THE RED SWEATER LETTER

A newsletter from St. John's Middle School



Message from Mrs A. Elwell

Headteacher

As we reach the end of another remarkable school year, I find myself reflecting with immense pride on everything that our St John's community has achieved together. It has truly been an amazing year, filled with academic excellence, sporting success and countless opportunities for our pupils to flourish both inside and outside the classroom.

Our pupils have embraced an incredible range of enrichment experiences. From the many clubs on offer, educational visits and residentials to inspiring visitors in school, every opportunity has helped broaden horizons, build confidence and create memories that will last a lifetime. Throughout it all, our children have consistently demonstrated our school values of Forgiveness, Love, Integrity and Perseverance, and they continue to make us incredibly proud.

The final few weeks have certainly been action-packed! Despite the soaring temperatures, there has been no shortage of enthusiasm, laughter and determination, with the excitement of the World Cup adding to the end-of-term celebrations. The energy and spirit around school have been wonderful to see.

This time of year is always bittersweet as we say a fond farewell to our Year 8 pupils. It has been a privilege to watch many of them arrive as young children and grow into confident, caring and capable young adults, ready to spread their wings. They leave us with wonderful memories, lifelong friendships and the values that we hope will guide them through the next stage of their journey. We know they will continue to make us proud.

We also say goodbye to a number of pupils in other year groups who are moving on to new schools and new opportunities. Please remember that you will always be part of our story and forever a member of the St John's family. We wish you every success and encourage you to continue giving your very best in everything that you do.

Sadly, we also bid farewell to some valued members of staff. We thank Miss Mosseri, Miss Birmingham. Miss Brace and Miss Robinson for their dedication, care and contribution to our school community. They have made a lasting difference to the lives of so many children, and we wish each of them every happiness and success as they begin their new adventures.

Finally, I would like to thank our wonderful staff, supportive parents and carers, governors and, most importantly, our fantastic pupils for making this such a successful year. Your continued support, encouragement and partnership are what make St John's such a special place.

I wish you all a happy, restful and well-deserved summer break. Take time to relax, make special memories with family and friends, and stay safe. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September for another exciting year at St John's.

Have a wonderful summer!

'THERE ARE NO SHORTCUTS TO ANY PLACE WORTH GOING'

Collective Worship

By Miss C. Russell- Head of Music and Worship

In this final part of the summer term, We have been continuing to explore what it means to be people of integrity. We have spent time celebrating our Patron Saint, St John the Baptist, and have rounded off the year with our annual leavers celebration service at St John's Church.

During our leavers service, Revd. Ray talked to us about how we can learn from the story of Moses and the people of Israel in the wilderness, and how, despite the fact that they began to lose heart amid their immediate situation, and looked back on their time as slaves in Egypt with rose-tinted spectacles; nevertheless, God was and is faithful, and we can trust that we can overcome temporary setbacks and disappointments by keeping our eyes fixed on Him and the goal ahead.

As we sang during the service:

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard My people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin My hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear My light to them – whom shall I send?

Our challenge as we step forward into the summer holidays and the new year, is to be people who carry the light, and love, and hope of Christ into the lives of those around us.

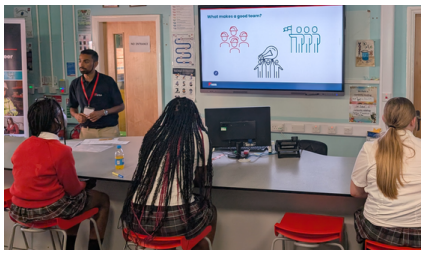


Year 8 Careers Morning

On Friday 26th June, we held our year 8 Careers Day, which was an opportunity for our year 8 pupils to hear about different careers, professions, industries and pathways for the future. Despite the heat and needing to cut the day shorter than planned, pupils got to hear from visitors from DEFRA, the police, Kier, Speller Metcalfe, the Merchant Navy, Barnado's, Kresko Futures and accountancy, as well as possible future pathways into Musical Theatre, opportunities at High School and beyond.

