St. John's C of E School

NEWSLETTER

www.st-johns.croydon.sch.uk

LOVE - LEARN - FLOURISH

LOVE: 1 Corinthians 13: 4 - 8 Love is patient, love is kind...It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails...

SEPTEMBER 2026

RED SCARF AWARD

Well done to the following pupils who have recently been awarded the Red Scarf Behaviour Award! Parents/Carers of children who have been awarded the Red Scarf can collect their **FREE** hot drink from our Olive Branch Café!

Mole - Jessie
Hedgehog - Ezra O
Meerkat - Raphael
Hare - Idara
Ladybird - Morgan
Frog - Era
Llama - Petra
Flamingo - Aria



WELCOME BACK!

Welcome back to a new school year! It's been lovely to see our children returning so happily and settling back into routine. A huge thank you to all our families for your patience and understanding during the gas works at the start of term, particularly with the disruption to parking and journeys to school. We're looking forward to a wonderful year ahead!

MRS REID REFLECTS ON HER FIRST MONTH AT ST JOHN'S!



It is hard to believe that I have already completed my first month as Headteacher of St John's! From my very first day, I have been overwhelmed by the warmth of the welcome I have received from our children, staff, families, governors and wider community. Thank you!
One of the greatest joys of this first month has been seeing just how brilliantly our Reception children have settled into St John's school life. They already seem so at home! Thank you to our parents and carers for the trust and support they have shown, and to our Early Years Team for the care, patience and dedication they have given our youngest children.

Well done to some of our Upper Key Stage 2 children, who have had the opportunity to represent St John's at sporting events hosted by both Trinity School and Royal Russell. Thank you to Coach Alex for continuing to champion sport across the school.

Another highlight was the Chameleon Class Collective Worship - the confidence, enthusiasm and joy of the children shone through, and they should be extremely proud of themselves. Well done to all and a huge thank you to the teachers who worked so hard to bring it all together.

I am so pleased that our Parent Prayer Group continues to meet monthly at The Olive Branch. Our Christian faith sits at the heart of who we are as a school, and it is wonderful to see our parents coming together in this way to pray for our school community.

Finally, I would like to thank Miss Curum, for her hard work so far this term in her new role as SEND Assistant within our Inclusion Team.

September has confirmed what I already knew when I accepted the privilege of becoming Headteacher: St John's is a very special place. There is a genuine sense of belonging here, built on strong relationships, high expectations, faith and a shared commitment to our children. Thank you to everyone who has played a part in making this first month such a happy one. I am incredibly excited about all that lies ahead as, together, we continue to love, learn and flourish.

WELCOME!

We're excited to welcome some new staff members to the St John's community! Miss Spring is our Interim Deputy Head and Designated Safeguarding Lead. Please do say hello to our new TA's as well!



Miss Spring



Mrs Paddon



Mrs Brennan



Miss Francis



We'd also love to say a huge WELCOME to our new Owl and Otter Reception classes. They've settled in quickly, and it's been lovely to see moments of kindness around the school as our older pupils have been spotted guiding them along, offering hugs, hands to hold (and a few high fives!). Mrs Verrall and Mrs Francois have done an amazing job helping the Owls and Otters as they begin their journey at our school, and the school office has been very impressed with the polite Owls and Otters who have popped in to collect messages. Thank you to the SJSA for the small welcome gifts handed to new parents at their first drop-off. To all our new families, welcome to St John's!



SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT FUND

Thank you to everyone who joined us for Meet the Teacher. During the evening, you will have heard about the School Development Fund - one of the ways we show love and care for our school. It helps us look after our buildings, improve the spaces our children learn in, and support the annual contribution we make to the Diocese for each pupil. Every donation strengthens the environment our children enjoy every day. If you haven't had the chance to contribute yet, there's still time. You can make a donation through ParentPay and you can Gift Aid your contribution to help it go even further. Your generosity truly makes a difference, and we're so grateful to every family who helps us keep our school a place we can all be proud of.

ST JOHN'S SUSTAINABILITY CHAMPIONS!

We are excited to introduce our new Sustainability Champions for this school year! Our champions will help us make our school greener by encouraging others to care for our environment, reduce waste, save energy and make more sustainable choices.
We are very proud of our champions and look forward to seeing all the positive changes they will help us make together!

Please join us in welcoming:

Y1 Mole- Amelia
Y1 Meerkat -Rafael
Y2 Llama - Jayna
Y2 Ladybird- Amelie
Y3 Hare - Ezra Brown
Y3- Hedgehog- Richard
Y4 Frog- Ewan
Y4 Flamingo - Oliver
Y5 Dragonfly- Wren
Y5 Dolphin - Zech
Y6- Caterpillar -Nolan
Y6 Chameleon- Elise



SPRA CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS ART COMPETITION!

Spring Park Residents' Association (SPRA) is running a CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS ART COMPETITION.

The children's art competition is open to all primary school age children right across both North and South Shirley. There is no need for families to be a member of SPRA.

There will be three age group prizes of a £20 book voucher. Winning pictures will be printed in our December SPAN magazine and one will be selected for the front cover!

Individual entries need to be submitted to Shirley Community Library on the corner of Wickham Road and Hartland Way no later than 1pm on Friday 23 October.

Full details and entry form available from the library or the SPRA website: SPRA CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS ART COMPETITION - Spring Park Residents' Association (SPRA website www.springparkra.co.uk)





REMINDERS!

A polite reminder to park considerately when dropping off and collecting children. Please avoid blocking driveways, parking on pavements or stopping in places that could create a hazard for other road users.

If you have not yet completed your child's 2026/27 Activity Consent Form on Weduc, please do so as soon as possible. This consent form covers activities, visits and trips throughout the school year, helping us to streamline communications with families. Thank you to those who have already completed the same.

