Our Lady & St John's Newsletter

Website: www.ourladyandstjohns.org.uk
Email: admin@stjohnrc.hounslow.sch.uk

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12th December 2025

Dear Parents,

What a fun Christmas Jumper Day we have had, filled with colour, sparkle, and festive cheer! We were also delighted to welcome a very special visitor, **Father Christmas** himself, who took the time to speak to every child. His visit brought so much joy and wonder to the school. A huge thank you to the PTA for organizing His visit and the Christmas Fair today,

One of the highlights this week was the wonderful Year 1 and 2 Nativity performance, which truly warmed our hearts. The children spoke, sang, and acted beautifully, as they told us the greatest story ever of the birth of Jesus. Thank you to all the staff who supported them and to all the families who came along to share in this special moment.

I would also like to extend a thank you to Mrs Poterachi and Mrs Waghorne for taking a group of our Year 5 pupils to sing at Torkington care home. The children represented our school so thoughtfully, and their singing brought such joy to the residents. We are incredibly proud of them for embracing this experience so positively.

Finally, We also celebrated a number of wonderful children in our achievement assembly today and congratulations to all those who received awards. Your effort, positive attitudes, and achievements truly reflect the values of our school, and we are delighted to celebrate your success. Please read on the rest of the newsletter to see lots of other achievements from this week...what a week!

Have a wonderful weekend, **Mrs. Kelliher**

Stars of the Week
8th December 2025

Rec : Celine & Cass
Yr1: Vienna & Marybelle
Yr2: Mia & Blein
Yr3: Taylor & Oliver
Yr4: Oscar & Nathaniel
Yr5: Maria & Mads
Yr6: Emily-Rose & Liwia



Safeguarding

The wellbeing of our children is of paramount importance to all staff. Should any parent have a concern regarding a child's wellbeing, please inform the school's designated safeguarding officer Mrs Kelliher or in her absence the deputy safeguarding officer Mrs Sheehan.

In cases where school staff have concerns, they have a statutory duty to discuss the issue with their line manager Mrs Kelliher to seek further advice.



We are a PEANUT & NUT FREE SCHOOL

Due to severe allergies of some pupils and staff, please ensure no nut or peanut products are brought into school.

Congratulations to the children in St. George's received the most house points over the last week.

The children in St. George's will receive 15 minutes of extra play in Key stage 1.

The children in St. George's in Key stage 2 will receive a Homework pass for this weeks' homework.

House point winners for this week

HOUSES	Score
St Patrick	167
St Andrew	153
St George	111
St David	116
St John	98
Overall Winner	St Patrick's



House point winners for this half term

HOUSES	Score
St Patrick	1049
St Andrew	901
St George	856
St David	891
St John	798
Overall Winner	St Patrick's

Punctuality & Attendance

POSITION	YEAR	%	Lates
1st	1	99.3	5
2nd	2	98.7	4
3rd	4	97	1
4th	5	96.4	1
5th	Nur	94.3	4
6th	3	93.4	2
7th	Rec	93	3
8th	6	92.8	1







Congratulations to Year 1 on their 99.3% attendance!

They will receive 10 minutes extra play

Congratulations to all of the children in St Patrick's

They are invited to come into school, wearing their own clothes on

Thursday 18th December

wearing a symbol of Green

Important Dates

Monday 15th December
- Christmas parties & Toy day
- Y3-6 Kris Kinder gift sharing
- Own clothes day

Tuesday 16th December

9:00 Y5&6 Carol service for parents
- Flu vaccinations
- Christmas lunch

Wednesday 17th December

9:00 Year 3 & 4 Carol Service for parents

Thursday 18th December

9:00 End of term mass
1:00 End of term

Monday 5th January

8:30 Start of Spring term

Achievement awards

	Achievement	Effort	R.E
Rec	Evan	Maia	Weza
Yr	Miles	Coco	Lea
Yr2	Rosa	Cleo	Jayden
Yr3	Isla	Eleanor	Miki
Yr4	Max	Dawid	Bella
Yr5	Frank	Szymon	Ameila H
Yr6	Emmanuel	Emily C	Julieta

Congratulations to the children who received their award this morning.