We would like to offer our sincere thanks to all the volunteers who contributed on the day, with engaging talks, activities and workshops, to give our pupils some insight into an exciting range of interesting career paths and options for their futures.









ST JOHN'S CAREERS DAY 2026
EXPLORE. DISCOVER. SHAPE YOUR FUTURE.

Maths Challenge

On Thursday 2nd July, St John's Middle School entered two teams into the local Primary School Team Challenge at Alcester Grammar School. The competition brought together 20 teams to compete across six rounds of challenging mathematical problems set by the United Kingdom Mathematical Trust (UKMT). Both of our teams demonstrated excellent teamwork, resilience, and problem-solving skills throughout the event, thoroughly enjoying each round, including the exciting relay finale. We are delighted to announce that our teams achieved an outstanding second and third place, making it a fantastic result for St John's. Congratulations to all the pupils who took part!



FunFest 2026

On Thursday 9th July, we held our annual FunFest, and what a fantastic day it was! Despite the very hot weather, our pupils embraced the sunshine and had an amazing time enjoying all the inflatable activities.

There was plenty of delicious food to enjoy, with Monster Grill serving up tasty treats throughout the day. The ice cream van was also a huge hit, with pupils cooling down with whippy ice creams and refreshing slushies.

The day was filled with laughter, excitement, and smiling faces from start to finish. It was wonderful to see everyone having so much fun together and making special memories. A huge thank you to everyone who helped organise and support this fantastic event—we're already looking forward to next year's FunFest!











Twycross Zoo

On the 10th June, 56 St John's pupils had a fantastic day out at Twycross Zoo, generously funded by The Rotary Club. Pupils got to see lots of amazing animals, including giraffes, monkeys, zebras and penguins. The children loved exploring the zoo and finding out more about the different animals and the places they come from.

As well as seeing the animals, pupils learned about the important conservation work carried out by the zoo to help protect endangered species around the world. It was great to learn how zoos can play a vital role in caring for wildlife and helping animals thrive for future generations.

The day wasn't without a little excitement! We were caught in a sudden thundery downpour, which left us all a bit soggy, but the pupils took it in their stride and kept smiling throughout. The Charity 'Kids in Mind' also kindly gifted a big box for us to being home, so we are very grateful to them too.

It was a great trip, and the children were a real credit to St John's with their enthusiasm, curiosity and excellent behaviour. We all came home with lots of happy memories and plenty of stories to tell.



Year 8 Prefect Trip to Drayton Manor

As a thank you for their hard work, commitment and dedication throughout the year, our prefects were rewarded with a fantastic trip to Drayton Manor Theme Park.

After giving up their time to support the school, represent their houses and take on their leadership responsibilities, the prefects enjoyed a well-deserved day of fun, excitement and plenty of laughter. Despite the very hot weather, everyone had a brilliant time making memories together and enjoying the rides and attractions.

It was a great opportunity to celebrate the positive contribution our prefects have made this year and to recognise the important role they play within our school community.

Well done to all of our prefects — you should be incredibly proud of everything you have achieved.

Year 8 Leavers Event

On Thursday 16th July, we held our annual Year 8 Leavers' Event. Our Year 8 students enjoyed a fantastic evening on the school field, taking part in a range of games, listening to music, and having great fun with bubble football.
It was wonderful to see so many of our Year 8 students spending time together, celebrating their time at our school and creating lasting memories before moving on to their new schools in September. We wish them all the very best for the exciting journey ahead.











Cadbury World Trip

Following a topic on Chocolate, The Launchpad decided to visit Cadbury World this term. We had the most fantastic day, travelling by bus and train practicing using timetables and then learning about the origins of chocolate and the
Bournville factory itself.
Everyone's favourite part of the day was the 4D cinema, where we experienced being on a chocolate rollercoaster, followed by a 'very hot' lunch in the playground. We then had to make a quick exit home before all of our 'chocolate stash' melted.





