

2021/2022

April 2022



ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

# Community Voice

## Easter Newsletter

### Happy Easter Message

As we approach Easter, we wish our students and families a peaceful and relaxing holiday.

This has been a particularly challenging term with Covid infections in school higher than we have experienced at any time during the pandemic. I would like to pay tribute to my colleagues for their cheerfulness and dedication- always willing to do extra duties and cover for absent staff.

I know many families have had their own difficulties but we hope the summer term will mark the beginning of a time when Covid plays a much smaller part in all our lives.

Mrs Bradbury, Head Teacher



### Our Special Palm Sunday

We celebrated a special Palm Sunday at St John's this year, with a visit from a real donkey. There is always lots of amazing acting and video making in school, Wonky the Donkey was definitely one of the stars in 2022.



### Inside This Term's Newsletter

Easter DT Projects, Autism Acceptance Week, Work Experience Weeks, Trips to the Deep, Resilience Club, Arla Come to School for the Day, Zoolab, Holy Week, Happy Teeth, World Down Syndrome Day, Cook With Care, World Book Day, Science Week, Thrive and last but not least; School Council—

We hope you enjoy it!

## Easter Projects

### DT—Collective Worship Displays

In DT Mr Lynch and Ellington class started on a design to mark Easter. Miss Murray requested a design for the collective worship tables and a design to be displayed outside. Pupils have been hard at work on three crosses using a halfling joint to join the pieces together and you can see the sculpture in the garden, near the entrance to school. The collective worship design uses rigid foam and mock rock to produce a depiction of the Tomb, Calvary Hill and the Crucifixion. Ellington completed 12 indoor Easter designs, they will now be given to each class for their collective worship table.



### Clock Project

Ellington have completed their Clock project. As a group they looked at both England and Australia. In construction, all students used a variety of workshop equipment such as a pillar drill, fretsaw, multi tool, sander and cordless drill. They have developed skills in measuring, marking out, fitting and finishing along with completing a design folder. Jared, Lisa, Zack, Cole and Gracie proudly displaying their clocks, below.





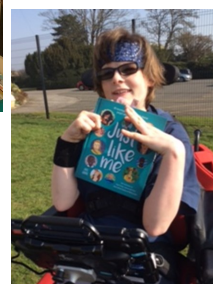
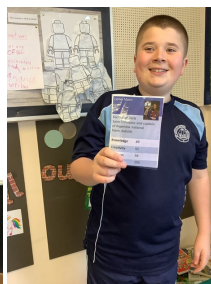
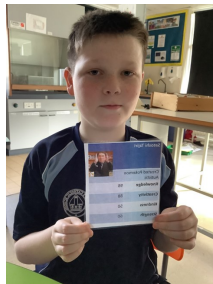
# Special Days in School

## Autism Acceptance Week 2022

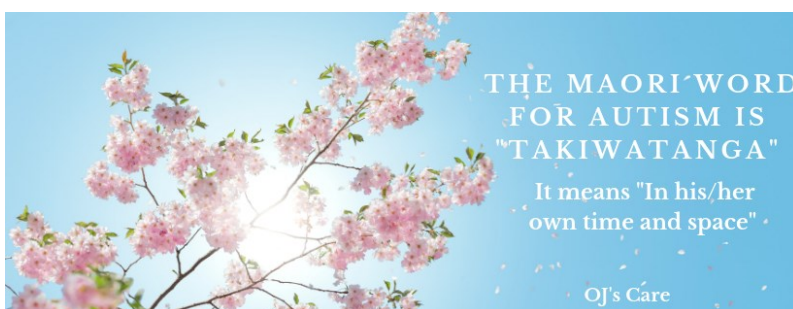
The national theme for this week changed this year from 'awareness' to 'acceptance'. First held in the year 1972 by the Autism Society, Autism Acceptance week emphasizes the need for public awareness to promote acceptance, celebrate the differences, and be more inclusive towards autistic individuals around us.

Members of our student council put posters up around school highlighting successful autistic people, and informative facts to dispel some of the myths. In classes, students viewed presentations and videos, mostly made by fellow autistic people, and played a Top Trumps neurodiversity game in speech and language group sessions. It was a great week highlighting our proud, thriving autistic community at St John's.

Below you can see photos of speech and language therapist, Harriet MacPhie playing a 'Neurodiversity Top Trumps' card game in Ellington. Also photos of Zack, Cole, Georgia, Mqhele and Alex with the book 'Just Like me' by Louise Gooding. Each Secondary form had a copy of this which was promoted in one to one Speech and Language Therapy sessions and in form time. This book celebrates uniqueness and recognising our potential to achieve whatever we want. The 40 neurologically and physically diverse people introduced in this book have done just that. They have all smashed stereotypes, overcome misconceptions and shown the world just what they are capable of. Secondary pupils particularly loved this book.



