

22nd January 2026



St John's News

P7



It has been a busy and brilliant start to the term in P7!

Our classroom has been buzzing with excitement as the children dive into new experiences, get messy, and explore the world around them. Here is a look at what we have been up to.

Our young artists have been heading into deep space! By using paint and marbles, we created stunning galaxy pictures. By carefully tilting the trays and rolling the marbles to create winding trails of light and colour, the children weren't just making art—they

were developing their Fine Motor Skills and Hand-Eye Coordination. This activity also falls under Expressive Arts and Design, allowing the children to experiment with different textures and movement.

The "Dough Disco" has been in full swing! We have been making our own playdough from scratch, which is a brilliant way to explore Understanding the World through simple science and measures. Once the dough was ready, the children practiced rolling, cutting, and shaping. These movements are vital for strengthening the small muscles in the hands, which helps prepare our pupils for Physical Development and, eventually, writing.

We have also turned our attention to the skies. After watching real-life weather forecasts, the children stepped into the role of meteorologists! We've been busy placing our own symbols on a weather map and discussing the changes we see outside. This hits several Geography milestones, helping children identify seasonal and daily weather patterns in the UK, while also boosting their Communication and Language skills as they describe what they see.

It has been a joy to see the children so engaged and curious.



P5



P5 had an exciting and memorable time in the leadup to the Christmas holidays. We rounded off our magic carpet theme with a range of engaging sensory stories, giving pupils the chance to explore new textures, sounds and ideas while continuing to develop their sentence building skills.

December was filled with festive fun, from colourful face painting to a very special visit from Santa himself. One of our favourite activities was a sensory story about a postman delivering letters to Santa, which sparked lots of curiosity and imagination. Pupils also enjoyed tasting traditional seasonal treats, including mince pies and ginger beer, which added to the festive atmosphere.

Christmas dinner day was another highlight, with everyone gathering in the hall to celebrate together. The pupils were thrilled to show off their favourite Christmas jumpers and join in the joyful festivities.

As we begin the new term and school year, we have launched into our exciting theme of "To

infinity and beyond." This theme is brought to life through a sensory story about a boy whose bed transforms into a rocket, taking us on an adventurous search for the sun.

Alongside this, pupils have been creating vibrant space themed art, giving everyone the chance to get wonderfully messy while learning about the planets.

We are continuing this theme in science by exploring day and night, the changing seasons and different types of UK weather. In maths, we have started learning about money, focusing on recognising different coins and understanding their value. It has been a fantastic start to the term, and we look forward to even more learning adventures ahead.

When making fake snow **S** pointed to snow and cold on an ALD.

When matching and ordering coins **Z** repeated which coin he had after an adult said it. **A** said "moon" when adding a moon to his picture.

Z said, "it's a rocket!"

Sc pointed to stars when looking at the twinkly lights.



S9



Happy New Year! From all the pupils and staff in Partridge Class.

Pupils quickly settled back into routines and have begun exploring this term's theme of *To Infinity and Beyond*! We have been practising targeting skills using the interactive projector to swipe at the space men as they float into vision and using Eyegaze to discover aliens hidden behind the door.



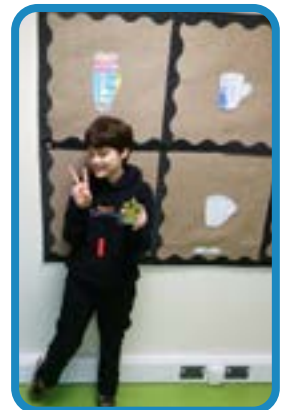
And we have been 'going on space walks' practicing our physiotherapy using supportive slings to assist weight bearing.

S6

Happy new year from S6. The start of this term has been filled with lots of activity and S6 have been loving the physical activity at St John's. They have been building on their shape work from last term and using this knowledge in PE.

Friday football has also taken place and the members of S6 who attend have been absolute superstars with R B-P winning the St Johns 'player of the week'. She won the award for "good listening, taking part and being really enthusiastic".

R B-P says, "I like playing football."



S4

This term, S4 have been exploring the fascinating topic of Space. Pupils have shown great enthusiasm as they've discovered new facts and taken part in a range of engaging activities.

A particular highlight has been creating "Space sandwiches" during our cooking session, where learners combined creativity with practical skills. We also had an exciting time designing and building our very own rockets, which sparked plenty of curiosity and teamwork.

Well done to everyone in S4 for their fantastic effort and enthusiasm throughout this topic. We look forward to continuing our Space adventures in the weeks ahead.



P6



Welcome back after the Christmas break, we hope that you all enjoyed the holiday period.

