

THE RED SWEATER LETTER

A newsletter from St. John's Middle School



Message from Mrs A. Elwell

Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of a wonderfully busy and successful Spring Term, I would like to take a moment to thank you for your continued support and to share my warmest wishes for the Easter break.

This term has been full of energy, enthusiasm, and achievement across the school. From the excellent work taking place in classrooms every day to the many extracurricular activities, trips, and events, it has been a pleasure to see our pupils so engaged in their learning and development. They have shown resilience, creativity, and a real sense of community, qualities we are incredibly proud of.

With the arrival of spring, there is a real sense of renewal and fresh beginnings. The longer days and brighter weather bring with them a renewed sense of optimism, and it has been lovely to see this reflected in school life. Our outdoor spaces are coming back to life, and pupils have been making the most of opportunities to learn and play outside.

As we move into the Easter break, I hope this provides a valuable opportunity for rest, reflection, and time with family and friends. Easter is often seen as a time of renewal and hope, and whether you celebrate it in a traditional way or simply enjoy the seasonal break, I hope it brings happiness to you all.

We are already looking ahead with excitement to the Summer Term. There is much to look forward to, including new learning opportunities, special events, and continued progress for all our pupils. It is always a term filled with activity and celebration, and we cannot wait to see what our pupils will achieve next.

Thank you once again for being such an important part of our school community. I wish you all a restful and enjoyable Easter break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for the term ahead.

Mrs A. Elwell
Headteacher

"IT ALWAYS
SEEMS
IMPOSSIBLE
UNTIL IT'S
DONE"

Collective Worship

By Miss C. Russell- Head of Music and Worship

On Thursday 26th March we gathered as a whole school at St John's Church for our Holy Week and Easter Service. We traced the passion narrative from Palm Sunday, through to Good Friday and on to S. Mary Magdalene discovering the empty tomb on that first Easter Sunday morning. Revd. Ray encouraged us all to think about what it means to know that the light of the Risen Son is always there with us when things feel dark, and that God is Good - All the Time!

Easter Morning
by
Christina Rossetti

***The sun arises from the sea,
And all around his rays is flinging,
The flowers are opening on the lea,
The merry birds are singing.***

***The summer breeze is rustling past,
Sweet scents are gathering around it,
The rivulet is flowing fast,
Beside the banks that bound it.***

***All nature seemeth to rejoice,
In the returning summer weather;
Let us with nature raise our voice,
And harmonise together.***

***But not alone for summer skies
Shall praise unto our God be given:
This day our Saviour did arise,
And oped the gate of heaven.***

***To sinful man, if only he
His errings will confess with sorrow,
Then, after earth's night-misery,
Shall dawn a glorious morrow:***

***A blissful bright eternity
Bought by the rising of the Giver,
To Whom all praise, all honour be,
For ever and for ever.***

World Book Day

On Thursday 5th March, we celebrated World Book Day in style with a range of fun and creative activities across the school.

Pupils were invited to come dressed as a word, and the results were fantastic. From imaginative costumes to clever interpretations, everyone truly embraced the challenge.

There were some brilliant outfits, including ambitious word choices such as animatronic, ethereal, venturesome and perspicacity!

Throughout the day, pupils also took part in a variety of reading-related activities designed to celebrate books and encourage a love of reading. One of the highlights was the “Decorate a Door” competition, where each class worked together to transform their classroom door into a display inspired by a chosen author. The competition quickly became lively and competitive, and the finished designs were truly phenomenal.

Walking through the corridors, it was wonderful to see the creativity, teamwork, and pride pupils had taken in their work. The colourful displays created a fantastic atmosphere and made the day a memorable celebration for everyone involved. Thank you to all pupils and staff who took part, and well done to our costume winners: Hazel S, Mary H, Elizabeth P, and Ashveer S!



Poetry Slam success!

On Monday 2nd February, we were delighted to once again welcome Spoz and Dreadlock Alien into school to lead a poetry slam workshop for our Year 7 pupils. Throughout the day, students worked closely with the visiting poets to create their own original pieces, developing both their writing and performance skills.

The day concluded with an exciting in-school competition, where pupils performed their poems with confidence and creativity. Our winning team then went on to rehearse and refine their piece in preparation for the Worcestershire Schools' Final, held at the Redditch Palace Theatre on Wednesday 11th March.

Competing against ten other schools, the standard was incredibly high, and our students performed brilliantly, achieving an impressive second place!

A huge and well-deserved congratulations to Amelia J, TikSha W, Harper B, Phoebe F, Gracie J and Constance T on this fantastic achievement!