## Some Thoughts For The Day Shared During Autism Week



# Work Experience Weeks

## Keller Class

During the week of the 14<sup>th</sup> March, the Keller class were taken off timetable to experience a 'week of experiences'. They started the week by visiting York College, they toured the site, had lunch and were shown how the 6<sup>th</sup> formers travel to and from college. On Tuesday, the students became 6<sup>th</sup> formers for the day, dressing in their own clothes, making themselves hot drinks and listening to presentations about York college and Askham Bryan College. During the afternoon, they joined up with the 'real' 6<sup>th</sup> formers and completed some team building activities. On Wednesday we visited Askham Bryan college, again having a tour of the site and a hot drink in the café. Thursday was spent writing personal action plans and having interviews with our Independent Careers Advisor; Jackie Danby. To finish the week the students went to Hull to visit the aquarium The Deep. Mrs Pirie joined the group all week and said ' I am delighted about the outcome of the week, all of the students now have an understanding of their desired pathway and more importantly, what they need to achieve to get there, well done to all the Keller students.'



## Edison Class

Edison were challenged to take part in a two-week block of work experience, unfortunately due to covid this has had to be cut short but anything that was missed will be rearranged. Mrs Pirie said "The lads prepared themselves for a busy week, visiting Leeds, York College and The Deep, they should be proud of their achievements, with three out of the four having interviews at college and gaining a place on their chosen course for next year. Well done!"

The group had planned to visit the HMRC offices in Leeds for a three day business challenge but this will be rearranged for June.

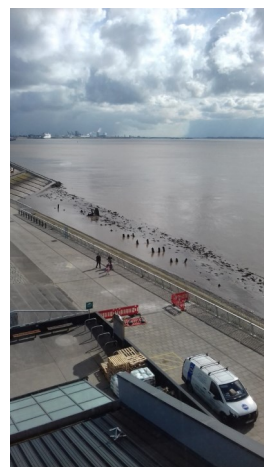
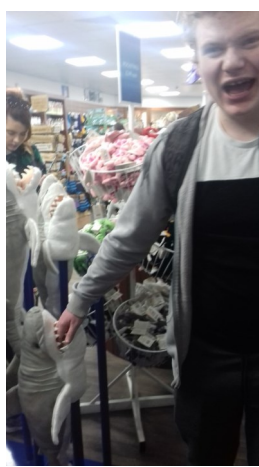
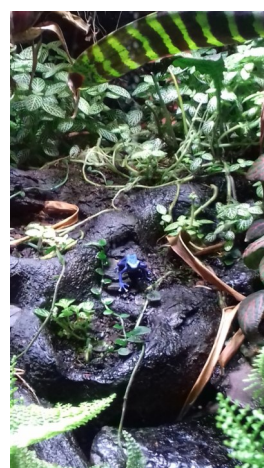




## Days Out at The Deep

### Edison, Keller and Post 16 Trips to the Deep

Edison, Keller and some of our Post 16 group had a great day at The Deep with hail, snow, wind and sun on the journey. Everyone loved the penguins at feeding time, even though they had a squabble. They all had two fish and then waddled off for a swim (the penguins not the students). The students did a test of endurance with their hands on the ice wall (not their tongues thank goodness). Our favourite name was the Lumpsucker Fish and we enjoyed the sharks circling above our heads. Lovely to have a blast of sunshine and a fab view of the Humber Bridge on the way home.



## Resilience Club

Resilience Club. In school we talk a lot about resilience; that having it will help you in life and that we can all grow more resilient with practice. With this in mind the school has been running two resilience clubs this term, one for the younger pupils and one for the older students. We have two members of the Leeds City Council outreach team who lead in the sessions and the pupils discuss what they find hard about school/life. As a group, the students share their worries and discuss ways they can be overcome. Many thanks to John and Anthony for running these sessions, the pupils will have 12 sessions altogether. Mrs Pirie is working hard to secure similar future sessions for other students who have missed out this time. If you feel your child would benefit from having a group session or an individual session please contact [Kate.pirie@stjohns.org.uk](mailto:Kate.pirie@stjohns.org.uk) to discuss.



