

11th December 2025



St John's News

P4



Children in Need

For Children in Need this year, P4 chose to do 25 Acts of Kindness. The pupils made biscuits and chose who around the school they would like to give them to – they had a list of names and chose either a peer or staff member!

We also took a tub of sweets around primary and handed them out to different adults. Whilst we were doing this, we handed cards to members of staff who we are thankful for – this included Nicola, the kitchen staff and Health Support Workers.



As a class we put together a Christmas in a Box present! Some pupils donated some items such as pens and books. We also included a cuddly toy, toothpaste, a toothbrush, and some toys.

We also made some cards for the police to say thank you for everything they do! The police gave us a shout out on their Facebook page and even sent us a letter back saying how much they appreciated the cards.



In the afternoon, Pudsey came to visit!! P4 were so excited to get a picture with him. **AS** gave him a big hug and **JKM** requested for Pudsey to dance with him by asking "floss dance".

Winter + Christmas Art

P4 have enjoyed starting their winter and Christmas themed art! We started off gluing cotton balls and cotton pads onto a paper plate to make our own polar bears. **SU** said "wow so cool" once she had finished her polar bear.

P4 used pom poms and paint to make their own snowstorm scene and then used paint sponges to decorate their own winter mittens. Most recently they have used paint, stickers and colouring pencils to decorate their own Christmas stockings!



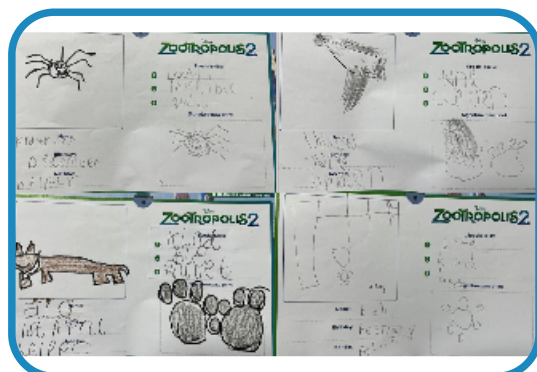
Decorating the Tree

In an art session, P4 got to choose whether they wanted to paint a star gold or silver. They chose their colour either verbally or by pointing at the paint bottles. Once they had ribbon tied on them, the pupils used them to decorate the tree for the church!

EV said decorating the tree made him 'excited' and **JS** said it made him feel 'happy'.



S3

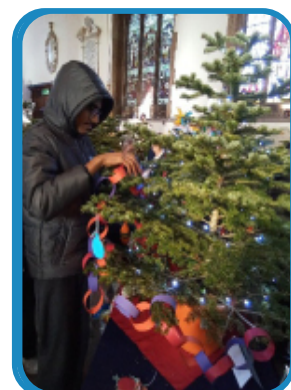


This term our overall class highlights have included putting up the Christmas tree, attending the cinema and for some pupils attending the Bedford Christmas tree festival, where they helped decorate our Christmas tree for the competition.

The Into Film charity also host a wide range of competitions for pupils to enter.

We designed ID badges for new characters who you might expect to find in the

'Zootropolis 2' film. We have entered some of these designs and hope to hear back and see if we win any prizes!



S8



This term in English we have been working on our letter writing skills. So S8 have written letters to Shannon the Headteacher and we also wrote letters to Santa! We posted these letters and are waiting for Santa's response.

In Geography we are looking at the wider world and are currently learning about Scotland. We made some lovely kilts for ourselves and created a display in the class.

We are also trying to encourage each other to keep fit by taking lots of movement breaks and learning about being supportive as friends. We are reflecting in PSHE about self-help and how we help ourselves when we feel big emotions like anger or excitement.

We have also been taking part in some Christmas crafts to welcome the festive season.



Film Festival

In November, 31 pupils went on one of two trips to The Vue cinema for the Into Film Festival. This is a charity event that aims to inspire dynamic ways of learning with film. They also hope to engage a wide young audience, across the UK. They offer free film screenings as well as other special events. Pupils were so excited to be visiting the cinema.

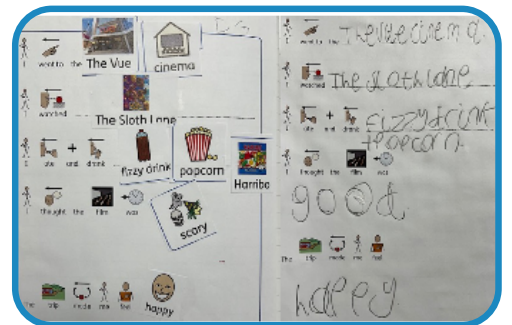
The first trip was to see 'Missing Link', a funny animated adventure film set in the Victorian times, where the main characters attempt to help Big Foot find his Yeti relatives. The second film was 'The Sloth Lane', a fast-paced animated adventure film about a family of sloths, working together to build their family business selling food from their old food truck.

Pupils were supported to order their



own snack and drink, with help and patience from the kind servers behind the counters. They then laughed and smiled their way through both movies. All pupils showed impeccable behaviour and attitude, listening carefully to staff instructions and having the best time out and about!

