

2022/23–Issue 2

December 2022



ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

# Community Voice

## 2022 Christmas Newsletter

### An Advent Message From the Head Teacher

**John 1:1-5**

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

*He was in the beginning with God;*

*all things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made.*

*In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.*

*The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*

This term has been very busy but we were delighted to be able to invite family and friends to our Advent Mass at which Joshua, Leandro, Zack and Oisin were confirmed. It was a great honour for the school.

We would like to thank all our students, their families and friends for their support throughout all the year and hope you all have a lovely Christmas.

Very best wishes from all the staff and Mrs Bradbury.



### Back to Nature—In and Around Our School

We've been busy tidying the planters at the front of school and planting trees round the back of school, only 180ish to go!!



ST JOHN'S SPECIALIST CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Church Street

Phone: 01937 842144

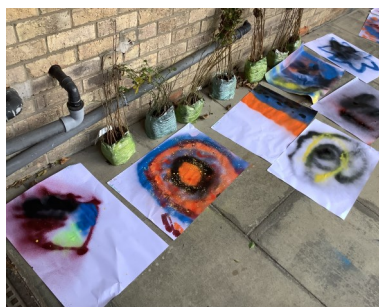
Fax: 01937 541471

A SEN Specialist School  
[www.stjohns.org.uk](http://www.stjohns.org.uk)

# Special Themes

## Interfaith Week

This year our theme was Light The Way. We enjoyed sharing an assembly about different faiths (Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism) each morning and joining together for activities in the school chapel. At the end of the week we enjoyed exploring a sensory light display of all our work.





# Charity Begins at Home

## Remembrance Day

As part of our Remembrance Day work pupils from Donaldson, Ellington and Burnell classes visited St. Edward's Catholic Church in Clifford to visit the graves of two World War II soldiers. Pupils made poppies to lay on the graves and joining together to share a short service of prayers and reflections. Thank you to everyone who bought Poppies at school, we raised £48.66. The big total raised was £11,050.



## Food Bank Visit

Thank you to everyone for your generous donations to our foodbank collection. Burnell class took donations to Wetherby Morrisons and also to a Community Foodbank in Crossgates. We found out how Foodbanks make up food parcels and helped to organise our donations into different food categories. Thank you to Alan Robinson (President of St JH Newman SVP Conference) for taking the time to meet with us and show us the Foodbank).



## Wonkey the Donkey Helps Mary and Joseph

We were delighted to have a visit from Wonky the donkey to help us with our nativity acting. Wonky worked with Mary and Joseph to visit the windows of different classrooms so we could knock and ask if there was any room at the inn. Wonky also helped us film out nativity crib scene. After all the acting Wonky had a meet and greet session so pupils from each class could come and visit him. A huge thank you to Di and Kirsty for bringing Wonky and giving up their time to help us.



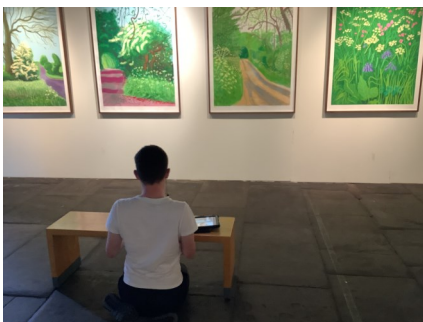
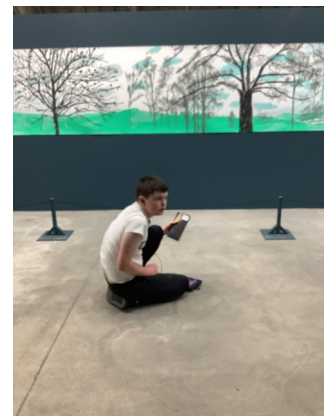
### Trip to Salts Mill

In September as part of the Arts Award course, pupils from Nightingale and Keller visited the latest exhibition 'A Year in Normandie' and the permanent exhibition 'The Arrival of Spring' at Salt's Mill, Saltaire, Bradford. Both exhibitions are by the Yorkshire artist David Hockney who helped to bring Salt's Mill, previously a textile mill back to life. In both exhibitions Hockney used his iPad to create the sketches, showing the changing seasons using colours shapes and patterns. The lines he drew were amazing and showed us all how versatile the iPad is as a drawing tool.

