 Lacrosse team which competed for the FIRST time ever at the South of England Men's Lacrosse Association's u12 boys Holder's Cup on the 11th October (apologies for the late notice) and managed to reach the semi-finals - eventually finishing 4th. Although it is a boys competition girls are allowed to play and a number did for the Sevenoaks Sharks. Huge Congratulations to Thea!



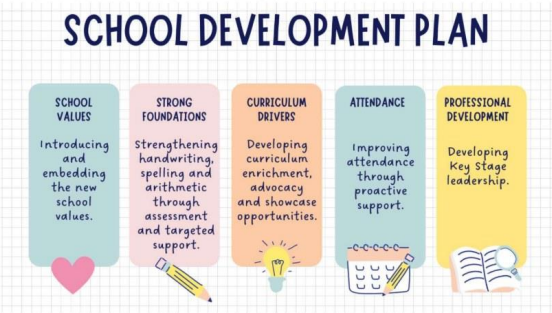
Notices



A big thank you to everyone who joined us for our parents' coffee morning this week. It was lovely to see so many of you there and to have the opportunity to share our plans for the year ahead.

As you can see in the here, our School Development Plan for 2026–27 focuses on five key areas: embedding our new school values, strengthening the foundations of handwriting, spelling and arithmetic, developing our curriculum through enrichment, advocacy and showcase opportunities, improving attendance, and developing leadership across the school.

Work is already well underway on these priorities and I'm looking forward to sharing updates and examples of the progress we make throughout the year. Thank you, as always, for your continued support and for being such an important part of our school community!



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.

October

22-10-26 - Last Day of Term

23-10-26 - INSET Day

November

02-11-26 - First Day of Term

03-11-26- Year R trip to Sevenoaks Library

03-11-26- Year 6: The Lancaster Model (TLM)

05-11-26- Year 5 Tennis Sessions - Sevenoaks School

05-11-26- **Wordplay/Board Games Club (No longer on a Tuesday)**

06-11-26 - PTA Donations Own Clothes Day

09-11-26 - Open Morning

09-11-26- **French Club cancelled**

10-11-26 - Parents Evening 15:30 to 18:30 - Please visit https://stjohnscep.schoolcloud.co.uk/ to book your appointments.

12-11-26 - Parents Evening 15:30 to 18:30 - Please visit https://stjohnscep.schoolcloud.co.uk/ to book your appointments.

12-11-26- Year 5 Tennis Sessions - Sevenoaks School

13-11-26 - Year 1 Fairy Cake Friday

19-11-26 - Snow White Panto

19-11-26- Year 5 Tennis Sessions - Sevenoaks School

26-11-26- Year 5 Tennis Sessions - Sevenoaks School

27-11-26 - PTA Donations Own Clothes Day

28-11-26 - Christmas Fair