Year 7 Commandery Trip

This Year, the Year 7's went on a school History trip to The Commandery in Worcester. It was full of fun activities (Both inside and outside), interesting facts and fascinating stories.
When we first arrived, once we had dropped off our bags, we went upstairs and had a talk about different types of armour and what type of people in the Civil War would wear them. Multiple children tried on the armour and all said it was very heavy. We also had a look at the types of weapons and how you would load them.
After that, we went into a room with a 3D map of Worcester in the times of the Civil War. Mr Edwards then talked to us about the layout of Worcester and the next two rooms we're about Medieval medication and murals.
Then we went to the other side of the building which had rooms about Royalists and Parliamentarians and what women would wear during the Civil War. Then we had our lunch and went to our next activities.
Our next activity was learning how to use the pikes. We learnt four different stances.
After that we learnt about the medicinal gardens and the Hamilton room (Where we heard ghost stories) which had pictures of all the ruling monarchs. Lastly, we had a talk about what treatment on the frontline was like if you were injured.
The trip was very fun and educational.
By Izzy J

For our year 7 history trip we went to the Worcestershire Commandery!
Overall it was an amazing experience! It managed to combine being both educational and entertaining! This was a great, fun way to learn and explore more on our English civil war topic!

Firstly, we learnt about roles in the English civil war including the pikeman, musketeer and the cavalry, we learnt about which roles were more or less dangerous and some of the weapons used in battle! We also got to try on some of the armour/uniform that these soldiers would've worn. This was a favourite for me and many others in the year.
In the English civil war both royalists and parliamentarians sometimes wore red! This meant it was extremely hard for soldiers on either sides to tell friend from foe.

The next room was filled with a miniature map of Worcester which was extremely interesting! The room next to that had several medical treatments. The walls were covered in depictions and illustrations, most of which included religion or god! All of the medical treatments were very fascinating; it's incredibly strange to think that some of the most common occurrences were treated so seriously or gruesomely in the past! For example in the 1600s nosebleeds were treated with leeches as they believed it meant you had excess amounts of blood that needed to be removed! Unfortunately don't believe the Stuart times were meant for me!

Another room we visited was referred to as "the ghost room" this room was filled with some of the most haunting ghost stories! Some of the stories were even from staff that work there to this day. Again, this was an extremely intriguing room! This one was also a personal favourite as it also gave snippets of history too!

Another workshop was when we were taught how to use a miniature pike (a spear-like weapon used by pikemen during the English civil war) we learnt different formations for different situations that occurred during the English civil war. This was very enjoyable, especially when paired with your friends!

One of the other rooms was visited was called the "Hamilton room" and no, this is not about the musical or the formula 1 driver. This room is named after the 2nd Duke of Hamilton, William Hamilton. He was the commander-in-chief for Charles the II. During the English civil war he was shot in the leg by a cannon ball and was sent to the commandery (which formerly was a hospital) however, he refused an amputation even when offered one of Oliver Cromwell's surgeons. This later led to his death a few days later on 12th September 1651. He was originally buried underneath the Hamilton room but was later moved to Worcestershire cathedral.

The final hour of the day was spent learning about surgery during the English civil war. This focused primarily on what would happen should you need immediate surgery! If you were shot in either the leg or arm instead of attempting to stitch it they would've likely amputated it instead. In battle they weren't treated based on urgency or fatality but on how quick the treatment would be in order to send them back on the battlefield.

It was such a privilege to visit the commandery! I thoroughly enjoyed it and would definitely recommend anyone to visit it, but especially any history lovers.

By Esme

Year 6 Drama Workshop

Year six students took part in a WW1 history drama workshop. The staff taught us a little bit more about WW1 poems and how they were very popular in the war. They also taught us that the government put up posters claiming that the war was fun.

We used actions to act out the events of WW1 which helped us to understand the events a bit better. They also put us into groups and gave us each a phrase from a poster from the government in WW1. We had to act out the phrase.

My group's poster phrase was "Daddy? What did you do in the war?" We acted this out by three of us sitting on the floor looking at the person sitting on a chair, inquisitive. The person standing was making a surprised and guilty and slightly alarmed face. We did this to show that the person standing- the "Dad"- felt guilty and regretful for not participating in the fighting of the war, suggesting that you would feel the same way if you did not take part. Our attempt was very similar to the original poster- conveying the same message.

