Our Lady & St John's Newsletter

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

Volume 7 Issue 12

5th December 2025

Dear Parents,

As we come to the end of the first week of Advent, we have been reflecting on the theme of **hope**: hope in one another, hope in our community, and hope in the joyful celebration that is to come.

This week we were delighted to have two visiting Headteachers, who both commented on how wonderfully warm and welcoming our school feels. They were especially impressed by the dedication and enthusiasm our children show in their learning each day, a true sign of the hope and promise that fills our school family.

Our youngest pupils also reminded us of the joy of this season. Nursery and Reception shone in their nativity performances, sharing the story of Christmas with confidence and excitement. Their beautiful retelling of the nativity helped us all pause and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas, bringing a sense of awe and wonder to the start of Advent.

To help us prepare our hearts during this Advent season, each class has been given a crib. Today, we were blessed to welcome Fr Gerard, who kindly visited to bless each crib and share a message of Christ's love for every one of us. We are deeply grateful for his presence and for helping us begin Advent with such reverence, hope, and togetherness.

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

Stars of the Week

1st December 2025

Rec : Ksenia & Weza
Yr1: Nicole & Sam
Yr2: Modupeola & Alexander
Yr3: Helena & Antoni
Yr4: Aatifah & Max
Yr5: Victoria & Kikiyrah
Yr6: Lily & Obafemi



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	36
St Andrew	67
St George	88
St David	50
St John	27
Overall Winner	St George's



Punctuality & Attendance

POSITION	YEAR	%	Lates
1st	1	97.5	0
2nd	4	97	2
3rd	5	96.7	0
4th	6	91.9	2
5th	Rec	91.6	0
6th	2	89.5	2
7th	3	89.4	1
8th	Nur	88.1	2







Congratulations to Year 1 on their 97.5% attendance!

They will receive 10 minutes extra play

Important Dates

Monday 8th December
- Bikeability for Y6 all week
- Dance festival
- GB meeting

Wednesday 10th December

9:00 Y1/2 Christmas production followed by festive cake sale
- Y5/6 Tag rugby competition
- Select children in Y5 to sing at Nursing home

Thursday 11th December

8:30 Speech & Language Coffee morning

Friday 12th December

9:00 Achievement assembly
3:00-5:00pm FOLSJ Christmas Fair
- Christmas jumper day
- Santa's Grotto

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

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

Congratulations to our Superstar swimmers this week: Dawid, Ziva & Oscar



Writer of the month
November



Rec :	Nelia
Yr1:	Aidan
Yr2:	Bianca
Yr3:	Posy
Yr4:	Alexa
Yr5:	Emma
Yr6:	Sofie

Congratulations to Tiffany on receiving her pen license



Year 3 Cake sale

A big thank you to everyone in year 3 who brought cakes in to sell at the year 3 cake sale. The children managed to raise £80. Thank you to everyone who brought in money to spend.





Festive cakes

The School coucil will be hosting a 'Festive cake sale' on Wednesday after the Yr1&2 Christmas play.
They will also be selling cakes at break time.

If you can help them by donating 'festive' cakes to sell that would be amazing.
Don't forget your money to spend too.

Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 12th December

Children are invited to come into school in their own clothes wearing something 'Christmassy'



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.

Nursery Nativity

Thank you to our Nursery for sharing the Christmas story with their parents and siblings on Wednesday. The children sang and spoke confidently and I am sure all the parents were very proud.



Reception Nativity

Well done to Reception on their wonderful nativity play The children were amazing. They spoke confidently and sung so beautifully. They shared the Christmas story with us in such a special way.

They certainly made their parents proud.



Best football

Football doesn't get an inset day! On Friday 28th November, despite it being a school inset day we had our only opportunity to compete in the year 5 and 6 Hounslow borough football competition. This is usually a 6 a side competition so we brought 7 players, but this year they changed it to 7 a side so we were going to be playing the tournament without a sub.

We began our first group against a very strong team from St Michael and St Martin who are always technical and physical. We defended really well as a team and thanks to some incredible through balls from George, created a few good chances which Finlay from year 4 managed to put away. The game finished 2-1 to us which was a brilliant start. We won our next game against another strong opponent but lost the match after.

