Our Lady & St John's Newsletter

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Volume 6 Issue 12

29th November 2024

Dear Parents,

This Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent. As you can see from the diary, it is a very busy time in school, and also a very enjoyable one. Decorations and Christmas trees will go up, in the front entrance and in the hall, and our Advent wreath will be lit in Assemblies. All these preparations are to remind us of this very special time of year where we await the coming of Jesus at Christmas.

We had the second 'Stay and Play' in Early Years for parents this week. It was lovely to see the children showing their parents all the activities they get up to in Reception and Nursery classes.

Year 4 celebrated their first class mass on Friday. The children read and participated really well and sang beautifully. My thanks to Fr. Gerard, Mrs. O'Connor and Ms. Grimshaw for their help with the mass.

The weather has continued to be cold this week. Please remember to label all hats, scarves, gloves and coats with your child's name. School hats are available from the school office.

Have a lovely weekend

Mrs. Cunningham

Stars of the Week
25th November 2024

Rec :	**Marlon & Mabel**
Yr1:	**Anna & Gabbi**
Yr2:	**Pola & Posy**
Yr3:	**Bella & Tom**
Yr4:	**Ethan N & Victoria**
Yr5:	**Lily & Kuba**
Yr6:	**Francis Joseph & Nadia**



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. Patrick's who received the most house points over the last week.

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

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

House point winners for this week



HOUSES	Score
St Patrick	262
St Andrew	147
St George	136
St David	126
St John	130
Overall Winner	St Patrick's

Punctuality & Attendance

Position	Year	%	Late
1st	2	97.7	3
2nd	3	97.5	5
3rd	Rec	95	1
4th	5	94.8	6
5th	Nur	94	6
6th	1	91	8
7th	6	89.9	2
8th	4	89	2







Congratulations to Year 2 on their 97.7% attendance!

They will receive 10 minutes extra play

Important Dates November/December

Wednesday 4th December
9:00 Nursery & Reception nativity
- Yr2 cake sale

Thursday 5th December
- Yr4 @ Gumley House 'Live Nativity' performance

Friday 6th December
- Mufti day for Christmas fete

Monday 9th December
6:00 GB meeting
- Reception height, weight & vision check

Wednesday 11th December
9:00 Yr1&2 Christmas production

Friday 13th December
8:50 Piano assembly
3:15-5:15 Christmas fete

Monday 16th December
- Christmas parties & toy day

Wednesday 18th December
9:00 Yr5/6 Junior carol service
9:45 Yr3/4 Junior carol service

Thursday 19th December
9:00 End of term mass—all parents welcome

Friday 20th December

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

The School Council presents 'Disney on Ice'





A huge thank you to the School Council for promoting our next fundraiser at our whole school assembly on Wednesday morning - **'Disney on Ice.'**

As a result of a very generous donation from JC in Year 3, we are in a very fortunate position to raise funds for our school. There are 12 VIP tickets up for grabs to see Disney on Ice on **Sunday 5th January 2025**

You can purchase tickets after school from our school councillors or via parentmail.

We will be drawing the raffle for the next 3 Wednesdays.

We will announce the winners after our assembly each Wednesday.

Tickets do not roll over to the following week.

This is an amazing opportunity for your child to see an amazing show

Good luck!

Please log onto Google classroom or Parentmail for more details of this event

Year 1 and 2 Quad kids

On Thursday 27th June we took a year 2 team to the quad kid's borough finals. We have some amazing ability across year 1 and 2 and took a very strong team where all of our athletes had to be able to compete at 4 events, each a different style of athletics.

The children competed in a vortex throw, a standing long jump, a 50 meter sprint and a 300 meter run. They were fantastic at every event setting high scores and beating their own personal bests. They also showed great composure during the long distance race as several other schools sprinted off at the start and then had to slow down shortly after, where as our athletes overtook them one by one whilst keeping a strong pace!

We came in second place for the entire borough!! An amazing achievement for us. Outstanding efforts from our team – well done year 2 – who are now year 3! We finally have our medals and thought we would show them off.





