



St John's Weekly Newsletter

Growing Together in Love and Respect

Dear St John's families,

It has been a pleasure this week to hear the teachers speaking with families and sharing with me the supportive exchanges that have happened. The teachers, staff and children have all worked very hard this half term and all deserve a break over half term.

Part of my role as Headteacher is to be aware of the national picture for education. One of the things that is happening both locally and nationally, at the moment, is increased staff absence matched with huge difficulties in getting supply teachers.

As a school, consistency for the children is very important and so we are working hard when we get staff illness to put in place the same adult when we can. The governors and I have also been working on a longer term plan that means, where possible, we can cover staff absence within our team. Of course it is never ideal when the children do not have their class teacher but the staff and I will always work hard to create as much stability as we can. One of the consequences of the current situation is that we can be rather stretched in our day to day work when we are stepping into other roles. We are working hard to avoid the difficult decision some schools have had to take, which is to close classes due to lack of staff.

Thank you for your continued support as we try to navigate the new challenges that we are keeping being presented with.

See you all after the half term break,

In Love and Respect

Headteacher
Mrs Samantha Da Costa



Attendance this week =



Friday, 22nd October 2021

Key Dates

25th to 29th October
Half Term Holiday.

Tuesday 2nd November
Parent Forum 7.30pm - Virtual.

Monday 8th November
Individual and Sibling Photographs

Thursday 11th November
Year 5 leading Remembrance in the Church with their families 10.45am.

Friday 19th November
Bag 2 School - supporting the Friends.

Tuesday 23rd November
Year 3A - Retreat day in church

Wednesday 24th November
Flu Vaccinations - details to follow

Thursday 25th November
Year 3B - Retreat day in church

Thursday 9th December
Year 3 Collective Worship to parents 2.40pm

Monday 20th December
Year 2 Christingle with their families in church 9.30am

Wednesday 15th December
Christmas Lunch and jumper day

Tuesday 21st December
Last Day of Term. Break up at 2pm.
No After School Club

After half term, past newsletters will be available as links on the website.

Whole School Task

Design a star for our St John's School Winter Wonderland



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Headteacher: Mrs Samantha Da Costa



Winter Wonderland

Twinkle Twinkle Little Star



22nd October 2021

We are very excited that when we return from half term it will not be long until we can begin to decorate for Christmas. We have a special task for all the children, so that we have all taken part in the decorations.

We would like you to design and make a star which will be used to hang from the ceiling to decorate the hall/studio which will be a wonderful focal point for the school.

The star should be at least 20cm in height and no larger than 40cm. It can be any colours you like and can be as sparkly as you like. Please do not make it too heavy as we need to hang each part from string, however you are welcome to make it as 3D as you like.

We look forward to seeing how creative and imaginative you can be when designing your star and selecting what materials to use.

Please bring your star to school with a piece of ribbon or string securely attached of about 1/2 metre and your name written clearly but discreetly on it.

Your completed star should be handed to your class teacher by **Thursday 25th November 2021**

We look forward to a stunning star filled hall and studio in which to enjoy our festivities.

Look out for this letter



Pupil Leadership

Over this half term we have been busy selecting children to form our pupil leadership team. So far we have:

Active Eagle - Working with Miss Pyatt Looking at sport and playtimes.

Eagle Advisors - Who are the ears of their class. They attend meetings with Mrs Da Costa and listen to the thoughts of their class. Right now they are looking at football at lunch time and how it can be enjoyed safely.

Digital Leads - They are working with Mr Handley and are developing their skills and will also be supporting the other children with keeping safe online

School Ambassadors - Children who are wonderful representatives of our school/

Eco Ambassadors - They meet regularly with Mrs Curtis and they have already agreed their vision for the year.

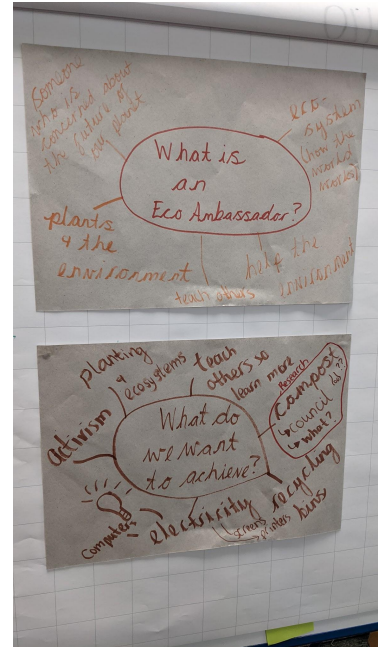
Heads of School Families- We are about to select the Year 5 children who will be Heads of our School families. The aim is to create mini communities inside of our whole school community that will allow children of all ages to bond with each other.

Many of the selections have included interviews, an important life skills to learn and I have been constantly impressed and proud of the children.

