

It's Official, Ofsted find St John's Specialist Catholic School "Outstanding" in all Areas of it's Residential Service—Again

Mrs Rachel Blackburn (right), Head of Care and Designated Safe guarding Lead said "We are delighted and overwhelmed at how incredible the report reads."



Mrs Bradbury, Head Teacher said "I know Governors, parents and students will want to pass on our congratulations to our care team whose hard work and commitment to young people has been recognised by our Ofsted report. Care staff keep the needs of young people foremost in all they do and our head of care, is described as "exceptional".

This is probably the best Ofsted report we have had but is richly deserved by a team who continually strive to improve the service they offer our young people".

School Celebrate St John of Beverley Feast Day

It was St John of Beverley Feast Day on 7th May. To honour this we all gathered at the front of school to plant a Weeping Cherry Tree and feast on cake and fruit salad. We are hoping that our new tree will blossom annually at the beginning of May and remind us it is the Feast day of our patron saint.

St John of Beverley was a monk from Whitby Abbey. He was born near Beverly in East Yorkshire. He helped a young deaf boy who had no family. The boy was sick and could not speak. John looked after him and taught him to speak. He became famous for helping people and telling them about Jesus. He was made a saint when he died on 7th May 721 as people believed he could do miracles and Beverley Minster was built to remember him. This is who our school is named after and you can see a statue of him at the front of school.



Inside This Term's Newsletter

Our Royal scarecrow, pupils get involved in charity events, lunch time clubs, getting to know our local police team, news on upcoming projects; pop up book hut and community tree planting event, care news, 6th form news, School Council news and details about the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations.

Royalty Scarecrow Trail

The Glen have been very busy helping to create a Queen Elizabeth 2nd scarecrow for the Boston Spa Scarecrow trail that is taking place in the village over the Jubilee bank holiday weekend, 2nd to 6th June.

The whole village theme is 'Royalty' and in the Glen pupils in literacy have been reading the children's story of 'The Queens Hat' by Steve Antony. Robins in the Glen listened carefully to instructions and worked as a team. Miss Murray and Mrs Fowler have worked together with Mr Lynch who helped pupils in Nightingale in Design Technology to create the 3D figure frame in wood. Nightingale helped to make the frame for the scarecrow skeleton. This involved using a number of power tools to construct the frame. York college Hair and Beauty department kindly donated a head to help with the design.

The finished Queen is now displayed at the front of the school for passers by to enjoy. If you want to vote, you can put your three favourite scarecrows on the scarecrow trail map. These are available from The Crown, The Pudding Lab, Douglas Yeadon and Costcutter for £2. Our Queen is number 25!



Lyall Run's For Sunshine and Smiles

Lyall loved doing a charity run to raise money for Sunshine and Smiles. He was very fast and got lots of high fives and cheers. Grandma and Grandad had made a big banner. He has his medal and number to show his friends at school. He's raised £165 so far. Well done!



Rainbow Enterprise to Raise Money for Local Charity

Rainbow class have been working really hard making fabulous crafts to sell to raise money for charity. They made cards, gifts and cakes and set up a shop in school at break times. Their independence and individual personalities shone through. They raised £260 and Mr Duncan Brownnut from Martin House Hospice in Boston Spa, came into school for a special assembly, where he was presented with a cheque. Thank you to everyone who supported this.

Martin House
Children's Hospice



Weekly Visits to the Wise Owl Cafe

Every Thursday the Rainbow group walk into the local village to the Wise Owl Café for a drink and a cake. This café is run by volunteers and has supported St John's for many years, offering pupils work experience too. Pupils and staff were delighted to bump into ex staff member, Mrs Mitchell there, just like old times.



Lunchtime Extra Curricular Clubs

We have introduced a number of lunchtime clubs for pupils to attend as and when they feel like it.

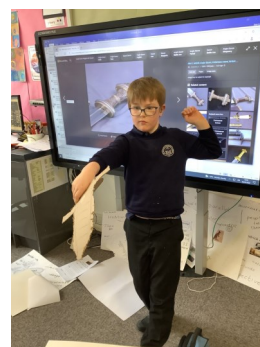
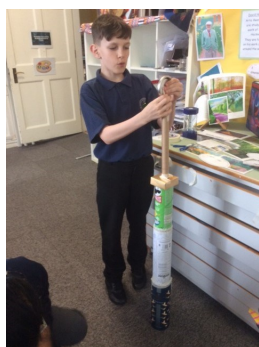
- ♦ Tuesday is Art Club with Mrs Fowler, Art Teacher
- ♦ Wednesday is Girl Talk or Boy Talk with Mrs Pirie, PE and Sixth Form Teacher or Nurse Kate
- ♦ Thursday is Lego Club with Mrs Macphie or Mrs Wild, Speech and Language Therapists or
- ♦ Thursday Gardening Club with Miss Dyer, LSA and Mrs Peacock, Admin Team
- ♦ Friday is Den Building with Mrs Slorach, Assistant Head

Watch this space for updates.

