

School Newsletter

Autumn 1 2024

In harmony we
Nurture, Inspire, Flourish



Thank you for all your support this half term in welcoming our new Early Years families and in sharing such inspiring learning experiences both when invited into classes, coming into our information sessions and attending our Celebration worships. We are delighted that your children have been able to showcase their talents and were very thrilled to hear all the positive feedback, particularly those who got to join in with our Forest Schools. Our teachers work extremely hard to ensure that every day children at St John's are engaged in exciting learning experiences and they have enjoyed sharing them with you.

With our new school uniform, the children have come in ready to learn and to be active in their outdoor learning. As the weather gets wetter and colder, all children should have boots and waterproofs in school so that they can enjoy our lunch time zones every day. We are delighted that we have so many clubs and activities to offer our children. Thank you to everyone who is working with us to increase attendance this year in line with new government guidance, we all know how important every lesson is to improve your children's learning outcomes.

Please look on the following pages to find lots of photos of our October learning such as Harvest Festival, a visit from Dorking Rotary Club and lots of other fantastic visits and trips. Please do not hesitate to contact us if ever you have any questions or ideas to support us, would like to volunteer or join our wonderful Friends, PTA.

Mrs Fyson, Headteacher



Our wonderful Mr Fuller carries out safe crossing of our road every single day and has been heralded by Surrey County Council for his effective patrolling. We are so grateful to him. A few parents were noted as crossing behind him rather than in front of Mr Fuller and others reversing and parking in the vicinity of the school crossing patrol area when it is operating. Can we remind you that this poses a danger, so please do help us to keep everyone safe. During this visit, Mr. Fuller crossed 294 people in the morning alone!



Note re: the new attendance policy and DfE expectations on schools:

Doors open at 8.30 and close at 8.45. This is marked as on time in the register. Between 8.45 and 9.00, children need to enter via the school office. Please make sure the office staff have seen you. This is marked as a late on the register but doesn't impact absence attendance. Anything after 9.00 is marked as a missed session - even if in through the doors at 9.05, so punctuality is equally important. If 10 sessions (1 session is a half day, so 2 sessions in a day) are missed due to unauthorised absence, this triggers a meeting and a potential fixed penalty notice if the attendance doesn't dramatically improve within 3 weeks.

These new stricter policies have been set for schools by the DfE and the Good Shepherd Trust. As a school, we empathise and want to work with you in supporting attendance and ensuring all children are getting the best out of their education, starting with being in school and on time. To support, if 4 sessions are missed, we will give you a call to let you know and see if we can support. After 6 missed sessions, we will invite you in for an attendance meeting to put an action plan together to support not missing any more sessions. After 9 missed sessions, a more formal letter from the Trust is issued and a formal meeting in school to create an action plan how attendance can be dramatically improved in the next 3 weeks.

There is a direct link to attainment and attendance and actively promote children not having any unauthorised days off.

To note, all unauthorised holidays which exceed 5 or more days, will result in a fixed penalty notice, in line with the Trust policy. As a school, we don't have a say in this action. As a school, we don't directly receive any of the money from any fixed penalty notice.

Action for all settings:

Review water beads product safety alert

The Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) has issued a [Product Safety Alert](#) to warn of the risks that water beads pose to children and vulnerable adults.

The alert advises that water beads should be kept away from children under five, and only used with older children or vulnerable adults under close supervision. They are marketed for various purposes, including for use as toys and in crafting. Water beads can expand up to 400 times when exposed to liquid.

When swallowed, they expand and can block the gastrointestinal passage, potentially requiring surgery. They can also cause choking and have harmed children in the UK, with reports linking them to deaths overseas.

If it is suspected that a water bead has been swallowed, medical help should be sought immediately.

Nursery Happiness Class



Nursery have all settled well into their first term at school. We have been looking at lots of books that supports them with the Early Years Framework where we work on communication, language, personal, social and emotional development. The existing Nursery children have been great role models in helping our new ones settle in - I am very proud of all of them!

The children are getting to experience all that St John's has to offer, and many have enjoyed swimming, PE, library time and Jolly John's Farm to visit our chickens.

Reception Kindness Class

Wow, what a fantastic start to our school journey! Kindness class have settled in beautifully and have got stuck in with some amazing learning.