Scholastic Book Fair

Thank you so much for your fantastic support of our Scholastic Book Fair, which took place from 27th January to 10th February. We are delighted to share that it was a great success, enabling us to claim over £900 worth of free books for our school.

As a result, we have been able to purchase over 50 brand new books for our library, as well as 60 additional copies of novels studied in English lessons. These resources will make a real difference in supporting reading across the school.

We hope that many pupils are also enjoying the books they purchased during the fair and continuing to develop their love of reading.

Year 8 North Bromsgrove High School Visit

Year 8 prefects enjoyed a visit to North Bromsgrove High School in February. They witnessed a live band accompany some fantastic singing and dancing. The talent shown was truly amazing!

Pupils commented:

"I cannot believe how they remembered all the lines and dances - everything was in time."

"That's a good example of perseverance practising 3 times a week for 5 months!"

We hope to be invited back next year. Thank you North Bromsgrove.



Year 7 Art

Year 7 pupils recently visited St John's Church as part of their art studies to take part in an observational drawing session. During the visit, pupils focused on developing their understanding of one-point and two-point perspective while carefully observing the church's architecture. Working outside the classroom allowed them to study the building's structure, lines and details in a real setting, helping to strengthen their drawing skills and appreciation of architectural design. It was a valuable opportunity for pupils to practice key artistic techniques while engaging with a local landmark.



The St John's Reading Project

This year marks the National Year of Reading – a campaign from the National Literacy Trust to encourage all of us to rediscover the joy that reading can bring into our lives. In celebration of the extraordinary range of reading tastes and experiences we have here at St John's, this term marked the launch of the St John's Reading Project. The project is a place for our pupils and staff to share what they have been reading, providing a wealth of recommendations of the new and old favourites that are treasured by our school community.

The English Department have been amazed by the contributions we have received: from thrilling dystopian recommendations to fascinating sports biographies, the project has reminded us once again of what a diverse range of reading interests we have at St John's. The books recommended there take their readers across a range of settings and time periods, providing exciting opportunities to discover something new, and have even given our English staff some new reading recommendations to take home over Easter. If you are looking for a reading recommendation to excite your child (or for yourself!) please have a look on the following link – and keep sharing!

<https://padlet.com/hbone3/the-st-john-s-reading-project-gppv1e6e0jhe1df4>



Fundraising in School

Alexis in Year 7 put on an amazing stall for Mother's Day, fundraising for an upcoming opportunity with Girl Guides. Thank you very much to Alexis for sharing all her hard work, and thank you to everyone who bought cards and gifts!



Tea with Mrs E!



On Friday 27th February, we kicked off a brand-new pupil celebration: Tea with Mrs E!

Mrs Elwell, Ms Birmingham and Mrs Butt were joined by a handful of pupils who truly live our school values every day. It was a wonderful opportunity to recognise and celebrate their positive attitudes, kindness and commitment to our school community. The pupils enjoyed a delicious selection of cakes and biscuits, along with hot chocolate and squash, while spending time together.

We are so proud of the fantastic example these children set for others, and we look forward to many more Tea with Mrs E celebrations to come!



Bookmark Competition

This term, we launched a competition to design a bookmark for all of our library users to enjoy throughout the coming year. We were delighted to receive an amazing 140 entries, making it incredibly difficult to choose between them. As a result, we selected one winner from each year group. The winners are:

Year 5 Harrison. W 5JJA

Year 6 Kenzie. W 6NGE

Year 7 Eloise. H 7RA

Year 8 Ethan. R 8MC

The winners received their prize and certificate during the celebration assemblies.

Year 7 Good News Assembly

On Wednesday 18th March Year 7 were delighted to welcome Lucy Lonergan from Good News to talk about the Bible and to share The Parable of The Sower. An important message, along with the gift of their own New Testament Bible, was received by pupils, who listened maturely and seemed to really take on the importance of having support through challenging times.

We hope the pupils enjoyed this, something that we benefit from every year, and that they cherish their Bibles for years to come.

Mock Trial

On Monday 16th March, our Year 8 Mock Trial team visited Worcester Magistrates' Court as part of their preparation for the upcoming Mock Trial Competition.

Students spent the day observing real court proceedings, which gave them a valuable insight into how the legal system works. They listened to a range of cases and were particularly interested in hearing the outcomes. The visit also allowed them to see first-hand the roles of the Usher, lawyers, Legal Adviser and Magistrates, helping them to better understand what to expect in their own competition.

The experience was both engaging and reassuring for the students, helping to build their confidence ahead of the event.

We would like to thank our link Magistrate, Frank Lauriello, for organising this opportunity, as well as Mrs Hall and Mr Ankcorn for accompanying and supporting the students throughout the day.

