



Newsletter

8th November 2024 | Issue 87



**They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old:
age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.**



**At the going down of the sun and in the morning
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM**

Laurence Binyon, Ode of Remembrance



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Dear Families,

I do hope that you enjoyed the half term break and managed to carve some time together be it here in Cyprus or perhaps further afield. It has been great to welcome back our students this week and to hear of all they have been up to.



The term began with a big clear up following Saturday’s storm. Like many areas across the WSBA, there was significant debris and damage to trees. I am extremely grateful to our staff who worked tirelessly to ensure our school was pristine for the students when they returned on Tuesday. With the school up and running and lessons underway, we enjoyed the opportunity to welcome pupils of Episkopi Primary School for a Chemistry lesson that produced a buzz of excitement amongst the glow of Bunsen Burners. We will welcome pupils from Akrotiri Primary school in the coming fortnight.

Next Friday we have our Sports Day held in Happy Valley and we look forward to cheering our students on together with their parents. I hope to see many of you there, as per the letter shared earlier this week.

Upcoming School Events

Week Commencing 11th Nov.

Week 2

All Week

Autumn Exam Series (GCSE Resit)

Monday 11th November

Whole School Remembrance @ 1100hrs

Year 8 HPV Vaccinations (all day)

Tuesday 12th November

Year 8 HPV Vaccinations (all day)

Thursday 13th November

SJS Coffee Morning 0900—1000 hrs

Bookings required via SJS.enquiries@modschoools.org

Friday 15th November

Sports Day @ Happy Valley (all day)

Week Commencing 18th Nov.

Week 1

All Week

Year 11 Walking Talking Mock Examinations

Wednesday 20th November

Year 9 Parent Afternoon : 1430 — 1700hrs @ School Hall

Thursday 21st November

Head Teachers Surgery : 0900—1000 hrs @ Akrotiri Hive

Friday 22nd November

KS3 Cross Country Event

Student Leadership Team Interviews

Week Commencing 25th Nov.

Week 2

Wednesday 27th November

Year 11 and 13 Mock Examinations begin

Thursday 28th November

SJS Coffee Morning 0900—1000 hrs

Bookings required via SJS.enquiries@modschoools.org

Inter School Football matches @ KRS



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This week at St John's School

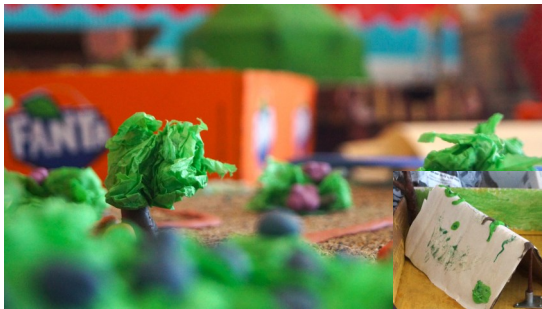


Congratulations to the Cyprus Sharks Dragon Boat Team, a member of which is a student of St John's School. The team visited Malaysia to compete against a range of teams from all over the world. The Sharks made it into two semi-finals and were the only European team to do so.

"It was an incredible experience and alongside the paddling, we also got to visit temples, mosques, conservation parks, hiked to waterfalls and tried so many new foods".



Year 7 have submitted their Island Diary projects, which is the culmination of a guided independent study designed to engage students as to how communities are formed and how they survive and thrive. The project provides an introduction into the concept of how world views are formed. Our Year 7 students have completed some exceptional work through the creation of their diaries and the voluntary art exhibits.





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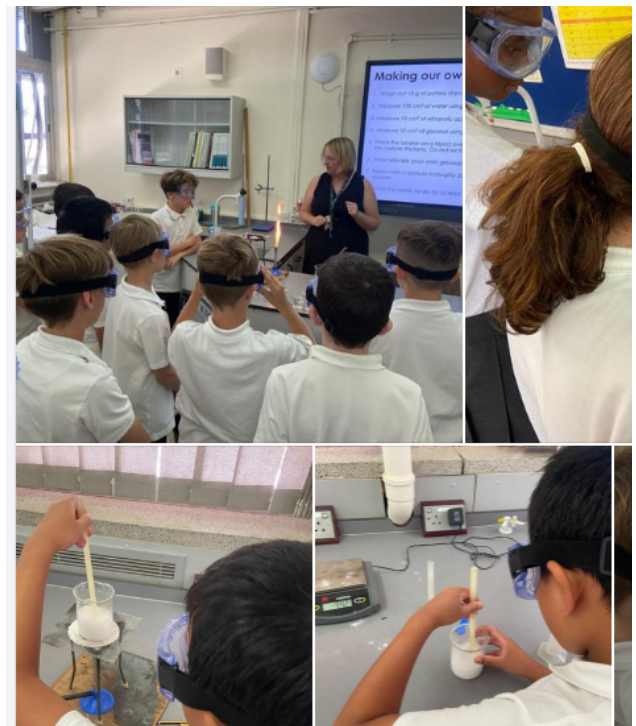
This week at St John's School



We were delighted to have so many outstanding entries for our Halloween Bake competition.