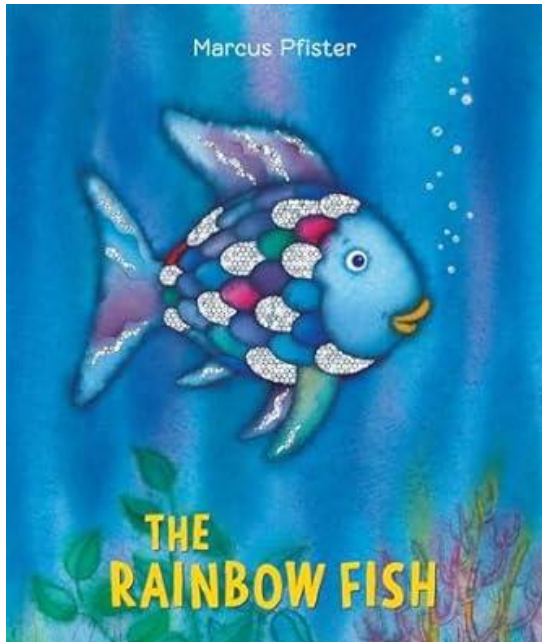


We started off the term exploring our topic 'Marvellous Me'. Through this the children began to build some lovely friendships and develop a good understanding of their emotions and how to regulate them as well as how to support one another. They also started their Read Write Inc journey, learning many phonemes and how to write them.



Our learning then took a lovely turn linking in with the world around us as we explored the season change. We've read some fantastic books, made some Harvest soup and we even became detectives when our Autumn leaves were stolen!! Yes stolen, don't worry we found the culprit. It was the squirrel from our story The Leaf Thief.

Year 1 Love Class



This term, we have had a fantastic start to Year 1, with a focus on our harmony principle of health and celebrating what makes each of us special. We loved reading "The Rainbow Fish," which helped us settle into our new school routine and focus on sharing and working together. In PE, we have been exploring how we move and control our bodies during our gymnastics lessons. In science, we've had so much fun exploring our senses! We blindfolded each other to investigate sight, tasted sour lemons to understand taste, and smelled stinky garlic to explore our sense of smell. We've also been learning how to stay healthy, and we're excited to finish the term by making a delicious fruit kebab!



Year 2 Trust Class

What a super start we have had to Year 2! We began the term with a bang focusing our learning on 'What a Wonderful World'. Among many things, we have written impressive stories based on the book 'Grandad's Island', led the Harvest Festival at the Church and learned about continents and oceans in Geography.

On Maths day we completed a Wonderful World treasure hunt. We measured, counted and compared a range of items as part of our learning. It was such fun!



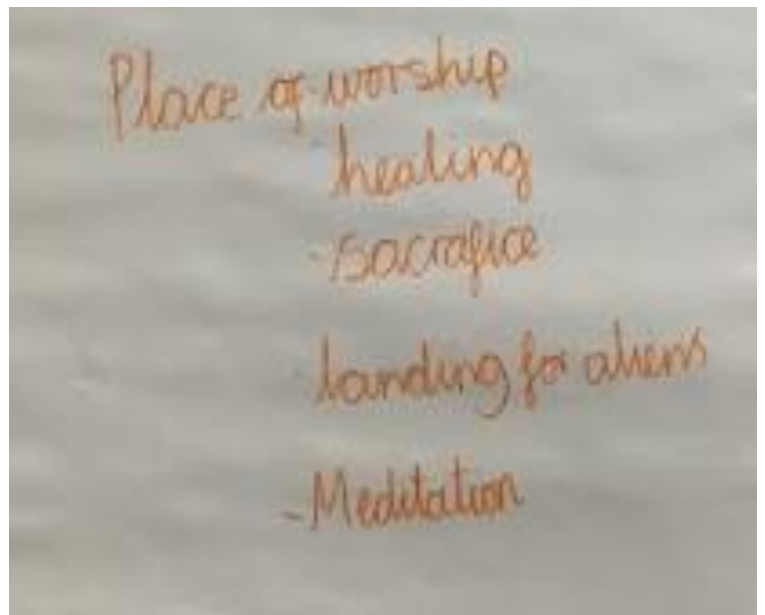
We are looking forward to going to Sayers Croft before half term. We are very excited to be completing a range of team building activities such as ponding dipping!