I enjoyed it because it was a different way of learning and it helped me understand WW1 even better because acting it out showed me a different perspective and helped me fully appreciate the impact of the events in WW1 on people.

Olivia M 6NGE

The St John's Reading Project Hits 212 Recommendations!

It has been a phenomenal National Year of Reading at St John's, where thanks to the amazing contributions of our pupils this year, we are ending the year with a spectacular 212 reading recommendations to the St John's Reading Project. From breath-taking adventure stories to spine-tingling mysteries, the project has showcased the astonishing range of interests here at St John's. Below are some of the incredible contributions from across the school.



When a crazy scientist called Dr Preposterous makes a 3D virtual reality game she invites Georgie, Ramsey and Mr Mash (Georgie's dog) to play the game. What started as a game then became serious as a deadly dog plague that can kills lots of dogs and humans spread widely. They have to go into the future to get the cure and save the world. Will they succeed??
The suspense was high at every page turn and I couldn't put it down.

Your House
Stuart

First Name & Form
Matthew 6JAB



In The Escape Room, four ambitious coworkers are summoned to what they think is a routine team-building exercise—only to find themselves trapped in a high-stakes escape room high above the city. As the clock ticks down, tensions rise, secrets surface, and the line between game and reality begins to blur. What starts as a puzzle quickly turns into a psychological battle, where survival depends on more than just solving clues.

Your House
Hanover

First Name & Form
Isla-Faye 8MH



Fen and Rey were found as babies, curled up with the foxes. Now they live at the Light House where children write to the mothers that they wished they had; until the day a fox appears.
A story that I loved and I wished that it never ended.

Your House
Stuart

First Name & Form
Emily 8MH

Book Title
Foxlight



When her dad dies, Alex Evans is left with her mum who takes everything a bit too seriously and tries to protect Alex from everything and everyone.

When it all becomes too much for her, a secret escapes which leads Alex to a whole different life, where her destiny is in her own hands and where fighting may be the only option.

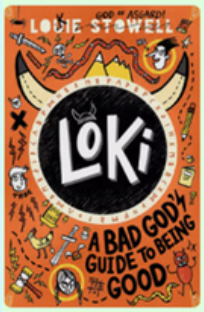
A great book for anyone that likes the fantasy genre. As a Skandar fan, I enjoyed this a lot.



The Wild Robot by Peter Brown tells the story of a robot named Roz who unexpectedly finds herself alone on a remote island after a shipwreck. Surrounded by unfamiliar wildlife, Roz must learn to adapt to the natural world and slowly earns the trust of the animals through observation, patience, and kindness. As she adjusts to her new environment, she discovers what it means to survive, belong, and form connections.

Your House
Stuart

Loki: A Bad God's Guide to Being Good



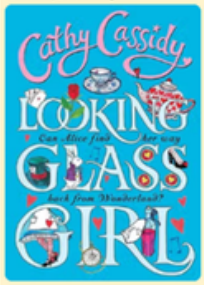
It's a bit like a diary where Loki, the god of mischief, is sent down to earth for the mischief he has committed. The plot is that there is a game where if Loki gets a certain number of points, he gets sent down to be tortured in a pit of serpents for eternity. It's really funny!

Your House
Tudor

First Name & Form
Jude 7HKB

Book Title
Loki: A Bad God's Guide to Being Good

Fantasy/retelling



Looking Glass girl is an amazing retelling of Alice in wonder land with a modern twist.

When fantasy and modern life dramas in school meet, Alice finds herself in a friendship mess.

Your House
Hanover

First Name & Form
Ayla 6JAB

Book Title
Looking Glass Girl

Book Author
Cathy Cassidy

Stars /5
5

Year 8 Residential Trip to Arete

Year 8 Residential Trip to Arete Outdoor Centre, North Wales

Our Year 8 residential trip to Arete Outdoor Centre in North Wales was an incredible success. Although the weather was mixed at times, it certainly did not dampen spirits! Every student who attended gave 100% effort, enthusiasm and determination throughout the week, embracing every challenge with positivity, resilience and a willingness to step outside their comfort zones.

