

# NEWSLETTER Term 4: 7th March 2025

<https://sjm.academy>

Telephone: 01323 730255

Email: [office@sjm.academy](mailto:office@sjm.academy)

## Upcoming Whole School Dates

**March** Thursday 6th : World Book Day  
 Thursday 6th : Friends Quiz Night  
 Thursday 13th : Science at St. Andrew's during school day  
 Wednesday 19th : Yr3&4 to see Moana at St. Andrew's  
 Wednesday 26th : Zylo Dance workshops - PE kits for all

*Whole School Reminder:*  
**NO NUTS** are to be  
 brought in to school. Thank you.



Dear Parents and Carers,

The start of the term has been a good one especially with the days being longer and increasing sunshine. You may have heard all about it by now but in case you have not...

**World Book Day** was a huge success! A big **Thank you** to Miss Dixon for leading us through it. It has been my best day at St John's so far and I think dressing as Cruella De Vil not only engaged the children - it also caused great amusement to parents when I greeted them in full costume on the gate. There was fierce competition between staff as well as they tried to outdo each other in the Decorate your Door competition. In the end, years 6 & 2 emerged as the winners. As a result of everyone's efforts, we had some time on the field this afternoon. The children enjoyed this rare treat despite it starting to rain just as we got there! There are very few things that are a better sight than watching children play. However, I do have to apologise for the muddy clothes - luckily you have the weekend to get it sorted.

## Feedback

We have had a few visitors in recently and they have shared some really positive feedback. We had 3 ex-students come back for their work experience and a colleague from the secondary school came in to check in on them. This is an extract of what she shared with us, and we all thought it was really lovely and captures what this school is about.

*Dear Ms Byroo,*

*... it was such a positive visit; I thought it worth sharing some of what the students said as it really resonated with me.*

*They all spoke of how much they have taken from the placement and how much opportunity they have been given to grow their skills. They were incredibly grateful for the work the staff at the school had put into helping them thrive and also for the way the school had embraced them. All three students were keen to look for further opportunities around how they can continue to work with young people, which I have passed onto our Careers team. One insight that struck me was their recognition of being in a workplace where you are valued as a key part of a team. In the short time I was in the school, I certainly got a sense of this from every interaction with both staff and students..*

As humans we know how good it feels when you get positive feedback. So many of the parents/Carers of St John's give us good feedback at every chance they get, and I want you to know how that helps us to keep going.

However, it has been brought to my attention by a few parents that the Whatsapp groups and conversations on the playground can sometimes fuel negativity that is unhelpful and unnecessary. We are a Christian school community with children at the centre of all we do. In the same spirit can I please urge you to be supportive of each other, and us, so that the children can get the best from their school.

If there is a need to voice your dissatisfaction or bring something to our attention - please do so through the correct channels - with teachers/members of staff directly. Every member of staff, child and family is valued and loved here at St. John's Meads.

**1 Corinthians 13:4-7 - Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.**

Have a lovely weekend all, Mrs Byrno



## Celebrating Our Attendance Success!

We would like to extend a huge **thank you** to the entire St. John's Meads community for your continued support in continuing to improve our school attendance.

We are thrilled to share that our current **overall attendance rate is an outstanding 95.4%**! This is a fantastic achievement—well done to all our students!

We are also pleased to see an improvement in punctuality, with fewer children arriving late to school. As we've mentioned in previous newsletters, arriving on time is so important - it helps children settle into the school day smoothly and ensures they don't miss valuable learning at the start of the day. To celebrate this success, we have introduced a new focus in our **Friday Celebration Worship**, where we recognize the attendance of different year groups. This initiative encourages a healthy sense of competition, motivating all students to aim for excellent attendance. It has been wonderful to see improvements across all year groups, with **Reception moving up the leaderboard - although Year 5 is still holding strong at the top!** **Thank you once again for your ongoing support - let's keep up the great work together!**

## Supporting Friendships and Addressing Bullying in Worship

Good friends have...



kind hands



kind feet



kind voices

This week in worship, we explored the importance of friendships and how to recognize and respond to bullying.

The children actively engaged in discussions and shared wonderful ideas about what makes a good friend—being kind, playing together, being trustworthy, making each other laugh, and listening.

We talked about what bullying means, explaining that it happens when someone hurts, frightens, or upsets another person on purpose and repeatedly. To help the children feel empowered to take action, we introduced the acronym **STOP – Start Telling Other People** as a way to encourage them to seek help if they ever witness or experience bullying.

