

19th March 2026

St John's News



**St John's
School**
Achieving Together

S9 and P6

Hydrotherapy News! - A Big Thank You!

Sarah Stephenson, our swimming pool Lifeguard, raised £1250.00 for the school to purchase specialist floats and a pool chair to assist our pupils in Hydrotherapy.

The money was donated by 9 members of Bedford Choral Society. We would like to say a huge **THANK YOU** to Sarah and the members who donated. The equipment will enable much greater freedom in the water for our pupils and support the development of their Physical skills.



IM enjoys being able to splash around more independently with lots of smiling and giggling.

GS enjoys floating without being touched after working hard on his exercise programme,

MS is now able to experience floating with peers and not just watching them as there is now enough for us to be able to float together.

EG likes being moved around on the floats and it has made it more comfortable for her to do so.

HC enjoys the freedom and being able to splash his friends!

SM relaxes and explores the water with her hands.

IS is exploring and moving his body in the water.



S7

The Emergency Services Visit St John's

Pupils in S7 have been learning about the emergency services as part of careers. Pupils learnt who they are, what they do and what to do in an emergency.

As well as presentations and videos, pupils took part in various activities such as role play, labelling uniforms, describing equipment, and wordsearches.

St John's also organised paramedics and the police to visit our pupils which was very exciting for them. The paramedics spoke with our pupils and allowed them inside an ambulance and took their pulse. The police gave our pupils uniforms and helmets to wear which really suited some of them! Pupils got to sit in the police van and got a taste of sitting in the back where people who have been arrested would sit.

One of my pupils asked to be arrested which the police played along with to his delight. After checking that it would not upset any of our pupils who were sensitive to noise, the police ended their stay by blasting their sirens.

The pupils loved their visit from the emergency services and thanked all who were involved. Pupils said of their Emergency Services visit when asked:

"I want to be arrested again!"

"Policeman hat."

"That was loud!"



S5



S5 Have been learning about Space through the story Back to Earth with a Bump and completing work related to the story.

We have had lots of fun counting planets, building puzzles, making aliens and moon buggies.

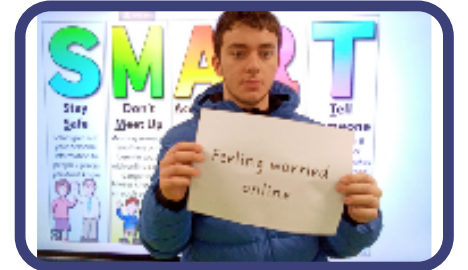


During World Book Week we enjoyed the story Rocking my Red School Shoes and taking part in the sensory story and craft activities. We also read books in funny places and had lots of fun.

S8



S8 have been busy doing lots of different things this term. We started by looking at online safety. Following a script pupils created an online safety guide for all the children in the school to watch so that they stay safe online. We absolutely enjoyed doing this!



In Literacy pupils created information leaflets about space, which they presented to other classes in the school. They had the opportunity to present the work to the primary pupils which was an amazing experience.

For Valentine's Day, we baked some heart shaped cookies and learnt how to decorate them with red icing. Practicing food hygiene while making these cookies based on the learning we have been doing in PSHE. Alongside this we made Valentine's Day cards and shared them with our chosen persons!

We have also been working on our ICT skills. We have been learning how to change the orientation on a word document and design cards for Mother's Day! We have also been learning formatting skills in Microsoft word in order to change the font size, colour and style.



P1



P1 have been very busy throughout the spring terms, learning about space and so much more!

In Art we have worked on our pre-writing shapes and using these to decorate our different space items. **HA** has enjoyed making the different patterns

on the different space items each week, while **JA** has enjoyed using the different colours. **RH** has shown more interest in holding different mark-making tools with an adult each week in Art.

Some of the pupils in P1 have also shown some interest in the symbols inside our PODD books, using them to develop their vocabulary or to tell us about something they did! **LB** has enjoyed learning the names of different animals in the farm/safari, while **MZ** used the celebrations page to tell us about decorating for a party. **MZ** pointed to the symbols for *decorate*, *birthday*, *party*, *birthday*, and *presents* as he did this.

