



## Easter Newsletter

### Happy Easter

Once again, Wonky the donkey visited school to help us retell the events of Palm Sunday. Thank you very much to Kirsty and Di for giving up their time to support our school and thank you to Wonky for being such an amazing actor!



### Inside This Term's Newsletter

Easter Projects, Charity Fundraising, Work Experience Weeks, Arla Come to School for the Day, Zoolab, Holy Week, World Book Day, Residential Care News and last but not least; CEOP's Blog —We hope you enjoy it!

## Easter Projects

### St John's Very Own Easter Chicks

On Mother's day two of the school silkie hens hatched four eggs. One of the hens went broody so we gave her six eggs to sit on. Another hen decided to join her in the nest box, which is very unusual and the two of them looked after the eggs for 21 days. We're pleased to report that Mums and chicks are doing really well.



## Mental Health Lead in Education Qualification

Congratulations to Rachel Blackburn, Head of Care and Designated Safeguarding Lead, as she recently qualified as a Mental health Lead in Education. This work, which was funded by the Department for Education (DFE), took about a year to complete and Rachel got her certificate in February. This has given Rachel the skills to train and develop staff's knowledge and to signpost to resources that may be helpful to children, young people and staff.



Mind mate and CAMHS referrals are taking a significantly long time since coming out of covid as pupils were isolated and we are now seeing the impact of this across the education sector as a whole. Rachel is always happy to talk anything through and has been doing some work with pupils in Ellington about coping, understanding and reflecting on our own responses to stressors.

Rachel also played a major part in facilitating a wellbeing day for all the staff in January. There were lots of different sessions made available and people were given the choice of which ones they wanted to do. Rachel said "I know sometimes it's really stressful to make time for our own wellbeing amongst the continual pressures in Education. It was our best intentions to give back to staff and show you all how much we appreciate the impact you have on our young people. For every role in the school, it leads back to us fulfilling lives and being responsive".

Rachel left us with this quote "Your life has purpose. Your story is important. Your dreams count. Your voice matters. You were born to make an impact."



# Easter Calendar

## Lent and Ash Wednesday

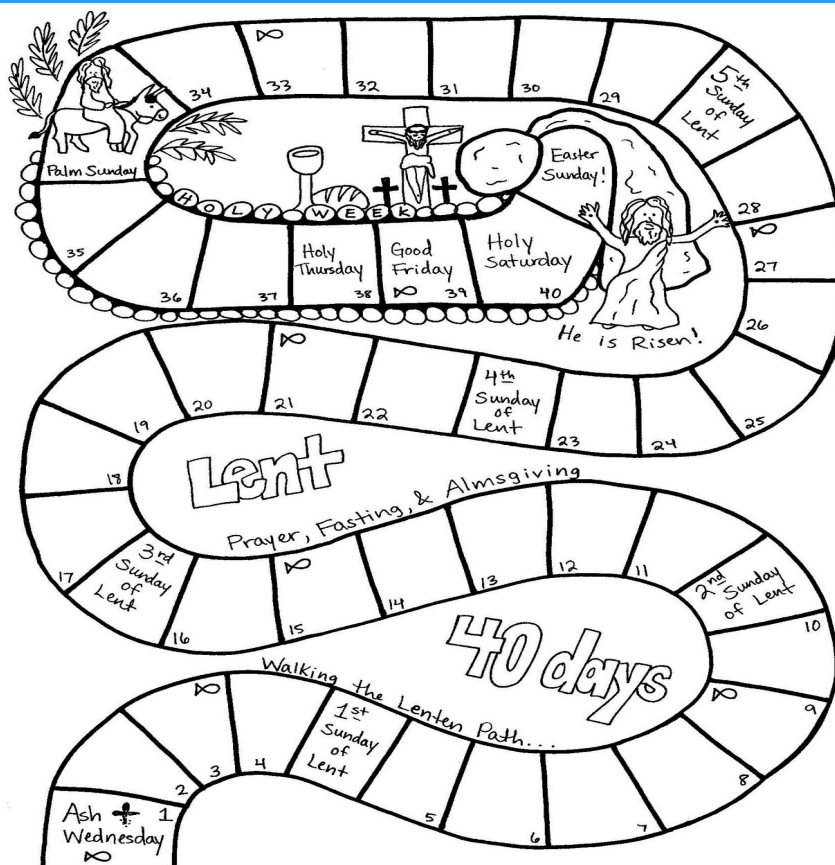
Ash Wednesday and St David's Day was on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February this year, and this was also the start of Lent. We had a whole school service at 11am in the school chapel, Fr. David lead the service and offered ashes to any students or staff who wished to receive them.