The trip was packed with exciting activities that created unforgettable memories and encouraged students to challenge themselves. During their time underground, students explored historic slate mines, tackling abseils, zip lines, climbing challenges, and even experiencing the unique sensation of total darkness deep beneath the surface.

Above ground, the adventures continued with rock climbing, abseiling, bouldering, and an exhilarating zip line across a quarry. Students also enjoyed body boarding in the sea, making the most of North Wales' stunning coastline. Some groups had the opportunity to take part in coasteering, scrambling and traversing along the rugged coastline, while others worked together to paddle a raft along the Menai Strait, developing teamwork and communication skills in a truly spectacular setting.

One of the highlights for many was gorge walking, where students navigated their way through a river before reaching a breathtaking waterfall. These activities required courage, determination and cooperation, and our students rose brilliantly to every challenge.

Alongside the adventurous activities, students participated in a wide range of team-building events, including blindfolded obstacle courses, night hikes and orienteering challenges. There was also time to relax and enjoy watching the Europa League Final together, providing plenty of opportunities for friendship, laughter and shared experiences.

Throughout the trip, every student was a credit to themselves, their families and the school. Staff were incredibly impressed by the support students showed one another, their exemplary behaviour and their willingness to get involved in every activity. Whether conquering a fear of heights, encouraging a teammate, navigating a gorge, or simply embracing every moment with enthusiasm, the students were truly fantastic.

The week was filled with adventure, challenge, personal achievement and fun, and it is safe to say that everyone returned home with wonderful memories and a tremendous sense of accomplishment. Well done, Year 8 – we are incredibly proud of each and every one of you!







Chess Tournament

This year saw the inaugural St John's Chess Tournament from the Maths Department, with all four houses competing across every year group for the honour of having their house colour tied around the first-ever St John's Chess Trophy, which will stand proudly on display in the school reception.

Many pupils have attended Chess Club every Friday lunchtime throughout the year, and their commitment and enthusiasm culminated in this exciting tournament. The scores were incredibly close throughout the competition, with pupils demonstrating impressive perseverance, strategic thinking, and excellent sportsmanship.

Congratulations to everyone who took part. Every participant will receive a certificate in their Celebration Assembly in recognition of their achievement and effort.

Final Results:

1st Place: Windsor

2nd Place: Hanover

Joint 3rd Place: Tudor and Stuart

Well done to all our competitors on making the first St John's Chess Tournament such a fantastic success!

Mrs Foxall

Bishop Hugh's Art Competition

Huge congratulations to Harry (KS2) and Autumn (KS3) on their fantastic success in the Bishop Hugh Art Competition.

Their outstanding artwork impressed the judges, and they were both named winners in their respective age categories. As part of their prize, Harry and Autumn have been invited to enjoy afternoon tea with Bishop Hugh—a wonderful and well-deserved recognition of their creativity and talent.





Childrens University Graduation

On Friday 3rd July, 30 pupils attended a special graduation ceremony at the University of Worcester to celebrate their achievements with Children's University.

Since the autumn term, these pupils have shown outstanding commitment by taking part in a wide range of extra-curricular activities and carefully logging their learning hours. To achieve a Bronze Certificate, pupils were required to complete at least 30 hours of learning beyond the classroom, and we are delighted that every one of our 30 participants achieved this award or higher. One particularly exceptional pupil logged more than 800 hours – a truly remarkable achievement that demonstrates extraordinary dedication, enthusiasm and perseverance.

We could not be prouder of all our Children's University participants this academic year. Through their commitment to learning beyond the school day, they have developed new skills, built confidence and resilience, and broadened their horizons by embracing a wide variety of enriching experiences.

Children's University is a national programme delivered by the University of Worcester that celebrates and rewards learning outside the classroom. Pupils can gain learning hours through a diverse range of activities, including sports clubs, performing arts, volunteering, community projects, dog walking and environmental initiatives such as litter picking. By recording their participation, children work towards nationally recognised certificates that celebrate their commitment and achievements.