Tuesday—Art and Craft Club

The first session today included the WISE owl card making project “Send a Smile”: Make a card, draw a picture or write a letter to make an old person smile. They also did pastels in the style of Mark Rothco and Anglo Saxton swords.

Another activity was to paint some wooden shields white, for the front of the school building as part of the plan to decorate the school and re-create an old photo taken at the coronation of King George V in 1911, when we come back after half term. There are 8 to paint.



Super Lunch Times

Thursday—Lego Therapy Club

The pupils are enjoying Lego Therapy in Thursday Lego Club and in Speech and Language Therapy sessions to support the development of social skills. Pupils are assigned roles, 'Parts Supplier'; 'Builder' and 'Engineer' and have to work collaboratively to build Lego models. Some of the pupils have even been making their own models and creating their own visual instructions ready to deliver to their peers.

If you have any Lego at home that is gathering dust we would be more than welcome for any donations for our Lego enthusiasts. Thank you from Mrs Macphie, Speech and Language Therapist.



The Glen Language Group



At the Glen Language group restaurant, King Josh chooses pizza toppings,

Using "I want X, please".

Chef Freddie serves up pizza, then adds a funny topping and Josh practises "I don't want X!"

Thursday—Gardening Club

We have been working in the poly tunnel and have planted all sorts of seeds, including Sunflowers, wild flowers, pumpkins, potatoes and a couple of towers of strawberries. The poly tunnel is full of young vegetables and tomatoes, so we help to look after these too.

Continued Growing Success—Arium Grant

Once again, Mrs Pirie applied for the Horticultural Grant at the Leeds city council run Arium Garden Centre, Thorer Lane, Leeds and successfully secured the full amount of £1,000. A huge thank you to the Arium and to Mrs Pirie for putting the bid in. The garden centre has a lovely café and children's area if you fancy a visit.



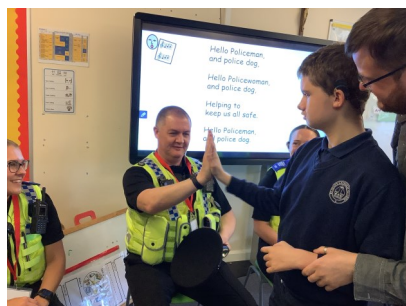
Police Visit School

Careers Advice

To link into our Power and Justice theme, Mrs Pirie arranged for PC Lane and two PCO's to come into school. They talked about the role of a Police Officer and what uniform and equipment they have. Thank you.



Rainbow



Glen



Pop Up Book Hut Coming Soon



Children's
Book
Project

Wates



Exciting Book News!

For the duration of the summer term we will be working alongside 'Wates' and 'The Children's Book Project'. We have been selected as one of five schools in Leeds via a collaborative initiative commissioned by Wates to host a pop-up book hut. These huts have come about as a result of Wates working on the redevelopment of the British Library.

The Children's Book Project is a national charity that believes every child should have access to good quality, exciting and relevant books. The Children's Book Project would like every child to feel part of a wider reading community and to draw inspiration and pleasure from words and pictures. The Children's Book Project work with schools across the UK to match families whose children have grown out of their books with communities that have fewer books of their own.

After Easter we will be hosting a pop-up book hut in school. The hut will arrive full of books that the students can browse through, borrow and eventually choose one to keep. All that 'The Children's Book project' ask in return is that we spread the word via our social media and be open to book donations from the school and local community. A large box will be put in the main entrance for families and students to donate their pre-loved books. These books will then be collected and used in whichever way has the greatest benefit to the children/young people they support.

Up-Coming Community Tree Planting Event

Back in the Autumn term school started work on a sustainable development project to improve and sustain the local habitats. Mrs Slorach, Assistant Head met with Penny Stables, a local MP and as part of this we applied for a community tree pack from the Woodland Trust.

We have recently found out that we have been successful, we are expecting a November delivery and understand they can be planted between November and March.

Once we know they are on the way we will plan a "Community Tree Planting Event" and invite school parents and the wider community to come along one Saturday afternoon to help to plant them up.