Pupils had the opportunity to take photographs with their phones but also the iPads as well as sketch areas they liked or were interested in.

Following this visit this pupils have been learning how to use the drawing graphics app Procreate on the iPad and in Keller developing their own drawings from sketches made of trees, in the school grounds.

After Christmas Keller pupils will show others within the school community how to use it.





## School Trips

### Leeds Beckett Adventure Day

The pupils in Burnell and Ellington enjoyed a fun filled day at Leeds Beckett University on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December. They completed a range of activities including orienteering, fire making, boat building and climbing. It was a cold day, but all the pupils had a great experience. Well done to all of the students, we were really proud of your achievements. Kate Pirie Careers, PE and Sixth Form Tutor.



# Title

## Send a Smile Scheme



We created Christmas cards to donate to the WISE send a smile scheme. This is a fantastic scheme which donated handmade post to the elderly to help cut down on feelings of isolation and loneliness.



### Our Services—WISE

SEND A SMILE to share love and happiness with an older person in your area. Our 'Send A Smile' scheme helps to cut feelings of isolation and loneliness by asking people to spare 10 minutes to send an older person some handmade post. It couldn't be easier to get involved. Step one: make a card, draw a picture or write a letter to make an older person smile.

## Rotary Shoebox Appeal



We helped the Wetherby Wharfedale Rotary Club with their annual Rotary Shoebox Scheme. Supporters from lots of local schools fill boxes full of gifts, these are collected, stored at St John's school and dispatched to Moldova, Romania and Ukraine. There was a total of 650 boxes this year, thank you!

## Goodbye and Good Luck

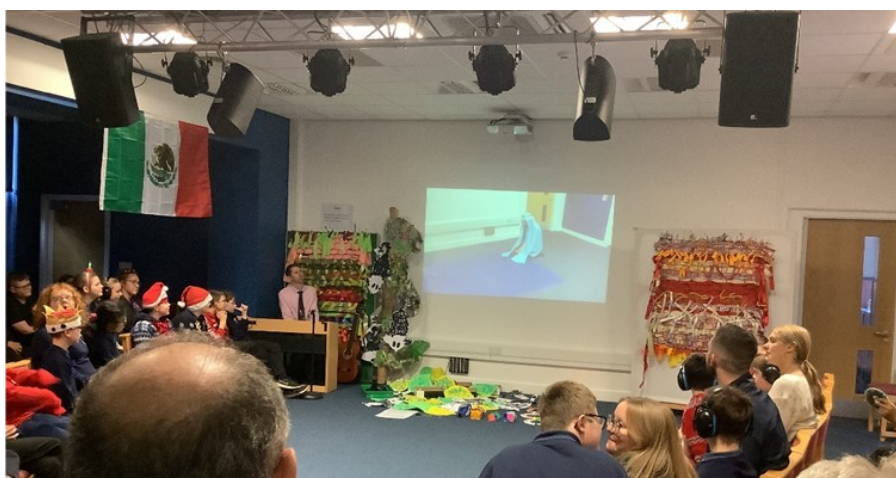
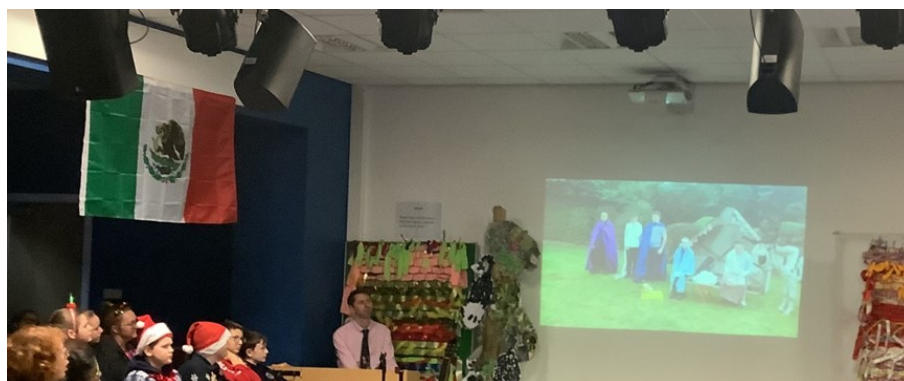
Goodbye and very best of luck to Miss Cuniffe and Miss Furnass who are moving on from St John's. They have been a pleasure to work with, we hope they will keep in touch.