## Our Teaching Mass—The Eucharist

On 9th March Fr. David visited Ellington class to help us with our learning about the Eucharist. The Eucharist, also known as Holy Communion and the Lord's Supper, is a Christian rite that is considered a sacrament in most churches, and as an ordinance in others.

## Lentern Journey Poster





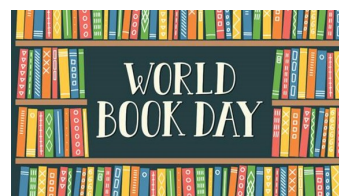
This Lent, St John's has been raising money to give to a Christian charity which is involved in relief and development work in Afghanistan.

IAM brings hope and transformation to the people of Afghanistan. They focus on building capacity in the sectors of health and development – seeing lives changed through eye care, community development, health projects and education. The website has a great, short introductory video explaining more about the work and many stories from Afghans who've had their lives changed by the work of

IAM: <https://iam-afghanistan.org>

Despite the many difficulties of working in a country ravaged by war, poverty and the Taliban government, hundreds of Afghans continue to deliver support and projects in Afghanistan through IAM's work.

### Nightingale Raised Money on World Bookday



### Burnell Held Cinema Screenings at Lunch Time

#### Burnell at the Movies



**Come and watch 20 minutes  
of Sing 2 each day!**

**When?** Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March  
each lunchtime 12.50pm

**Where?** In Burnell Classroom

**Cost:** 50p per day or £2 for 5 tickets (the whole week!)

**Extras:** Drinks and snacks are available from 20p

**All the money goes charity**



# Charity Fundraising for IAM



The Girma Shop



## Keller Raffle—Guess the Number of Tea Bags and Biscuits

### Donaldson and Ellington Sponsored Walk



### Money Raised so far

<u>Girma Shop</u>	£120
<u>Ellington and Donaldson Sponsored walk</u>	£119
<u>Burnell Lunchtime cinema club</u>	£ 47
<u>Keller Raffle</u>	£ 19
<u>Total to date</u>	<u>£305</u>



# Holy Week

## Amazing Acting of Parts of the Easter Story

This year the theme of our Holy Week has been, 'Do this in memory of me.'

We gathered together as a school community each morning to share assemblies where the students read and we watched films of different classes acting parts of the Easter story. We followed this by different activities in the chapel each day. Thank you to Miss Murray for organising so many different events.





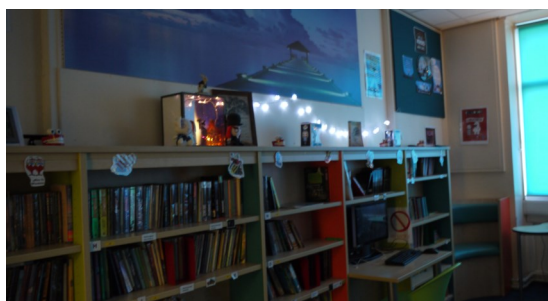
# Special Days in School

## World Book Day

For World Book Day this year we went with a theme of Alice in Wonderland, focusing on the 'Mad Hatter's Tea Party'. We decorated the library and put clues around school to lead groups to their party slot on the day. Classes came down and listened as stories were read to them, and enjoyed Alice themed biscuits and cakes.

Our annual search this year was 'Where's the rabbit?' Students searched high and low to find the missing rabbits, and Phoebe was the first to find the Golden Rabbit; in second place was Sol, George and Joe as a team. They get an automatic entry to the Golden Ticket party at the end of term.

Lots of students and staff dressed up, thank you for making the effort and supporting our ethos of recycling/inventing. Miss Fox



## Sixth Form News

### Keller Working Towards Next Steps

A big thanks to everyone who has helped with this, this week, the students have been brilliant, great attendance, fab attitudes and stepping out of their comfort zones (regularly!)

On Monday we worked with our new Careers advisor and Nurse Kate showed some 'street wise' first aid.

On Tuesday we completed sections of our CV's, stayed at school for tea and had a parents information evening.

On Wednesday we enjoyed a team building day at Xscape and today four of them, had their interviews and were SUCCESSFUL on getting into York College for next year.

The fun doesn't stop there.....Three students headed up to residential for a sleep over!



### Visit to Ashfields Restaurant at York College

Kate Adams, our school nurse recently made a reservation at Ashfields restaurant in York College which exists to provide real life experience to college students who are taking hospitality and catering qualifications. Kate went to support Kacey, one of our post 16 students who can be seen in the photo's taking food orders. An ex student, Matthew was also there and was one of the chefs who made the fish and chips that Kate reported as being delicious. College co-ordinator Sean Lynch was also on hand to support the students.





