Our Lady & St John's Newsletter

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

Volume 7 Issue 11

28th November 2025

Dear Parents,

A reminder that the school is closed tomorrow (Friday) and we will see you all on Monday.

When we return we will be in the season of Advent, a special time as Catholics for preparation, reflection, and joyful expectation. It has been wonderful to walk around the school and hear the children practising their nativity and advent carol songs and lines. Their excitement and enthusiasm fill our corridors with warmth. Our pupils are working incredibly hard, and we are delighted to see their confidence and creativity shine. We look forward to sharing their celebrations with you soon, and to share this meaningful season together as a school community.

Thank you to Year 3 who lead a wonderful celebration service this week focused on the Mass. They reminded us about how it is so important to us and time we spend with Jesus. They spoke so clearly and sang beautifully. Thank you to Fr Gerard who also helped the children in their reflections.

Thank you to the children in Y3, 5 & 6 who through their Catholic Social Teaching learning donated items to support the Caritas 'giving' calendar for Hounslow Food Bank.

We would also like to celebrate the fantastic achievements of our Year 5 and 6 pupils in this week's Sports Hall competition. Well done children!

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

Stars of the Week
24th November 2025

Rec :	**Diana & David**
Yr1:	**Nora & Lillian**
Yr2:	**Anna N & Anna K**
Yr3:	**Rebecca & Kian**
Yr4:	**Ziva & Pharez**
Yr5:	**Laura & Otto**
Yr6:	**Sofie & Fred**





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.

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.

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

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

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

House point winners for this week

HOUSES	Score
St Patrick	181
St Andrew	123
St George	147
St David	143
St John	187
Overall Winner	St David's



Punctuality & Attendance

POSITION	YEAR	%	Lates
1st	1	100	2
2nd	4	99	2
2nd	5	99	1
3rd	2	96.6	3
4th	6	95.3	0
5th	Rec	92.6	3
6th	3	89.6	1
7th	Nur	87.3	1







Congratulations to Year 1 on their 100% attendance!

They will receive 10 minutes extra play

Important Dates

Wednesday 3rd December
9:00am Nursery nativity
- Y3 cake sale

Thursday 4th December
- Y4 Live nativity @Gumley House

Friday 5th December
9:00am Reception nativity
- Reception height & weight checks

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

Wednesday 10th December
9:00 Y1/2 Christmas production
- 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 PTA Christmas Fair

Wednesday 16th December
9:00 Year 5 & 6 Carol Service

Thursday 17th December
9:00 Year 3 & 4 Carol Service

Congratulations to Kuba & Kahyjel on receiving their pen licence



Congratulations to our Superstar swimmers this week: Natan, Max & Raphaella



EYFS 'Stay & Play'

In EYFS the children enjoyed having their parents come and see their learning. Thank you to all the parents that came to stay and play on Wednesday. We have another session available next week. The children enjoyed showing their parents their classroom and friends. The children were busy learning about people who help us, writing the harder to read and spell words, building, being dentists, etc.











Benjamin Franklin

Year 6 had an absolutely fantastic time at Benjamin Franklin's House on Tuesday this week as part of their science curriculum on electricity. They learnt about the history of the house with Polly who role-played the daughter of the owner of the house in Benjamin Franklin's time and then they watched a selection of electricity experiments with a Tesla coil including Franklin's famous flying a kite in a thunderstorm experiment.







Y5&6 Sportshall competition

On Wednesday 26th November we once again competed in one of the most fun and hectic events of the year. This year there no qualifying rounds, it was straight to the borough finals, although half the schools were in attendance for the morning session and the other half would be in the afternoon, meaning we don't know the full result yet.

There were 6 field events that were either jumping or throwing as well as 6 racing events. Our athletes were allowed to do a maximum of 2 from each category each meaning than we had to be consistently good over a variety or activities and having 3 children per activity just showed the abundance of quality that we have.

We began with the obstacle races where straight away we could see that the main battle of the day was going to be between us and Lionel as we each came first and second in the first 2 races while clearly ahead of the rest of the teams. As we moved on into the next stage, some of the girls caried on with racing while 6 of our boys went over for their field events before swapping over. This was the pattern for the rest of the competition.

Our change overs gave us a big advantage on top of our speed throughout the day where we consistently finished in the top 2 out of 12, occasionally 3rd or 4th, but out of 12 that is outstanding. However our biggest strengths have always been our field events which on the most part I think we dominated. We were persistently out jumping or out throwing most of the schools, again closely challenged by Lionel.

Overall we were brilliant all morning, really show casing how talented we are as a school. We are so proud of how well they competed and celebrated each other. On to the preliminary results. They read these out from 12th down and we grew more nervous and excited at the miss of our name each time. For the first time ever, the scores were drawn!! We came joint first!! However with other schools still to compete the points and scores are likely to change, hopefully we will remain at the top. We will be eagerly waiting.

Well done to everyone, such fantastic performances! A big thankyou as well to the parents who came to help with travel and support.



Hounslow foodbox

This half term, our Catholic Social Teaching module is 'The Preferential option for the Poor'. We are reminded that we should proactively and concertedly assist those in need, as Jesus has asked us to.

Caritas Westminster is a social action agency that services most at risk of exclusion through poverty, disability, isolation and exploitation. Caritas has launched a 'giving calendar' to help schools and communities collect donations for food banks in order to stock up and prepare for the busy winter period.

Years 3,5 and 6 have been putting their faith into action by collecting food donations and a local food bank, Hounslow Food box, was absolutely thrilled to receive these donations on Thursday. They will be able to help a wide range of needy families this winter and supply them with nutritious food, toiletries and other household essentials.

Hounslow Food Box would like to thank all the staff, children and families in Our Lady and Saint John's for their kindness, generosity and charity. These donations will make a big difference to those in our local community who need help the most.

Mrs Poteratchi





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.

Yr4 Pedestrian skills

Earlier this week, Year 4 took part in pedestrian skills training. Our lovely instructors, from 'For2feet', took us around the local roads near our school and taught us about road safety, as well as what to look out for on different types of crossings and pavements. We learnt about the correct use of: pedestrian crossings, safe crossings at road junctions and hazards of passing driveways or walking in car parks. We also learnt about dangers associated with being distracted, such as using a mobile phone or being late.

The training was fun, really informative and helped us to be safer and sensible pedestrians.

Congratulations Year 4, you all passed with flying colours!







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.

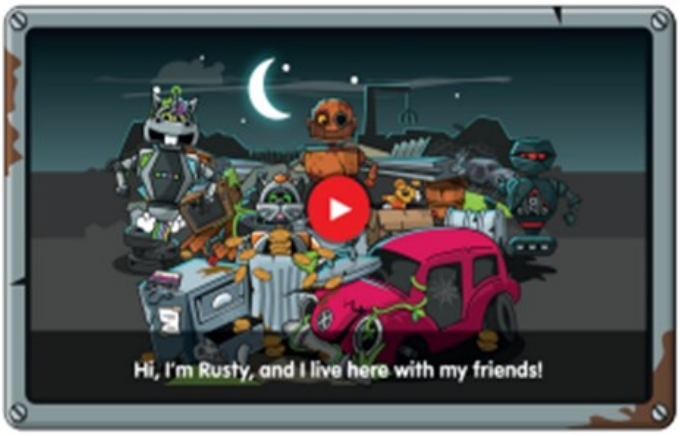
Thank you in advance

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.