Year 3 Cooperation Class

What a fantastic start to Year 3, the children have settled very well and we are really proud of them! They have really enjoyed learning about the Stone Age. We did group work rotating seeing what jobs the Stone Age people did, what clothes they wore and had great fun exploring and practising cave painting using the tables as 'caves'.



The children looked at a picture of Stonehenge and discussed what it could be, who put it there and what it is for. They then acted out some of the ideas they came up with. Can you guess which children are acting out which idea?



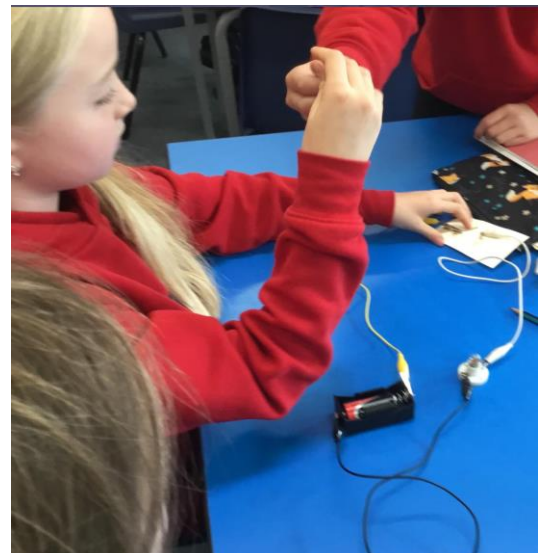
Year 4 Resilience Class



Resilience Class have had a great start to this year! We have been exploring how the Romans adapted to life in Britain following their successful invasion (well on the 4th try!). Our learning was brought to life with some re-enactments of these invasions and our visit to Bignor Roman Villa, where we explored the history and development of the site. We all found it amazing that the family who own Bignor, are the family who discovered it over 200 years ago!

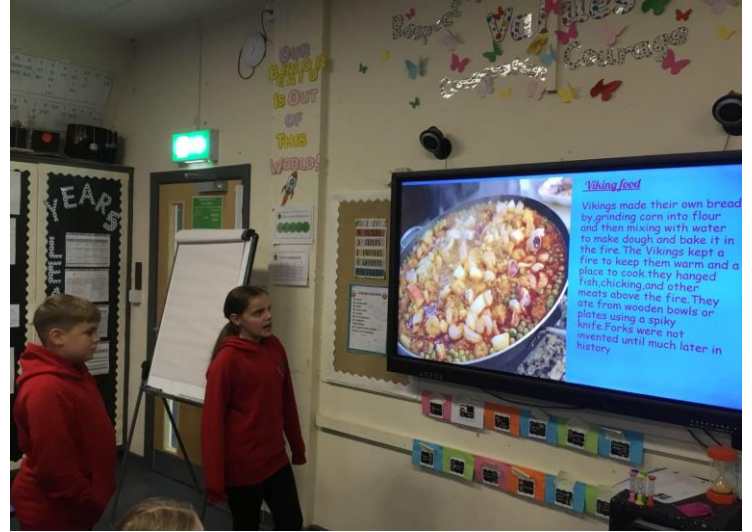
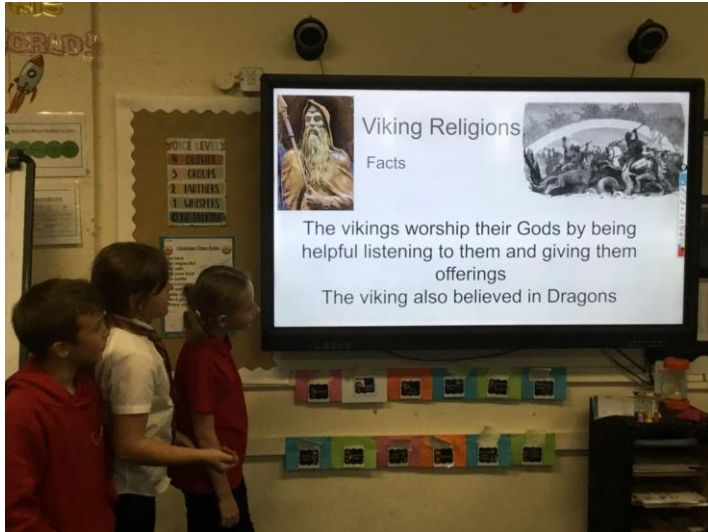


Our Science and DT work has lead us on the discovery of Electricity and how this can be used to create our own torches for Explorer Jane. We examined what Electricity can help us do in our day to day lives and how to keep safe when handling electrical equipment. We have had lots of fun creating circuits and exploring which materials would be best for our torch switches and casings.



