Our Lady & St John's Newsletter

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Volume 6 Issue 8

25th October 2024

Another busy week and I am sure we are all looking forward to half term. This week marked the end of **Black History Month** in school which was celebrated with a special assembly. We do not just recognise black history in October but ensure it is throughout our school curriculum across the year. Thank you to Mrs. McMahon for co-ordinating the assembly.

Thank you to all the parents who attended our parent evenings – we had almost 100% turn out! A huge 'thank you' to our Year 6 helpers for ensuring we were all organised – they did an amazing job and we had many compliments from parents about how polite and efficient they were.

Uniform

Please remember that after half term all children need to be in the **winter uniform**, with school coats. Please also label everything, particularly coats, jumpers, scarves and hats. We continue to re-cycle our school uniform and help anyone who needs it. If you have second hand good quality uniform please bring it in to the school office.

Wishing you all an enjoyable half term,

Mrs. Cunningham

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.

Stars of the Week

21st October 2024

Rec : Susie & Miles
Yr1: Mia & Carlotta
Yr2: David & Eli
Yr3: Wanda & Hunter
Yr4: Otto & Emilia D
Yr5: James & Shalom
Yr6: Matthew & Julia

Writers of the month

October

Rec : Nora
Yr1: Blen
Yr2: Kian
Yr3: Tom
Yr4: Laura
Yr5: Theo
Yr6: Tymek





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	191
St Andrew	180
St George	258
St David	271
St John	221
Overall Winner	St David's

House point winners for this half term

HOUSES	Score
St Patrick	1483
St Andrew	1416
St George	1522
St David	1497
St John	1461
Overall Winner	St George's

Punctuality & Attendance

Position	Year	%	Late
1st	1	100	7
1st	3	100	0
2nd	5	98.6	0
3rd	Nur	98.4	1
4th	6	98.3	3
5th	4	98	1
6th	2	95.8	0
7th	Rec	94.3	1

Congratulations to all of the children in St George's.

They were invited to come into school, wearing their own clothes today, wearing a symbol of red.







Congratulations to Year 1 & Year 3 on their 100% attendance!

They will receive 10 minutes extra play

Parents Evening

A huge thank you to the Year 6 children who helped out at parents evening this week.

The children worked so hard to ensure that they kept our teachers and parents to their times.

The children were so polite and helpful, a real credit to us all.

Important Dates November

Monday 4th November
- **Back to school**

Wednesday 6th November
9:00-10:00 Open morning for prospective parents
- Yr6 cake sale

Friday 8th November
- Children in Need
- Flu vaccinations

Monday 11th November
- Bikeability for year 6
- Anti-bullying week

Friday 15th November
8:50 Yr5 class mass

Wednesday 20th November
8:30-9:30 Nursery & Reception Stay & Play
2:30-3:30 Nursery & Reception Stay & Play
- Yr5 cake sale

Thursday 21st November
- Individual photos

Friday 22nd November
INSET DAY—school closed to pupils

Monday 25th November
- Kris Kinder begins

Wednesday 27th November
8:30-9:30 Nursery & Reception Stay & Play
2:30-3:30 Nursery & Reception Stay & Play

Friday 29th November
8:50 Yr4 class mass

Year 1 Cake sale

A big thank you to everyone in year 1 who brought cakes in to sell at the year 1 cake sale. The children managed to raise £163.50

Thank you to everyone who brought in money to spend.



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.



Children in Need Day
Friday
8th November 2024

We will be celebrating Children in Need on Friday 8th 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 **4th 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.

Together, we can MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Children In Need

Friday 8th November 2024

Yr6 Car washing (Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 2:15-3:00pm)

(Yr6 please bring in buckets and sponges)

Yr5 Cake Sale (Please bring in Cakes & biscuits for Friday's fete)

Yr4 Toy/Book fair (Please bring in toys/books)

Yr3 Raffle (Please bring in prizes for the raffle)

Yr2 Guess the name of the teddy (Have you got a nearly new teddy to donate?)

Yr1 Guess how many sweets are in the jar (Please bring in wrapped sweets for the jar)

Reception & Nursery Teddy bears picnic (Children to bring in their favourite teddy)

Staff: Guess the weight of the cake

Do not forget your money to spend on the day – face painting will also be available

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.

Yr6 Gunnersbury museum





On Monday this week, Year 6 went to Gunnersbury Park to find out what life was like on the home front during World War 2. They looked at rationing and how to put out a fire caused by an incendiary bomb. They learnt about the different gas masks that everyone had to carry and how to put them on quickly and correctly when they heard the Warden sound the gas rattle.

They then moved out into the grounds of the Museum to learn about the land girls and the need to grow your own food. They particularly enjoyed the opportunity to explore an Anderson Shelter and look at artifacts from the time period.