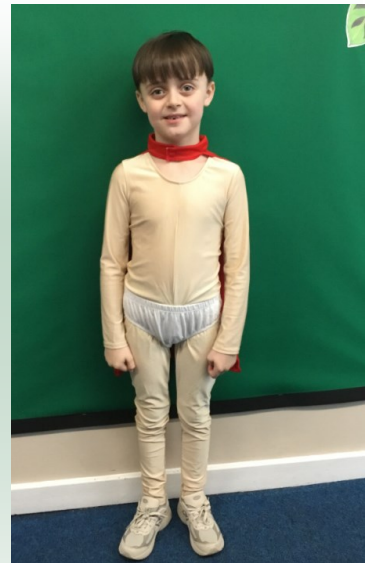
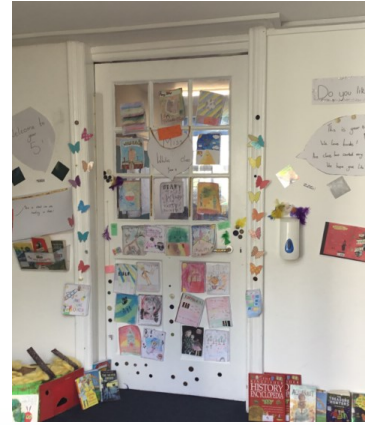
We also emphasized the importance of using **kind hands, kind feet, and kind voices** in all their interactions. It was heartening to hear the children confidently identify what they would do if they encountered bullying, including naming five trusted adults they could turn to for support.

By reinforcing these values at home, we can continue to nurture a school community where kindness and respect flourish.

**Thank you for your ongoing support in these important conversations!**



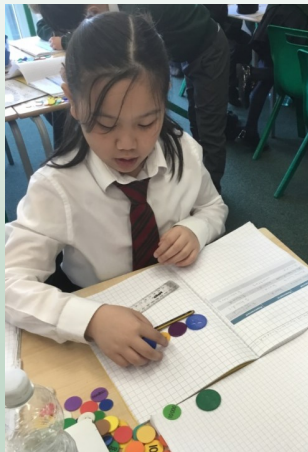
# Highlights from World Book Day



## Highlights from Year 3

In maths, the children have been exploring the concept of measurement in a creative way - using non-standard units to measure objects around the classroom.

Instead of rulers and tape measures, they used counters and even their hands to estimate and measure lengths.



This hands-on approach has helped them develop a deeper understanding of size, comparison, and the importance of consistency in measurement, all while having fun with everyday objects!

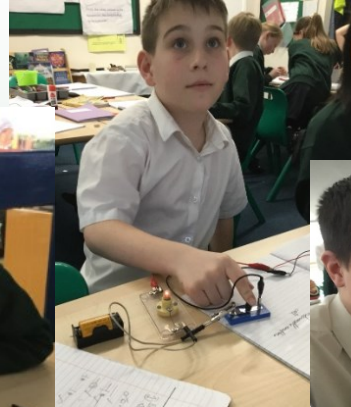
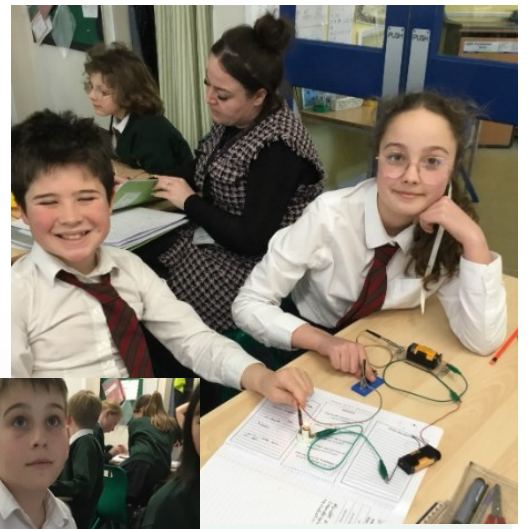


In PE, students have been working on their hand-eye coordination by practicing with rackets and balls. Through a variety of engaging activities, they have been learning to control the ball and improve their accuracy. One of the highlights was when students rallied with themselves, bouncing the ball against the ground or wall before returning it with their racket. This allowed them to focus on their technique and build confidence in their skills.

It's been fantastic to see them improving in both coordination and concentration!

