Our Lady & St John's Newsletter

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Volume 7 Issue 10

7th November 2025

Dear Parents,

We are in the month of the Holy Souls when we remember and pray for all those who have gone before us. In school, we have our Tree of Remembrance, where the children have been adding their intentions and names of loved ones. It has been very moving to see how thoughtfully the children have taken part, showing such reverence and care in their prayers.

On Tuesday 11th November, we will come together as a school community to mark Remembrance Day with a respectful two-minute silence at 11am, honouring all those who have given their lives in service. Children are warmly invited to wear their poppies as a sign of remembrance and gratitude for the sacrifices made for our peace and freedom.

Winter uniform

Thank you to all the parents who have helped their children to look super smart in their winter uniforms this. Please ensure your child has the winter white shirt and tie (not a polo shirt).

End of term date

Sorry for the confusion around the last day of term. The school dates on the website as agreed by the Governors are correct. The diary that was sent out on parent mail had the mistake. **The school will close on Thursday 18th December at 1pm.**

Have a lovely weekend,

Stars of the Week
3rd November 2025

Rec : Camila & Marlon
Yr1: Ajris & Viksha
Yr2: Sophia & Carlota
Yr3: Ralph & Eliora
Yr4: Elijah & Katia
Yr5: Vinnie & Amelia
Yr6: Julia & Saskia



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. Andrew's received the most house points over the last week.

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

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

House point winners for this week

HOUSES	Score
St Patrick	143
St Andrew	171
St George	155
St David	168
St John	162
Overall Winner	St Andrew's



Punctuality & Attendance

POSITION	YEAR	%	Lates
1st	1	96.4	0
2nd	3	96.1	0
3rd	6	95.7	2
4th	Nur	95.5	2
5th	5	88.3	0
6th	2	85	0
7th	Rec	84.6	0
8th	4	81	1







Congratulations to Year 1 on their 96.4% attendance!

They will receive 10 minutes extra play

Important Dates

Monday 10th November
- Odd socks day to launch Anti-Bullying Week

Tuesday 11th November
- Remembrance Service –10.45am

Wednesday 12th November
- Y5/6 Netball competition

Thursday 13th November
9:00 Y5 Class mass

Friday 14th November
- Children in Need

Monday 17th November
- Y3/4 Girls football

Wednesday 19th November
- Nursery & Reception Stay & Play

Thursday 20th November
- School photos

Tuesday 25th November
2:45 Y3 Celebration Service
- Y6 Benjamin Franklin museum
- Y4 Pedestrian skills

Wednesday 26th November
- Nursery & Reception Stay & Play
- Y5/6 Sportshall tournament

Friday 28th November
- **INSET DAY**
- Y5/6 Best football



Congratulations to our Superstar swimmers this week:



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Writer of the Month

Rec : Inaaya
Yr1: Vienna-Rose
Yr2: Jayden
Yr3: Helena
Yr4: Wanda
Yr5: Jaxon
Yr6: George





Year 4 Cake sale

A big thank you to everyone in year 4 who brought cakes in to sell at the year 4 cake sale.
The children managed to raise £120
Thank you to everyone who brought in money to spend.



Children in Need assembly

A huge thank you to the school council for launching our Children in Need assembly today. The children did an amazing job highlighting the importance of this very special cause and how we can help.

Please see attached information showing how we are supporting Children in Need this year.



Children in Need Day
Friday
14th November 2025

We will be celebrating Children in Need on Friday 14th November



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Help us raise as much money as possible

Dear parents, the School Council are beginning to organise '**Children in Need'** day for this year.

We need your help.

We will be holding our own 'Children in Need' fete.

Do you have any unwanted gifts, books and toys that we could sell? Half term could be a good opportunity to have a clear out.

If you do, we ask that you bring them into school week beginning **10th November**.

We will also be inviting all the children to come into school dressed in **'Spots'** for a donation of **£1**—payable on Parentmail

Over the next few weeks the School Council will be sending out further details.

Please check your Google Classroom/Parentmail for further information about how we will be celebrating this day.
A huge thank you in advance for supporting this event, we always have so much fun.

