



We are growing  
our learning



# St John's Green Primary School

Learn to Live, Live to Learn

Volume 52, Issue 7

Newsletter Date:  
Friday 21st October 2022

We we are all  
Maths writers ...



## Newsletter

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**PLEASE REMEMBER—READ WITH YOUR CHILDREN 5X A WEEK AND LOG IT ON Boom Reader (Formerly GoRead).**

**Older Children can do this for Themselves.**

**Boom Reader logs reading recorded from Saturday morning to Saturday morning.**

Please remember that next week is Half Term and the school is closed. The second half of the Autumn Term Starts on Monday 31st October (Halloween).

Secondary Applications	1
One Square Mile	1
Shoebus Appeal	2
Awesome Authors	3
Colchester United	2
Fantastic Work	3



### Term Dates

Monday 24th October—Friday 28th October—Half Term

Tuesday 20th December—Last day of Autumn term

Thursday 5th January—First day of Spring term

### Diary Dates

Friday 11th November—7.30p.m.—9.30p.m. PTA Bingo Night. 9 Tickets available from both school offices)



### Year 6 Parents—Secondary School Applications

Secondary School applications **MUST** be completed by Year 6 parents by Monday 31st October.

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

Our Assembly Theme after Half Term is: How do we Learn from History.

The **Big** Question for the Autumn Term Assessment Period — Where are my Roots?

**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.**

### Awards

- STAR— Roman (RREX), CHARIOT— Leonardo (RREX), JUMBO- Sidney (MM).
- EAGLES— Olivia (MM), ROSES— Sofia (RREX), CIRCUS- Brooke (RREX).
- MERCURY— Alyssa (MM), CLAUDIUS- Maja & Jackson (CC), ROMANS- Mya-Rose (MM).
- DUTCH— Lotta & Grace (CC), ICENI— George (RREX), PAXMAN— Elijah (RROX).
- CASTLE—Reggie (MLM), CAVALIER— Tim (MM), GARRISON— Isla (RREX).
- OYSTERS- Kostiantyn (RREX), MAGNETS- Trae (MM), RAEDWALD- Ali (MLM).
- TRINOVANTES— Whole Class (MM), CYMBELINE— Finlay (MLM), LATHES— Niamh (RRX).
- ATTENDANCE— Chariot & Dutch



### One Square Mile

St John's Green Primary School—One Square Mile Project!

Sometimes a germ of an idea gathers pace and before you know it, the idea has grown into a substantial and worthwhile endeavour. St John's Green was established as a school on 5th September 1898; next year we will celebrate 125 years of children being educated at our school. Obviously, we wanted to have a big party, look back at the history of the Town site building, record stories from past pupils and view our extensive archive collection, etc.

Whilst chatting about options at the beginning of the year, we found ourselves during the Summer Term putting in a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a substantial grant to cover a much larger project. And we were awarded our full bid for One Square Mile: Heritage on our Doorstep of £62,000!

You can read about the project here <https://www.gazette-news.co.uk/news/23063844.colchester-school-receives-62k-national-lottery-grant/> and through updates on our dedicated Facebook page at [shorturl.at/fqxJM](https://www.facebook.com/shorturl.at/fqxJM).

All children will be involved over the two year life of the project to gain skills in:

- interrogation of primary and secondary sources
- archiving
- sound recording of local stories
- videoing of local buildings
- mapping monuments within one square mile of the school

This is a rich and exciting project that will result in a digital map containing overlays of the work the children, staff, parents and community volunteers have produced. We are delighted to have such expert partners joining us in the journey too, including - Colchester Garrison, Colchester Recalled, Colchester Civic Society, Colchester & Ipswich Museum Service, Essex Record Office and Colchester Archaeological Trust.

There is history on our doorstep and we aim to capture it! Tina Bourne.

Please also see the School Website—just follow the link, 'One Square Mile.'