"Hello everyone, I am Hugh, one of Year Five Aviary's Eco Ambassadors. As part of my job, I have meetings with other Eco Ambassadors from the other year groups to discuss how we can make the school a greener place and help to make Clarendon Road less polluted.

In our first meeting, we discussed how at school we would like to see compost bins because at the end of our break we currently throw any fruit scraps into the bin. If we had compost bins we could put our fruit scraps in there and they would be turned into compost which is more environmentally friendly than sending it to the landfill. In our next meeting, we are going to research how to compost properly. Our long term goal is to be able to use our compost to grow vegetables at school. Keep an eye out in future newsletters for our next update". **Hugh Year 5**

TOP TIP: At home, if you have a food recycling bin or a compost bin, make sure you use it!

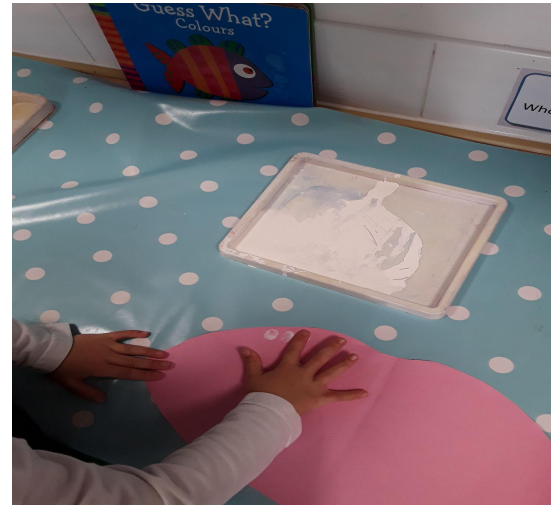


St John's children at work



In Reception, the children have been learning about caring for their teeth.

They have created
a artwork and
models using
paint, paper, pens
and playdough.



Last week, Year 2 Aqueous went to the Watford Central Library. We learned about the services offered at the library, and we heard 2 stories. Then we got the chance to check out some books to take home if we had a library card! It was a wonderful morning full of reading and fun.



In Year Two Terra, the children have been using oil pastels to create bright and colourful artwork



Thank you and Goodbye to Miss Nejla

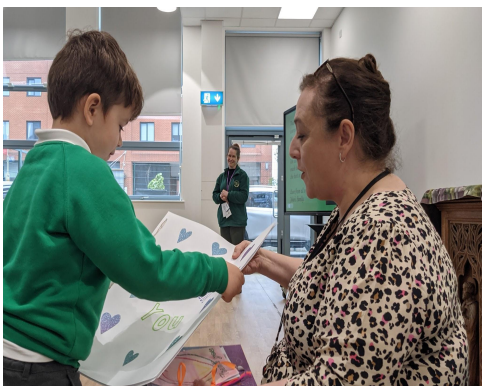


This week, the St John's community said 'Thank You, Goodbye and Good Luck' to Miss Nejla who started a new job on Wednesday.

Miss Nejla has a warm, friendly face welcoming every day. She is a huge part of our school community, we are grateful for her hard work and commitment to our children, staff and families.

The children and staff presented her with cards, flowers and well wishes.

We wish her all the very best for the future



Parent Information

Reception 2022/23 School Tours

Do you know any families that are looking for a Reception place for September 2022/23? We are taking bookings for school tours for any parent whose child is starting school in September 2022. They can be booked through Eventbrite by clicking [here](#). Only one adult per family and no children on the tours please.

You can also find further information on our school website and on our Facebook page under events.

We look forward to welcoming you.



Bag 2 School Collection, Friday 19th November 2021

If you are having a sort out during half term, the Friends of St John's can turn your clothes into cash to benefit the children at school.

Please bag up your good quality clothes and keep at home until the collection day (19/11/2021).

It's a great opportunity to declutter your home, reduce the amount of clothing in landfills and help to raise fund for exciting projects and opportunities for the St John's children.

Online Safety

For e-safety support and advice please click on this [link](#). Please click on the links below for more information on e-safety.

[Think you know](#)

[Disney Wild](#)

[About Safety](#)

[Smartie The Penguin](#)

[Childnet Safety Internet](#)

[A useful guide to apps to help keep your child safe online](#)

Please visit the [Bag 2 School website](#) for more information and a full list of what can be donated.

School Milk

If your child is over the age of 5 and you want to register them for school milk. Please use this [link](#).

Cool Milk

Half Term Activities

Home-Start new Monday Storytime & Toy Swap Shop

We at Home-Start Watford are starting a new weekly event for families: **Storytime & Toy Swap Shop**, on Mondays at **4:15-5:15pm**. It will take place in our charity shop space, which is at **Unit 3, 2 Lord Street, Watford, WD17 2LQ**.

Our shop's Assistant Manager, Claire, will be leading a children's stories reading session, and we will run a swap shop where families can exchange their toys for other toys, all for free.

Feel welcome to ask me any queries you have about the event.

