

ST JOHN'S NEWSLETTER SPECIAL

CHRISTMAS EDITION 2018

"Christmas is a tonic for our souls. It moves us to think of others rather than of ourselves. It directs our thoughts to giving." —*B.C. Forbes*

Hello and welcome to a special festive edition of the school newsletter. The holidays are almost here and everyone is looking forward to a nice break after having worked so hard this term. Here's a brief synopsis of all that has been going on.

Very Important Time of Year

Mrs Hall has been explaining all about Advent and the importance of patience when waiting for a great event. We lit an Advent Wreath in assembly and a Reconciliation Service and joyous celebratory Christmas Mass led by Father Bob are planned for Tuesday.



Charity Fundraising Adventures

Did you see Pudsey? There was a major hunt for everyone's favourite Yellow bear as we raised money for Children in Need. A large Pudsey was spotted in the Reception window and twenty more were scattered throughout the school with clues printed to their whereabouts. Each class followed the clues to find the bears and lots of fun was had by all. Staff and students dressed up and amazingly at one stage during the day Wizard Whitebeard was spotted working behind a computer in the office. It was fantastic fun and we raised over £50 for charity. A very big thank you to Miss Sainsbury for her hard work in organising the event and to all who embraced the idea and made it such a tremendous day.



Mince pies missing from the staffroom and no carrots in the kitchen... who could be to blame..?

Well, a jolly man in a red suit and a reindeer with a particularly bright nose were rumoured to have been seen in the vicinity. Was a special visit being planned? Perhaps for Friday..?



Avocado Update

There has been tremendous excitement in Saint Patrick's class as *Jo Avocado* has finally begun to sprout roots. Jo has recently been joined on the windowsill by *Mo Avocado*, *Yo Avocado*, *Slow Avocado*, and *Please Grow Avocado*. There was a dramatic moment when *Mo Avocado* took a tumble (or perhaps made a bid for freedom) and was found on the floor in three separate pieces. He is now sellotaped together and hopefully will recover from his ordeal and prove to be a fine late bloomer. We will of course keep you updated. If you'd like to try growing one at home then the next time you eat an avocado keep the stone in the middle, clean it and use cocktail sticks to suspend it over a jar of water. Keep the bottom wet, the top dry and your green fingers crossed.



This last half term saw the sad departures of Jo, one of our much-loved mentors and Sharon who has worked at St John's in many roles her most recent being working in the college office. They were two very popular members of staff and we wish them every success and happiness in their new lives.

Presidential Feast of Fun

Students, Governors and Sporting Legends all had a brilliant time at The Presidents Lunch. A group of lucky students were invited to the President's Sporting Club Sport's Award Lunch in Billericay and all had a wonderful time. Eddy and Holly won the Dancing Competition on stage cheered on by a crowd of hundreds. (An impressive feat especially after such a big Christmas Dinner.) The event was great fun and featured a performance by Lydia Lucy from The Voice, lots of handshaking and photo ops with sporting stars such as Frank Bruno, Peter Shilton, Tony Cottee, Sir Trevor Brooking and even World Cup winner Ossie Ardiles. Our students were very well behaved and a real credit to the school. They enjoyed, music, dancing, face-painting, popcorn, candy floss and even an appearance by Santa. A big thank you to everyone who helped make it such an enjoyable and successful day for all.



Our students have been busy attending many other events and trips too. Mrs Kearney and the rest of the school were very proud of our students who performed at the Westminster Concert – it was a long day and late evening but everyone coped admirably and the performance by Saint John's brought the house down. Congratulations everyone.

Groups of students have also been attending a Panto at the Kenneth Moore Theatre. (Oh Yes they have!). Also a Christmas Party at Trinity School and various trips out to places such as Kidzania and the Science Museum.

Social Event of the Year

The ever-popular St John's School Christmas Concert was as brilliant as ever and The Blues Brothers closed the show in fine style. A massive thanks to Mr Karwacinski and Mrs Silver for organising the event and to all the staff who supported and helped facilitate such a success.



School Council News:

A new team have been chosen to form the basis of the School Council. From next term they will be wearing badges to identify themselves and will be available to help, listen to, advise and be good role models for their peers. They will also help the school make decisions around the type of playground equipment to buy and suggest other ideas to improve the school. We will be looking to elect more members via a classroom ballot as the New Year progresses so keep behaving well and working hard and you may get the chance to join too.



Board of Governors Changes:

Father Bob is standing down as Chair of Governors. We would like to express our huge gratitude for all his hard work over the years and are very pleased that he is staying on as a Governor. The new Chair of Governors is Teresa Baumann and Vice-Chair will be Dianne Tranmer.

The Chuckle Corner:

What do you get if you cross Santa with a duck?

A Christmas Quacker

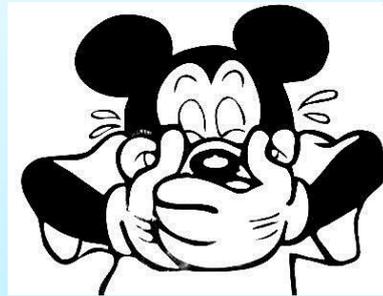
What do you call a cat in the desert?

Sandy Claws

What do you call a bunch of chess players bragging about their games in a hotel lobby?

Chess nuts boasting in an open foyer!

Know any better jokes? (You probably do.) Write them down and give them to Mr Prior and maybe they'll make it into next term's newsletter.



Holidays are coming...

Hurrah. Hope you all have a fantastic time. Staff have a training day on 7th January. Students are back on the 8th. Here's hoping 2019 will bring much joy, friendship, happiness and success to all. Thanks for your help and support throughout 2018. Happy New Year everyone!



"We are better throughout the year for having, in spirit, become a child again at Christmastime." —Laura Ingalls Wilder