Students used the half term to craft some excellent sweet treats including these ghosts who spooked us into selecting this years winner!

It was great to have Year 6 from Episkopi Primary School using our Science Laboratories to create bioplastics as they thought about sustainability in science. We look forward to Akrotiri Primary School visiting in the coming weeks.





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Year 9 Parents' Afternoon

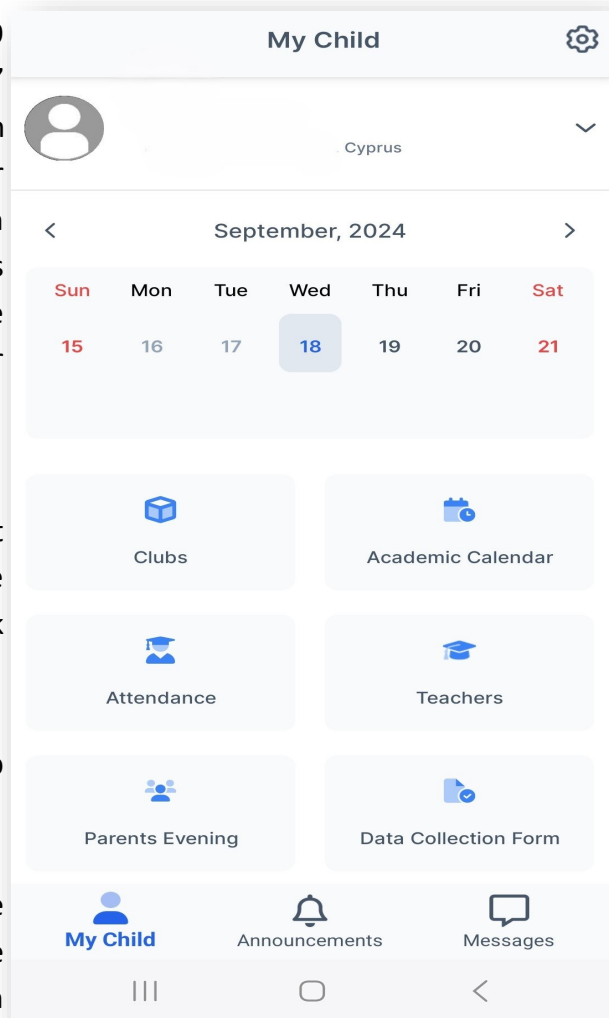
Wednesday 20th November 1430—1700 hrs

We look forward to welcoming parents of our Year 9 students into school for their upcoming Parents' Afternoon. The Parents' Afternoon will give you an opportunity, along with your child, to meet their teachers in a series of 1:1 meetings. During each meeting you will be able to reflect upon your child's start to this academic year and begin to consider future subjects your child may wish to choose and study for their GCSE's.

Appointments must be made in advance of the Parent Afternoon. Appointments can only be made through the My Child at School (MCAS) App. The appointment book will open on Monday 11th November at midday.

Please ensure you have registered to use the MCAS App in advance of Monday 11th November.

Once registered, to make your appointments, please visit the Parents Evening tab via the MCAS homepage after Midday on Monday 11th November. You can then follow the prompts to make appointments for your child's teachers.



Having difficulties?

Should you encounter difficulties please email Mrs Twyford who will gladly support you in logging in for the first time and/or making an appointment. Mrs Twyford's email is Hayley.Twyford@MODSchools.org



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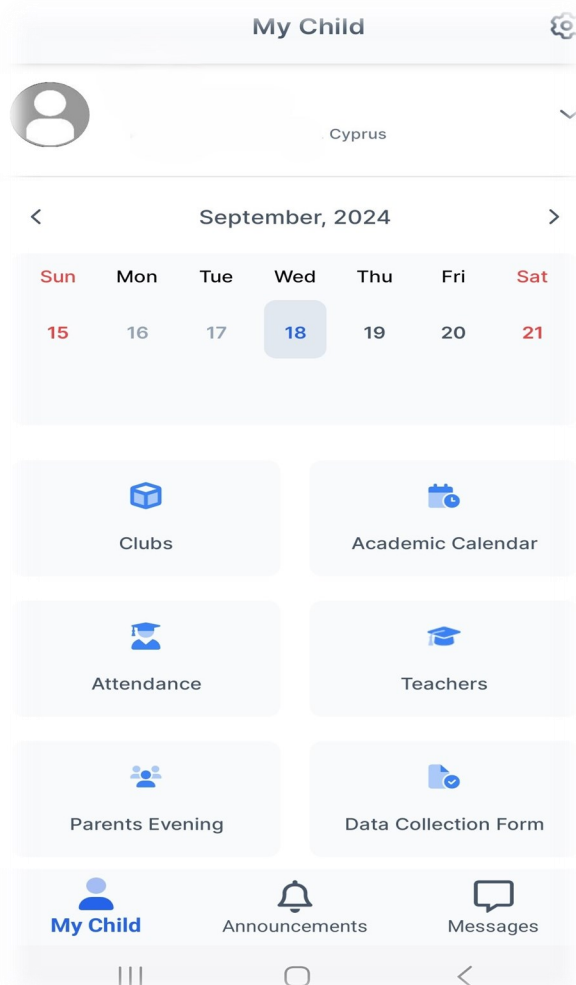