# Christmas Celebrations

## Christmas Around the World

Did you know, our last live Christmas Celebration was in December 2019? The pupils have been working hard all term and this was the perfect opportunity for them to share the fruits of their labour. Before an enthusiastic and tuneful audience, we heard songs from Brazil, Mexico, Australia and Cameroon as well as some well-known Christmas Carols from nearer home. Pupils shared their knowledge of the countries through, acting, interviewing one another, reciting poetry, and smashing a pinata!



# Developments in School

## Working towards Autism Accreditation

As part of our school development we are working towards Autism accreditation with The National Autistic Society (NAS) which is being reviewed on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> January.



As part of this review, we would be delighted if you could complete an online survey even if your child/young person doesn't have an autism diagnosis because it's for the wider benefit of all students.

There is a survey for families to complete and two versions of a survey for children - you can choose either. You should have received an email with the links, but if not:

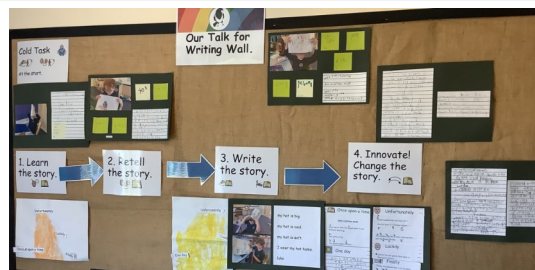
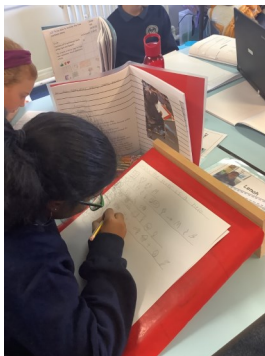
Child/Young person link: <https://forms.office.com/r/NCu0bFxZUh>

(Easy Read Version): <https://forms.office.com/r/3WrCWgWDDi>

Families Link: <https://forms.office.com/r/m4hm5QLz5w>

Thank you for your support with this. By going through this process our provision will continue to improve for the benefit all young people in our care. Kevin Harrington, Deputy Head Teacher.

## Talk 4 Writing



Mrs Slorach, Mr Frith and Miss Fox have begun to engage with a Talk 4 Writing Leadership project this term in London. The project will last for three years and support staff in school to embed the talk 4 writing principles. A part of the project involves collaborating with other specialist provisions to develop a talk 4 writing model which will be published in Pie Corbett's next book. Talk 4 writing is a strategy we are using with all of the pupils to support them to imitate and internalise a text. This supports their writing skills as they are able to recall key vocabulary, phrases and sentence structures. The students then innovate the model text using text mapping before moving on to inventing their own stories and texts. This half term the students in Harrop and Girma have enjoyed learning to imitate the story 'Possum Magic' by Mem Fox and Julie Vivas. They have used a range of signs and images to support them with this. Students in Nightingale and Keller have used word wheels to generate and develop their vocabulary when describing a setting. We have already observed a significant impact in the quality and quantity of the spoken and written language that the students are able to produce.



### CEOP's Blog: Social Media and Mental Health



We are pleased to say a member of our care team, Rene Lelong has recently been trained as our Online Safety Ambassador. Rene underwent training through the Child Exploitation and Online Protection agency (CEOP) which is a section of the National Crime Agency.

As our CEOP Education Ambassador, Rene will be sharing online safety education resources and supporting us with our whole-school approach to safeguarding children online. He will deliver training to staff and will regularly share information with parents and carers.

If you would like any support or guidance over any particular issues, or if you have any questions for the FAQ section of his half-termly Online Safety Newsletter (coming in the New Year!) please email [rene.lelong@stjohns.org.uk](mailto:rene.lelong@stjohns.org.uk).