In Science we explored materials and how they can change, looking at space rocks and fizzing them with vinegar. All of P1 worked on their fine motor skills as

they did this, having a go at squeezing the vinegar out of the pipette and onto the space rocks. **FK** said "woah!" when the space rock fizzed, while **ZAA** said, "Thank you!" for the activity.

P1 also thoroughly enjoyed visiting the different emergency services when they came to St. John's recently. **LRH** was smiling at the paramedics from St. John's Ambulance when they came, showing interest in the inside of the ambulance.

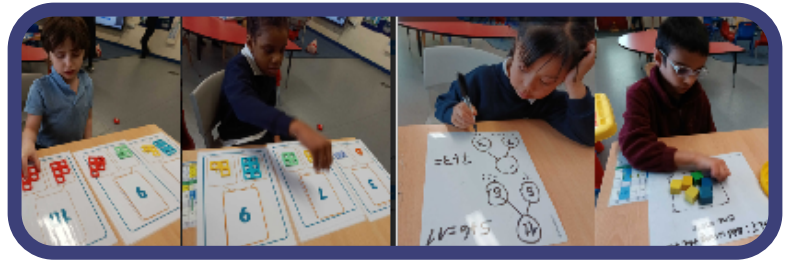
Finally, as the weather is improving, we have loved being able to go outside more! **AK** has started showing interest in the bikes and smiles when another child pedals while he sits at the back. **AH** was giggling lots when he showed us his spinning in the playground!



P2

In P2 we are learning to add numbers using the Part-whole Model, in maths

Most pupils are exploring different strategies to help them add, while others are focusing on addition through the concept of “one more.” Everyone has been working really well and growing in confidence.



In Science, we are learning about **energy and sound**. As a class, P2 explored **loud and quiet sounds**, and we also revisited our previous learning on **light**. The pupils enjoyed an activity using props from our dollhouse to help them **differentiate between light, heat, and sound**, identifying which objects belonged to each category.



FE

FE pupils had the opportunity to visit the **National Space Centre in Leicester**. Their mission for the day was to **explore the centre and learn more about space** through a range of interactive and sensory experiences.

Pupils particularly enjoyed activities that allowed them to **touch and smell items representing what space might be like**, helping to bring their learning to life.

The group travelled by coach and had a smooth and enjoyable journey. Throughout the day, pupils showed great curiosity and enthusiasm as they explored the exhibits and asked questions about space, astronauts, and the solar system.

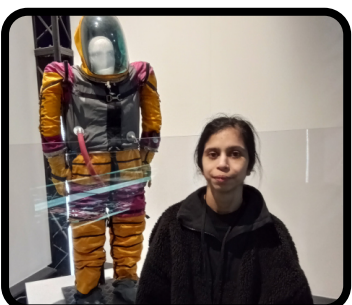
Thank you to everyone who helped make it such a good day.

Student Reflections

A favourite for FE1 was the reflex test where you had to press the button when it lit up. The glass lift was very exciting, taking you up to the top of the rocket. The best part was the planetarium, where we got to see the stars and experience what it would be like inside a spaceship.

FE2 pupils shared that they **loved the trip** and were excited to talk about everything they had discovered. They would like to say a big **thank you to Happy Days** for making the visit possible, and to the **National Space Centre team** for providing such an engaging and memorable experience.

Thank you to **Conner Thomlinson** for our lovely tops, and to **Forward Sports Coaching** for organising them. They were a wonderful touch for our trip.



Music News

On Thursday 12th of March, it was the choir and orchestra's annual trip to King's House to perform at Bedfordshire Festival of Music, Speech & Drama.

This event has become a highlight of our musical calendar and this year's festival did not disappoint!

Three ensembles from St John's performed this year – the **School Choir**, **FE Choir** and **School Orchestra** – and we received some fantastic feedback from the adjudicator:

School Choir Really enthusiastic singing and well-rehearsed actions. Everyone was engaged. Lots of smiles and great dancing. I loved your energy. A party atmosphere!