My Child At School App

We have been mandated to use the My Child At School App to facilitate future communication with parents. This App is to replace our previous use of EPraise.

My Child At School (MCAS) is an online parent portal that allows parents to monitor their child's progress and wellbeing at school with real-time information and instant updates. It can be accessed via any web browser or an app (available on iOS and Android devices) which offers parents the same features.

MCAS offers parents a wide range of capabilities, including the ability to monitor attendance and behaviour, book parents' evening slots, see reports, and other important documents, receive communications from the school, make payments, and update any changes in details. And with the parent portal app, all these features can be accessed from a personal device, like a smartphone.



Using the MCAS App

You will be emailed an invitation that will include a link to download the MCAS App. Once the App is opened you will be asked to enter your email address and create a password. You will then be asked to enter a 5 digit pin and tick to confirm to be presented with your child's dashboard.

Trouble registering?

Should you encounter difficulties, it is possible the email address we have for you is out of date. To update your email address or to notify us of difficulties please email Mrs Twyford who will gladly assist you in logging on. Mrs Twyford's email is Hayley.Twyford@modschools.org.

Further Information

Further guides for parents on MCAS can be found at [MyChildAtSchool \(MCAS\) Parent Guides – Bromcom – Documentation Centre](#). Here you will find comprehensive information on what MCAS can do to support you.



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My Child At School App



We have been mandated to use the My Child At School App to facilitate future communication with parents and carers. This App is to replace our previous use of EPraise. Parents and carers will have hopefully logged in successfully. If you have not, please contact Mrs Twyford who will gladly assist you in logging on. Mrs Twyford's email is Hayley.Twyford@modschoools.org.

All communications with home will now be via the My Child At School App, not email, and we therefore ask for all parents and carers to have now downloaded and registered their use of this App.

Bromcom Student Portal

In support of the My Child At School App there is also a student version that will provide students with the opportunity to view their timetable and homework set amongst other functions. We have begun an initial roll-out with students in Years 11, 12 and 13 and students should have received a link to download and access the App.



Should students have difficulties accessing the Student Portal App they are encouraged to see Mrs Twyford in the office next to Mr Guyton's.

Upon evaluating the initial roll-out we will look to provide students in all other years with access to the Bromcom Student App during the next half term.



Let's be friends!

Be sure to add us as a friend of Facebook to keep up to date with what is happening at St John's School

www.facebook.com/stjohnsschoolcyprus



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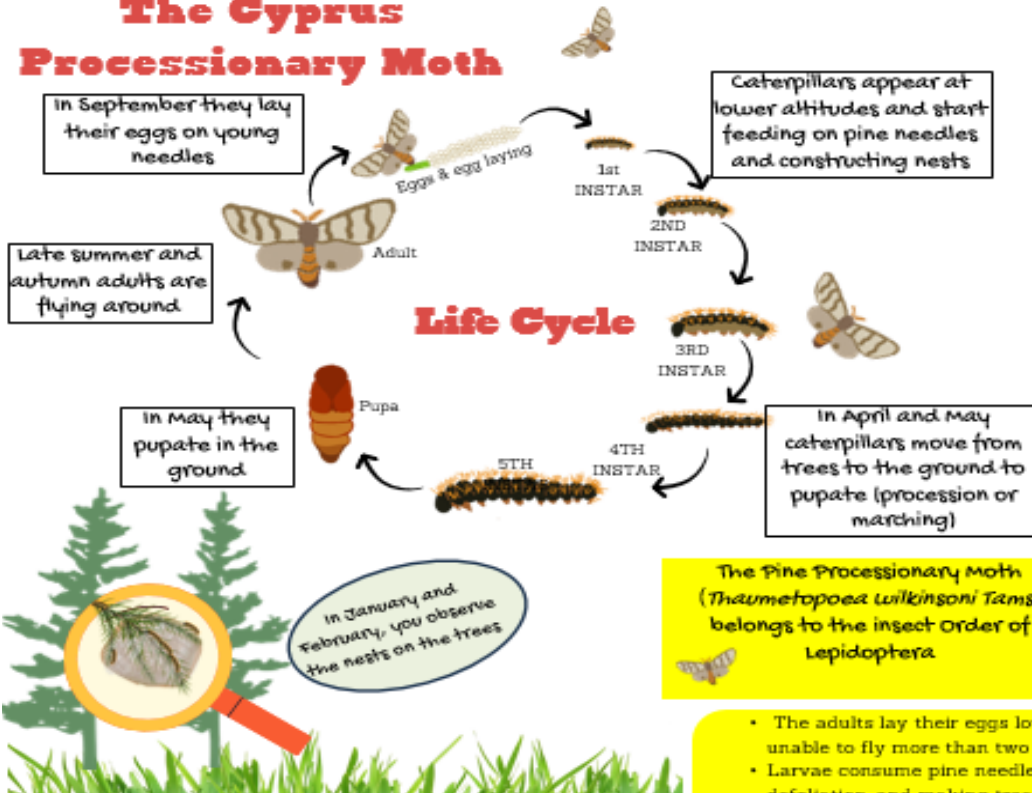


