



## Christmas Newsletter

### Advent Message from Mrs Bradbury

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

#### 1 John 4-9

From our newsletter, you can see this has been a busy and enjoyable autumn term. We are really delighted to welcome so many new students and seeing them settle into school and make new friendships:

Ethan, Bo, Lucy, Max, Oscar, Louis, Levi, Evie, Isabelle, Daniel, Ladislav, Dylan, Florence, Emily, Kian, Evie, Lewis, Sophie, Edward, Lilia, Kian, Annabel and Lennon.

Thank you to all our families who have supported our fundraising events and our Carols by Candlelight concert where the audience participation was amazing.

We hope all our students and families have the chance to rest and relax over the next two weeks and wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from everyone at St John's.



### Inside This Term's Bumper Newsletter

Welcome to new staff, award winning chickens, Remembrance day, interfaith week, teaching masses, our school nativity, class news, visit to Leeds United Football Club, residential care news, York college news, carols by candlelight concert, Christmas Fair news, including raffle prize winners and finally details of Thrive sessions available in the new year. We hope you enjoy our newsletter, you can also find it on our website, or request a paper copy from [Jackie.peacock@stjohns.org.uk](mailto:Jackie.peacock@stjohns.org.uk)

### Thank you for Supporting our Charities

Thank you for supporting us to support other charities this year, we think it is really important and rewarding to give something back to others. Our Christmas charity was to collect food for the St Vincent De Paul Foodbank and to raise money for the Mary's Meals Charity, thanks again.



T: 01937 842144

F: 01937 541471

E: [info@stjohns.org.uk](mailto:info@stjohns.org.uk)

Church Street, Boston Spa, LS23 6DF

*A centre of excellence for pupils with sensory and communication needs*

# Welcome to New Staff

## Hello!



I'm Sarah Holt, the new School Business Manager at St John's. I have been a School Business Manager for several years, but I am very excited to have joined the St John's family. I am originally from Birmingham but have lived in North Yorkshire for 15 years, although I cannot quite shift my brummie accent! I live with my partner and 12-year daughter. We enjoy long walks in the countryside, and we are huge Disney fans. I will very much look forward to meeting all of the parents and pupils when you pass through the reception area - make sure to say hello!

Hi, I'm Bob Warming, born and bred in Leeds, spent 15 years working in adult social care and many years working in Hospitality and recruitment sales before that. I don't really follow football but like cricket and boxing. A keen outdoors person who loves fishing, cycling, running, hiking and back packing. I have two cats, two rabbits, and a large fish tank full of Amazonian tropical fish and plants...the plants are harder to look after than the fish. I like blues music and have played blues Harmonic since I was a boy and been lucky to play in bands back in the day when Leeds had a very good live music venues. I also took up guitar last year to accompany my harmonica playing and my family are so chuffed that I've done that....not. I have a horrible repertoire of Dad jokes that I like to recycle, being new to St Johns gives me a great opportunity to tell them all again.



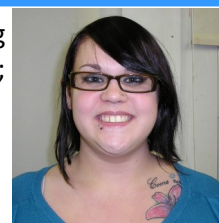
Hi, I'm Miss Johnson. I am a class teacher and Nightingale form tutor. On the weekends, I enjoy spending time with my family, reading, and exploring the Yorkshire Dales. I support Nottingham Forest football team as I grew up there. I am excited to teach a range of subjects and I am keen to share my love for learning.

I'm Joseph Privett, the new science teacher at St John's this year. I'm very sporty and like to play cricket and football. The football team I support is West Bromwich Albion as I was raised in the Midlands just outside Birmingham. I'm really looking forward to teaching science, as it is something I have always been passionate about. I am hoping that students embrace this passion as their own.



## Congratulations to Bobby as New Team Leader

Congratulations to Bobbie who has been promoted to Team leader. Bobbie will be working alongside Helen and supporting Rachel and myself in our roles. We are so proud of Bobbie; She has worked at St Johns for over 10 years as a care support assistant, we are delighted that she continues her employment and progression with us. Bobbie brings a wealth of knowledge and experiences to the role.



## Happy Retirement to Miss Dyer



Miss Dyer retired after the October half term, Jackie has been an amazing staff member and will be missed by all. She said that she has been at St John's for seven years, but working for almost 40 years—yet she doesn't look old enough! Enjoy your retirement.

