THE RED SWEATER LETTER

A newsletter from St. John's Middle School



Message from Mrs A. Elwell

Headteacher

It has been a wonderful start to the new academic year at St John's, and it has been a real pleasure to welcome our new Year 5 pupils into the St John's family. They have settled in beautifully and are already becoming an important part of our school community. We have also welcomed a new member to the team, our school dog, Pippa, who is settling in well and bringing plenty of smiles along the way!

The first half term has been full of exciting events, memorable experiences and fantastic achievements. From our Harvest Festival, which provided a wonderful opportunity to come together as a school community, to sporting victories, trips and visits, there has been so much to celebrate. It is always a pleasure to see our pupils embracing opportunities, showing perseverance and integrity, and giving of their best in all that they do.

As we approach half term, I would like to thank our staff for their continued dedication and hard work, and our families for their ongoing support. I hope everyone enjoys a well-deserved break, with time to relax, recharge and spend time with family and friends.

When we return, we will begin the exciting lead-up to Christmas, with plenty to look forward to! Please make a note of our forthcoming Firework Evening and Christmas Fayre, both of which are important opportunities to bring our community together while raising valuable funds to support the school and enrich the experiences we can offer our pupils.

I wish all our families a lovely half term and look forward to welcoming everyone back rested and ready for another busy and exciting half term at St John's.

With best wishes,
Mrs A. Elwell
Headteacher

'WORK HARD, BE KIND AND AMAZING THINGS WILL HAPPEN'

Collective Worship

By Miss C. Russell- Head of Music and Worship

Collective Worship - Harvest
“Actions speak louder than words. Let your words teach and your actions speak.” - St Anthony of Padua

We rounded off our halfterm looking at LOVE by showing love practically to our local community as we gathered together offerings of tinned and dried goods for our Harvest Festival collection, as we met together at St John's Church to give thanks to God for the bounty of harvest and creation, we left our donations at the altar. All of these items will go to bless others through Fresh Starts. During our Harvest service we looked at the parable of the Sower from Matthew 13, and thought about how we can be good soil.





Good Ground
I love your simple story of the sower,
With all its close attention to the soil,
Its movement from the knowledge to the knower,
Its take on the tenacity of toil.

I feel the fall of seed a sower scatters,
So equally available to all,
Your story takes me straight to all that matters,
Yet understands the reasons why I fall.

Oh deepen me where I am thin and shallow,
Uproot in me the thistle and the thorn,
Keep far from me that swiftly snatching shadow,
That seizes on your seed to mock and scorn.

O break me open, Jesus, set me free,
Then find and keep your own good ground in me.
Malcolm Guite

Message from Mrs Hall

Head of Year 5

I would like to start by saying how wonderful it has been to welcome the children back to school after the summer holiday, especially all pupils who started their journey at St John's in September. This first half term has flown by so quickly!

In the mornings, all children now line up on the playground before coming into school. It has been a pleasure to see how proud every pupil is to be part of the St John's community and how smart everyone looks in their uniform. As always, it is very important that everyone arrives in the correct uniform and that all items of clothing, including ties, are named so that they can be returned if lost. Please also ensure that aprons used for DT and Art lessons are clearly named. If you have any questions about uniform, please contact your child's form tutor.

Reading at school and at home is something we are passionate about. As a result, we have increased the size of our school library, expanded the rewards we give for reading, and introduced some exciting new opportunities across the school. Year 5 pupils are now bringing home their reading journals, and it is wonderful to see how much they are enjoying reading at home. Thank you to everyone who is supporting our pupils with their reading. If you have not done so already, please record, or encourage your child to record, their reading so they do not miss out on the extra points and prizes available.

Earlier this term, pupils in Years 5 and 6 had the opportunity to take part in our first competition. It was fantastic to see so many pupils getting involved in designing a scarecrow. Throughout the year, we will be holding more competitions. The more people who take part, the more house points can be earned for our four houses: Hanover, Windsor, Tudor and Stuart.

With summer now a distant memory and the weather changing, please could I remind you to name every item of clothing and equipment brought into school, including coats. We currently have a large number of hoodies and jumpers in our lost property collection. It is also an important time of year to remind pupils to stay safe and be seen when travelling to and from school, especially when crossing roads. These reminders have been shared with all pupils during assemblies.

I am really looking forward to the year ahead. Thank you for your continued support.

Witley Court

Year 6 pupils all visited Witley Court and gardens in September. We were very lucky with the weather so the pupils were able to see the fountain and buildings in all their glory. Pupils took some beautiful photographs and were able to produce some quality observational pieces. One pupil relayed she wanted to stay there as it was so pretty.
Staff are looking forward to seeing the art work the pupils produce this term.





Scarecrow Competition

Years 5 and 6 pupils were asked to design a scarecrow for Churchfields annual competition. The winner this year was..... from 5KSP. The pupils from the class were able to help make the scarecrow and recieved tickets to see the festival. Great team work!



Congratulations to Josh H in Year 8!