Year 5 Courage Class

In year 5, we have been studying 'The Vikings'. We worked hard in small groups and created a presentation on a given topic based on Viking life. We taught each other about Viking houses, clothes, religion, writing and art.

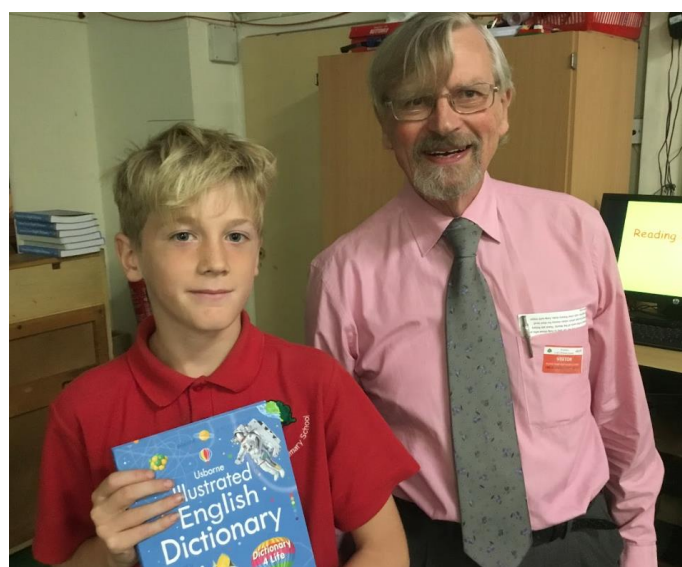
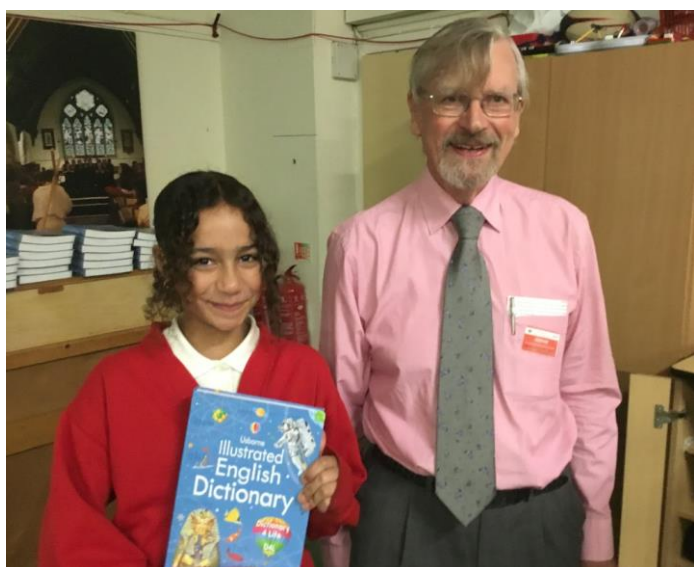


We were lucky to take part in an anti-bullying workshop, which focussed on respect. In the workshop, we watched videos of what respect looks like and we role played different scenarios to show our understanding.



Year 6 Respect Class

Each year, Allan Smallwood visits school to present the Year 6 class with a dictionary as a gift from The Rotary Club in our Celebration Assembly. This kind gift has already made such a difference to the children's love of words and enables them to check some of the more tricky spellings they want to use in their writing. It is a gift that is truly appreciated and a great example of people giving back to their community (something we often discuss in class.)



See below examples of the delicious meals made for the children everyday by Donna and her team in the kitchen.



Chance to Shine Cricket

Opportunities outside school:

- There are cricket clubs in the local area. If parents have issues with payment, the clubs should be able to offer subsidised or free membership and if they don't, we should be able to help by speaking to the club. The local clubs are:
 - Wescott Cricket Club - <https://westcottcc.com/> - Westcott Cricket Club, Milton street, Wescott, Surrey RH4 3PX
 - North Holmwood Cricket Club - <https://northholmwood.com/> - Inholms Lane, Dorking RH5 4JH
 - Dorking Cricket Club - <https://www.dorkingcc.co.uk/> - The Pavillion, Pixham Lane, Dorking, Surrey RH4 1PQ
- We also offer Pride of Lions coaching courses which take place throughout the county for all age groups from reception to year 11. Details are in the link [here](#).