These awards are presented at a memorable graduation ceremony, where pupils wear traditional caps and gowns and are recognised for their hard work and dedication. It was a wonderful occasion, and seeing our pupils receive the recognition they so richly deserved made us immensely proud.

Congratulations to every one of our graduates on their fantastic achievements. We look forward to watching them continue their Children's University journey and celebrate even greater milestones in the years ahead.



Year 6 Bonterre Farm Trip

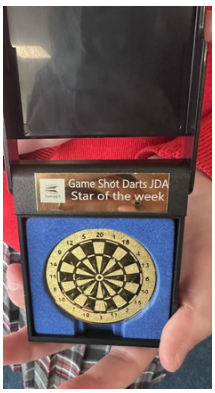
Year 6 enjoyed a fantastic educational visit to Bonterre Farm in June, helped along by warm, sunny weather that made the whole day feel even more special.
The children threw themselves into every activity, starting with planting vegetables in the farm's growing beds. They weren't afraid to get stuck in, working together brilliantly and showing real interest in how food is grown.
A highlight of the day was the Pets Corner, where pupils met an amazing range of animals. These included pigs, sheep and a group of orphaned lambs who were being hand-reared by the farm team. The children were particularly moved by the rescued battery hens, now enjoying a much happier life. They also met rats, guinea pigs, hamsters, rabbits and even tortoises, learning how each animal is cared for.

Later, the children helped make pasta sauce using vegetables grown on the farm, discovering how fresh produce becomes food on our plates. They also took part in a short science session on plant reproduction, linking their hands-on experience to classroom learning.
Throughout the visit, the children were amazing—enthusiastic, polite, helpful and fully engaged. They represented St John's beautifully and were a real credit to both their families and the school. It was a day full of learning, laughter and pride

Congratulations Hannah!



Congratulations to Hannah who has won her first Darts Award! I'm Hannah in 5JJA and I love darts! I've been playing for quite a while now and I win lots of prizes. I have lots of friends in my club too. When I first joined my darts team, it was weird being the only girl, but, then I met another girl my age and we are still friends to this day! Darts is my favourite sport ever and I love to think I'm unique for playing this sport. Someday, I want to be on TV playing darts and being famous for it. That's my dream!



STEM Challenge

STEM Challenge Grand Final – Mazak Worcester
St John's proudly reached the STEM Challenge Grand Final at Mazak Worcester, represented by Adam and Amara, from year 5 who showcased exceptional creativity and teamwork. This year's theme was "Amusement Park", and the finalists were tasked with designing and making a working model that demonstrated real mechanical understanding. Adam and Amara impressed judges with their clear knowledge of mechanisms, confidently explaining how their gears and pulleys worked together to power their design. Their enthusiasm never dipped, even on a very hot day — thank goodness for the air conditioning inside the Mazak building.
With temperatures soaring outside, the judges carried out their deliberations, the children enjoyed a well-earned brownie and a drink, adding a moment of calm to an exciting day. The judging was incredibly tough — in the judges' own words, "there could only be one winner and one runner-up" — but the standard of entries was exceptional across the board, making their decision extremely difficult.
While St John's didn't take home a trophy this time, Adam and Amara were outstanding representatives of our school — smiling throughout, supporting each other, and showing real engineering promise. Both received a goodie bag from the organisers and thanked them for their entry.
A brilliant achievement and a day they should feel very proud of.







Transition Morning

On Monday 13th July we welcomed our new intake of children for an exciting transition morning. It was fantastic to see so many happy faces as they walked through the gates into their new middle school. All of the Year 4 children engaged in lessons, behaved brilliantly and showed our St John's teachers just how great they will be next year. We wish all of the Year 4 children a fantastic summer and we can't wait to welcome you back in September.

P.E. update

Mr. Cowdrey- Head of P.E.



We held our annual Sports Awards evening with guest speakers from the Birmingham City women's U21 academy. Congratulations to all our award winners for another amazing year of sport at St John's.



Our KS2 Boccia team competed at County Finals and came away as overall winners!