Year 3 and 4 Quad kids

Last June we took a year 4 team to the quad kid's borough finals. We have some amazing ability across year 3 and 4 so choosing our best team was very difficult as we have so many that could have represented us.

The children competed in a vortex throw, a standing long jump, a 60 meter sprint and a 400 meter run. They were fantastic at every event setting high scores and beating their own personal bests. On the day Mrs. Sheehan was really impressed at how good their technique was, how they encouraged each other and most of all how they performed. We were setting the standard in pretty much every event and left clear gaps between our athletes and the other schools.

We won!!! First place in the borough!! Another amazing achievement for us. Outstanding efforts from our team – well done year 4 – who are now year 5! We finally have our medals and our trophy, so we thought we would show them off.

YEAR 5 AND 6 SPORTS HALL

On Wednesday 20th November we competed in the west cluster sports hall athletics. Even though we have an unbelievable team, we had so many that were either off sick or battling with illness. However that wasn't enough to bring any of us down.

The competition had begun when we arrived but our athletes were straight to their events and ready to go. It was great to hear each of them on return telling me how they had set or beaten the previous record held on the day. Their optimism and ability set a high standard that the rest of the team was keen to beat.

While I couldn't get round to every event, I did see our triple jumpers who all managed to clear the mat! Something I hadn't seen anyone else do on the day. On to the races! This is always where the nerves kick in followed by 1000 questions on where to run to. As we were in the second group, we were able to watch how the race was run as well as see what times the previous schools had set. We managed to win all of our races in our group and beat the times of the other group in most races as well!

The kids were amazing throughout the competition whether that was contesting in their events or supporting their team. The top 4 go through to the borough finals and I'm optimistic we will be one of them as we were so strong on the day! We await the results! A big thanks to Molly's dad, Arabella's dad, Louie's mum, Tymek's dad for helping with transport and support – and of course our good luck charm, Mrs. Waghorne.







Stay & Play

This week Nursery and Reception parents were invited to Stay and Play sessions .The children were encouraged to show parents around their classrooms. They also invited their parents to join in with their favourite activities.













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.





CAFOD

Mini Vinnies – CAFOD's World Gifts

World Gifts are CAFOD's range of life-changing virtual gifts, that will delight the people you give them to and help transform the lives of families and communities living in poverty.

Earlier this week, Miriam from CAFOD, visited our school and told us how CAFOD provide much needed support, to our neighbours around the world in countries such as Lebanon, Ukraine, Afghanistan and many more.

With the season of Advent beginning this Sunday 1st December, the Mini Vinnies have decided to put their faith into action by agreeing to help raise crucial funds for CAFOD World Gifts. This way we can all help to bring about: Hope, Love, Joy and Peace in to the world, as many countries around the world, still need our help, more than ever. The Mini Vinnies are in the process of organizing fundraising for this worthy cause and will give more details in next week's newsletter.



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

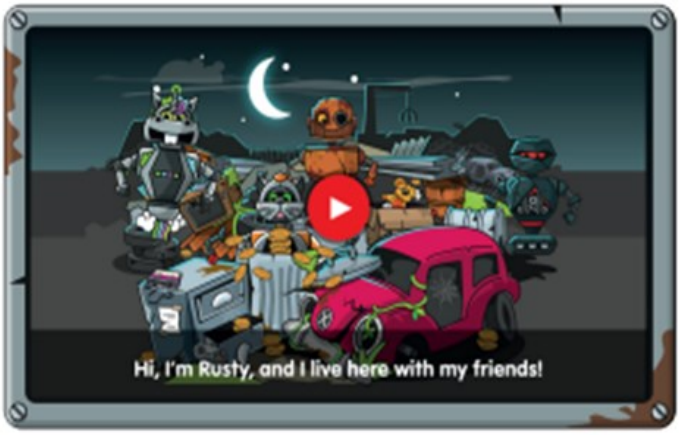
12:15-1:00

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.