# Arla Day in School

## Preparing for the World of Work

On Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March St John's opened their doors to Arla. The dairy company came into school and ran four activities which helped the pupils understand and prepare for the world of work. The normal school timetable was scrapped for the day and all the pupils came to school 'interview ready'. They learnt about how Arla transport milk, the products that they sell and the range of different jobs they provide within the economy. The main attraction for the day was the 'Big Interview'. All of the pupils from Donaldson upwards took part in mock interviews, learning all of the essential tools including; shaking hands and having well prepared answers. All of the pupils did so well on the day, Kate Pirie (Head of Careers) said 'I was filled with pride whilst watching the students confidently shaking hands and talking to adults they had never met before. Our young people face many challenges through life and I believe if we break down these barriers little by little in a calm, well planned environment then the worries and anxieties can be controlled easier. I would like to say a huge thanks to the Arla team, for supporting St John's on their Careers journey.'



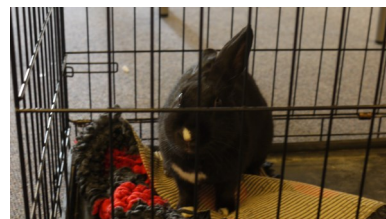
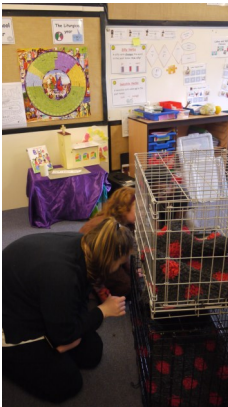


## Arla Photos of the “Baby” Lorry



## Zoolab in School

At the end of our Arla day, Zoolab brought some animals and reptiles into school; a rabbit, guinea pigs, tortoise, bearded dragons, stick insects and a couple of snakes. The big snake was incredibly popular!



# Holy Week

## Amazing Acting Around School

In true St John's tradition there was lots of acting in and around school to produce the Holy Week video; the whole school participated.

There were also lots of activities for everyone to enjoy in the back of the chapel.

We hope you enjoy them, happy Easter from us all.

### Monday

On Monday it was a re-enactment of Jesus washing the Disciples feet and The Last Supper.



### Tuesday

On Tuesday we learned about Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane



### Wednesday

On Wednesday we learned about Jesus's arrest.



### Thursday

On Thursday we learned about Jesus's trial and crucifixion. And also about Jesus's Resurrection.



HAPPY EASTER



# Different Days in School

## Happy Teeth Come to School

A local charity "Happy Teeth" came into school this half term to offer dental checks to our students. The team of dentists work in the special needs sector to offer dental checks to those who find, due to their special needs, going to see a dentist difficult.



## Lots of Socks— World Down Syndrome Day

The Glen enjoyed celebrating World Down Syndrome Day on 21st March by wearing odd socks and making a video for the rest of school to enjoy! Thank you!



## Cook With Care

Our "cook with care" project started in February, this involves members of the school staff joining the residential groups and sharing their recipes/ideas to enable us to use these recipes in the future. Our first chef was Gino de Harrington.

All our students enjoyed making pizzas using healthy pizza bases and a variety of different toppings. So thanks to Gino for making our first "cook with care" evening a success.

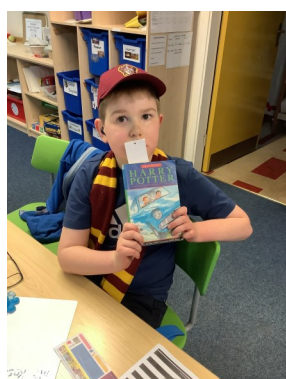
In March, our very own Mr Lynch took part in our "cook with care".

The recipe he chose was one of his son's favourite recipes and everyone really enjoyed the special fried rice dish. Thanks to Mr Lynch for making our "cook with care" an evening enjoyed by everyone.



## World Book Day 2022—You Are a Reader

This year marked the 25th anniversary of World Book Day. To link with the theme we asked students and staff to share the books that they love. This could have been a book from their childhood, or a recent find. Students shared these with their forms and we put book reviews outside of our classrooms so everyone could read them and get recommendations. Keller and P16 went down to the Glen to read with them. The sharing of reading is always very special and it is lovely to see the bond between the older and younger students every year. We also had a 'Where's Wally' hunt around school with a very special Golden Wally to be found, which gave the finder instant access to the Golden Ticket party at the end of term. Well done Lisa for spotting him behind the server counter in the dining room! As you can see the staff liked dressing up too!





## Science Week 2022

This year, Science week took place from 11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> March and our budding young scientists across the school took part in a variety of Scientific activities to celebrate! As well practical activities, pupils carried our research, quizzes and even some Forensic Science!