# Arla Day in School

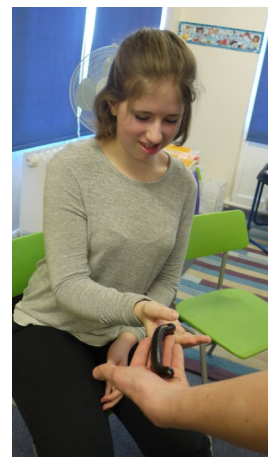
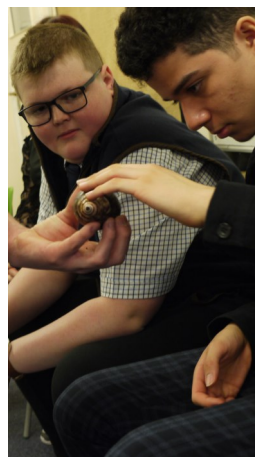
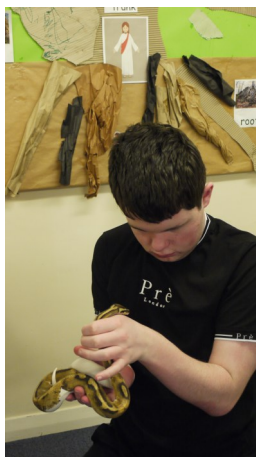
## Preparing for the World of Work

On Wednesday 29th March Mr James Pirie and a team of staff from Arla Foods came to school to offer all our pupils a taste of what it is like to work for a big company. They brought a huge lorry and encouraged pupils to interact with the drivers/operators and see how it worked. They carried out "The Big Interview" in the Central hall. Pupils came to school in smart clothes and did mock job interviews with either members of the Arla team or St John's staff. Arla also brought lots of delicious food and drink products for everyone to sample. The day was a huge success, we received amazing feedback from both Arla and School participants, thank you so much to everyone involved, especially Mrs Pirie for organising this.



## Zoo Lab Visit

The amazing Zoo Lab also came to school on Wednesday. Zoolab offer an interactive and ethical animal therapy experience where pupils and staff are encouraged to engage with various animals, reptiles and insects. As you can see a good time was had by all, thank you to Eleanor and team for coming to see us.



### Pancake Day

Shrove Tuesday, 21st February, we all enjoyed pancakes, expertly made by Post 16 student Kacey, everyone then got to add their own toppings of chocolate, fruit, syrup and cream. Helen had a go at tossing her own and it didn't hit the ceiling.....or the floor!



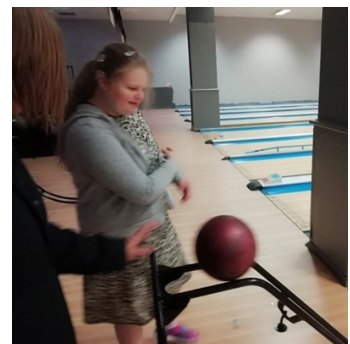
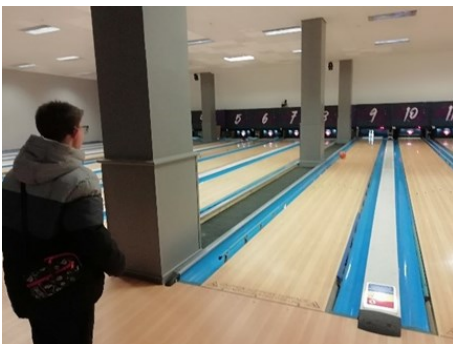
### Happy 18th Birthday

Post 16 student Emily turned 18 in March and celebrated with Chinese food, cake and lots of cards.



### Bowling at Xscape

Ripon group enjoyed bowling at Xscape.

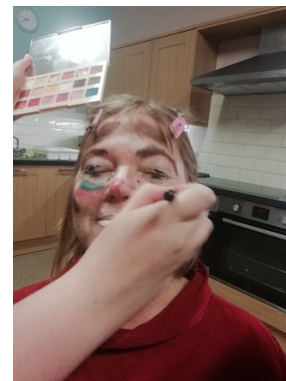




# Residential Care News

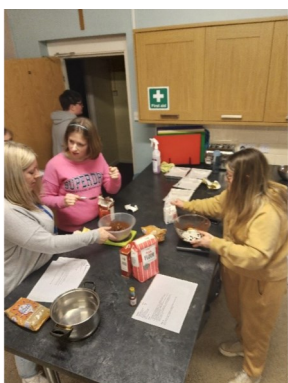
## Mini Make-Up Booth

We had a mini make-up booth in Post 16 this term, trying out lots of different techniques on each other and the poor staff!



