

2021/22-Issue 1

December 2021



ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

# Community Voice

## 2021 Christmas Newsletter

### An Advent Message From the Head Teacher

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light.  
On those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone.  
You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase.  
Isaiah 9: 1-2



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of term, I'd like to thank you for your support over another challenging year.

I am sure you would wish to join me in thanking my colleagues for their hard work and dedication to the students in our care. This winter, managing illness in their own families alongside work commitments has been a particular challenge.

We are proud that St John's has been able to stay open whilst so many schools returned to remote learning last spring.

To help us continue to prioritise face to face learning, I would ask you to ensure your son or daughter has a lateral flow test the day before we return to school and if, eligible, take up the offer of vaccinations and boosters.

This will help reduce the infection rates so we can operate safe staffing levels in January.

I wish you a very happy Christmas and hope you will all have time for relaxation and rest.

Very Best wishes, Mrs Bradbury



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A SEN Specialist School  
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## In and Around School

### Rugby Trip for Ellington and Donaldson

Back in September Mrs Pirie (PE teacher) Mr Merrick, Miss Furness and Miss Eshelby went on a TV Rugby trip and met up with Jodie Ounsley, the Deaf England Rugby player again. The day was filmed as a documentary by the World Rugby Chanel and the pupils later had a movie day and watched it in school.



### Halloween Harvest



Many thanks to Miss Eshelby for bringing this fabulous produce in. Her mum has a local allotment and provided some amazing gourds of different varieties and sweetcorn for the art room display. Residential pupils also cooked and sampled the corn.

### Rotary Club Donate Crocus Bulbs to School

The Lower Wharfedale Rotary club donated hundreds of crocus bulbs and young trees to school to encourage gardening and enhance the eco system. The whole school got involved on different days to plant them around school. Hopefully you will see them in full glory in spring. Thank you to Rotary Club and Mrs Slorach.



### Special School Eye Service

We have been lucky to be selected for a new NHS initiative which is recognising that children and young people in special schools often struggle to access Audiological, Dental and Optometry services. It's aim is to put health professionals from these specialities into schools to do check-ups which will ensure our children and young people are not disadvantaged.

As part of the launch of the eye service, an Optometrist and an Optician came into school on the 12th November to spend time in classrooms and to meet staff with the hope that they will then be better able to understand the needs of our specific cohort of students. They spent time in Rainbow, The Glen and secondary classrooms to observe lessons and pupils. Thank you Nurse Kate for facilitating this.



## Charity Events

### Raising Money for Sunshine and Smiles



Josh, in the Glen, shared this photo with us. He's made some things with clay that he and his family are selling to raise money for Sunshine and Smiles. Thank you Josh, that's great.

### Yellow Day to Support Young Minds



In October, Mrs McAleer and Keller organised a non-uniform day paying £1 and wearing yellow to support Young Minds. They set up a photo booth outside their classroom and as you can see both staff and pupils had quite a laugh! They raised approximately £70, thank you!

### Collecting Crisp Packets to Make Blankets for the Homeless



Care started an appeal last term to collect crisp packets (the ones with the foil type inside) to send to a charity who make sleeping blankets for the homeless. School Council continued this, Peter made some boxes for around school and Miss Fox sent a healthy parcel off just before Christmas. So if you need an excuse to eat some extra crisps over Christmas, don't forget to save the empty packets and bring them into school!



## Interfaith Week

Back in November Miss Murray and Mrs Phipps organised Interfaith week for us. We spent the week finding out about other religions. Each day we focussed on a different faith. We shared assemblies and joined in activities afterwards. This year the theme was "Colour and Light". We researched Buddhism, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Christian and Catholic religions.

Thank you to everyone for joining in this amazing week.





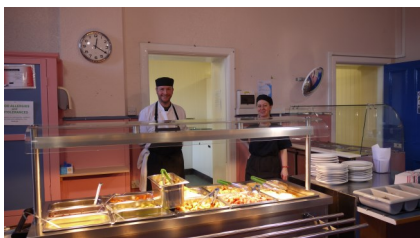
# Children In Need Fundraising

## Keller Cafe

Keller took over the dining room and opened a café to raise money for Children in Need. It was a huge success and they raised £192. Thank you to everyone for your support, particularly to those staff who donated cakes. We also had a Pudsey Bear Trail around school, to find various letters.



## Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day



## Donations to The Food Bank



Staff and pupils supported the food-bank at St Mary's Church, Boston Spa, thank you to Mrs McAleer and to everyone who donated to this cause



## Mary's Meals Total

Just to update you, on our non uniform Christmas Jumper day we donated money to support Mary's Meals and **raised an impressive amount of £45.50 , well done!** Enough to feed 3 children for 1 year and the UK Government will add to this. THANK YOU everyone!