On the left; Nightingale Group Observing an Investigation Involving Mentos Rockets

Below; members of Sixth Form and Donaldson—making slime



Left the Glen and Ellington in the lab!

Below, rocket launching!



Right, Leandro carrying out a heart dissection.

Left, investigating a crime scene.

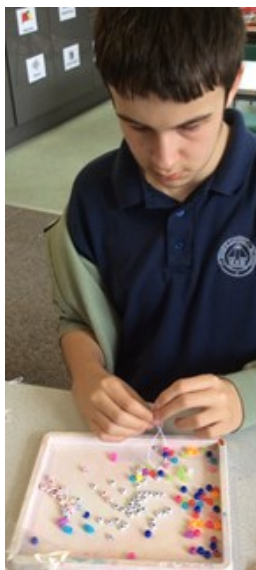


# The Thrive Approach



The Thrive approach is a whole school strategy we are using at St John's to support and develop student mental health and well-being. The Thrive approach is based on established neuroscience, attachment theory and child development, it provides training and an online profiling and action-planning tool to equip adults with the knowledge, insights and resources needed to develop the relationships that help children and young people to flourish and learn. St John's recognises the importance of our students being able to regulate and remain regulated to ensure that they are able to access learning. Thrive promotes children's and young people's positive mental health by helping adults know how to be and what to do in response to their differing and sometimes distressed behaviour.

At the last pupil progress review we were able to share with you the outcome of individual student profiling which the staff completed earlier in the Spring term. The staff have begun to use this information to inform their planning and incorporate a range of creative Thrive activities to ensure the students feel happy, safe and special prior to them completing any academic learning. The Glen pupils enjoyed exploring their senses using slime to learn about different emotions and facial expressions. Nightingale students made necklaces and playdoh at the start of their lesson to support them to be ready to learn.

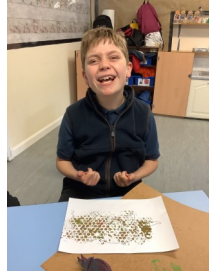




# Thrive Activities

## Art

Pupils in Blackbird, created a patterned dinosaur. The focus of the learning was to work independently and manipulate the equipment and materials purposefully. We also covered the names of the different dinosaurs and matched the pictures with a 3-dimensional toy dinosaur. Everyone was really focused.



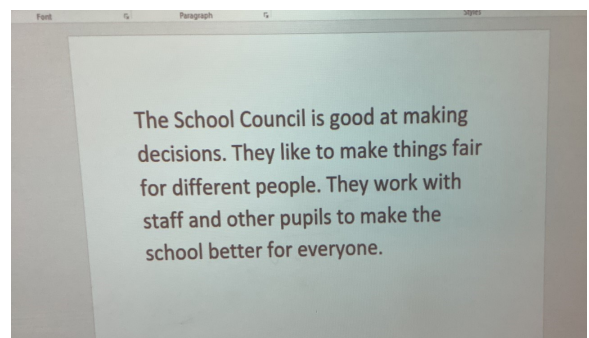
## Felted European Landscapes

Nightingale have explored landscapes in Europe, chosen one they liked, drew the design and then created a felted piece. They look amazing.



## School Council

In the last meeting pupils wrote this statement for the newsletter:-  
It is our 5<sup>th</sup> meeting since September 2021.  
1 rep met the Green representative for Boston Spa and then shared this with the school council.  
The introduction of Golden Tickets has been guided by the S Council.  
Requests for money for new outdoor equipment has been granted by (Senior Leadership Team) SLT. Pupils are now choosing from the allocated budget.  
The student council have given their opinion about school uniform items.  
They have made decisions about what to recycle in school.  
They helped to put up posters for Autism Acceptance week.



## And Finally...

### Thank you and Happy Easter

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our bumper newsletter. If anyone would like to submit a small article (and photo) please send it to [Jackie.peacock@stjohns.org.uk](mailto:Jackie.peacock@stjohns.org.uk)

### Leeds United in School

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May - Leeds United are in school for the whole day with Ellington and Donaldson pupils. PE kits to be worn please.

### Sports Day

Sports day is Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July 1 p.m. start

To help support the Raffle on Sports day there will be a non uniform day on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June. A donation of a bottle would be most appreciated in return. If any parents would like to help with this raffle please contact Jackie Peacock or Kate Pirie.

### Dates for your diary

<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
Early Notice—The School Year 2022-2023 will start on Monday 5th September for pupils.	
<b>5th September</b>	-School reopens for pupils



ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

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A SEN Specialist School



Happy Easter!



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