# Design Technology News

## New Design Technology Support

Here are a few pictures of the new DT support ,Mr Belford AKA Toby. Toby is a previous student of St Johns and requested to be volunteer in the DT department. He work with three classes on a Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon, helping the pupils with their practical lessons. He is proving to be a kind and dedicated member of the team and a great role model for the younger pupils, thankyou and welcome aboard Mr Belford.



## St John's Award Winning Chickens!

It's official-the much loved St John's chickens have been recognised as being of star quality.

Jackie Peacock (who many of you know from her work in the office) entered three of our hen's eggs that were chosen by Sol and George and won first prize at Bramham produce show in September.

Chicken care is only one of Jackie's many skills and she swept the prize board with her exhibits.

As well as first prize for the St John's eggs, Jackie won first prize for her garden produce (three different types of pumpkin). She got second prizes for a single dahlia bloom, fruit flavoured vodka and a jar of chutney. Her sloe gin, jar of jam and home-grown onions all gained third prize and she was given highly commended for her flower arrangement.

An outstanding set of results- many congratulations, Jackie.





# Special Days in School

## Remembrance Day

We marked Remembrance day with a service in our school chapel led by Fr. David. We then split into two groups. One group visited Clifford War memorial to lay poppy wreaths and learn about the history of the memorial. The second group visited the church yard at St. Edward's church to lay poppies on the graves of two soldiers: Private Rafferty and Corporal Szkandera.



## Interfaith Week

This year our Interfaith theme was Celebrate. We learnt about different festivals and celebrations from Buddhism, Judaism, Islam, Sikhi and Hinduism. Students took part in daily assemblies followed by different activities in the school chapel. We were also delighted to welcome Anna who spoke to us about her Jewish faith, Narinder who spoke to us about being a Sikh and Seema who spoke to us about Hinduism.





# Special Days in School

## Teaching Masses

Fr. David visited Ellington and Girma classes to led a teaching mass and show them up close what happens on the altar. It was a pleasure to hear the students asking such great questions and to share their knowledge with Fr. David. It was a very valuable learning experience.



## Our School Nativity

This year our theme was based around the idea of the census and the impact the census had on Nazareth and Bethlehem. Thank you to all the students who were involved in acting, filming, directing, special effects and costumes. We were very proud of the achievements of our students. A big thank you also to Kirsty and Di for bringing Wonky the donkey to visit us and help with our filming and have a meet and greet with students.



## What we Have Been up to This Term

Ellington class have welcomed four new pupils to St John's since September. Evie, Izzy, Levi and most recently Daniel. They are all great additions to our class and we have loved making new friendships and getting to know them.

Since September we have been very busy, below is just a few of the things we have been getting up to;



Building model houses in CDT



Celebrating birthdays!



Collecting 680 conkers!!



Exploring the types of land use in Boston Spa (with an added trip to Cooplands and the park).



Lots of persuasion work in English.



Rowan took part in the SEND partnership board takeover



Learning about Ancient Greece!





## Class News Girma and Khalo

### Girma and Khalo Classes at Leeds United Football Club

Girma and Kahlo were invited to Leeds United's training ground on 22nd November to meet the players and be involved in a football session, we also enjoyed a tour around the grounds. It was an amazing day! Can you spot the four LUFC players? Marching on Together!



### Harrop Class News—George Wins Young Farmers Award

George came first for the best light up tractor and won the Farmer Copley's Trophy for the Pontefract and District Young Farmer's charity! Well done George.





# Class News Ellington and Nightingale

## SEND Partnership Board takeover

Rowan (Ellington), Zack (Khalo) and Lottie (Nightingale) went with Mrs Pirie to the Civic hall in Leeds to be apart of the SEND Partnership Board Takeover, the young people were excellent at public speaking, well done to all three students.



## Nightingale Visit York Colleges

On 5th December Mrs Pirie took Leandro, Ella and Joseph into York College. During the visit the students had lunch, then went into a chosen area to see a lesson take place, whilst Leandro shadowed one of our sixth form students, Lennon. They all caught the St John's minibus to travel back to school to give them a true Sixth Form experience.

Leandro also visited Pinc College to see what it was like.



## Arts Award

### Send a Smile

Send a Smile is a scheme that helps support older people in our area who maybe isolated or lonely. Girma made cards in the Arts Award Explore class with Mrs Fowler. Well done everyone.



### Art and Design in Ellington

In Art and Design this half term, Ellington have been exploring colour through learning about tints and shades. Well done everyone. The canvas paintings are very atmospheric. Mrs Fowler



### Winner of Guess the Number of Sweets in a Jar

Congratulations to Sixth Form pupil, Steven for guessing there were 76 sweets in the jar.