Congratulations to our Superstar swimmers this week:



Festive cake sale

A huge thank you to everyone who supported the School Council's Festive cake sale.

We managed to raise £144.80



Speech & Language coffee morning

Mrs Whitehouse and the speech therapists want to say a big thank you to those parents who attended the speech support tea and coffee morning. We hope it was beneficial for those who attended to discuss their child's needs and learn strategies to support them at home. Mrs Whitehouse will be organising another tea and coffee morning in the spring term.







A REMINDER THAT SCHOOL IS CLOSING AT 1:00PM ON THURSDAY 18TH DECEMBER

Christmas party/toy day

Monday 15th December

Children are allowed to bring in a toy to play with (please no electrical toys) The children will also be having their Christmas party, they can wear their own clothes for this. A letter has been sent home letting you know what to bring in for this day.

On Wednesday years 1 and 2 performed their nativity. The children had a great time singing, dancing and acting out this special story. All the children looked amazing in their costumes so thank you parents for providing them.

A special mention to our two soloists who showed immense bravery and talent singing on their own on the stage, well done.

The children have worked so hard to remember their lines and the songs. I think there were a few tears of joy and pride in the audience and we ended on a high with much applause and an encore of the final song.

Thank you to all staff involved as their hard work made this all possible.



We celebrated Christmas jumper day today. All the children came into school in their Christmas outfits—they looked amazing, ready to see Father Christmas





Best eaters!



Congratulations to Modupeola & Tom who were awarded the 'Best Eater' award this term. The children received a gingerbread kit.

They told us they received it because they try new foods and finish all their food!

Carol Singing at Torkington House Care Home

On Wednesday, a selection of Year 5 children went to Torkington House Residential Nursing Home in Acton to sing some of the Christmas Carols from our upcoming carol services to the residents there. The children were so confident, the singing was superb and it was very clear that the residents loved the performance and were joining in. The children really embodied the spirit of Christmas by spreading joy to all the residents and families there. A big thank you to the adults who accompanied the trip and also to Torkington House Residential Nursing Home for hosting us.





Y1&2 Multisports

On Wednesday 3rd December we took a very excited year 1 and 2 team to their first competition. They would be competing against 25 other schools from around the borough at 12 different events all to do with throwing, aiming, dribbling, catching and running – so plenty of variety.

We began with throwing and catching a tennis ball as a team, a few nerves were evident as it took us a couple of minutes to get going, but from then on we were great at every event. The netball passing and bowling were really good, but we got into our stride when it came to the penalty shots and especially dribbling the basketball round the cone.

Each task had a 3 minute timer to score as many points as you could. Throughout the day we set a few of the top scores on some events. The results came in and we eagerly awaited our name. 4th place! A really good start for our year 1 and 2s taking on everyone in the borough. They have a few more competitions this year so we can't wait to see how they do in the next ones.



Dance festival

On Monday 8th December, for the first time we attended the key stage 2 dance festival. We have been showcasing lots of different styles and ideas in our dance lessons in P.E. and had lots of eager children hoping to be part of our squad.

After a quick warm up, the leaders from Kingsley Academy began to teach our girls parts of their routine. It was great to see the enthusiasm and focus combined from the start. We learned our parts very quickly and began improving the timings and flow of all of the moves.

After a quick drinks break we were straight back into action and the year 6 girls helped organise our formation so we could all have enough space to perform. Everyone was amazing. Understanding every step of the dance, taking it all on board and mastering each part was great to see. It was a shame that it only lasted a morning as I'm sure we could have carried on all day learning more and more parts.

After we had performed our routine, we had the opportunity to do some freestyle dancing by ourselves before a mini dance off against one of the other schools. Some of the handshakes we had worked on in dance lessons and a lot of gymnastics were very confidently demonstrated.

We are really impressed with everyone and will continue to have dance competitions on the playground at lunch times, but also look forward to competing against other schools in the coming years. Well done to all and a big thanks to the parents that helped with travel and support.



Bikeability

This week pupils in Year 6 participated in a Cycling Proficiency course. Children learnt essential cycling skills, road awareness and safely riding habits in a fun and supportive environment.

During the course pupils learnt how to control their bikes, signal clearly and stay alert on the road.



Westminster Diocese Christmas Card Competition 2025.