Luckily we still finished top of our group and progressed to the next group stage that was for all of the teams that came first or second on our side of the draw. Our first match was against the team that beat us in the group, but we prevailed 3-1 winners this time. Despite losing the next game to a very strong Strand team we began to hit our stride winning the next 3 games without conceding any goals. The boys got into their rhythm and started playing some excellent passes, creating loads of chances and the way they were organized made it impossible for teams to play through us.

We finished second in this group stage meaning we were into the semi final. 1 mistake let Lionel in but we got a late equalizer and tried to push for the winner but ran out of time. Unfortunately the same story again as we lost in the semi final on penalties.

Overall it was a great showcase of our football ability. Some very strong performances and leadership from our year 6s accompanied by some amazingly promising performances from our year 5s and 4. Big shout out to James who made countless saves and was consistently complained about by other teams as they couldn't get past him! Unbelievable performances from Finlay who scored 11 goals throughout the competition, possibly the highest total any of our students have reached in a football competition, even more impressive when he was playing a year or 2 up! We are very proud of what we achieved, playing 10 matches throughout the day with no subs just shows how well everyone played.



Year 4 trip to Gumley House
'Journey to Bethlehem'

Year 4 visited Gumley House Secondary, where students from the Religious Education, Drama and Music Departments put on ***'Journey to Bethlehem'*** an amazing outdoor nativity, within the grounds of Gumley House School.

The children were given a passport to take on their journey to Bethlehem. Whilst on this journey, they met with the Saints Matthew and Luke, Shepherds, Angels, King Herod, Jews of Luke's gospel and an Innkeeper. At the end of the journey, the pupils met Mary and Joseph at the stable and were able to pet the animals.

After that, they gathered in the chapel, where they listened to a gospel reading and wrote a reflection.

The morning finished with carols, led by the school choir, in the main hall and refreshments served by the Innkeepers!

It was a wonderful experience and a lovely way to help to prepare our hearts and minds during Advent, for the coming of Jesus. Year 4 were great ambassadors for our school, with their excellent behaviour and thoughtful questions.



Secret Santa





On **Sunday 30th November** we begin to celebrate the season of Advent. This is a time where we start to prepare for Christ's birth. Advent is traditionally a time to do good deeds. All good deeds, even the small ones, bring Christ's light into the world. With this in mind, as is a tradition at Our Lady & St John's, staff and children from years 3-6 will participate in Secret Santa (Kris Kinder)

All those involved will pick a name out of a hat with that person being their Secret Santa. Staff and children alike will spend the rest of this half-term carrying out good deeds such as: offering to help those in need, show forgiveness and pray for others.

We also ask that all children bring in a wrapped, named gift for their Secret Santa costing no more than £2.

Can these gifts be brought into school by Friday 12th December please.

What a wonderful way to follow Jesus' commandments, by loving our neighbours as ourselves whilst preparing for Jesus' coming.

Have a blessed Advent.

PTA NEWS

The Christmas Fair is on the 12th December, 3-5pm and we hope you can all make it to join in the festive fun.

We need parents to help run the stalls so please check the sign up link that was sent out – any problems please check with your class rep. Santa's Grotto will run during the day in school and children can come dressed in their Christmas Jumpers/clothes. There is a cost of which includes a present and photograph. Please can you pay via ParentMail - £4 per child and siblings £2.
Thank you.



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.

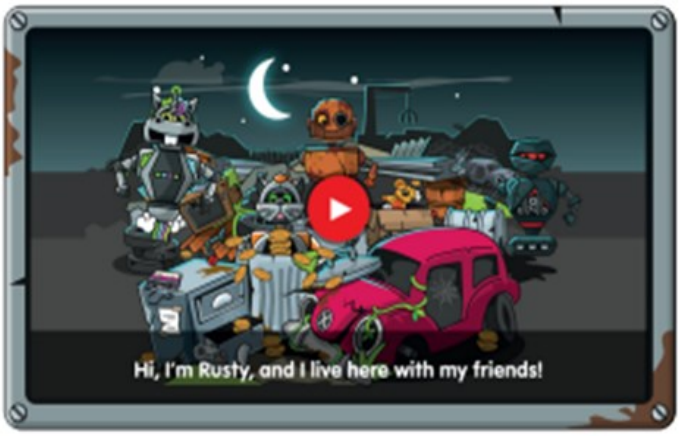
Thank you in advance

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.