In the meantime, here are some useful links for advice and support:

[www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/)  
[www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre](http://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre)  
[saferinternet.org.uk/](http://saferinternet.org.uk/)

Kind regards  
Kevin Harrington  
Deputy Head Teacher

### Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day

Thank you to Chef Paul, Jane and Lynne for our lovely traditional Christmas dinner, it was delicious. Thank you to the Senior Management Team for treating all the staff to a free lunch too. We raised £45 for Mary's meals from donations for wearing Christmas jumpers.



## Sixth Form News

### Peter Wins Local Chess Tournament

Peter wrote; "In October, I won in a chess tournament that I attended in person. The Chess Centre located in Ilkley had 18 players, as a result we were split into three divisions. I happened to win against 4 players and drew against 1.

To win, I had to really concentrate, and it was not easy, especially as I had to play 5 chess games against other experienced players. Furthermore, during the match we had 20 minutes each to play our moves. On the surface, it seems like plenty of time. However, when you are trying to decide what move you are making, that time disappears. 1 wrong move can completely throw away the game, so I had to be careful.

If anybody wants to play a game against me in school during break or lunch, you can email me and ask. I would be happy to play a game (I am in school on Thursdays)."

Huge congratulations to Peter and thank you for the article and offering us all a game of chess.



### The Sound of Music



Eoin at school playing the piano, practicing for his lessons in the back of the Chapel. At college he is doing AS Music Technology

### Service With a Smile



Left, Kacey is working in the "Ashfield" restaurant (front of house) A large group were having a Christmas Lunch. Kacey who is on a E3/L1 Hospitality course worked with the Level 3 students to ensure everyone had a great time.

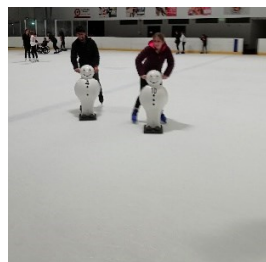


## Residential News

### Trips Out

It's been another busy term in the life of a residential student whether for our older 6<sup>th</sup> form students or our younger "Ripon" students. Our excursions have been in full swing this term and trips out have included; shopping trips, York Minster, a football club in Wetherby, Boston Spa Guides, Ice Skating and Bowling.

For Christmas we will be going shopping at the White Rose Centre and having a Christmas meal.



### Halloween

For Halloween we had a Halloween party. Many of our students enjoyed getting dressed up and taking part in traditional games such as apple bobbing.



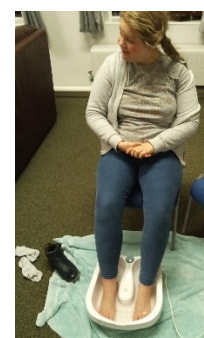
### Cook With Care

This term residential students have continued to enjoy visiting staff coming to do some cooking. It has been great to see different faces in the residential area sharing their knowledge and enjoying their tasty food thank you so much! Jane, Mrs Slorach, Sarah Nicholls



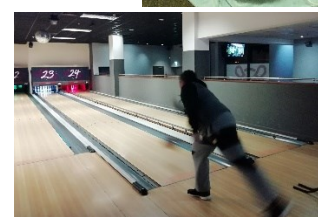
### Pamper Night

From time to time the residential students get an extra treat, a pamper night. Treats include face packs, nails painted and a foot massage!



### Bowling Trip

Some students enjoyed a trip to Escape Climbing Wall and on the 16<sup>th</sup> November sixth form students returned to the Escape Activity Centre at Castleford. This time the trip included bowling. Well done to all those who went along and gave it their best "Strike"!