### Winners of Guess the Name of Big Ted and Little Ted

Congratulations to Burnell pupil, Luke for guessing Big Ted's name; Timmy. Timmy is as tall as Luke so it was very entertaining watching Luke's mum getting Timmy in her car!

Also, congratulations to Girma pupil, Lilia for guessing Little Ted's name; Bumble.

# Residential Care News

## Max in Cadets Uniform

Max joined Cadets at the start of this academic year, he is very dedicated and goes every Monday. He has just got his full uniform and is learning to iron it and polish his shoes.



## Happy 18th Birthday to Logan

Logan celebrated his 18th birthday with a lovely madeira cake.



## Bowling at Xscape

The students enjoyed going to Xscape and bowling and playing on the arcades.

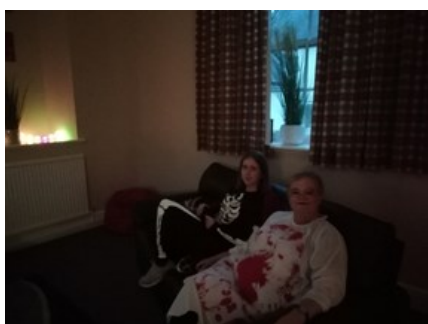




# Residential Care News

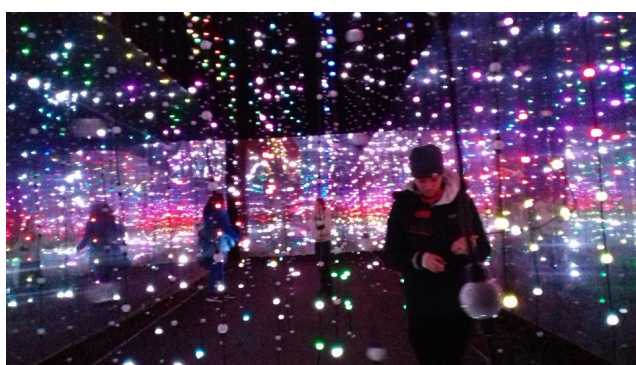
## Halloween Party

We ended last half term with a spooky party, we had spooky food, a quiz and some games. The staff didn't even need to dress up!!



## Christmas at Stockheld Park

We ended this term with our annual trip to Stockheld Park, where we enjoyed ice-skating, getting lost in the maze and looking at the beautiful illuminations walk. Of course we had to end the night with a hot chocolate and a treat.



## Congratulations!

The residential team would also like to say a huge congratulations to our students Emily wood for getting in to her first choice of university and Eoin O'Neill for getting a job at his local Co-op.

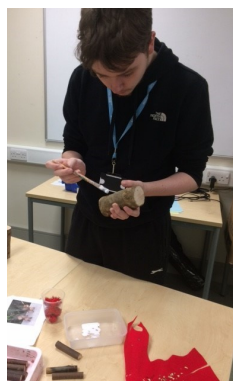
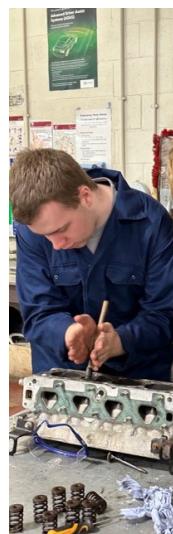
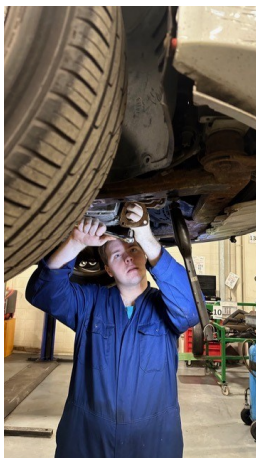


## Pupil Successes

Steven at York College completing a Practical for his L1 Motor vehicle course and working on a cylinder Head. Steven has recently passed his Health and Safety with an 80% score.

Catching up with his friends, Edward and Josh who are on the Pathways course, enjoying lunch in the canteen.

Kian making Christmas reindeer in a pathways lesson at York College and helping at the Christmas fair. Ian said he did a fantastic job making goods for the stall and running the tombola. Mr Lynch and Logan popped in to see him at break and had a cheeky scone and a coffee.



## Happy Christmas from Past Pupils



Past pupils Savini and Sachini popped into school to say hello and leave some Christmas presents for staff. It was lovely to see them.