Yr3,4 & 5 Cross country competition

On Wednesday 23rd October we took part in the Hounslow borough cross country competition. For years 3 and 4, they ran 1.1 kilometres and year 5 and 6 ran a mile.

We have been practicing recently completing long distance runs in PE as well as our selected squad practicing at lunch times but this was going to be very different running against some experienced athletes and running in wet grass!

Our year 3 and 4 girls were in the first race and were outstanding!!! All in the top 30 out of about 80 and 2 were in the top 10! The boys went next and were blocked off at the start of the race but again we had a couple finish in the top 30 out of about 90. Our year 6s couldn't attend this year but our year 5s were amazing against mainly older opposition. This race was massive and had around 150 competitors which made the start seem like a stampede!

The races were tiring but our athletes gave their all and we are so proud of them - some even racing the friends in the last 20 meters. Thankyou to Mrs. Hogan, Ms O'Brien and Mrs. Caddick for helping with travel and supporting us! Well done to everyone! We look forward to next time.

Year 3/4 girls

5th Grace, 7th Laura, Matilda, Vivien

Year 3/4 boys

12th Otto, 15th Finlay, Albert, Oscar, Mads

Year 5/6 girls

16th Emily, Bronagh, Maja, Shalom, Lily

Year 5/6 boys

22nd Theo, James, Obafemi, Laurence







Yr6 Sky studios

Year 6 had the chance to visit Sky this week. As part of their English and computing curriculum, Year 6 had previously watched a film trailer in class and discussed it's features and then in groups they had started to plan and design their own film trailers. The visit to Sky meant that they were now able to turn these trailers into reality. The class were given access to filming studios with green screens, camera equipment and computer editing software. After discussing their plans with their Sky leader, each group was able to collect props and costumes and then start filming. After much hard work and dedication – and a tour of the Studios - we were able to sit back and watch their projects unfold before our eyes. The children had a fantastic time and really enjoyed such an amazing opportunity.





Black History Month Assembly

This month we have been celebrating black history across the school and on Friday we had a wonderful whole school assembly to mark this special month. All children were given the opportunity to research and learn about some key historical black figures and events. During our assembly, each year group presented some of their work that they had completed this half term.
We started with Reception who created some artwork based on the work of Alma Thomas. In Year 1 the children learnt about the inventor of the Super Soaker, Lonnie Johnson. In Year 2 they have been looking at the life of Mary Seacole. In year 3, they have been discovering the work of Tina Shingler and her contributions to children's literature. In year 4 they have been looking at the work of the poet Benjamin Zephaniah. In year 5 they have been researching about Walter Tull and finally year 6 have been learning about some amazing service men and women in WW2 - Connie Mark, Johnny Smythe, Lilian Bader and Billy Strachan.















Poetry by heart

We have launched the Poetry by Heart competition for Years 3 to 6. The children have the option to either learn either one poem from the Poetry by Heart website and enter the freestyle challenge to learn and perform a poem **or** to take up the 'classic' challenge of learning two poems (one has to be pre 1914). The website has a wide selection of poetry for the 7+ category which you can look at with you children and help them select and learn a poem/s to perform.

https://poetrybyheart.org.uk/

After half-term, all the children will be asked to tell their teacher whether they are going to take part in the freestyle event **or** the Classic competition. They will then have until February to learn and perfect their performances - tips to aid their performances are on the website. In February, they will all share their poems in front of their classes - the top three for classic and freestyle from each class will then perform to the school in a poetry assembly. We will then send videos of the top four performances for each category to Poetry by Heart who then judge them and might then ask them to perform at Shakespeare's Globe theatre on the Southbank.
The freestyle children, if picked, have the opportunity to celebrate poetry on the stage, whereas the children in the Classic category are entered into a competition competing with children all over the country in KS2 category.

We hope that you will encourage and support this opportunity with your children to develop their confidence in public speaking, as well as instill a love of poetry.

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

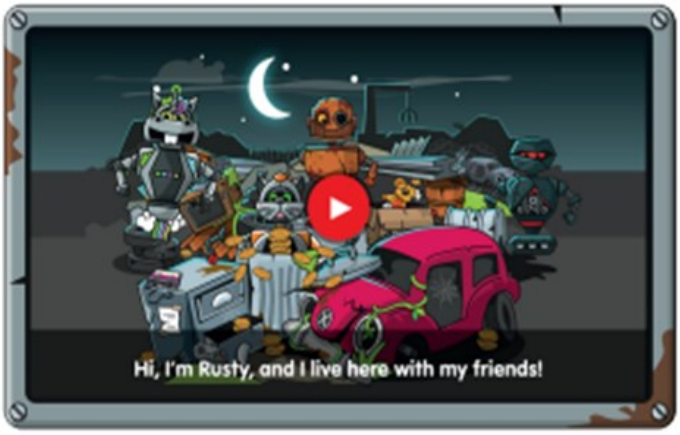
12:15-1:00

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.