We'll advertise this at the local Boston Spa Garla and start to collect contact details of those who are interested. We also plan to let the local Rotary club and Allotment Societies know too.

If you would like any more details or have any tips for us, please feel free to call Jackie Peacock in the school office.



Cook With Care

Many thanks to the school staff that have given up their free time to join us for Cook with Care sharing their recipe ideas with us.
Miss Cuniffe - Delicious pork wraps.
Miss Turner - Fabulous roast chicken dinner.
Mr Roberts - Better than a McD'S.



Chess

There have been many games of chess throughout the half-term and some students are keen to learn and compete against each other - the competition is heating up. Peter, George, Mqhele, Alex, Scarlet, Julian. Thanks to Maciej and Rene for supporting this activity.



A Quest for the Best

Alex, George, Finn, Julian, Mqhele, Scarlet, Peter, Macauley and Kacey enjoyed a trip out to Xscape - Lazer Quest. Everyone had a great time.

Alex Passes Driving Test First Time!

Congratulations to Alex, who passed his driving theory test only a few weeks ago. His parents managed to get his driving test booked and he passed first time. This makes Alex so much more independent he now drives himself to school on a Monday and back home from College on a Friday. Being mobile makes him much more employable especially in his chosen career in Construction.



Girl Guide Promise

Lottie has continued to attend Guides every Monday. Many congratulations to Lottie for succeeding in doing her Guide Promise and reciting this in front of parents and all the other Guides.



Swimming

Lottie, Lucy, Kacey and George have been enjoying swimming sessions at both Tadcaster and Knaresborough leisure centres.

Sixth Form News

Skating



After college Sixth form students keep busy having fun learning to skate and skate board

Home Cooking

Mqhele in care last night cooking for the group. He told me its one of his mum recipes, grilled salmon on a bed of rice with a side of vegetables. Sounds delicious, I'm sure your mum will be proud of you!



School Council

A message from our school council:

"We are very happy to share good news. We just wanted to let you know that at the last school council meeting just before the end of term the pupils decided together that the Enterprise money given to them would be split between a donation for the people of Ukraine and Lego for the Lego club. Zack, a school council member from Ellington will choose the Lego.

Thank you so much to everyone who was involved in this.

Please could you pass on this information onto your classes. Below is the receipt to show them".



Thank you so much for your recent donation of £49.68 to the British Red Cross Ukraine Crisis Appeal

And Finally...

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

To celebrate and mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee we will be having a Platinum Jubilee day in school on Wednesday 8th June. The students may come to school dressed in red, white and blue for this day if they wish. We will have our traditional British roast dinner on Wednesday instead of the Thursday. There may even be the odd trifle for the students to try. The lunch choices for Wednesday and Thursday will be switched for this week.

Students in the Glen have been working hard to create our very own entry into the Boston Spa Scarecrow competition. The Scarecrow links to the Story 'The Queen's Hat' which they have been focusing their English work on throughout this half term. Some form groups may choose to take a trip out to the village to complete the scarecrow trail and look at all of the other scarecrows set up around the village.

The Keller students will be once again hosting afternoon tea in the dining hall as they did back in November to raise money for Children in Need. This event was a huge success and it was an excellent opportunity for all students to develop their social skills. If you could spare some time to bake a cake to donate this would be appreciated. I am certain the students will enjoy them. The students would like to raise money again and they will decide which charity they wish to donate to in due course. Please ensure that students bring in a small amount of money to purchase a cake and a drink during the afternoon tea.

The staff and students will also be working hard throughout this day to decorate the school building for the Boston Spa Gala. In 1911, the school was decorated to mark the coronation of King George V and Queen Mary and we thought the Platinum Jubilee would be an excellent opportunity to recreate the image so it is decorated for the Boston spa Gala which will take place on the school field on Saturday 11th June. Each class, will decorate a section of the building. If anyone has any donations of British flags, bunting or red, white and blue fabric this will be greatly received.

Office Staff Make the Queen's Trifle



Dates for your diary

27th May -School closes for half term holiday
6th June -School reopens
24th June -School closed for TRAINING DAY
21st July -School closes 12.30pm for Summer Holidays
Early Notice—The School Year 2022-2023 will start on Monday 5th September for pupils.
5th September -School reopens for pupils
Friday 2nd September is a mandatory training day for all staff



Healthy Schools



ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

Church Street
Boston Spa

Phone: 01937 842144
Fax: 01937 541471

www.stjohns.org.uk