## Thank you for all the Gifts to Staff

On behalf of all the staff, thank you so much for all the lovely Christmas wishes and gifts, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.



# Carols by Candle Light Concert



Thank you to everyone who came to our Carols by Candle Light Concert on Friday 15th December. The chapel was packed out and I think it's fair to say that everyone had amazing time. Our pupils put on an amazing performance, thank you, and to Mr Frith and staff for putting this together.

Thank you too to the PTA mums who popped in at the beginning of the week and "decked the chapel with boughs of holly" it looked so beautiful and festive.

Thank you too to Chef Paul and his team for the tea, coffee and home made mince pies.





# Message From Our CEOP

## WhatsApp

The Whatsapp chat messaging app is great for groups to keep up with coordinating their social plans and to share information. However it is not designed for use by children. There have been instances at St John's where children have been marginalised and felt left out of conversations, or picked on and bullied. Learning to communicate in group chats is a skill most preteens don't have and need to develop. Please think very carefully about allowing your child to use this app.

If your child does already use the App, it is important to find time to check their phone and understand the tone of the messages. I have this page of advice useful <https://www.parentcircle.com/how-to-stop-cyberbullying-on-whatsapp-classroom-groups/articled>

In addition I suggest that if children do use the app then they first show their parent/carer how to block someone and to rehearse how they would tell you that they feel uncomfortable. Examples of unsuitable behaviour, the signs to look for and how to evidence and report such incidents are all mentioned on the above link.

There is plenty information available about on line safety. Printed copies of on line safety newsletters and information are available from - René Lelong, the school CEOP (Child Online Exploitation Protection Ambassador) or by emailing [rene.lelong@stjohns.org.uk](mailto:rene.lelong@stjohns.org.uk)

More information about internet safety for children can be found here: <https://www.internetmatters.org.uk> and/or [www.thinkyouknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkyouknow.co.uk)



## Ex Pupil Graduates from St John's York University

I have great pleasure in sharing with you that our very own past pupil Catherine has secured a 2:1 degree in British Sign Language and Deaf Studies at St John's York University.

Catherine started her degree when lock downs were in full swing, she lived in halls during the first year and then at home for the final two, she has passed her driving test, has a part time job and has made some lifelong friends.

I have kept in touch with Catherine, in a mentor capacity, as she found Covid a very tricky time ( leaving St John's / starting Uni.) and I supported her to get the right support she needed.

She wanted me to share her good news with you. She is not yet sure of her next steps.

Fabulous news for her and us! Mrs Pirie, Sixth Form Teacher.



# Christmas Fair News

## Message from Mrs Bradbury—Head Teacher

So many parents, families and local residents wanted to pass on their thanks for making the Christmas Fair such a lovely occasion.

Thanks to Jackie, our organiser in chief who had thought of everything. It felt like the busiest fair yet so thank you to everyone who helped before, after and during the day and roped in their family and friends.

It was lovely to see so many past pupils (the oldest aged 33!) who came from so far away: Nottingham, Lincolnshire, Beverley and Newcastle. The fact that they still want to come and see us after all these years is a testament to how much they value the support we gave them.

This time of year is so busy, we appreciate even more that everyone is so generous with their time for Team St John's. Kind Regards, Mrs Bradbury.





# Christmas Fair Photos

Thank you to all our lovely volunteers!





## Christmas Raffle Prize Winners 2023

1 <sup>st</sup> Prize-	-	Festive Hamper – Dan Hicken (staff) Photo on the right
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize	-	Bottle Hamper – Ruby Tidswell
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize	-	Pamper Hamper - Stephanie Shaw
4 <sup>th</sup> Prize	-	Children's Hamper – Spencer
5 <sup>th</sup> Prize	-	Ladies Hamper – Rachel Blackburn (staff)
6 <sup>th</sup> Prize	-	Duo of Wine – Lynne Scott (staff)
7 <sup>th</sup> Prize	-	Mindful Hamper– Angie Weston
8 <sup>th</sup> Prize	-	Gift Hamper from all our Stallholders – Alan Wormold
9 <sup>th</sup> Prize	-	Rejuvenating Hamper - Christine Taylor
10 <sup>th</sup> Prize	-	Children's Hamper - Jen Day
11 <sup>th</sup> Prize	-	Mens Hamper - Father Ingwell
12 <sup>th</sup> Prize	-	Bumper Box of Sweets from our Stallholders - Emma Pinnington
13 <sup>th</sup> Prize	-	Bottle of Champagne - Sampson
14 <sup>th</sup> Prize	-	Bottle of Champagne – Lisa Midgley
15 <sup>th</sup> Prize	-	Bottle of Champagne - Emma Hodgkinson (staff)