In P6 this term we are going to **Infinity and Beyond**. We have started a new sensory story where we are going into space and visiting lots of different planets, including one with lots of friendly aliens.

Pupils are showing enjoyment with lots of smiles and engaging with the sensory items. We have created planets using balloons to print paint, we enjoyed watching how we were going to do the prints and found it funny.



We have also made fruit rockets. Pupils enjoyed doing hand under hand cutting and exploring the different smells and textures of the fruit. They are looking forward to making more spaced theme art and cooking including pizza planets where we are going to explore the foods textures and smells. In Art we are going to be turning our names into aliens using different textured paints and materials.



P4

Before Christmas, P4 went on a trip to soft play at the Bunyan Centre! In the lead up to the trip, the pupils used social stories and Helpkidzlearn to understand the rules and expectations that were expected.

They were very excited about this trip and loved telling other pupils and members of staff around the school where they were going!

P4 loved the bus ride over to the Bunyan Centre. **JS** and **EV** chose to sit next to each other, and **SD** asked **SU** if she could sit next to her on the bus.

Once at soft play the pupils waited well for their slot and took their shoes off when it was ready.

They loved exploring the different areas of the soft play equipment. **AS** enjoyed spinning around and **MG** spent a lot of time in the ball pit!

The most popular area was the slide! The pupils waited their turn to go down the slide and then ran straight back up to have another go!

P4 had so much fun and were very happy and excited after the trip.





FE Topic: How Food Has Changed Over the Last 70 Years

This term pupils are learning to explore how food and eating habits have changed over the past seven decades.

Pupils have discussed their favourite dinners and considered whether these dishes would have been common 70 years ago.

We will examine how international travel and migration have influenced the variety of foods available in the UK, introducing new cuisines and ingredients to the UK. For example, Curry, Pizza and Chinese food.

Learners will investigate how supermarkets source and store foods from around the world, making seasonal limitations less restrictive and increasing consumer choice.

Times have changed and we can now buy what we want when we want it. The class will compare traditional cooking methods with modern practices, considering whether foods are fresh, processed, or convenience based.

Pupils cook meals once a week and learn basic kitchen skills such as, grating and cutting foods, safety in the kitchen and home skills.

This week we cooked Shepherds pie with a difference. As we have some pupils who are vegetarian, we made it with Quorn and cheesy mash. Everyone enjoyed their lunch with many having seconds. For pudding we made bread and butter pudding. This had mixed reviews with some really enjoying it while others just tried it. It is great to see pupils trying different foods.

LF: "My favourite food is jacket potato, beans and tuna. I could have eaten this a long time ago." "The shepherds pie tasted delicious, Bread and butter pudding tasted a bit bready."

WOC: "My favourite food is fish and chips from the chip shop." "Today I made Shepherds pie and Bread and butter pudding. I liked both."

RU: "My favourite food is pizza; it comes from Italy." "Pizza was probably not available. Shepherds pie was nice, I had seconds and bread and butter pudding was nice."

WI: "My favourite is sausages, mash potato and carrots." "Today I had shepherd's pie, it was very good. Bread and butter pudding was also good."

LS: My favourite meal is turkey and salad. I tried watermelon and I liked it.

GW: "My favourite hot dinner is hot dog with ketchup and mustard."

LA: "I like a full English breakfast. I had shepherd's pie for lunch. It was really good, I tried the bread-and-butter pudding but did not like it."

AS: "My favourite meal is sausages with mash or chips with carrots." Shepherd's pie was good I had seconds."



Music News



Live Music Now

At the end of last term, we were visited by two musicians from Live Music Now – Meera (flute) and Dominic (piano) – who delivered two wonderful concerts for our pupils.

Meera and Dominic created the perfect musical atmosphere for each concert and there were some beautiful moments of engagement.

During the first concert, pupils listened intently, and there

were lots of smiles and even some festive dancing!

The second concert was full of energy and excitement, and it was lovely to see so many pupils having fun and expressing themselves through music.

There was lots of interaction between pupils, peers, staff members and the musicians – conducting Dominic using tinsel was definitely a highlight!



School Piano

As well as an exciting end to the Autumn term, we also had an exciting start to the Spring term... We arrived back to find a lovely surprise waiting for us – a beautiful upright piano!

Pupils have already started to explore this new and intriguing instrument. Some classes have used the piano to reinvent our Hello Song, whereas others have added creative piano solos to the songs we are learning this term.

Massive thanks to Shaun for picking up the piano during the holidays and delivering it safely to school – we are so grateful!



Diary Dates

Last Day of Term - Friday 13th February 2026

Half Term - Monday 16th to Friday 20th February 2026

Pupils Return to School - Monday 23rd February 2026

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## Future Notice

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