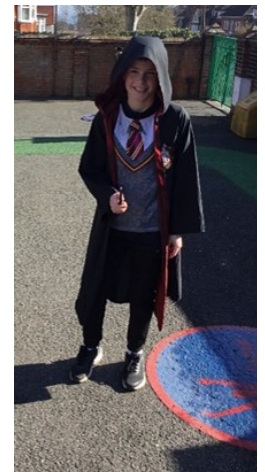
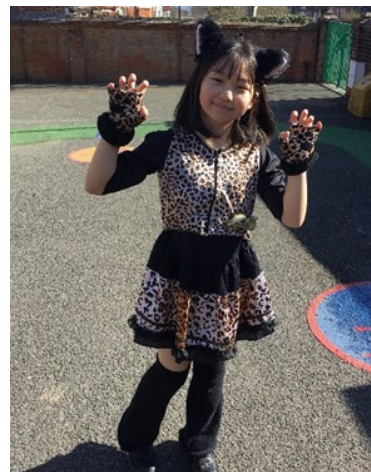
# Highlights from Year 6

In science this week, the children created circuits to test how adding more batteries makes the bulb brighter.



In history, we have been learning about the Battle of Britain and enjoyed drawing different planes as part of our 'Award winning' door display on World Book Day!

It was great to see everyone getting into the spirit of the day with their pjs and costumes. It was a highlight of the year!



6 MARCH 2025

# FRIENDS NEWS

## A huge thank you – over £400 raised!



Last night we had a wonderful evening at The Ship for our annual pub quiz. Thank you to all of you that could make it. **You raised over £400** which will be used for educational resources this term. More info to follow. We are so grateful!

## Turn your shopping into cash for school



Support us through  
easyfundraising

**Have you signed up yet to easyfundraising?** It's a scheme where online retailers donate part of what you spend to charity. It doesn't cost you a penny and our school receives free cash! **To set it up, visit [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) or download the App, select St John's Meads as your cause** and then click through to shop at your chosen retailer as normal (Tesco, Argos etc). Your purchase will generate a donation to St John's Meads at no cost to you. Win win!

➤ Sign up today at: [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)

## About The Friends

We are a group of volunteers - parents and grandparents - hosting fun events that raise money for St John's Meads. We are passionate about our school.



### Friends committee

Responsible for planning events and representing our parent body

- **Chair:** Sarah Lawrence
- **Secretary:** Becca Bowater
- **Treasurer:** Stuart Easton
- **Members:** Tracy Marsh, Zuben Montgomery, Jo Oakey, Charlotte Rivett, Carry Stoddart and Amanda Wilson.

### Class reps

Help at events & keep parents updated with Friends news:

- **Reception:** Helen
- **Year 1:** Rhi and Dani / **Year 2:** Hannah, Helena and Kerri-Ann
- **Year 3:** Carry and Shemane / **Year 4:** Tom and Jo A
- **Year 5:** Amanda and Tracy / **Year 6:** Emma and Becca.

GET  
INVOLVED

If you'd like to get involved, or have ideas you'd like to share, please get in touch: [secretary@stjohnsmeadsfmsa.org.uk](mailto:secretary@stjohnsmeadsfmsa.org.uk).

# CHERRY BLOSSOM



## SPORTS SCHOOL

**CHILDREN TAG RUGBY  
YR1 ¼ YR5  
FREE TRIAL AVAILABLE**

**TEL 07541957732**

**EMAIL [CHERRYBLOSSOMSPORTSSCHOOL@GMAIL.COM](mailto:CHERRYBLOSSOMSPORTSSCHOOL@GMAIL.COM)**



**APRIL  
7th - 11th**

**£25.50**

Per Day  
9:30am - 1:30pm



**EASTER**

# HOLIDAY CLUB FOR 6 TO 11 YEAR OLDS

## ACTIVITIES:

- Creative Arts and Crafts
  - First Aid Training with Daisy First Aid
  - Pottery with Eastbourne Studio Pottery
  - Fun Cricket with East Dean & Friston Cricket Club
  - Out in the wild bush craft skills with Cherry Wood Adventures
  - Slime Making & Disco Party
  - Games, Easter egg Hunt
- And much more!!

