Our Lady & St John's Newsletter

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Volume 6 Issue 15

20th December 2024

Dear parents,

Our final week of a very busy term began with party and toy day on Monday. Our second performance took place this week for Year 1 & 2 parents. What an amazing performance it was! Thank you to Mrs. Chalker-Hayes, Mrs. Harty, Mrs. Nutley, Mrs. Harb and Mrs. Gunn for preparing the children so well, and a huge 'well done' to our stars in Year 1 and 2 – you were all amazing!

We all enjoyed a scrumptious Christmas lunch on Tuesday. The hall was filled with song and laughter as the pupils enjoyed pulling crackers with each other and sharing the jokes. A special thank you to Bonnie, Leeann and Shoba, who not only provided us with such a tasty Christmas lunch, but for all their hard work this year.

On Wednesday, we had two amazing carol concerts – years 5 and 6 followed by years 3 and 4. The pupils sang and read beautifully and both concerts truly captured the meaning of Christmas. My thanks to all staff involved, but particularly to Mrs. Poteratchi for her hard work in preparing the pupils and running both concerts.

We celebrated our Advent Mass on Thursday – a truly prayerful service. Well done to Reception who came to their first school mass with their buddies. Thank you to Year 5 for reading, to Fr. Gerard for all he does for us and to Mrs. O'Connor for playing at the mass.

I would like to take this opportunity to say 'thank you' to all parents for your support this term. I would also like to say 'thank you' to all of the staff and governors for their hard work on behalf of our children and the school community.

Our busy term has come to an end, and on behalf of all staff I wish you all a restful, holy and happy Christmas. We look forward to welcoming the children back on **Monday 6th January**.

Mrs. Cunningham

Important Dates January

Monday 9th January
- Spring term begins

Wednesday 8th January
- Swimming begins for year 4

Thursday 9th January
9:00 Nursery & Reception open morning for prospective parents

Friday 10th January
9:00 Beginning of term mass in church

Friday 17th January
9:00 Y6 SATS meeting

Monday 21st January
- Y2& Y5 Fire safety talk

Wednesday 22nd January
- Yr3 cake sale

Friday 24th January
9:00 Yr6 Class mass in church

Monday 27th January
6:00 Governing body meeting

Tuesday 28th January
2:45 Yr2 Celebration service

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.



Year 2 Cake sale

A big thank you to everyone in year 2 who brought cakes in to sell at the year 2 cake sale. The children managed to raise

£100.00

Thank you to everyone who brought in money to spend.

Congratulations to the children in St. George's who 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	138
St Andrew	152
St George	193
St David	129
St John	124
Overall Winner	St George's



House point winners for this half term

HOUSES	Score
St Patrick	955
St Andrew	1120
St George	1042
St David	1100
St John	989
Overall Winner	St Andrew's

Punctuality & Attendance

Position	Year	%	Late
POSITION	YEAR	%	
1st	6	98.6	1
1st	5	98.6	1
1st	3	98.6	7
2nd	Rec	98	0
3rd	4	97.7	3
4th	1	92	5
5th	Nur	89.5	3
6th	2	88.9	0







Congratulations to Year 6,5 &3 on their 98.6% attendance!

They will receive 10 minutes extra play

Congratulations to all of the children in St Andrew's

They are invited to come into school, wearing their own clothes on Friday 10th Jan, wearing a symbol of

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.

The calendar is updated on our website. Please take a look to note new dates and updates.

Achievement awards

	Achievement	Effort	R.E
Rec	Viksha	Mikal	Susie
Yr	Vespyr	Bianca	Zainab
Yr2	Alexander	Pola	Leen
Yr3	Giorgio	Tiffany	Elijah
Yr4	Sophie	Vinnie	Helena
Yr5	Kuba	Liwia	Bella
Yr6	Gabby	Melissa	Dawid

Congratulations to the children who received their award this morning.



The Hoity Toity Angel

What a busy week Year 1 and 2 have had. On Tuesday the parents were invited to watch the Christmas production 'The Hoity Toity Angel' and wow - what a performance it was!!

Both classes were amazing. They sung beautifully and delivered their lines clearly and confidently. They also reminded us that it doesn't matter what you look like on the outside, it's the inside that really counts.

Many thanks to all those involved in making the performance a success and of course, thank you to the parents for supporting your children so well to learn their lines.

A big well done to all!



Junior Carol Service

Congratulations to all of the children in Key Stage Two who performed in their beautiful carol services this week.
Each and every child shared the message of the nativity through songs, readings and acting. The singing was beautiful, the readings were so clear and the acting was so reverent- you have really helped us to prepare for Christmas.

A big thank you to all of the adults who helped prepare the children for the Key Stage Two carol services.