**Christmas Card Orders** (Yes, I know, very sorry about this!)

Your child should have come home with a card showing details of how to order Christmas Cards with your child's design. The deadline for orders is **Monday 14th November.**

No orders will be taken after this date. All commission from the sales of the cards goes to the PTA. Many thanks for your continued support.

### Water Bottles

Please remember that it's important that children bring a filled water bottle into school every day.

Quite a few children seem to forget theirs—so if you could just remind them that a filled water bottle is essential.

Keeping hydrated is key—

- 1, Helps maximize physical performance (plenty more running at break/lunchtimes)
- 2, Gives you more energy and better brain function. (Even better learning in school)
- 3, Helps prevent headaches (less calpol)



### Year 5—Change in PE Days after Half Term.

Year 5 PE days will change to the following after Half Term.

- Monday—Raedwald/Magnets/Oysters
- Thursday—Raedwald
- Friday—Magnets/Oysters

Our Jigsaw Theme for after Half Term—Celebrating Differences.

### North Hill Dental It's Halloween Season and we're doing 'spooky' Kid's check-ups!

North Hill Dental is a local multi-award-winning dental practice that provides a range of NHS and multi-disciplinary private dental services. They are running a Halloween event between the 24th-31st of October, where they are inviting children under the age of 18 to have their (free) NHS check-up with them.

They are excited to offer a Halloween-themed check-up with lots of treats and fun to excite the young ones and give advice on toothbrushing, dental hygiene and tips and tricks to keep their teeth healthy.

If any of your pupils/parents would like to book, please contact their reception team on 01206 577912 to make an appointment.

### Trip Deposits—Danbury (Year 4), Kingswood (Current Year 5)

A separate letter was sent out to parents in Year 4 this week, who have not yet made a decision about our Year 4 Danbury residential. **Please make sure you have a read of this letter.**

Deposits for both Danbury (Current Year 4) and Kingswood (Current Year 5) are now overdue.

Please pay asap. Many thanks.

If any parent is struggling financially and wants their child to go—please come and speak to us.





Dear Parents,

This year, the school will be supporting Samaritan's Purse 'Operation Christmas Child' appeal.

Operation Christmas Child's mission is to provide local partners around the world with shoeboxes filled with small toys, hygiene items, and school supplies as a means of reaching out to children in their own communities. These gifts are shipped outside the United Kingdom to children affected by war, poverty, natural disaster, famine, and disease.

In 2021, 277,350 shoebox gifts were shipped for children in eight countries across Eastern Europe, Africa and Central Asia. This year, shoeboxes will again be delivered to children living in many countries across the globe. Our shoeboxes will ensure these children receive a thoughtful gift this Christmas, while also supporting access to their rights, as stated by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

Article 28: You have the right to education no matter who you are: regardless of race, gender or disability or refugee status

Article 24: You have the right to the best healthcare possible, safe water to drink, nutritious food to eat, a clean and safe environment and information to help you stay well.

Article 31: You have the right to play and rest

Each year group will be collecting items for shoeboxes for both boys and girls, from 5-9 years old. Your generosity in previous years has meant that we have been able to send many amazing and generous gifts to children around the world. Any item that you feel you can give will be so gratefully received and, to help, on the reverse of this letter is a list of items to be included, including items that cannot be given. Due to customs changes, the rules are a little different this year so please read the list carefully. Alternatively, if you would like to donate towards the cost of the shoebox, we would also be extremely grateful. Any donations can be marked 'Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal' and passed to your child's class teacher. We would ask that these donations are brought into school by Friday 4th November.

Once again, we really appreciate any support and donations you are willing to make. If you would like any more information, please feel free to contact me through the school office.

Many Thanks,  
Miss Mitchell



## SHOEBOX GIFT IDEAS (AGE 5-9)



**SPECIAL ITEM:** Something to immediately capture the child's attention e.g. a cuddly toy, large toy car or truck, a rag doll, a deflated football and pump, a solar-powered torch.