Children In Need
Friday 14th November 2025

Please support your child's class wherever possible with the items below:

Yr6 Car washing (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 2:15-3:00pm)
£5.00
(Year 6 will be approaching parents for bookings) Yr6 please bring in buckets and sponges
(Please bring in any toys, books and unwanted gifts for the raffle – new or nearly new please)

Yr5 Cake Sale
(Please bring in Cakes & biscuits)
(Please bring in any toys, books and unwanted gifts for the raffle – new or nearly new please)

Yr4 Toy/Book fair (various prices)
(Please bring in any toys, books and unwanted gifts for the raffle – new or nearly new please)

Yr3 Raffle (20p a ticket/£1.00 a strip)
(Please bring in any toys, books and unwanted gifts for the raffle - new or nearly new please)

Yr2 Guess the name of the teddy (20p a guess)
(Please bring in any toys, books and unwanted gifts for the raffle - new or nearly new please)

Yr1 Guess how many sweets are in the jar (20p a guess)
(Yr1 please bring in wrapped sweets for the jar)

Reception & Nursery Teddy bears picnic
(Children to bring in their favourite teddy)
(Please bring in any toys, books and unwanted gifts for the raffle - new or nearly new please)

Staff: Guess the weight of the cake (20p a guess)

Do not forget your money to spend on the day – face painting will also be available @£1
Payable on the day or via parentmail

Children will get the opportunity to take part in these activities on Friday.

We need your support.
In addition to supporting your class, if you can donate any: prizes, cakes, books and toys for us to sell on this day it would be most appreciated.

Year 5 WW1 workshop

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On Thursday, Year 5 took part in an engaging and interactive history workshop to support our knowledge and understanding of the events of World War One. It felt particularly poignant time to have this workshop as Remembrance Day is next week and Year 5 explored the very real selfless sacrifices that were made by so many ordinary people at that time.

We explored the events in Europe that ignited the declaration of war and, before long, we were transported back in time to England in 1914 and explored how the war affected many different people. It was very moving to explore how groups of friends (for example, football clubs) often joined up together and fought but, unfortunately, very few made it back to England together. Year 5 explored what life was like in the trenches, how field hospitals would differ from how we would experience hospitals today and even reenacted the Christmas truce of 1914. The workshop explored how technology advanced during the war, we explored notable advancements in safety, eg helmet designs and gas masks and how the war ended.

It was a very thought-provoking workshop; whilst we thoroughly enjoyed experiencing the different activities and learning new facts, we also were reminded of the many soldiers who lost their lives and of the harsh realities for war. We then had a moment of silence to commemorate the fallen and to pray for peace.









Inter school Multi skills competition

This week all of our students from years 1 to 6 took part in a multi-sport competition. We aimed at showcasing our skills, challenging ourselves against opposition from different year groups but mainly at developing our team work. Everyone was fantastic! Some of our older children were helping teach certain techniques to their younger team mates, they were encouraging their friends non stop and celebrated each other's triumphs.

The year 1 and 2 classes took part in skill and scoring circuit where they had games where they had to test their throwing, jumping and shooting skills. They seemed to enjoy every minute and loved the different challenges. Some of them consistently impressing and giving us a lot of optimism for competitions against other school in the next few years.

Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 were all amazing. Their circuit consisted of matches in football, handball, hockey, basketball, netball, table tennis and newly popular volleyball. They were really organized and fair with team selections and made sure that everyone got an opportunity to be involved in which ever role they wanted in each sport. Some stand out goals and defending were always praised and celebrated which was great to see. In each rotation there was one group that wouldn't have a game, but they were tasked with either being the referee or the coach of a match or team. This was met with high enthusiasm as they relished the opportunity to boss and control their friends matches. Luckily, they all were kind and passed on advice and encouragement or kept the rules followed to ensure the game was fair. A big shout out to Natan in year 4 channeling his inner Pep Guardiola when coaching his friends while they played football, some incredible coaching and encouragement from the sidelines.

We had another coach from PSD helping us out on the day. He said he couldn't believe how high the standard was here, that everyone got on and there were no arguments. A real testament to how brilliant our children are. It has been an excellent few days and we are really proud of how everyone competed. We look forward to the next one!!









Annual Poppy Appeal - Mini Vinnies

We wear poppies as a symbol of Remembrance and honour the service and sacrifice of the Armed Forces, veterans and their families. It represents all those who lost their lives on active service, from the beginning of the First World War right up to the present day.



Our last day for selling poppies will be Monday after school. Poppies are a donation and the other merchandise is £1.00 each

November: Month of Remembrance



During half term we move into the month of November.

November 1st is the feast of All Saints

All Saints' Day, is a time to honour all the saints of the Church, known and unknown. These people of great faith lived lives of holiness and can help us to live our best lives through the wonderful examples they give.