Carol Singing at Torkington House Care Home

On Thursday, a selection of Year 5 children went to Torkington House Residential Nursing Home in Acton to sing some of the Christmas carols from our recent 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.
A big thank you to the adults who accompanied the trip and also to Torkington House Residential Nursing Home for hosting us.





Disney on Ice winners

Congratulations to all our winners..

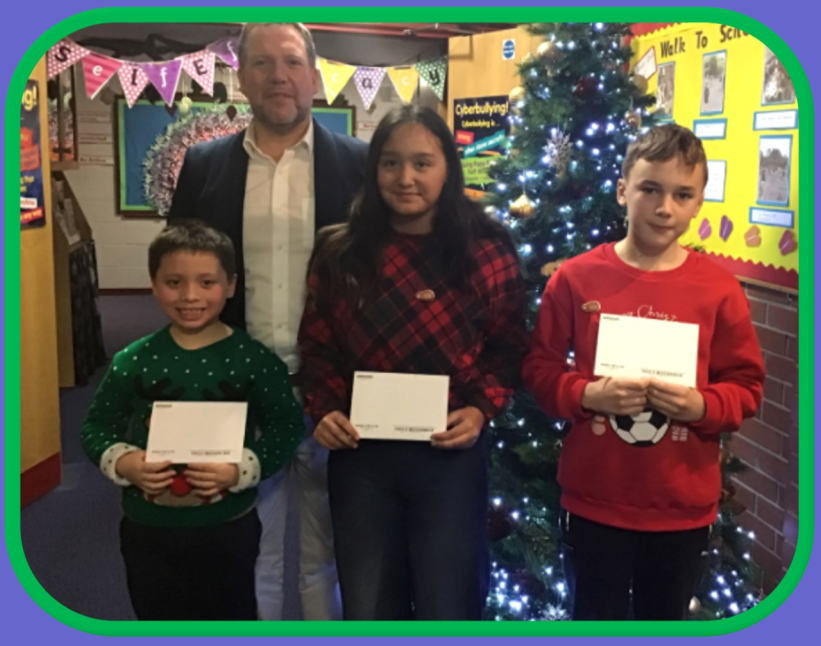


Also

Victor, (Y1) Diana (Nursery), Libby (Y6)

We have raised an amazing £1570 for the school. A huge thank you to JC and his family for providing us with this wonderful opportunity.

Congratulations to Arabella, JC & Frankie who sold the most raffle tickets for Disney on Ice and received an amazon voucher for their efforts.



Diocesan Christmas Card Competition 2024

Thank you to all of you who sent in a design for a Christmas card, based on Luke 2:8-15. We received some wonderful designs.

The finalists were:
Franek – Year 1, Sophie D – Year 4, Lily – Year 5 and Saskia – Year 5 was a runner up.
Here are their designs:

Image below by Sophie D
Lower Key Stage 2
Our Lady & St John
Westminster

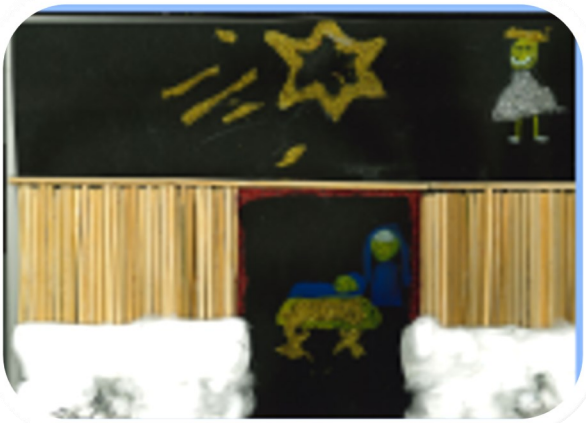


Image below by Lily
Upper Key Stage 2
Our Lady & St John
Westminster





Image above by Franek
Key Stage 1
Our Lady & St John
Westminster





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

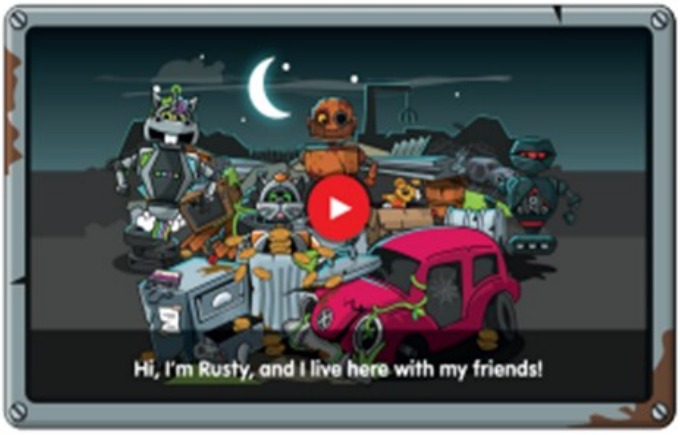
12:15-1:00

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.