Mock Trial Competition

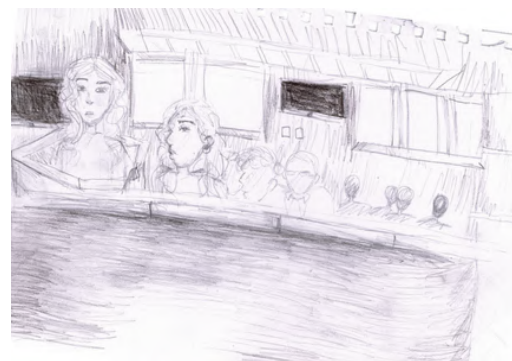
On Saturday 21st March, our Year 8 Mock Trial team took part in the Worcestershire and Herefordshire heat of the national Mock Trial Competition at Worcester Magistrates' Court.

The team has been preparing for this event since October, attending weekly sessions to develop their understanding of the case and their courtroom roles. This year's case involved the theft of a mobile phone from a fictional victim at a bus stop. Students carefully analysed the case, drafted and refined their speeches, and prepared questions for witnesses, as well as practising possible responses. They also learned about the different roles within a courtroom, including lawyers, ushers, magistrates, legal advisers and witnesses.

On the day, the team competed against seven schools, including one other middle school. They prosecuted a case against Lacon Childe School and defended a case against Aston Fields Middle School. Throughout the competition, students showed growing confidence, teamwork, and excellent communication skills, and most importantly, they thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Our team consisted of: Theo B, George C, Ashveer S, Ruby N, Mia J, Chloe W, Narlah W, Lida A, Harriet H, Freya B, Jacob K, Ricardo A, Eleanor P, Susie R, Ashton P, and Isobelle L. Ashton and Isobelle also took on the role of court artists, and their illustrations from the day are shown below.

We would like to thank Mrs Hall, Mr Ankcorn, Miss Mycock, and our link Magistrate, Frank Lauriello, for their support in preparing the students and accompanying them on the day.



P.E. update

Mr. Cowdrey- Head of P.E.



Year 6 District Netball

An incredible achievement for our Year 6 team who won the district competition at Alvechurch.

KS2 Dodgeball

Well done to the boys and girls in KS2 who competed at the Dodgeball competition at the Ryland Centre. We had 3 teams competing and one finishing in 1st place.



County Cross Country

7 pupils from St John's qualified for the county cross country after finishing in the top 8 of their races at district level. Special mention to Harriet who finished 3rd in the Year 6 girls competition out of 39 runners.

P.E. update Continued

Mr. Cowdrey- Head of P.E



KS2 In2Hockey Festival.

Children competed in a hockey festival at Bromsgrove Hockey club against teams from Parkside, Aston Fields and Westacre. Our two teams finished in 5th and 2nd place overall.

KS2 Girls Football

The KS2 girls football team progressed to the semi-final of the County Cup where they will face local rivals Parkside for a place in the final.



Year 8 Boys football

The Year 8 Boys footballers bowed out of the County cup despite a very creditable 1-1 draw against Christopher Whitehead.



Dates For The Diary



19th April - 21st April Year 5 Oaker Wood Residential

27th April - Year 5 Planetarium Workshop

1st May - Year 8 trip to Black Country Museum

11th May - 14th May - SATs Week

18th May- 22nd May- Year 8 Arete Residential



Thank you ASDA

We are delighted to share that Asda has generously donated a fantastic selection of equipment to support our Design Technology department. The donation includes mixing bowls, measuring jugs, chopping boards and a range of essential cooking utensils. These resources will greatly enhance our practical lessons.



Social Media

Our social media pages are officially live!
Follow us on Facebook and Instagram to stay up to date with our latest news and celebrations.

EASTER @ ST JOHNS



Maundy Thursday 2nd April

6pm *The Last Supper & Watchnight @ the Hall*

Good Friday 3rd April

11am *Family Craft Workshops*

12noon *All Age Easter Journey*

1.00pm *Silent Hour*

2.00pm *The Last Hour – readings and meditations.*

Easter Sunday 4th April

5.45am *Sunrise Service & Breakfast*

10.45am *Easter Communion*

St. John the Baptist, 14 Kidderminster Rd B61 7JW



JOIN OUR DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS

SUNDAY SESSIONS

(Starting April 12th 2026)

09:30 - 10:45 Year Groups 1 & 2

09:30 - 10:45 Year Groups 3 & 4

11:15 - 12:45 Year Groups 5 & 6

11:15 - 12:45 Year Groups 7 & 8

St Johns C of E Middle School Academy

2x FREE Sessions then £5 per session

Beau - Chairman - 07876887252 (WhatsApp Only)

Sarah - Welfare Officer - 07453781865