**SCHOOL SUPPLIES AND CREATIVE ACTIVITIES:** Pencil case; crayons; writing pens and pencils; colouring pens and pencils; highlighters; child friendly pencil sharpener; ruler; eraser; glue stick (not liquid glue); safety scissors; small adhesive tape; notebook; drawing pad; colouring book; solid paint palette and paint brushes set; pre-inked stampers; pavement chalk; whiteboard and dry wipe pens; stencils; mini Spirograph kit; solar calculator; stickers.

**ACCESSORIES:** Baseball cap; sunglasses; woolly hat, gloves, mittens, scarf; hair ties, bows and dress-up headbands; small backpack, handbag or drawstring bag; purse or wallet; children's jewellery, watch, reusable non-breakable containers e.g. cup, water bottle, plate, bowl; small items of clothing e.g. socks, flip-flops, T-shirt.



**GAMES:** Card games, small puzzles, puzzle cubes, jacks, mini board games, etc.



**TOYS:** Skipping rope; tennis ball; building bricks/Lego type kit; click together model; glider kit (non-military); bead kit; play people; animal figures; dinosaurs; foldable play mat e.g. farm, zoo, city or racetrack; transport toys e.g. car, train, plane, truck or boat; plastic doll; hand or finger puppets; play dough (ideally with cookie cutters and play tools); toy tools; slinky; yo-yo; dominoes; spinning top; kaleidoscope; toy binoculars; finger skateboard; wind-up or pull-back toy; bouncy ball; inflatable beach ball; small frisbee, small kite, interactive toys that include push buttons, lights and noise (include extra batteries).



**MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS:** Tambourine, shaker, bells, sports whistle, recorder, harmonica, slide whistle, tin whistle, finger drums, maracas, triangle, mini xylophone, kazoo, castanets.



**HYGIENE ITEMS:** Toothbrush, hairbrush, comb, bar of soap, flannel, sponge, washmitt, chapstick, compact mirror (ensure protected).



**A NOTE FROM YOU:** Christmas card, note of greeting, photo of yourself/your family.

**DO NOT INCLUDE:** Toothpaste, sweets, lotions and liquids; used or damaged items; war-related items; seeds, gum, chocolate or food items; religious or political literature; medicines, aerosol cans, sharp or fragile items.

### The Mighty Colchester United (50% discount on Family Tickets—from Colchester United)

In recognition of the challenging times that many families are finding themselves in financially, we have a fantastic offer for families of pupils attending your school. As one of our partner schools, we are delighted to invite all of your families to book tickets for the Colchester United vs Doncaster Rovers game on Saturday 19th November, with a special 50% discount on family tickets. For each adult ticket purchase, X2 children U11 can attend for free, which means an adult can attend the game half price and take X2 children U11 for free.

A free programme is included for all, so that the children have something to keep and read after the match.

Bookings can only be made in our family stand E5, E6, E7 and E8 using your unique school discount code: STJOHNS50%18 to get 50% off.

Please book here: <https://tickets.colchesterunited.net/Tickets/BuyTickets/SeatSelection/34417>

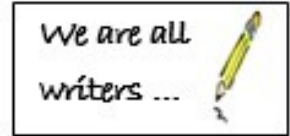
*Ps—I'll be there—hopefully not suffering as usual!*



**St. John's Green's Awesome Authors**

Dear Parents,

As part of the school's ongoing commitment to support pupils in their reading, I have been trialling an idea with a number of pupils to create their own story books. This has been to further help them with their understanding of stories, so that when they read, they do not just see words on a page but can learn to follow, comprehend and enjoy a story, as a complete reading experience.



These self-created storybooks are going to go into both school libraries for all pupils to read and enjoy, and eventually I hope to have a full section of pupil stories from Year 1 to Year 5.

A number of pupils have commented that they would like to create their own storybooks and so, due to this enthusiasm, I am opening up the concept to any pupils from Year 1 - Year 5 who wish to do so.

The story for the book needs to be of the pupil's own idea, they may need guiding with some parts of the story to make it flow. Ultimately, this is the pupil's story so even if parts of it do not make perfect sense or fully flow, they must feel they have been responsible for the whole book.