## Thank you for supporting our amazing Christmas Fair 2023

Well, another great Christmas Fair, thank you to everyone; pupils, staff, parents and visitors for making it so special. Thanks to pupils for bringing bottles to school on dress down day. To parents and local companies for their generous donations of prizes, to staff, family and friends for setting up and running the stalls, to Chef Paul and the volunteers who ran the busy Café, to the care staff for all the lovely Christmas decorations around school, to all the visitors for supporting us on the day and for all the wonderful feedback! A special thank you to our new Parent Teacher Association (PTA) for their help in putting the raffle prizes together and making Santa's Grotto so good, Santa and his two elves were as popular as ever showcasing our Sensory Room. Once again we have made over £3000 and received many lovely compliments, WELL DONE "TEAM ST JOHN'S".

**SILENT AUCTION PRIZES (Which raised £500) WERE GENEROUSLY DONATED by:**

**NORTH YORKSHIRE MOORS RAILWAY (NYMR), HARLOW CARR, TICKLED TROUT, YORK SIGHTSEEING BUS, 1066 DELI, WETHERBY WHALER, SENTINEL CAR PARKING, TEMPLE SPA, HARVEY NICHOLS, YORK RACES, MRS ROWLANDS, MS DAY, MRS CLEMIE, MR WOOD** *Thank you to Mrs Rowlands for running this for us.*

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

*Girlen giftware, Helen Hobbs—Christmas Crafts, Joy Ainsley—Christmas Decorations, Kirste Gregory—Amani Candles, SAJ Walker, Alison Brain— Jewellery, Julie Hoare— Hand fired jewellery, Alannah Hegarty and Mum— Hand painted wooden items, Christine and Mark Tubridy—Sweets 2 U, Jessica Duffy—Tropic Skin Care, Allison Walker and Harriet—Christmas decorations, Claire Wiggins—Gemstones (raised £114 for the British Heart Foundation), Lisa Stubbs—Crafts, Pat Mitchell and Alice— Children's crafts, St John's Enterprise Stall and St John's Cake stall.*

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

## And Finally ...

### Thrive in the New Year

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the school develops and embeds the Thrive approach to support students with their social, emotional and mental wellbeing we would like to offer a sequence of six Family Thrive sessions.

These sessions will take place on the following dates and you would need to be available to attend all six sessions.

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2:00pm – 3:30pm

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February 2:00pm – 3:30pm

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2:00pm – 3:30pm

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2:00pm – 3:30pm

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2:00pm – 3:30pm

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2:00pm – 3:30pm

The sessions will be led by Mrs Slorach our Assistant Head Teacher and Thrive licensed practitioner.

There are 12 places available and these will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Please send an email to the [info@stjohns.org.uk](mailto:info@stjohns.org.uk) email address to Miss Dowson to apply for a place by Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January . We will be in touch to confirm your place in due course.

If you are unable to attend at this date and time but are interested please could you let us know what time would be more convenient so we can consider this for the next round of session. Thank you Mrs Slorach.

### School Transport Christmas Style “The Polar Express”!

Donna and Karen have turned their bus into the Polar Express complete with train tickets. All the students love this, thank you and Merry Xmas.

### Dates for your diary

<b>22nd December</b>	-School closes 12.30pm for Christmas holidays
<b>8th January</b>	-School re-opens
<b>26th January</b>	-School closed for STAFF TRAINING DAY
<b>9th February</b>	-School closes for half term holiday
<b>19th February</b>	-School re-opens
<b>22nd March</b>	-School closes 12.30pm for Easter holidays
<b>8th April</b>	-School re-opens
<b>6th May</b>	-School closed for Bank holiday
<b>24th May</b>	-School closes for half term holiday
<b>3rd June</b>	-School re-opens
<b>21st June</b>	-School closed for STAFF TRAINING DAY
<b>19th July</b>	-School closes 12.30pm for Summer Holidays
<b>2nd September</b>	-School closed for STAFF TRAINING DAY
<b>3rd September</b> (for pupils)	-School re-opens for 2024/2025 Academic Year



Find us on:  
**facebook®**



FOLLOW US ON

**twitter**

@stjohns4thedeaf

