



We are growing  
our learning



# St John's Green Primary School

Learn to Live, Live to Learn

Volume 58, Issue 14

Newsletter Date:  
Friday 20th December 2024

We we are all  
Maths writers ...



## Newsletter

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### Term Dates

Monday 6th January—First Day of Spring Term  
Monday 17th—Friday 21st February—Half Term  
Friday 4th April—Last Day of Spring Term

**Please keep an eye on the school's website calendar for dates/times relating to Christmas.**

### Rights Respecting Schools

Article 17: (access to information from the media)  
Every child has the right to reliable information from a variety of sources, and governments should encourage the media to provide information that children can understand. Governments must help protect children from materials that could harm them.

Please remember that today is the last day of the Autumn Term.

The Spring Term starts on Monday 6th January.

8.30a.m. for children @ AF site.

8.40a.m. for children @ T site.

Wishing everyone the very best for the festive break and the New Year!

### Full Governing Body Meeting 16/12/24

The Governing Body met for our last meeting of the year and we were very pleased to have a presentation from three class teachers about future plans for our outside spaces at both sites, plans which we agree will be very beneficial for the children in terms of their physical and emotional well being and in enhancing their learning. Keep an eye in the newsletters for further developments!

As well our usual oversight of finances and policies, we also had updates on staffing and pupil matters. We were pleased to hear about the number of children going on the residential trips to both Danbury and Kingswood next year. As a school, we make sure that these remain as affordable as we can make them in order to make sure that the maximum number of our children benefit from these experiences. The children always come back having learnt new skills, had new experiences and gained independence. If, as a family, you have any questions or concerns about your child going, then please speak to your class teacher.

We heard about all the great events that our PTA have organised this year, especially the Dominic The Donkey Extravaganza...we were slightly concerned that Mr Billings may consider a new career as a singer! Well done our brilliant PTA and all the valuable funds that have been raised as a result of you all supporting them.

One thing that as a Governing Body we have been talking a lot about is the importance of good mental health for all our school community and what we can do to help improve things. We spent some time talking about the findings from the Stanway School experiment -when staff and pupils gave up their phones for 3 weeks and what interesting and positive outcomes came about as a result of it. If you haven't watched Swiped, it can be found on the Channel 4 catch up channel, and we would encourage all parents and care givers to make time to watch this over the festive break.

I wish you have...12 months of happiness,  
52 weeks of fun,  
365 days of success,  
8760 hours of good health,  
52600 minutes of good luck and  
3153600 seconds of joy.  
Happy New Year!

Assembly Theme for WB: 6/1/2025 New Year, New Start.

The **Big** Question for the Spring Term Assessment Period —  
Who is responsible for the World?

Our Jigsaw Theme for this Half Term—  
Dreams and Goals

### Christmas Stalls

Really well done to all our Year groups for a massive effort and huge success with their Christmas Enterprise stalls at our Christmas Fair.

It was the first time we'd done this for a few years so I expect the competition to hot up a bit next year.  
Well done Year 4, Year 6 and Year 2 for being in the top 3 and thank you again to all the parents that came along to support and to our PTA and of course the staff.

Year Group	TAKINGS	EXPENSES	TOTAL	
EYFS	£57.09	Nil	£57.09	5th
YEAR 1	£74.35	£40.35	£34.00	7th
YEAR 2	£86.05	£23.02	£63.03	3rd
YEAR 3	£80.90	£26.94	£53.96	6th
YEAR 4	£259.90	Nil	£259.90	1st
YEAR 5	£81.00	£19.85	£61.15	4th
YEAR 6	£152.61	£31.19	£121.42	2nd
TOTAL AFTER EXPENSES		£141.24	£650.55	

### Brownies

A few weeks ago, the SJG Brownies group went to watch Moana 2 at the cinema. This was a special trip for the end of term, to see a film about female determination. It was also about celebrating connections and we believe that, through the Brownie community, connection building is very important.

Well done to the girls, who braved the wind and rain and were great company for Tawny Owl, Barn Owl, Eagle Owl and Snowy Owl.



### Ho Ho Ho

A special visit and treat today for all the children in the school as our PTA, using their Dominic the Donkey' connections arranged for father Christmas to pop into school and pay a visit to every class with a little gift.

Huge thanks to our PTA for everything they have arranged this year for the children and parents a massive effort and one for which I am very thankful for—most of the time!

What do Santa's helpers learn in school?

The elf-abet!



### Terrific Tree Challenge

Really well done to the 147 children who completed the Terrific Tree Science Challenge (more than the Ocean Challenge!). This was a massive effort and was great to see. Sadly we couldn't fit every project and every child in the photo but they are on display in the school. Each child that took part also got given a special 'Science Star' badge.