We understand that some children may have their ears pierced over the summer holidays. To allow time for healing, newly pierced ears may be covered with tape or fitted with plain, transparent plastic retainers until the end of September. After this date, all earrings and retainers should be removed in line with the school's jewellery policy.

A SPORTING START TO THE AUTUMN TERM

St John's have thrived in recent events. We had 8 students attend Trinity's Gifted & Talented events, where they experienced fitness testing and a sports psychology session.

We also had the Croydon Cross Country this week. Students put their best foot forward and made St John's proud, giving everything they had for their race as well as giving constant encouragement to their peers. We are beyond proud of all the achievements the children have made across the last couple of weeks.

"Cross Country was AMAZING!"
- Jamie, Chameleon

"It was really fun...and you felt amazing when you crossed the finish line!"
- Anna & Elsie, Chameleon



MISSION MATHS



Miss Light, our school's Math lead, zooms in on the intel your child needs to know...

Dear Agents,

In the last few editions of Mission Maths, we have explored four important mathematical ideas: cardinality, value, equivalence and ordinality. These are powerful words that help us think more deeply about numbers and how they work.

But how much can you remember? Test your mathematical vocabulary with this week's challenge! No peeking at previous newsletters!

1. There are 15 apples in a basket. Which mathematical idea describes the number of items in the basket?

   A) Value B) Cardinality C) Ordinality D) Equivalence

2. In the number 73, the digit 7 has a value of 70. Which mathematical idea are we thinking about?

   A) Equivalence B) Cardinality C) Ordinality D) Value

3. Sofia finishes 2nd in a running race. Which mathematical idea describes her position?

   A) Ordinality B) Cardinality C) Equivalence D) Value

4. Which pair shows equivalence?

   A) 4 + 2 and 5 B) 10 and 8 C) 7 + 1 and 8 D) 9 and 12

5. A class counts 28 children. Which mathematical idea is being used?

   A) Value B) Cardinality C) Equivalence D) Ordinality

6. Which statement is true?

   A) Ordinality tells us how much a number is worth. B) Cardinality tells us where something comes in a sequence. C) Equivalence tells us when two amounts are equal. D) Value tells us how many objects are in a set.

How many did you get correct? If you scored 6/6, congratulations, you're a Mission Maths Expert! Keep looking out for future editions as we continue to uncover the language that makes mathematics so powerful.

SJSA - CHRISTMAS FAIR & AGM!

Our SJSA team is already busy planning this year's Christmas Fair, which will take place on Saturday 28th November, and they would love more parents and carers to get involved. Whether you can help run refreshments or food stalls, source raffle prizes and donations, organise Santa's Grotto, or support in another way, every contribution makes a real difference. Class Reps will be in touch nearer the time to help fill volunteer rotas, so please keep an eye out for further information. The SJSA will also be holding its AGM via Teams on Wednesday 14th October, and all parents are welcome to attend. After three fantastic years in the role, our Chair, Angela, will be stepping down, and the SJSA is now looking for a new Chair to lead the team forward. If you would be interested in finding out more, please email sjsashirley@gmail.com.



A ROARINGLY GOOD AUTHOR VISIT FROM SIAN OWEN!

We were delighted to welcome Sian Owen, author of *My Best Friend is a Monster* (published by HarperCollins), to spend time with our children. During her visit, Sian spoke with our Key Stage 2 pupils about her journey to becoming an author and shared how reading can help develop both literacy and oracy skills. It was a fantastic opportunity for the children to meet a real author, discover the joy of reading and storytelling, and gain an insight into the creative process behind a published book. Sian's enthusiasm and encouragement inspired the children to let their imaginations run wild, and who knows, we may even have some future authors among us! Families who would like to purchase a copy can order *My Best Friend is a Monster* through Pickled Pepper Books.





Diary Dates

Friday 2nd October
ANIMAL BLESSING SERVICE

Thurs 8th October
Y3 STONE AGE WORKSHOP

Thurs 8th October
Y5 TRINITY TRIP

Fri 9th October 2026
CATERPILLAR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Weds 14th October 2026
Y4 ROMAN DAY WORKSHOP

Mon 19th October
Y2 MARMALADE SANDWICHES

Tues 20th & Weds 21st October 2026
PARENT CONSULTATIONS

Weds 21st October 2026
Y6 WWII WORKSHOP

Fri 23rd October 2026
INSET DAY

Mon 26th Oct - Fri 30th Oct
HALF TERM

Mon 2nd November
INSET DAY

Tues 3rd Nov
START OF AUTUMN TERM 2

Dear God,
Thank you for the fresh start of a new school year and for all the exciting things we have to look forward to. Help us to be kind, brave and ready to learn, and to make everyone feel welcome and included. Guide us through the year ahead and help us to support and care for one another.
Amen.



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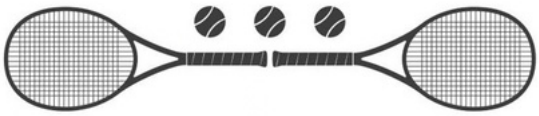
WhatsApp: 07716 375216

senseipoppyhr@gmail.com

Kaigaishii Karate Croydon

SCAN FOR OUR WEBSITE

Start your child's black belt journey today!



Shirley Tennis Club

(Next to St John's School)

Adult club sessions every week.

New members welcome, just come along:

Tuesdays	9.30am	-	12.30pm
Wednesdays	9.30am	-	12.30pm
Thursdays	9.30am	-	12.30pm
Saturdays	1pm - 4pm		

For further information contact info@shirleytennisclub.org or phone 0208 776 1368