Josh has been awarded the Best Cadet Award at Summer Camp 2026, where he was proudly presented with the Ridge Trophy and Commandant's Coin!
Since joining the Cadets Band Detachment earlier this year, Josh has already achieved so much. Not only has he embraced his new role, but he has also helped raise funds to support senior members of the band who travelled to Colorado earlier this year.
Josh is already looking ahead to the future and hopes to join the senior band members on an overseas trip next year!
We are incredibly proud of Josh's achievements, dedication and enthusiasm. What a fantastic start to his cadet journey! Keep up the amazing work, Josh!



World Mental Health Day

On Friday 9th October, our school took part in raising funds for YoungMinds to mark World Mental Health Day. Pupils were invited to wear something yellow to show their support for mental health awareness.

We're delighted to announce that, thanks to everyone's generosity, we raised an amazing £301!

Our Library

Over the summer holidays, our school library has had a makeover! The library has moved into a new room and has been transformed into a bright, welcoming space for everyone to enjoy. With a wonderful selection of books and a peaceful, quiet area for reading, the new library is the perfect place for pupils to relax, explore new stories and discover their next favourite book. We are delighted with how the space looks and look forward to seeing our pupils enjoy everything our new library has to offer!





Time Tables Rock Stars Launch

The Maths Department are excited to launch Times Tables Rock Stars on Monday 2nd November. Over the coming weeks, all pupils will receive their individual login details and have the opportunity to begin practising their times tables both in school and at home.

To celebrate the launch, we will be starting our first ever Rock Stars Battle, with Year 5 taking on Year 6 and Year 7 competing against Year 8. Pupils will earn points for their year group by practising and improving their times table fluency.
We are looking forward to seeing some healthy competition, lots of enthusiasm and, most importantly, increased confidence and speed with multiplication facts across the school. Good luck to all our Rock Stars! 🎸⭐🤘



Congratulations Olivia!

A huge congratulations to Olivia, who has shown incredible determination and kindness by taking part in the Kids Summer Challenge in aid of Birmingham Children's Hospital over the summer holidays.
Olivia challenged herself to run, walk or swim for 31 miles in 31 days, raising an amazing £530! What a fantastic achievement!

Olivia wanted to give something back to the hospital that has supported her and her family through some difficult times. Her fundraising is a wonderful way to say thank you and help other children and families who need that same care and support.

Olivia is already looking ahead to her next challenge, with plans to raise funds for brain tumour charities and Grace Kelly Childhood Cancer Trust, both of which have supported her family.
We are incredibly proud of Olivia's efforts, generosity and determination. Well done, Olivia, on making such a positive difference to others!



https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/amy1784653698276?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL&utm_campaign=lc_frp_share_transaction_fundraiser_page_donation_received_-_nth_donation>

P.E. update

Mr. Cowdrey- Head of P.E.

Congratulations to the Year 6 Girls football team who won their district competition at Catshill Middle School. They will now go on to represent the district at county level.





The Year 6 Boys team reached the semi-final but narrowly missed out on the final. Congratulations to all involved.

Well done to our KS3 Girls football team who came 2nd in the Utilita cup. The girls played 9 games in total: winning 7, drawing 1 and losing 1, and only conceded 2 goals all tournament. This meant that they narrowly missed out on representing Birmingham City in the next round by 1 point. Well done to all the girls involved.



P.E. update Continued

Mr. Cowdrey- Head of P.E





Well done to our Netball teams who played friendlies against Aston Fields Middle School and won every fixture.
Year 5 girls won 42-1
Year 6 girls won 8-5
Year 7 girls won 16-5
Year 8 girls won 12-10
Outstanding efforts from all the girls involved.





Bonfire Fundrasing Event

5th November 2026

Back by popular demand!

Tickets Available Now!

Get ready for a night of sparkle, sound and celebration!

Bring the Noise will be lighting up the sky once again with an unforgettable fireworks display!

Dazzling Fireworks
Glow Sticks
Delicious Food & Refreshments

Don’t miss out — get your tickets now!



Christmas Fayre

7th December- Chrsitmas Fayre

We’re delighted to announce that our annual Christmas Fayre is returning again this year!

Each class will have a theme for their very own stall, and we can’t wait to see our hall transformed into a festive wonderland, filled with Christmas cheer, creativity and lots of seasonal magic!

Keep your eyes peeled for more details coming soon!



Dates For The Diary

5th November- Fireworks Fundraiser Event

2nd November- Times Table Rockstars

3rd December- KS3 Bowling Trip

7th December- Chrsitmas Fayre

8th December- Year 5 Christmas Panto Trip

10th December- Year 6 Christmas Panto Trip

14th December - Gingerbread Comptetiion

15th December - KS3 Christmas Church Service

16th December- KS2 Christmas Church Service

17th December - Chrsitmas Dinner

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

Bromsgrove Sporting are hosting a Celebraty charity football match on the 22nd November. Tickets are available now!
Funds raised will be going to The Rose and Daisy Foundation. An amazing local charity doing some incredible work! Please use this link to buy your tickets

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/celebrity-charity-football-match-at-bromsgrove-sporting-football-club-tickets-2001834323349