Both Year 5 and Year 6 boys cricket teams performed admirably at district competition against tough opposition.



P.E. update Continued

Mr. Cowdrey- Head of P.E

KS2 Girls footballers were crowned Vertu Cup champions for the second year running at St Andrews Stadium. They also won the County Cup and were named team of the year at Sports Awards Evening.





Almost 50 pupils attended our cricket, tennis and hockey fixture against Aston Fields. The hockey team drew 2-2 in their first fixture and there were notable performances in the cricket and tennis matches.







Pupils performed with great skill and determination at the District Athletics competitions. We had some fantastic performances and all teams finished in 2nd or 3rd positions.

Congratulations Lennon!

We are delighted to celebrate Year 6 pupil Lennon, who continues to demonstrate St John's value of "Give of Your Best."

Following an outstanding season of learning, development and hard work, Lennon has successfully been retained by West Bromwich Albion Football Club's Academy for the upcoming season. He is now looking forward to representing the club at Under-12s level.

Lennon's commitment to his football is exceptional, with training and matches taking place at an elite level across four days each week. This has given him the opportunity to play at some of the country's most iconic football grounds while continuing to develop both on and off the pitch.

Alongside his sporting achievements, Lennon has maintained excellent academic standards throughout Year 6. As he awaits his SATs results, we are incredibly proud of the dedication, resilience and determination he has shown in balancing his studies with a demanding training schedule.

Lennon is a fantastic ambassador for himself, his family and St John's, and we look forward to following his exciting football journey. Congratulations, Lennon—we are all incredibly proud of you!





Well Done Maisie

We are incredibly proud of Maisie B-P, who is taking on a very special challenge this summer to support The Little Princess Trust.

Over the summer holidays, she will be having her long hair cut so that it can be donated and made into a wig for a child who has lost their hair due to cancer treatment. Alongside this amazing donation, she is also raising money for the charity and hopes to reach her fundraising target of £700.

If you would like to support her efforts, donations can be made through her JustGiving page, "Help Little Princesses".

We are inspired by her kindness, generosity and determination to help others, and we wish her the very best in reaching her goal. Every donation, no matter how small, will help make a difference to children and young people who need support during challenging times.

Thank you for your support.



Dates For The Diary

1st September - TED Day

2nd September - Year 5's in

3rd September - All Years back

9th September - School Photographs

22nd September - Year 6 Trip to Witley Court

22nd and 23rd October - TED Days

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.

St John's Middle School Academy

STJOHNSMIDDLESCHOOL

Great British Summer Savings

Rising prices can make life's little treats harder to afford, especially during the school holidays when costs build up for families. This Government is determined to help, and that is why last month the Chancellor announced the Great British Summer Savings scheme.

From 25 June to 1 September 2026, the Government is temporarily cutting VAT from 20% to 5% on children's meals in restaurants, children and family tickets to cinemas, theatres, concerts and exhibitions, and admission to a wide range of attractions. Combined with free bus travel during August for children aged 5 to 15 in England, families and young people will be able to enjoy experiences that make summer special, including visits to the kinds of cultural and educational attractions that enrich children's lives outside the classroom.

Free School Meals – Check if you are eligible

The Department for Education has recently updated the eligibility criteria for Free School Meals. This means some families may now qualify, even if they have not been eligible in the past.

If you receive Universal Credit, you should apply. We strongly encourage all families to check their eligibility and submit an application.

To apply, you will need:

- Your name
- Your National Insurance number
- Your date of birth

Find out more and apply online here: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

Please note: the application system will be unavailable from 9 July to 15 July.

Free School Meals team

freeschoolmeals@worcestershire.gov.uk

Wild school holiday fun

Worcestershire Wildlife Trust

Don't get bored in the school holidays - try our fun nature activities instead!

Summer family nature day

Wednesday 19 August
10am - 2pm
Lower Smite Farm, Smite Hill, Worcester, WR3 8SZ

Explore a nature trail around the farm, get creative with a range of flora-inspired craft activities and have a go at hands-on wildlife activities such as pond dipping and minibeast hunts.
Bring a picnic to enjoy on our benches and listen to the sounds of nature all around.