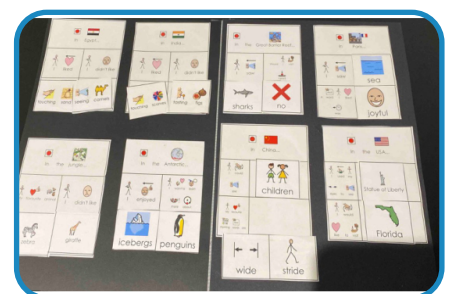
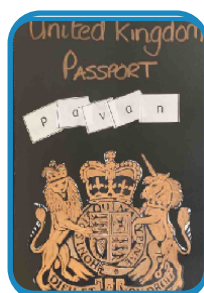
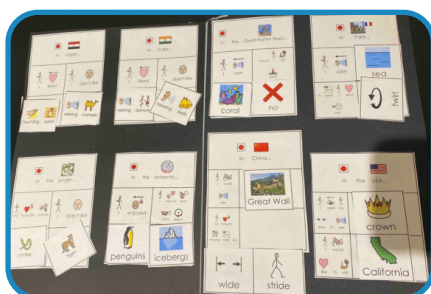
A huge well done to all pupils who attended our first big 'Into film' school trip and to all the parents and staff who encouraged and supported pupils to attend.



S1

In Literacy this term we have been reading stories that take us on a magic carpet ride to different places around the world. We have used our senses to explore different spices, foods, animals, climates, and major cities and tourist attractions.

Pupils in S1 have been creating passports of their time in each country or city, making choices and using their voices to express how they feel in each place. **PL** and **MM** have shared their feelings on each place in the surrounding images.



S7

Christmasaurus in Literacy

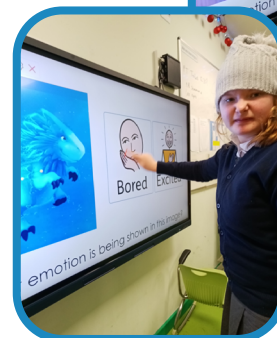
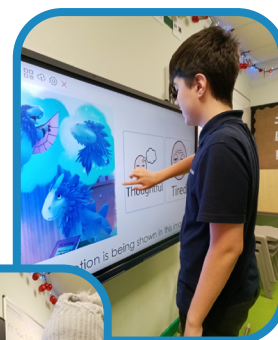
Students in S7 are learning about the Christmasaurus in Literacy this December. We have been reading the story and discussing what happens in it.

As well as presentations and stories, students took part in various activities such as recognising emotions shown by the characters, describing scenes and characters and interactive work on our whiteboard.

Students also did their best snoring impression during our storytelling!

Students said of the Christmasaurus story when asked:

"Santa's coming..."
 "The Christmasaurus crashed!"
 "Tom Fletcher is from McFly!"



S5

S5 have been cooking mince pies and enjoying sensory activities.

We have enjoyed exploring different countries around the world following the Magic Carpet Ride, through our senses and here we are making it snow.



P1



P1 have been very busy with their Maths this half term, learning about different 2D shapes.

When we looked at triangles and circles, the children worked hard on learning their names and practicing drawing them, with **HA** following the shape independently. **MZ** and **AK** were able to follow the direction of the shape using hand-over-hand support, with **AK** also getting their toys involved in Maths!



When learning to make 2D shape patterns, **LB** and **RH** enjoyed stamping the shapes to match the pattern. **LRH** was surprised by the shape forming on the paper when she stamped the circle, looking up at staff as she did this!

In Art, P1 have looked at the French artist Georges Seurat and the pointillism art style. We've then used different tools to make the dots for our artwork, including our fingers and cotton buds. **ZAA** particularly enjoyed this, being keen to paint each week. **JA** also enjoyed making her pointillist firework art this half term, pretending that the cotton bud was makeup when she was finished!



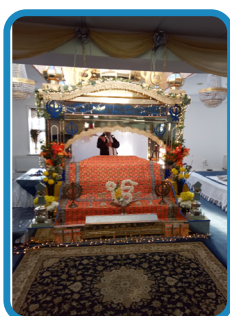
In History we have been learning about the history of Christmas, looking at both the Bible and what people did in the past at Christmas. **AH** enjoyed hearing the older Christmas songs, dancing with staff in the classroom and smiling! **FK** liked making his own Christmas decoration, working hard to form the shape and stamp in a pattern, ready for painting once it has dried.

Well done for all your hard work P1 and we hope you have a lovely Christmas break!

FE1 and FE2

This term, FE1 and FE2 enjoyed a special trip to the Guru Gobind Singh Gurdwara (GGSG) in Kempston to celebrate Diwali.

During our visit, we learned about Sikh traditions, explored the temple, listened to beautiful music, and discovered the importance of food in the community. The Gurdwara kindly prepared delicious pakoras for us, which everyone loved!