## Concerts and Trips

### Live Music Now and Band of Jays in School

This term Live Music Now provided two online live concerts/workshops and one in person live concert. We had a red carpet premier in the Drama Room.

Online concerts—African Kora player playing a selection of traditional songs and tunes and talking about his instrument and his experience becoming a musician.

Beatboxer demonstrating his art and teaching some simple skills.

In person concert—The Band of Jays, playing a selection of folk and blues music including original compositions and getting the pupils to help out with some of the music.

It was thoroughly enjoyable, thank you Mr Frith for arranging.



### Adventure Day at Leeds Beckett University

The Donaldson and Ellington class had a great day out, the pupils (and some staff) tried bush activities. A blind night line (blindfolded through a wood following a rope with a partner to support) poor Mr Hutton ended up in the bushes!) They had lunch around a camp fire and finished with the climbing wall. Special thanks to the staff who helped; Mrs Pirie, Mr Hutton, Miss Furness, Miss Eshelby, Mrs Dixon and Mr Duggan. St Johns are so lucky to have such hardworking, adaptable staff (who the pupils clearly adore!) Thanks also to Paul and Diane for supplying the packed lunches. The famous quote from this trip by Rowan 'Team work makes the dream work'.





## Getting Into the Christmas Spirit

### The Christmas Donkey Visits School



### Our School Prayer

Dear Lord,

Bless our school and local community where your teachings and ideals guide the choices in our lives.

Support us to build St John's as a place where we learn, laugh and care as a team.

A place where we hear every voice and celebrate every voice.

And when we face the future and its challenges we do so with hearts always open and ready for change.

Amen

Fr David helped teachers to create a school prayer based on our mission statement. Some of the Sixth Formers used their skills at York College to make us a new cross too. We hope you like them.



### Thank you



Thank you to Edward's Grandpa for an extremely generous and kind donation to the school back in Easter. This donation has helped us to get more interactive white boards into our classrooms. We finally managed to get a photo of the family at the school fair.

### Teacher of the Deaf Achievement—Congratulations!

In November Mrs Fowler our Art teacher received the news that she had achieved her Post Graduate Diploma to be a Teacher of the Deaf from Birmingham University with distinction. She would like to thank the Senior Leadership Team for giving her this opportunity, Mrs McAleer for being such a dedicated mentor, Joy for her audiology expertise and for each and every one of her colleagues for their support. Thank you also to the staff that she has had the privilege of working alongside over the years. It has been such difficult times for everyone with Covid, but the support has been amazing, and she appreciates it so very much.

## Our Christmas Fair 2021

Just a few snapshots of our fair, from top left to right: The main hall with stall holders, a couple of our fabulous hampers, Santa, Mr and Mrs Rowlands (parents) selling raffle tickets at the door, Mrs Slorach, Mrs Robinson, Mrs Pirie and daughter (staff volunteers) and the ever popular bottle tombola.

We also manage to photograph some of our visitors by the tree: Mrs Clare Brooks, Chair of Governors, Mr Vince Nichols, Governor. And last but not least, previous staff members and pupils who visit; Mr Dave Phipps, Mrs McAleer with three of her past pupils, James, Lyla, Victoria, Michael, Alice, Jack, Scarlet and Jack, so lovely to see you all. Merry Christmas and a happy new year!





## Christmas Fair Raffle Prize Winners

<i>1<sup>st</sup> Prize</i>	<i>Festive Hamper</i>	<i>Jack Towers</i>
<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Prize</i>	<i>Bottle Hamper</i>	<i>Sheila Whittaker</i>
<i>3<sup>rd</sup> Prize</i>	<i>Pamper Hamper</i>	<i>Cathy Roberts</i>
<i>4<sup>th</sup> Prize</i>	<i>Childrens Festive Hamper</i>	<i>Mrs Parker-Fu</i>
<i>5<sup>th</sup> Prize</i>	<i>Wellbeing Hamper</i>	<i>Aiden Hudson</i>
<i>6<sup>th</sup> Prize</i>	<i>Ladies Hamper</i>	<i>Lukas Smith</i>
<i>7<sup>th</sup> Prize</i>	<i>Mens Hamper</i>	<i>Oliver Kelly</i>
<i>8<sup>th</sup> Prize</i>	<i>Childrens Hamper</i>	<i>Grandma Tansey</i>
<i>9<sup>th</sup> Prize</i>	<i>Tin of Chocolates</i>	<i>Nicky Stubbs</i>
<i>10<sup>th</sup> Prize</i>	<i>Captain Morgan Rum</i>	<i>Moya Sargent</i>
<i>11<sup>th</sup> Prize</i>	<i>Dead Mans Fingers Rum</i>	<i>Ann Walker</i>
<i>12<sup>th</sup> Prize</i>	<i>Jack Daniels Bourbon</i>	<i>Janet Wenham</i>
<i>13<sup>th</sup> Prize</i>	<i>Kraken Rum</i>	<i>Lukas Smith</i>
<i>14<sup>th</sup> Prize</i>	<i>Prosecco—Rose</i>	<i>Frank Miller</i>
<i>15<sup>th</sup> Prize</i>	<i>Hand Made Bird Box</i>	<i>Ms Harper</i>
<i>16<sup>th</sup> Prize</i>	<i>Sykes House Farm Gift Voucher</i>	<i>Lisa Jessey</i>
<i>17<sup>th</sup> Prize</i>	<i>Stall Holders Hamper</i>	<i>Lukas Smith</i>
<i>18<sup>th</sup> Prize</i>	<i>Sweet Treats Box</i>	<i>Frank Miller</i>