Free entry and no need to book! Find out more at bit.ly/SummerFamilyNatureDay2026

How to watch moths

You will need a white sheet, a washing line, pegs, a bright lamp or torches.

1. Peg your sheet on a washing line or over a branch.

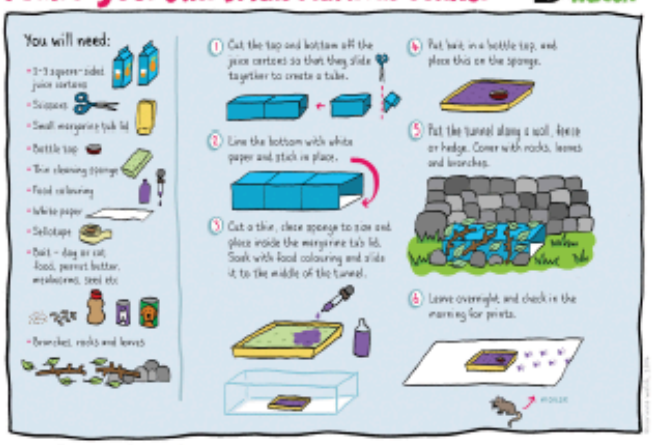
2. Turn off nearby lights.

3. Shine your torch or light onto the sheet ... wait patiently.

4. Identify the moths that gather.

Make your own small mammal tunnel

wildlife watch



www.wildlifewatch.org.uk

CYBER CHOICES

KNOW THEIR DIGITAL WORLD

Education and awareness is key to our intervention work. There is no age limit to who we support.

WHO ARE WE?

The Cyber Prevent Team delivers the national Cyber Choices Programme, helping young people make safe, responsible, and legal choices online. Through education on cyber law, including the Computer Misuse Act, we support informed decision-making and raise awareness of the consequences of cyber crime.

We also encourage positive cyber opportunities by promoting skills development, training, and future education and career pathways, helping to prevent young people from being involved in cyber criminality.

WHAT DO WE DO?

This programme is aimed at individuals who are at risk of, or on the cusp of, committing cyber-dependent crimes.

Cyber dependant crimes are offences that can only be committed with technology:

- Hacking
- Cheating/Modding online games
- Breaking IT rules
- DDoS or DoS - tools to impair systems and services
- Unauthorised access to computers, phones, networks, and devices



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Sign up to our webinar on the 28th July 2026

Visit our website

OR

COUNTER TERRORISM POLICING
WEST MIDLANDS CTU

ROCU
WEST MIDLANDS REGION

THE COM

ANYONE CAN JOIN THE CHAT...

WHAT IT IS

Community 'Com' Networks are online groups involved in child sexual abuse, cybercrime and offline violence. However, not all cases involve all three.

The majority of those involved are children under the age of 18.

Perpetrators may target children who are discussing topics online such as mental health disorders, neurodiversity or self-harm but they are active on virtually all social media and online gaming platforms. Discord and Telegram are particularly popular.

The communities share extreme material which may include:

- Child sexual abuse
- Violence and gore
- Animal abuse or torture
- Misogynistic and 'incel' beliefs
- Extreme/violent pornography
- Racist and occultist materials
- Hacking tools and exploits

INDICATIONS OF CONCERN

The following behaviours are indicators that a young person may be involved in an abusive relationship with a Com group:

- Self-harm (cutting letters/symbols is of particular note)
- Numbers, letters, sysmbols written in blood on walls
- Interest in extreme themes
- Disengaging in education
- Obsession with new online friends
- Unexplained injuries to pets or sibilings
- Unexplained money or gifts



HOW TO GET SUPPORT

Any concerns should be reported to one of the following for safeguarding and diversion support; reference "Operation Driftglen":

- Local police forces call '101' (non-emergency)
- School safeguarding lead (DSL)
- Local social services
- Crimestoppers 0800 555 111 (anonymous)
- Cyber Prevent/NCA/NCSC and or CT Prevent