By Anna



By Yana



By Cruz



A very big thank you for all of your entries, for this competition. We had many creative pieces of artwork reflecting the theme **Our Hope is in the Child of Bethlehem** 'Hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts.' (***Romans 5:5***).

Congratulations to the winners: **Yana – KS2, Anna – KS1 and Cruz – EYFS.**

The children were presented with a certificate today in our Achievement Assembly and their beautiful artwork is displayed in school.

To all our parents, grandparents and carers.

We really need your help.

With the increasing demands on the curriculum, we are finding it more and more difficult to provide 1-1 reading for our children.

Although this is not an expectation of the curriculum, it is something that we have always valued in the hope that it provides children with a love of reading from an early age.

So, if you can spare an hour or two every week (or more) to hear children read, please let me know, we would be eternally grateful.

This support is invaluable to both the teachers and the children.

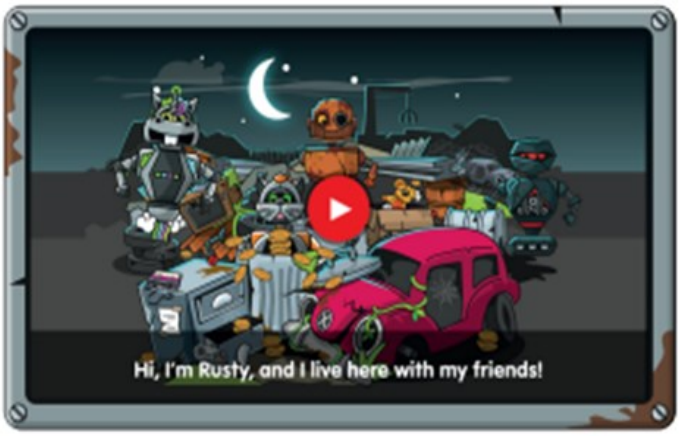
Thank you in advance

Mrs Sheehan

HOW THE GAME WORKS

BEFORE THE GAME

Children are welcomed to the game with an opening video, where they are introduced to the central character, "Rusty". In the video, Rusty asks for help in his quest to find new parts to upgrade him to a diamond robot, so he can "shine inside and out, like a Diamond". Next, the child will be able to choose a bot name they will play under, as well as their own robot character.



PLAYING THE GAME: STORY MODE

The game starts in 'Story Mode'. There are 18 stages - from Rust to Diamond - and each stage is made up of a number of levels. Players start at Rust level 1 and, to unlock the next level, they need to earn at least 2 out of 3 stars.

To earn the 2 or 3 stars required to pass the level, children must demonstrate a level of fluency when answering the questions. This means they must be accurate and timely with their answers; if children get 0 or 1 stars they need to answer more quickly. The game ensures that learners don't move on to the next level until they show they are prepared for it.

Story Mode starts with very basic maths (subitising numbers) and progresses steadily and rigorously to addition and subtraction of double-digit numbers.



PLAYING THE GAME: CHALLENGE MODE

When players complete Stage 3 (Tin): Level 35 in Story Mode, they will unlock Challenge Mode. Here they can race the clock to test themselves on how many questions they can answer correctly in one minute. There are 20 different challenges to choose from; each challenge testing a different skill, for example number bonds to 10, adding single digits or subtracting double digits.



HOW THE GAME WORKS

THE CUSTOM SHACK

For every maths question answered correctly, the child will receive coins to spend in the Custom Shack. Here, they are able to purchase new parts to upgrade and personalise their own robot character. As well as earning coins, children are kept motivated throughout their NumBots journey by collecting badges and winning trophies to reward their achievements.



SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD

We recommend children get 3 minutes a day four or five times a week. There will be times when they need your help understanding what to do (to help with that, there is an info slide before each level begins) or even with typing in the answers. They may need encouragement from time to time and they may benefit from being reminded that making mistakes is something perfectly natural.

They could also reach a point in the maths that is beyond their reach for now; if it feels like they've reached a blocker, we'd recommended returning to earlier levels and trying to complete them with 3 stars. If they are regularly struggling to achieve 2 stars, it may be worth speaking to their teacher abour possible strategies and asking them to change the Story Controls for your child, which will give them longer to pass each level.