**7th April**

**The Gather (Beacon Shopping Centre Eastbourne)**

**8th - 11th April**

**Eastbourne College, Beresford House, Summerdown Road BN20 8DG**

**\*\*All our activity mentors are professional, and Enhanced DBS checked\*\***



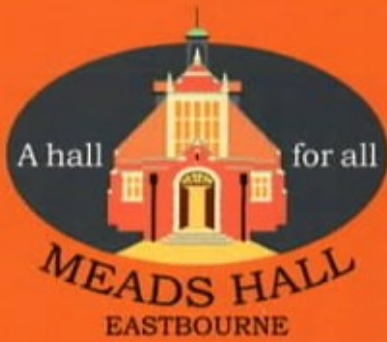
**LUNCH PROVIDED  
LIMITED PLACES AVAILABLE!  
\*\*HAF FUNDED PLACES AVAILABLE!\*\***



**CONTACT US:  
07702491466  
info@tydol.co.uk**

<https://www.facebook.com/TydolTuitionCentre>





See the renovations for yourself  
Find out what happens in your hall  
Everyone welcome!

**OPEN DAY**  
**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 11am – 3pm**

Pop up Café  
Information about classes  
and events held in the hall  
and Meads voluntary groups

New layout  
New roof & windows  
New kitchen & toilets  
New audio-visual system  
Redecorated throughout



Book your parties and meetings!  
20% discount on all one-off bookings made before 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025

[www.meadshall.org](http://www.meadshall.org) [booking@meadshall.org](mailto:booking@meadshall.org) 07759 463324

# Jungle Rumble

**FREE drama, dance and singing  
workshops for 4–8s**

**We're trekking into the jungly  
undergrowth for a wild adventure.**

Join us for this special one-off session as  
we sing along with a cheetah and dance  
the *Jungle Jive*.

## Nearest venue

Meads Hall,  
Eastbourne, BN20 7QL  
Saturday 22nd March  
OPEN DAY from 11am–3pm  
Sessions running  
throughout the day

**Just turn up and  
bring your friends!**





Join us at

# LITTLE SPROUTS

GARDENING CLUB

Discover the joys of gardening and growing your own food, along with nature activities and crafty fun.

Find us at  
The Boat Garden @ St Andrew's Prep

Friday Under 5's Play, Dig and Grow  
Saturday Morning Grow and Discover  
Monday Homeschoolers

Find out more and book a session  
@littlesproutsgardenclub  
www.littlesproutsgarden.uk  
littlesproutseb@gmail.com

## Waterstones Children's Short Story Competition 2025



500 Words, Any Genre

Open to Key Stages 2 and 3  
One winner per Key Stage

Closing Date: Saturday 19th April 2025  
Winners Announced: Sunday 25th May 2025

Email entries to: [eastbourne@waterstones.com](mailto:eastbourne@waterstones.com)  
with the subject: Short Story 2025

Prize: Bag of books (selected by our team),  
social media representation of the winners, and  
bragging rights!

Please include your name, year group, and contact email or  
mobile number with your submission

# MUMMY & ME MOTHER'S Day Tea

Sunday 30th March 10am • 12noon • 2pm





*Unlimited  
Play Visits*

*Easter  
Craft  
Sessions*

# *Easter Play Pass 2025*

**Holiday Activities for £20**

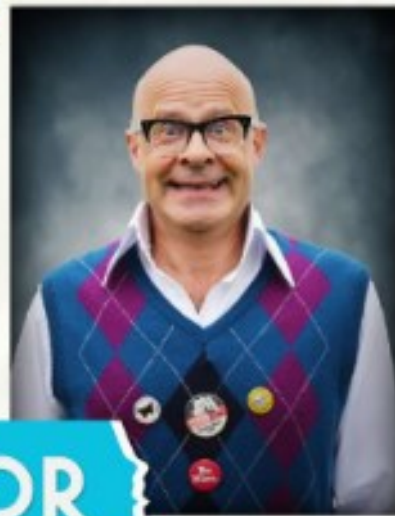
*Baking  
Sessions*

*Easter Egg  
Hunt*

*Meet the  
Easter  
Bunny!*

**[www.kiddicity.co.uk](http://www.kiddicity.co.uk)**





## JUNIOR BAKE OFF



**JOIN THE CLASS OF 2025!**

## **JUNIOR BAKE OFF**

**... IS LOOKING FOR BRILLIANT BAKERS, AGES  
9-15 FOR THE NEXT NEW AND EXCITING  
SERIES!**

**APPLICATIONS CLOSE  
SUNDAY 23RD MARCH**

**[APPLYFORJUNIORBAKEOFF.CO.UK](https://www.applyforjuniorbakeoff.co.uk)**