On the school's website is a guide for creating the book, along with blank page templates for a picture book, a text only book, or a comic book.

There is no expectation for this work to be carried out at home; this is simply something for pupils to engage in for enjoyment.

Once they have completed their stories, they can email to school admin, with a request to forward to me, or bring in their own hard copies for me.

Many thanks,

Chris Payne (school librarian)

All the templates are available on the School website—'Parent Information' and then 'Awesome Authors.' [https://st-johns-green.eschools.co.uk/website/awesome\\_authors/626926](https://st-johns-green.eschools.co.uk/website/awesome_authors/626926)

**Home Science Challenges**

October-December

To encourage and nurture the curiosity of science, we are providing a range science experiments that the children can choose to carry out at home, with an adult, over the next half term.

All your child will need to do, is work their way through each experiment and bring back the letter, ticked off to acknowledge that they have completed each.

Those who complete the challenges will then be rewarded with a non-uniform day at the end of this term. Should the children like to share their accomplishments in the form of photographs or written up experiments, please send these into Miss Cook.

The science challenge sheet will be sent out electronically with this newsletter and will also be on the 'Welcome Page' of the school website.

For more information on the challenges Miss. Cook has set, please go to:

<https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/life/parenting/g32176446/science-experiments-for-kids/>

**Christmas Fair Book Stall**

Chris Payne (Our Librarian) is planning on running a Book Stall at our Christmas Fair, to raise money specifically for our two Libraries.

Many thanks again for all the books that have been donated by parents over the last few months/years.

Chris has asked that if you're at a loose end over the Half Term and wanted to have a route round for any books, that you could depart with—any donations would be gratefully received.

**Forest School Brilliance**

As part of 'Just One Tree Day,' Year 3 children created Bird Feeders. They have also been busy looking after any creatures that make the Forest School their home. They've also just been getting muddy!



**Beaver-tastic**

Really well done to Roman. He's a member of the Colchester 17th Sea Scouts and has recently been invested as a Beaver—which is absolutely excellent.



**Leaf Inspiration**

Inspired by the work he was doing in class and further helping Mr. Bromley and Mr. Skinner in their ever losing battle against leaves—Edward went home and created an amazing piece of leaf art work. The 'Leaf Foxes' in my humble opinion are particularly brilliant.

Really well done.



**Year 3 Art**

Also getting in on the leaf act.

Year 3 have been learning about the Stone Age and looking at Cave Paintings—they have been learning to paint in the same style, including using natural paints and materials (such as leaves).

As well as all this, they also went under their tables to imagine they were in the caves themselves—though I'm not sure they had battery operated torches back in the day!



**Year 4 Science**

Our Year four children have been investigating solids, liquids and gasses.

In this experiment, they were observing the time it took for chocolate to turn from a solid to a liquid when placed in water of varying temperatures.

I genuinely have no idea what happened to the chocolate after the experiment was concluded!?

Did you know though that Chocolate has an antibacterial effect on the mouth, as eating pure cocoa has



been shown to prevent tooth decay. Which raises the question, why does no one produce chocolate-flavoured toothpaste?

**Firstsite Holiday Fun**

We have sent out electronically with the newsletter details of some free activities at Firstsite over half Term.



Facebook: St John's Green PTA Email: [PTA@stjohnsgreen.org.uk](mailto:PTA@stjohnsgreen.org.uk)

**Your P.T.A**

**Christmas Fair Saturday 26th Nov 12-2pm**

**Help Needed from parents**

**NEEDS YOU!**

To do all the planned activities for the children we need you! Can you.....

**Help set up during the day?** Man a stall/activity for an hour during the fair?

**Help tidy up afterwards?** If the Answer is YES! please contact us by Friday 4th of November

Facebook: St John's Green PTA Email: [PTA@stjohnsgreen.org.uk](mailto:PTA@stjohnsgreen.org.uk)