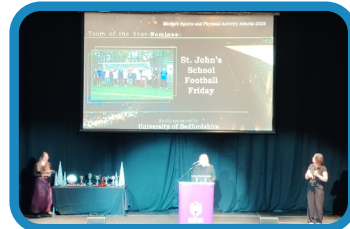
We are also grateful to Parents for their generous donation to the temple. Students shared how much they enjoyed the music, the food, and the warm welcome they received.

Happy Diwali from FE!



Sports Awards

St. John's were proudly represented on the 8th December at the Bedford Borough Sports Awards, it was an honour to be a part of their 30th anniversary celebrations.



Since it began in February, the growth and impact of our Football Friday programme has been something very special. We have pupils that were not previously engaged in sports saying that it is their favourite part of their week. It began as a reward and has expanded so much beyond the original four participants. As a result of the success of Football Friday, it was a genuine privilege to have the nomination for Team of the Year. It was humbling to be among the other nominees, which included national champions, medallists from world championships and professional sports clubs.

While we didn't win, the nomination is recognition for the hard yards that Connor and Shaun have put in since Football Friday began and all the other staff that have supported and helped it grow. The sheer joy that it brings our pupils every Friday is clear to see and is a far bigger reward than anything that we could've picked up at the ceremony.



Maths – Exploring 2D Shapes

This term our pupils have been busy learning all about 2D shapes through a variety of fun, hands on activities. They built shapes using

playdough and cutters, used tablets to colour and explore shapes digitally, and answered simple questions to help them describe each one. Pupils also practised identifying how many sides different shapes have. It was a lively, freeflow activity that combined creativity, ICT, and mathematical thinking — and the children thoroughly enjoyed discovering shapes in so many different forms.

P2



Morning Work Highlight

During our morning session, pupils enjoyed a calming sensory activity as they decorated their Christmas mats. The atmosphere was peaceful and creative, making it one of the most relaxing mornings we've shared together this term.

RE Learning Update

This week in Religious Education, our pupils have been exploring the story of the birth of baby Jesus. To bring the lesson to life, children dressed as shepherds and wise men, taking part in a thoughtful re-enactment. The activity was filled with joy and reverence. Pupils showed great care and warmth as they carried baby Jesus, handling him with gentleness and respect. It was wonderful to see the children engaging so meaningfully with the story, demonstrating both understanding and empathy.

Well done class.

Music News



On Saturday the 29th of November, four members of the school choir performed in Harpur Square in Bedford town centre on the Bedford Music Service stage.

The event was part of the Bedford Borough Council programme of Christmas activities and events.

On the day of the performance the rain poured all morning, but we didn't let that dampen our spirits...!

Four dedicated choir members took to the stage and were excited to each be given their own microphone, which they handled like true professionals!

We decided not to sing Christmas songs (it was still November after all!), but instead chose a song about being **happy**, a Meghan Trainor song about how good it feels to move your body and get **dancing**, and our favourite song about **singing** to welcome a

new day – three things that are very important to everyone in St John's School Choir!

The performance was full of energy and fun, and we even managed to get the audience singing and clapping along, despite the not so cheery weather! In fact, by the time we had finished singing, the rain had cleared...

Thank you to the parents, carers and staff members that came to support (special thanks to Sharon for helping to make sure that everyone was where they needed to be!) and to Tamsin from Bedford Music Service for inviting us to perform.

Happy Holidays from everyone in St John's School Choir!





Headteacher Message

As we approach the festive season, I am delighted to reflect on the wonderful activities and achievements our pupils have enjoyed this term at St John's. It has been a vibrant and joyful period full of rich experiences. With even more activities planned before we finish for the holidays, I'm sure everyone will be ready for the break!

This term, our pupils have participated in not one, but two Christmas tree festivals, spreading festive cheer and showcasing their creativity. We have also enjoyed exciting outings including visits to the cinema, the temple, and the local area, as well as horse-riding sessions that have brought smiles and new skills to many. Members of S5 have also begun visits to Grange Farm.

Our pupils demonstrated their competitive spirit and teamwork in the bocchia competition, while our talented choir added a special touch to the music service celebration with their beautiful singing.

Through our magic carpet theme, pupils have 'travelled' to many countries, broadening their horizons and enriching their understanding of the world. St John's showed their charitable spirit by taking part in 25 things for Children in Need Day, particularly P4 who have shown remarkable kindness around the community, exemplifying the values we hold dear. Another special highlight from this day was a visit from the real Pudsey Bear, which brought joy and laughter to all.

We have also welcomed new pupils this term, who have settled in amazingly well, becoming valued members of our school community.

Thank you to all staff, families, and pupils for making this term so special. I wish everyone who celebrates a peaceful and joyful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Warmest wishes,
Shannon Poulter
Headteacher



Diary Dates

Friday 12th December 2025 - Christmas Jumper Day

Tuesday 16th December 2025 - Coffee Morning

Wednesday 17th December 2025 - Last Day of Term

Christmas Holidays - 18th December 2025 to 4th January 2026

Pupils Return to School - Monday 5th January 2026

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### Future Notice

**Friday 17th July 2026 - End of Term (This will be a half day finishing at 1 pm)**