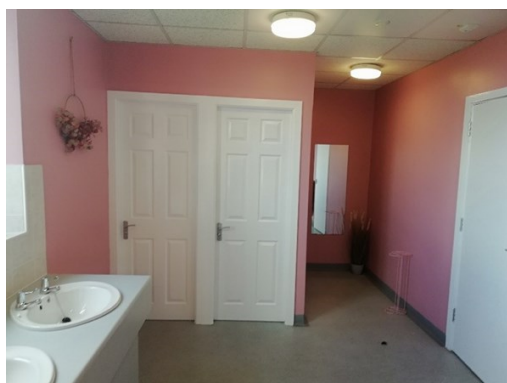
## Bake-Off Challenge

We had an amazing brownie bake off judged by Head of Care, Rachel. 1st—Lilo, 2nd—Scarlet, 3rd Lottie



## Bathroom Make-Over

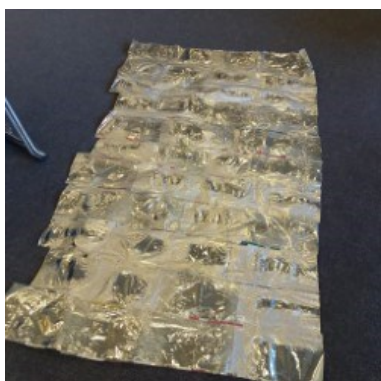
In the holidays we had the Post 16 girl's bathroom decorated and after a unanimous vote from the students we went with pink.



## More Charity Events

### Recycling Crisp Packets

We are continuing with our recycling project where crisp packets are turned into insulation blankets to help the homeless sleepers in Leeds. Volunteers in Leeds iron the cleaned packets into a big blanket. The charity sent out 34 blankets at Christmas, which were greatly received. Here are members of our student council washing the packets collected at school to make them ready for the project. Thank you to everyone for their support.



### Send a Smile Scheme



We made Easter cards in support of the Send a Smile scheme.

Burnell class took the cards to donate them to the Wise charity.

<https://w-ise.org.uk/our-services/#smile>



## On Line Safety Update

### CEOP's Blog: On Line Gaming Particularly Roblox



Roblox is an application where online gamers make their own games in an on line world. It is a HUGELY popular game. It has a social media element too and, perhaps one of the reasons it appeals to youngsters is that to us parents it can seem confusing and we just don't get it! Roblox can be fun and engaging but because it is user generated it doesn't have the same restrictions as commercially made content. Therefore the quality can be variable and it does need parental monitoring.

Roblox also has items to buy to enhance the games and Robux, currency that can be won and exchanged for real cash. It is easy for a child to use, if a device has a card or PayPal details stored on it.

Suggestions- (This could apply for any on line gaming).

Under the age of 12- No Roblox at all.

Over 12 - Only allow Roblox for a limited amount of time - 30 minutes (set a timer and put your own passcode on a device. Use only in a public area such as a living room.

Do not allow the spending of money on the application, perhaps allow once a youngster can be responsible for their own finances or have their own bankcard at 14 or even 16+.

Set parental controls as tightly as you can. Allow no chat at all and only allow games which Roblox has decided are appropriate for that age group. You can do all this in the settings.

Finally make sure your child's social life is balanced -Real Life, and On Line Life.

If you would like links to other information about on line safety or a copy of our on line safety newsletter released in January- Email me - René Lelong the school CEOP (Child Online Exploitation Protection) Ambassador [rene.lelong@stjohns.org.uk](mailto:rene.lelong@stjohns.org.uk)

Most of the information for this article was found here:  
<https://www.internetmatters.org.uk>



Worried about something  
you've seen online?  
**CLICK TO REPORT IT!**

## Happy Retirement to Mrs McAleer

Mrs McAleer has retired after 38 years at John's and has sent us this message to say goodbye.

"After 38 years teaching at St Johns it is time to leave. During this time I have worked with some amazing hard working dedicated staff. I have also taught incredible students who never ceased to inspire me with their determination. Wishing you all the best in future days ahead".

Thank you Mrs McAleer, we wish you a long and happy retirement.

## 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)

### Sports Day

Sports day is Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July 1 p.m. start

To help support the Raffle on Sports day there will be a non uniform day on Thursday 22nd June. A donation of a bottle or something to go in a hamper 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>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>8th May</b>	-School closed for Bank holiday (Coronation)
<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

Early Notice—The School Year 2023/2024 will start on Monday 4th September for pupils

<b>1st September</b>	-School closed for STAFF TRAINING DAY
<b>4th September</b>	-School reopens



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