November 2nd is the feast of All Souls

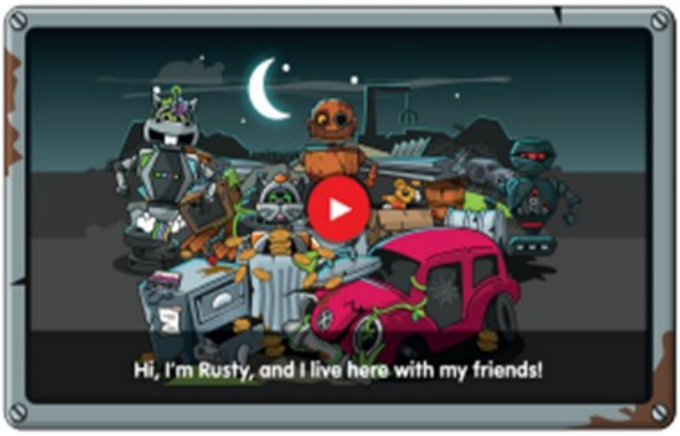
All Souls Day is a day dedicated to thinking about all the faithful departed. All those people we know who have gone to heaven. It a day when we can reflect on the lives of our loved ones and pray for them. The whole month of November is a time for us to remember our loved ones who have gone to heaven. During this month we should try to pray the Eternal rest prayer:

Eternal rest grant unto them,
O Lord,
and may perpetual light
shine upon them.
May the souls of all the
faithful departed
through the mercy of God
rest in peace.
Amen

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

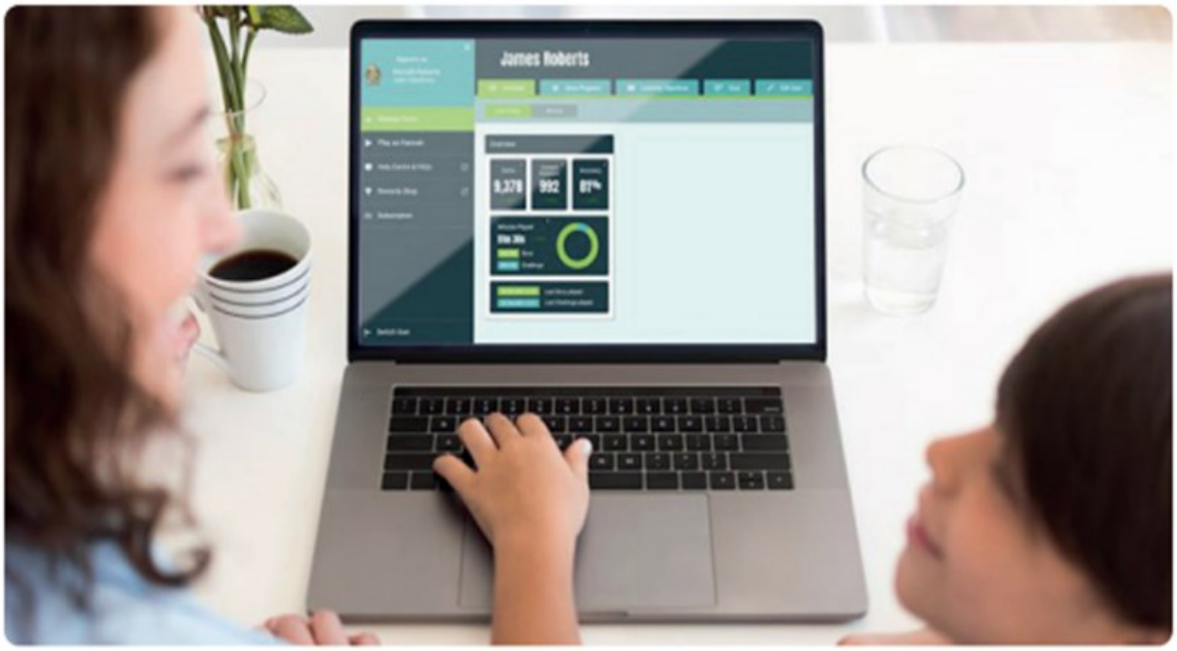
For every maths question answered correctly, the child will receive coins to spend in the Custom Shack. Here, they are able to purchase new parts to upgrade and personalise their own robot character. As well as earning coins, children are kept motivated throughout their NumBots journey by collecting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



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