# Our Christmas Fair 2022

## A Few Snapshots From the Day





## Christmas Fair Raffle Prize Winners 2022

1 <sup>st</sup> Prize	Festive Hamper.....Ann Bridson (Max)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize	Bottle Hamper.....Sadie
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize	Pamper Hamper.....Sadie
4 <sup>th</sup> Prize	Children's Hamper .....Dorothy Tinkler (Aiden)
5 <sup>th</sup> Prize	Gardening Hamper.....Patrice Rowland
6 <sup>th</sup> Prize	Ladies Hamper.....The Duffy Family
7 <sup>th</sup> Prize	Men's Hamper.....Rayne Sutcliffe
8 <sup>th</sup> Prize	Yorkshire Tea Hamper.....Chris Atkin
9 <sup>th</sup> Prize	Fire Truck .....Kathryn Sharp (Edward)
10 <sup>th</sup> Prize	Bottle Smirnoff Vodka.....Mason Neil (Steven)
11 <sup>th</sup> Prize	Bottle Famous Grouse Whiskey .....Emily Sykes
12 <sup>th</sup> Prize	Tropic Foot Collection.....Karen Laverne
13 <sup>th</sup> Prize	Relaxing Trio.....Mrs Robershaw (Gracie)
14 <sup>th</sup> Prize	Amani Scented Candle and Flamingo Cards.....C Stephenson
15 <sup>th</sup> Prize	M&S Voucher for £25.....Gill Barber
16 <sup>th</sup> Prize	Jewellery bag, necklace and earrings.....Kate (Leandro)
17 <sup>th</sup> Prize	Bumper box of sweets.....Joe O'Donnell

## Thank you for Supporting our Amazing Christmas Fair 2022

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 partners for setting up and running the café and stalls and to all the visitors for supporting us on the day, and the wonderful feedback! A special thank you to parent, Mrs Rowlands, for all her help and support throughout. Also to Santa and his two wonderful elves, they were as popular as ever showcasing our Sensory Room. We have made over £3000 and received many lovely compliments, WELL DONE "TEAM ST JOHN'S" and THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTED US!

**SILENT AUCTION PRIZES (Which raised £598) WERE GENEROUSLY DONATED by:**

**NORTH YORKSHIRE MOORS RAILWAY (NYMR), NEWBY HALL, LEEDS PLAYHOUSE, TESCO'S COLLINGHAM, HARLOW CARR, MUDDY BOOTS CAFE, THE TICKLED TROUT AT BILTON, YORVIK, WIKE RIDGE GOLF CLUB, THE WETHERBY WHALER, CINEWORLD CASTLEFORD, LAZER ZONE, XPLORE GOLF & SOFT PLAN, LORNA GILBERT, MR & MRS ROWLANDS. *Thank you to Mrs Rowlands and Karen Laverne for sourcing all the prizes.***

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

*Kirsty Hudson—Flamingo Cards, Kathryn Clarke— cards and knits, Ann Walker—handmade crafts, Lisa Stubbs—Make it Brilliant, Sue Chadwick—cushions and Christmas decorations, Alison Brain—Jewellery, Linda Purdy—Tropic Skin Care, Helen Hobbs— hand made crafts, Christine and Mark Tubridy— Sweets2U, Kirste Gregory—Armani candles, Rosaline Webb—Little Red Snail jewellery, Alannah Hegarty and family—Hand painted gifts, Julie and Georgia Bailey—hand made crafts, Joy Ainsley—Christmas Decorations, St Edwards Primary School Enterprise Stall and St John's Enterprise stall.*

**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE & MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM JACKIE PEACOCK**

## Dates for Your Diary

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### Urgent Safety Appeal From Local Residents

**Urgent safety appeal from local residents. Please could all drivers (parents, taxis and staff) be aware that when you are leaving school, your car is passing over the roadside pavement onto Church Street. This footpath is busy at times - particularly at the start and end of our school day with some very young children who may not be so mindful of cars and will be walking, running or riding bikes/scooters. Please always drive dead slow and with great caution when you are leaving by car.**

## Dates for Your Diary

<b>16th December</b>	-School closes 12.30pm for Christmas Holidays
<b>3rd January</b>	-School reopens
<b>27th January</b>	-School closed for STAFF TRAINING DAY
<b>10th February</b>	-School closes for half term holiday
<b>20th February</b>	-School reopens
<b>31st March</b>	-School closes 12.30pm for Easter Holidays
<b>17th April</b>	-School reopens
<b>1st May</b>	-School closed for Bank holiday
<b>26th May</b>	-School closes for half term holiday
<b>5th June</b>	-School reopens
<b>23rd June</b>	-School closed for STAFF TRAINING DAY
<b>21st July</b>	-School closes 12.30pm for Summer Holidays
<b>24th July</b>	-School closed for TRAINING DAY
<b>1st September</b>	-School closed for STAFF TRAINING DAY
The rest of next years term dates have not been finalised yet—TBC	



@stjohns4thedeaf