FE Choir Very rhythmic – you all played together. You clearly enjoyed this song. Some really complex rhythms that you had to remember. Driving rhythms – great toe tapping stuff.

School Orchestra Super playing. A lovely sound – rhythmic with some delightful combinations of sounds. Very good timing, especially as this required you to listen to each other.

Once again, I was so proud of our pupils, not only for giving an amazing and energetic performance, but for sitting and listening to their peers from other schools so respectfully. Huge thanks to the staff members, parents and carers for coming along to support our incredible pupils. We were thrilled to see so many familiar faces in the audience cheering us on... "I got up on stage, and my mum was SO proud!"



World Book Day

Book Week at St John's school has been the most exciting time of the year so far! The whole school was buzzing with energy as pupils dove into fun craft projects, making everything from hand-drawn bookmarks to storybook posters.

Everyone dressed up as their favourite characters, hoping to win a prize in the big costume parade out on the playground. Even the hallways looked magical, with every classroom competing to have the best-decorated door. It was week full of imagination where stories truly came to life.

Best Costume Winners



Primary



Secondary

Don't forget!

You can still use a book token and get a free book from any participating bookstore. The digital token can be found on the following link:

<https://www.worldbookday.com/books-and-tokens/book-token/digital-tokens/>

The St John's Reading Challenge is coming to an end on the **20th of March**. Remember to send in your record sheets to win a reading Badge.

Insha Mirza - English Leader



S3



Pupils have had such a busy and exciting term, engaging in a whole host of school wide and classroom activities!

We were lucky enough to take part in our schools' first table cricket lessons with a visiting member of staff from 'Cricket East', who helped the pupils learn the rules of the game!

HPK: "Cricket was fun"

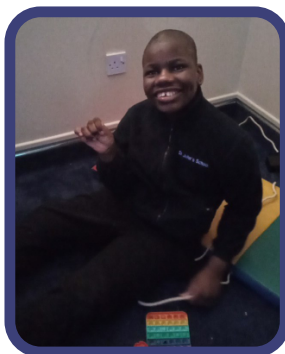
CE: "Mo was nice and it was fun. Batting is good"



We also thoroughly enjoyed our emergency services week. **HPK:** My favourite was the fire service. **AU:** I liked the police. I liked wearing the hat and coat. **CE:** The police was good; the lady was lovely.

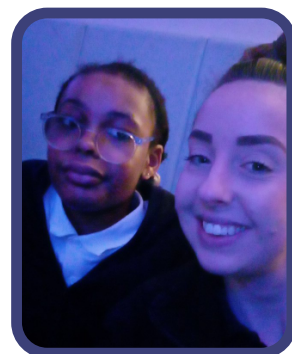
S3 are also very excited about their upcoming cinema trips, the tickets have been provided by 'Into film' charity. We are running three separate trips. Some pupils will be catching the public bus to the cinema; others will be getting the school minibus. We had a very successful practice trip on the public bus.

S1



We are lucky at SJS to have access to different sensory rooms, and one of S1's favourites is the Sound and Light Room. We find that this room helps to regulate us and gives us lots of time for building communication, social connections, and intensive interaction.

We use our time to be silly and build good relationships which helps to provide the pupils with a warm and welcoming environment for learning.



RG says Light and Sound Room is fun!

AS identified that LSR makes her happy!

PL said 'yeah' when he was asked if he liked going to Light and Sound Room!



P4

P4 focused on the book Paddington for World Book Day this year.

The pupils wrote their own 'Please look after this bear' tags, postcards to Aunt Lucy, and used a paper plate to paint their own Paddington Bear.

These were then used to decorate our door for the competition.



On World Book Day, the class were able to make themselves a marmalade sandwich. Pupils followed simple instructions to spread butter and marmalade on the bread and then fold it into a sandwich.

After being allowed to try their sandwiches, **EV** said 'yuck' and **JS** asked to 'take it home to mummy'.

Diary Dates

Last Day of Term - Friday 27th March 2026

Easter Holidays - Monday 30th March to Tuesday 14th April 2026

Pupils Return to School - Wednesday 15th April 2026