## Thank you for Supporting our Amazing Christmas Fair 2021

A huge thankyou to everyone, pupils, staff, parents and visitors for supporting the Christmas Fair. Thankyou to pupils for bringing a bottle to school on dress down day. To parents and local companies for the generous donations, to staff and parents for setting up and running the café and stalls and to all the visitors for supporting us on the day, and the wonderful feedback—our best ever! A special thank you to parent, Mrs Rowlands, who was a tremendous support throughout. Also to Santa and his two wonderful elves, they were as popular and magical as ever, showcasing our Sensory Room. We have made about £3000 and received compliment after compliment, THANK YOU EVERYONE!

**SILENT AUCTION PRIZES (Which raised £425) WERE GENEROUSLY DONATED by:**

**NORTH YORKSHIRE MOORS RAILWAY (NYMR), HAREWOOD HOUSE, THE BRIDGE INN AT WALSHFORD, ODEON LUXE - THORPE PARK, THAI CHOKDEE AT BOSTON SPA, NEWBY HALL, THE TICKLED TROUT AT BILTON, THE SCOTTS ARMS AT SICKLINGHALL, BLU HAIR AND BEAUTY WETHERBY, THE RETREAT BOSTON SPA, THE WETHERBY WHALER, THE PAX INN AT THORPE ARCH, SYKES HOUSE FARM, ST JOHNS ENTERPRISE.**

**THANK YOU TO OUR WONDERFUL STALL HOLDERS FOR MAKING THE FAIR SO “CRAFTY”:**

**Kirsty Hudson—Girleen, Kathryn Clarke— cards and knits, Julie Hoare-Bespoke by Julie Jewellery, Sasha Wharton—by Sasha Javerne, Ann Walker—handmade crafts, Lisa Stubbs—Wagg and Purr, Sue Chadwick—cushions and Christmas decorations, Alison Brain—Jewellery, Jessica Duffy—Tropic Skin Care, Helen Hobbs—hand made crafts, Mrs Kelly—buntings, Christine and Mark Tubridy— Sweets2U, Kirste Gregory—handmade candles, tealights and wax melts, Catherine O’Roarke—Handmade Cards, St Edwards Primary School Enterprise Stall. **THANK YOU EVERYONE, WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AGAIN NEXT YEAR! BEST WISHES JACKIE PEACOCK****

## Dates for Your Diary



*Merry Christmas*

Dear Parents,

We hope you and your families stay well over the festive season. However, we have been given some new duties relating to tracking and tracing from the Department of Education.

During the Christmas holiday, if your child tests positive for Coronavirus or has been a contact of anyone who has, please can you let us know. This means we can tell other people who have also been contacts in school and it will inform our staffing before the 4th January.

- If your child tests positive for Coronavirus or
- has been in close contact with someone who has Coronavirus symptoms
- or has been in contact with someone who has had a positive Coronavirus test

Please could you email: **Cora@stjohns.org.uk**

Please do not use this email for other enquiries.

Messages to this email address will be checked each day by senior staff on a rota basis.

Many thanks for your help

Ann Bradbury

## Dates for Your Diary

<b>17th December</b>	-School closes 12.30pm for Christmas Holidays
<b>4th January</b>	-School reopens
<b>28th January</b>	-School closed for TRAINING DAY
<b>18th February</b>	-School closed for half term holiday
<b>28th February</b>	-School reopens
<b>8th April</b>	-School closes 12.30pm for Easter Holidays
<b>25th April</b>	-School reopens
<b>2nd May</b>	-School closed for Bank holiday
<b>27th May</b>	-School closes for half term holiday
<b>6th June</b>	-School reopens
<b>24th June</b>	-School closed for TRAINING DAY
<b>21st July</b>	-School closes 12.30pm for Summer Holidays

Congratulations to  
Rose and Giovanni  
for Winning Strictly



@stjohns4thedeaf