Internet Safety

Please click on the link below to see how you can keep your children safe whilst using youtube.

https://www.youtube.com/intl/ALL_uk/kids/parent-resources/



BE SMART ONLINE



S SAFE Keep your personal information safe. When chatting or posting online don't give away things like your full name, password or home address. Remember personal information can be seen in images and videos you share too. Keep them safe to keep yourself safe.

M MEET Meeting up with someone you only know online, even a friend of a friend, can be dangerous as this person is still a stranger. If someone you only know online ever asks you to meet up, for personal information or for photos/videos of you then tell an adult straight away and report them together on www.thinkuknow.co.uk

THINK U KNOW

A ACCEPTING Think carefully before you click on or open something online (e.g. links, adverts, friend requests, photos) as you never know where they may lead to or they may contain viruses. Do not accept something if you are unsure of who the person is or what they've sent you.

R RELIABLE You cannot trust everything you see online as some things can be out of date, inaccurate or not entirely true. To find reliable information compare at least three different websites, check in books and talk to someone about what you have found.

T TELL Tell a trusted adult if something or someone ever makes you feel upset, worried or confused. This could be if you or someone you know is being bullied online. There are lots of people who will be able to help you like your teachers, parents, carers or contact Childline - 0800 11 11 or www.childline.org.uk

BE SMART WITH A HEART

Remember to always be smart with a heart by being kind and respectful to others online. Make the internet a better place by helping your friends if they are worried or upset by anything that happens online.

WWW.CHILDNET.COM



NEURODIVERSITY ADVISOR PADLET

FOR PARENTS/CARERS



We understand that navigating life with a Neurodivergent child can be overwhelming. We have brought together key resources and information in a easy to use format.

Please scan the QR code to access our Padlet for Families.

 NDAvisors@surreycc.gov.uk

Diary Dates 2024/5

24th & 25th Oct	Inset Days
28th October -1st Nov	Half Term
November	
4th November	Open Day 4-6pm
12th & 14th Nov	Parents Consultations
18th November	Year 6 Synagogue Trip
18th November	Year 4 Egyptian Workshop
December	
6th December	Christmas Fair 2-4pm
11th December	Christmas Nativity-Nursery/ Reception at 1.30pm
12th December	Year 5 Greek Workshop
13th December	Christmas Jumper Day
17th & 18th December	Christmas Show Yr 1, 2 & 3 at 2pm
18th December	Christmas Lunch
19th December	Christmas Carol Service at St John's Church at 9.30am
19th December	End of Term for Nursery
20th December	End of Term 1.15 Finish
21st-5th January	Christmas Holidays

Diary Dates 2024/25

January

6th January

Inset Day

7th January

Children return to school

8th January

Workshop Circus Skills

10th -14th Jan

Year 6 Bikeability

14th January

Year 4 RE Trip-Shah Jahan Mosque

16th/17th Jan tbc

Year 5 Buddhist Temple Trip

27th January

Year 6 Imperial War Museum Trip

30th January

Year 3 Painshill Park Trip

February

11th Feb

Year 3 Deepdene Trail

17th-21st Feb

Half Term

24th February

GST Inset Day

March

3rd March

Incredible Eggs-Ducklings

18th March

Year 1 Hever Castle Trip

19th-21st March

Year 4 PGL - Overnight Trip

24th March

Year 6 Chartwell Junior Trip

26th-28th March

Year 4 Bikeability

Diary Dates 2024/25

April	
1st April	Year 3 Wisley Gardens
4th April	End of Term Finish 1.15pm
5th - 21st April	Easter Holidays
23rd April	Year 1 Wisley Trip
24th April	Reception Bocketts Farm Trip
29th April	SES Reservoir Trip
May	
5th May	Bank Holiday
12-15th May	Year 6 SATs Week
26th -30th May	Half Term
June	
2nd -6th June	Year 6 Isle of Wight Trip
18th June	Year 6 The Life of Christ Trip
24th June	Year 5 Wisley Gardens Trip
July	
1st July	Year 1 Reigate Beekeepers Trip
17th July	End of Term-1.15pm Finish
18th-22nd July	Inset Days
23rd July-Sept	Summer Holidays