Home-Start Watford & Three Rivers

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E niamh@home-startwatford.org.uk

W www.home-startwatford.org.uk

Want to know more about the work we do:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4CqDsbKfwpE>



Come along to our new

Storytime & Toy Swap Shop

Pop in to enjoy children's stories read by Claire, and exchange your toys for another for free!

 **When?** Mondays at 4:15–5:15pm, starting 11th October

 **Where?** Our charity shop at Unit 3, 2 Lord Street, Watford, WD17 2LQ



Book Sleuths in a Bind: A Very Puzzling Case. Live Theatre at Watford Central Library

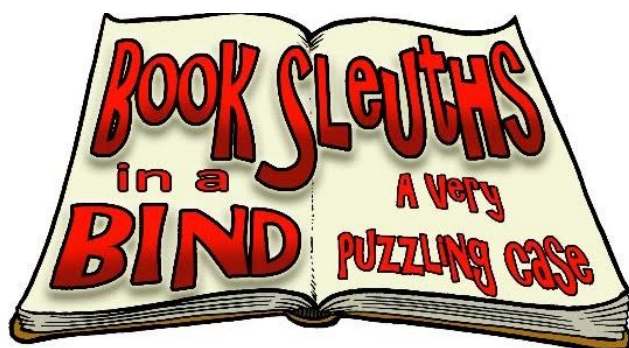
A brand-new, interactive theatre show for families is coming to Watford Central Library this October half term.

A most curious disappearance has occurred at the library. Fortunately, Hertfordshire's finest Book Sleuths – Ally and Sam – are ready to take on the case! However, they need some extra help... By working with our Sleuths to crack codes, unravel riddles and pore over puzzles, can you help them solve this Very Puzzling Case?

Designed for families of all kinds with children aged 7 to 11, this show is being created exclusively for Hertfordshire Libraries by local professional theatre company Teasel Productions, funded by Arts Council England.

Book Sleuths in a Bind: A Very Puzzling Case will be at Watford Central Library on 26 October 2021 at 10am

Tickets are £7 for adults and £5 for children, and are available now from the library and online: <https://bit.ly/HertsLibBookSleuthTour> (where you can find further details and the full tour schedule). After the performance the audience will have the opportunity to 'Meet the Cast', with a question and answer session.




Teasel Productions and Hertfordshire Libraries Present

BOOK SLEUTHS in a BIND A Very PUZZLING CASE

An interactive family theatre mystery for children aged 7-11

Tuesday 26th October: Watford Central Library - 10.00am
Radlett Library - 2.00pm
Oxhey Library - 5.30pm

Tickets: Adults £7.00 Children £5.00
For full tour list, further details & to book visit: bit.ly/HertsLibBookSleuthTour



October Holiday Camps

Ofsted - Holywell: 444153 | Field Jr: 2619190 | Cassiobury: 535296 **AWARDED SEPTEMBER 2018** Ofsted Good Provider

Get your children out of the house and bring them along to play, learn and make friends!

XTRA time
1ST TOUCH COACHING



OCTOBER MULTI SPORTS
ARTS / CRAFTS & ACTIVITY CAMP

VENUE 1
The Orchard Primary School
Gammons Lane,
Watford, WD24 5JW

VENUE 2
Kenilworth Primary School
Kenilworth Drive, Borhamwood-
Watford, WD6 1QL

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:
Cricket, Hockey, Badminton,
Tennis, Basketball, Football,
Rugby, Gymnastics
and much more...

Boys and girls are invited from the ages of 3 to 13

For more information please check our website:
www.xtratime.co.uk

WatfordFC community  **COMMUNITY SPORTS & EDUCATION TRUST**
REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 1102239

Watford & Harpenden

Football holiday courses
October half-term 2021

Monday 25th October - Friday 29th October
(5 days) | 10am-3pm

£20.00 per day or £90.00 for five days

Social distancing measures in place

Limited spaces available

Fun & educational football sessions for boys & girls aged 6-12 years old

Book now
www.watfordfccsetrust.com and click 'BOOKINGS'



Homework and Curriculum



The teachers have been hard at work and we are excited to share with you our homework/home learning activities.

For each class you will find a homework grid here:

<https://watfordstjohns.org/info-for-parents/communication/>

This has a range of activities for the children to do. You can choose which ones you like and complete them in any order. Information about how to share the work is included on the grid. We have selected a range of tasks to support the children's learning in many ways.

KIRFs - **K**ey **I**ntant **R**ecall **F**acts - These are important maths facts to learn. As you move up the colours the facts get harder.

You will find these here:

<https://watfordstjohns.org/info-for-parents/communication/>

Underneath the KIRFs you will find key words to learn to spell.

Termly Overviews:

To help our families know what their children are learning in class we have created overviews which you will find here:

<https://watfordstjohns.org/info-for-parents/curriculum/>



*"Reading is to the
mind what exercise is
to the body."*

— Joseph Addison