Our Lady & St John's Newsletter

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Volume 7 Issue 4

10th February 2025

Dear Parents,

It has been another busy week at OLSJ and I am sure we are all looking forward to half term. Many thanks to all the parents who attended our parent evenings this week. Once again our Year 6's did a great job at organising the evening – thank you!

I had the pleasure of accompanying our Year 6 choir to the Young Voices concert at Wembley Arena on Tuesday. What a fabulous evening of entertainment of song and dance. The pupils were fantastic and the parents in the audience managed to 'get in the groove' too with some great moves to house music! A huge thank you to Mrs. Poteratchi for all her hard work with the choir and for organising the trip. Also thank you to the staff and parents who accompanied us, Mrs. Waghorne, Ms. Sanchez and Ms. Henderson who were such a great help. Finally thank you to all the parents who came to support their child at the concert. It was lovely 'spotting' you all in the audience!

Our Mini-Vinnies led an assembly this week on racial justice. They reminded us all of how we are all unique and made in God's image to love one another. Each class will be reflecting on this message and how we can be symbols of hope for everyone we meet. Have a restful half term and we will see you all back on **Monday 24th February**.

Mrs. Cunningham

Stars of the Week

10th February 2025

Rec : Bogdana & Soliana
Yr1: Jayden & Sofia P.
Yr2: Rebecca & Eli
Yr3: Katia & Natan
Yr4 Mads & Amelia D.
Yr5: Sophie & Maja
Yr6: Simone & Julia



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 Cunningham 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 Cunningham to seek further advice.

Congratulations to the children in St Andrew's who 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 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	122
St Andrew	231
St George	145
St David	159
St John	160
Overall Winner	St Andrew's



House point winners for this term

HOUSES	Score
St Patrick	1034
St Andrew	972
St George	967
St David	1077
St John	1090
Overall Winner	St John's

Punctuality & Attendance

POSITION	YEAR	%	Lates
1st	1	98.8	2
2nd	4	98.7	0
3rd	6	98.6	0
4th	2	97	0
5th	Rec	96.6	0
6th	5	95.7	1
7th	Nur	95.6	1
8th	3	95.3	2

Congratulations to St John's who are the overall winners for this term.

They are invited to come into school, on the first Friday back, in their own clothes, with a symbol of white to show they are the house that won the house points for this half term





Congratulations to Year 1 on their 98.8% attendance!



Writer of the month

Congratulations to Antoni on receiving Writer of the Month



Pen Licence

Congratulations to Stella on receiving her pen licence



Important Dates February/March

Monday 24th February
8:30 Back to school

Thursday 24th February
- Yr4 Cake sale

Friday 28th February
- Y5&6 Girls football
- St. John's—own clothes

Monday 3rd March
- Scholastic Bok fair all week

Tuesday 4th March
- Shrove Tuesday

Wednesday 5th March
9:00 Ash Wednesday Mass in church
3:30-6:00 Y3 Parents evening

Thursday 6th March
- World Book day

Friday 7th March
- CAFOD big Lenten walk
- Y3&4 football festival

Tuesday 11th March
2:45 Y1 Celebration assembly
- Y2 trip to Florence Nightingale museum

Wednesday 12h March
8:30&2:00 Nursery & Reception Stay & Play
- Y3/4 Football

Thursday 13th March
8:30&2:00 Nursery & Reception Stay & Play
- Y6 British museum trip

Important Dates March/April

Friday 14th March
- Poet visit

Friday 21st March
- Red Nose day
- Y6 Road safety theatre
- Y3&4 Best Football

Monday 24th March
6:00 GB meeting

Tuesday 25th March
- Gunnersbury Park workshop Yr3

Thursday 27th March
- Y3&4 Multi skills festival

Friday 28th March
2:45 Y3 Celebration service

Monday 31st March
- Y5&6 Tag rugby

Tuesday 1st April
9:00 Y4&5 Lenten service

Wednesday 2nd April
8:50 Achievement assembly

Thursday 3rd April
9:00 End of term mass

Friday 4th April
1:00 End of term

A huge thank you to all the year 6 children that were involved in helping out at Parents evening, we were very proud of you.

Young Voices

On Tuesday 11th February, the OLSJ choir had the amazing opportunity to sing in the OVO Wembley arena as part of the Young Voices choir. This was a phenomenal opportunity; our children joined almost 5000 others from schools all across the country in one of the largest children's choir events in the world.