Caterpillar Education - JSHU



Joint Services Health Unit

The Cyprus Processionary Moth



At the same time, it is valuable prey for many species including ladybirds that can feed on the egg masses on trees and the Eurasian Hoopoe that digs the soil and feeds on the cocoons.



The Pine Processionary Moth (*Thaumetopoea wilkinsoni* Tams) belongs to the insect Order of Lepidoptera



- The adults lay their eggs low in the trees, as they are unable to fly more than two meters.
- Larvae consume pine needles in forests causing defoliation, and making trees more vulnerable to other pests, diseases and fires
- First symptoms of infestations are the yellow needles on the trees that you spot in autumn



Caterpillars are called processionary because they move in a line, nose-to-tail, in a processionary manner. The hair on their bodies is their defensive armour against predators

The Cyprus pine processionary caterpillars can cause skin irritations.



The hairs on the caterpillars can cause painful skin, eye, and throat irritations, rashes, and allergic reactions in humans and animals. The hairs can cause drooling, swelling of the mouth, and difficulty breathing to pets

How to protect yourself and others

The hair of the caterpillars are toxic and can cause skin rashes and allergies. Do not touch and try to avoid at all times.



Wet your lawn when you see caterpillars on the ground to alleviate any symptoms from the hair that might have spread



Keep your pets away from caterpillars when you see them marching on the ground

Do not try to handle the caterpillars as the caterpillars' hair can cause irritations

Choose plants wisely for your garden, or school. Avoid planting *Pinus halepensis* and *Pinus brutia* (the Calabrian pine). A native tree other than pines will be a better alternative. Always research before planting



Only biocontrol products can be used for the control of the processionary moth such as natural bacterial toxins and pheromone traps that attract the male moths



Pheromone trap example





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KS3

COOKING CLUB

THURSDAY 2-3pm

Sign up each week and take a
recipe/ingredient list found on the door to
room W19

Can be used for the skills
section in the Duke of
Edinburgh Award!!



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St John's School Writers

Students in KS3 will be consolidating their study of their literary heritage texts this half-term, by completing an extended essay on their areas of study:

'Oliver Twist' (Year 7)
Sherlock Holmes (Year 8)
Gothic Fiction (Year 9)

This half-term, Year 10 will move onto the study of 'A Christmas Carol' and Year 11 will revise all areas of their literature study in preparation for their Literature mock examinations in December.

We will be sharing examples of excellent analytical work over the coming weeks. Before then, please enjoy this beautiful poem from Mia which contains a motivational message I am sure we can all reflect on as we begin this new term.

Two Voices

There's a voice inside that shouts so vividly,
A roar, both anxious and proud.

It first exclaims, "I am not enough,"

It screams inside and pushes me down.

And then the other one says, "Have no fear,

Each step ahead of you is crystal clear.

No mountain too steep, no dream too far,

You'll chase them like a shooting star."

But then, the louder voice interrupts,

It speaks so loudly, flooded in fears.

"You'll never make it," it says, as it cries,

"Why even try? Why reach for the sky?"

It ties me down as if a heavy chain is attached
to my ankle,

Filling my mind with an endless train of
thoughts.

Each leap of faith is stopped in its place,

My doubt fills my cold hands.

Yet both these voices, I call my own,

In their endless war, I have grown.

For doubt I once thought sharp is here to
teach,

While confidence shows me how to be me.

And so, I live between these two voices,

That are, and always will be, my own.

By Mia M in Year 8