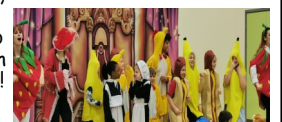


### Beauty and the Beast



A massive thank you (again) to our PTA as they paid for all our children to enjoy a festive pantomime 'Beauty and the Beast' on Wednesday. In addition,

some of our children were also fortunate enough to be chosen to tread the boards with the cast on stage. A lot of fun—oh yes it was!



### Primary School Admissions

The primary school (Reception) admission round opened on Monday 4 November 2024 for parents of children to apply for a Reception school place for the academic year that starts in September 2025.

The statutory national closing date for applications is 15 January 2025.

Applications can be made online via [www.essex.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.essex.gov.uk/admissions)

### Our Happy Christmas

Really well done to our Year 2 children for three very special performances this week of their Christmas show. Sadly, yesterday was also the last day we got to sing 'Dominick the Donkey' this year—still there's always 2025!

A massive well done to Year 2 and a big thank you to all our staff for bringing it together.



### Goodbye



Very sadly, we say goodbye to Mrs. Sharan and Mrs. Finch today. Mrs. Sharan is going to work at another local school and Mrs. Finch is taking some time for herself and her family following a period of illness.

## Christmas Quiz 2024

(After all you can't watch the TV all of the time!)

- 1, In Home Alone, where are the McCallisters going on vacation when they leave Kevin behind?
- 2, What words follow "Silent Night" in the song?
- 3, What did Frosty The Snowman do when a magic hat was placed on his head?
- 4, In the movie Elf, what was the first rule of "The Code of Elves"?
- 5, Who wrote "Christmas doesn't come from a store; maybe Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more?"
- 6, Who had five consecutive Christmas number ones between 2018 and 2022 including the songs I Love Sausage Rolls and Sausage Rolls for Everyone?
- 7, Which popular Christmas decoration is actually a parasitic plant?
- 8, The designs for the UK's first Christmas stamps, which were released in 1966, were designed by viewers of which long-running TV programme?
- 9, Which Christmas character was dreamed up in a 2005 book by mother and daughter authors Carol Aebersold and Chanda Bell and is now a fixture in many festive homes?
- 10, Which of these doesn't appear in Mrs. Beeton's original Christmas pudding recipe: beef suet, a sixpence, milk, mixed peel, or flour?
- 11, What might a naughty child find in their stocking on Christmas morning?
- 12, What is the name of the comic strip that inspired the film "A Charlie Brown Christmas"?
- 13, What is the Grinch's dog's name?
- 14, How many times does the number 1 appear on an advent calendar with 24 doors?
- 15, Panettone originated from which country?
- 16, What are the names of the Three Wise men?
- 17, What fairytale inspired the first gingerbread house?
- 18, What animal carried Mary before she gave birth to baby Jesus?
- 19, Who became the king of England on December 25th, 1066?
- 20, What would be your star sign if you were born on Christmas Day?
- 21, Who is the main villain in "The Nightmare Before Christmas"?
- 22, In "Frozen", what is the name of Elsa and Anna's kingdom?
- 23, When making mince pies which way should you stir your mincemeat for good luck?
- 24, Boxing Day is also known by another name celebrating a saint, who is the saint?
- 25, Where do Christmas gongs come from?
- 26, Which Christmas decoration was initially made with silver strands?
- 27, After killing the Mouse King, what does the Nutcracker turn into?
- 28, The story of Jesus' birth is found in which two books of the Bible?
- 29, Where did Joseph and Mary travel to after leaving Bethlehem?
- 30, Which is the largest planet in our solar system?
- 31, What three distinct flavours are usually used to make Neapolitan ice cream?
- 32, Who was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize?
- 33, What was the name of the kingly lion in The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe?
- 34, Which movie series is the quote "May the Force be with you" from?
- 35, What is the term for a group of flamingos?
- 36, What is the fear of clowns called?
- 37, Which popular soft drink was originally created as a medicine in the 19th century?
- 38, Who was the longest-serving monarch of the United Kingdom?
- 39, What is a female donkey called?
- 40, How many cards are there in a deck of Uno?
- 41, What did the "Itsy Bitsy Spider" climb up?
- 42, Which holiday is known as the "Festival of Lights" and is celebrated by lighting candles over eight days?
- 43, What is the name of Disney's first film?
- 44, What does HTML stand for?
- 45, Astronauts broadcast which Christmas song from space in 1965?
- 46, How many different flavours are there in a standard tub of Quality Street?
- 47, Who wrote the iconic story, A Christmas Carol?
- 48, In the Harry Potter series, in the wizarding world, what do they call Christmas crackers?
- 49, How many 'las' are after the 'fa' in Deck the Halls?
- 50, Who delivers Christmas Presents to cats?