I would like to thank each and every one of the children for all their dedication and perseverance in our rehearsals and truly all your hard work paid off in a spectacular performance. Your singing was wonderful, the dance moves were brilliant and even your parents had a go at singing and dancing with you! I was so proud of the confidence and self-belief each and every one of you showed.

A huge thank you to the parents for all their support throughout the year and to Mrs Cunningham, Mrs Waghorne, Ms Sanchez and Libby's mum for coming on the trip and making it possible.





Basketball tournament



On Friday 7th February we took part in the year 5 and 6 borough basketball competition. Even though we took 2 teams, the tournament was only 3 a side.
It was extremely competitive from the start. With each match only lasting 8 minutes we didn't have much time to win the ball back and create chances, the hoop was also at professional height making shooting a lot more difficult.
Our teams battled really well. For a sport that is supposed to be non contact, there was a lot of pushing and blocking going on which we rose to. We had lots of shots each match scoring quite a few and each team won a few games as well. It's probably the first tournament we have ever had where everyone has scored!
Big shout out to Victoria, who had to defend one on one against the best player I have ever seen, he was averaging 12 points a game. After the match the referee approached us as he wanted to get Victoria in to a basketball team.
Baskets from: Victoria 5, Nadia 4, Gabi 4, Arabella 3, George 3, Theo 3, Stafro 2, James 2.
Well done to everyone, really impressive performances.
Thanks to Theo's mum for helping with travel and support on the day.

Coffee morning



On Tuesday we had a tea and coffee morning for parents to meet the speech and language therapist. Thank you to those parents for attending. Over the last year children have been supported with speech and language by Bryony (speech therapist). She is unfortunately leaving our school to work at other schools. We welcome our new specialist, Ciara. Both Bryony and Ciara work for West London Speech. If you would like more information, please see their website or speak to myself. https://wlspeechtherapy.co.uk/

Mrs. Whitehouse—SENCO

Poetry by Heart



This morning, we had a fantastic poetry assembly where all the Key Stage one classes performed whole class poems to the school.
In Key Stage two, three winners had been selected from each class to share with the school. They were presented with certificates for their outstanding performances and an overall class winner will be announced the first day back. We will also be selecting children to enter into the Poetry by Heart Classic competition as well as entering some free-style entries to hopefully get the chance to perform at Shakespeare's Globe theatre.
A big well done to everyone for learning and performing their poems.

This week, the Mini Vinnies delivered an assembly about racial justice, equality and diversity. They reminded us that being "just" or "fair" means treating everyone equally and respectfully. It's about making decisions that are right and honest, no matter who the
person is. It's about standing up for what is right and ensuring everyone gets the same respect and opportunities.



Racial Justice Prayer

God of Justice and Peace,
You call us to walk
together as pilgrims of hope,
guiding our steps with love, truth,
and compassion.

Help us to stand against racism in
all its forms
and to celebrate the
beauty of our diversity.

May our journey towards racial
justice bring healing and unity to
our world.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen

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

Homework club

Mrs. Sheehan & the School council will be running a homework club for the juniors in the ICT suite.

Monday & Tuesdays

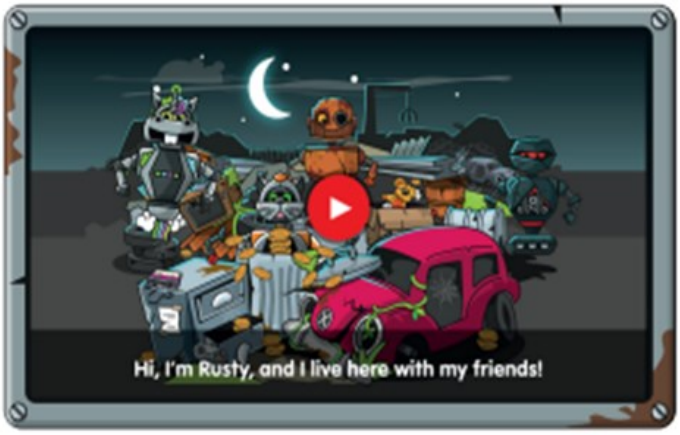
12:15-1:00

HOW THE GAME WORKS

Numbots

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

Numbots

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.

