

John Rankin News

Welcome to JRN, the newspaper written & edited by Year 5 & 6 Newspaper Club

Don't miss our Christmas special! Four extra pages of festive fun



Heads you win, ties – you choose!

By JRN reporting team

Boys and girls can choose whether or not to wear ties as part of changes to John Rankin's uniform policy. The school says "school uniform gives the children a sense of pride and belonging" but the rules have been updated to make them fairer for boys and girls. Previously, ties were compulsory for JRJ boys, but the rules did not say whether girls should wear them. JRN spoke to junior boys and girls and nearly everyone agreed ties should not be compulsory. Some boys don't like them. One said ties are "a sweaty old rope round your neck". Other people, including some girls, like to wear them and think they look smart.

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Signs of the times

By Sam K

Everyone has noticed the smart new signs outside John Rankin, but where did they come from? After the JRJ office closed, the school had a problem with deliveries. It needed to show people who to contact if the gates were closed. But the school could not pay for new signs because it was spending all its money on resources for the pupils. So a local estate agent, Hillier & Wilson, paid £3,500 to sponsor the signs.

The children were asked to come up with a design they liked. Then Mr Jones put up the signs. Now there are no problems with deliveries and the signs look really nice.

This report appears on the JRS website. Follow the site for regular news updates from the JRN reporting team: <https://www.jrs.w-berks.sch.uk>

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Meet **Aunt Catastrophe!**

Our new agony aunt answers your problems See back page



Our top reporting team for this issue of JRN:

Imogen A-S, Oliver B, Beatrice C, Hermione C, Eleanor C, Charlie H, Sam K, Alex M, Eli M-M, Isabella M, Peter M, Elsie P, Finn S, Baden T, Florence T.

Town Hall takeover

By Sam K

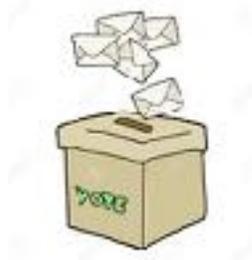
On Monday 14th October all the school's new councillors (elected class representatives) went to the Town Hall to meet the Mayor and members of Newbury Town Council as part of Local Democracy Week.

There are 24 councillors from throughout the junior school, from Year 3 to Year 6, with two from each class. This is similar to the Town Council which has 23 councillors elected from different parts of Newbury. We met many council members and staff including one of the mace bearers, who are people who hold those big gold sticks. After seeing them at close range we realised how much detail there was on those maces.

We also learned about the towns Newbury is twinned with, in Germany, Belgium, France, Spain and Italy. Did you know that the castle on the Newbury flag is not Donnington Castle? It's the long-lost Newbury Castle. All in all, the school councillors enjoyed their experience and some of them got to try on the mayor's robes.



Election special: house captains



By Peter M Political editor

In the house elections, Kennet chose Izzy M and Max S, with vice-captains Baden T and Holly M.

Craven elected Oliver B and Eli M-M, and vice-captains Olive M and Luke S.

Enborne chose Ellie R (Birch) and Joshua K, with Sam W and Lily M as vice-captains.

Donnington elected Charlie (Alder) and Olivia H, with vice-captains Isla S and Aaron L.

Tik Tok!

It's the app that everyone enjoys – or is it?

Beatrice C and **Hermione C** investigate

Filled with fun options and filters, Tik Tok is the perfect video maker. Charlie (Y6) says it's a great way to keep in contact with friends. Even Mr Swan likes it!



John Rankin News

Ciao! Meet our new Italian teacher



Finn S interviewed Maestra Elisabetta Baleani, who has joined the school after Maestra Stefania Cellini returned to Italy

Why did you come to JRS?

To teach, and for my family.

How are schools in Italy different from schools in England?

In Italy, children have five years in primary school, then three years in middle school, then another five years in secondary school.

Do you like England?

Yes, because of the green plants! It's too hot in Italy.

Finally, what's the best Italian ice cream?

Pistachio!

He says it's fine as long as you post responsibly. Lola (Y6) says it is great to get children into film-making, and Lily agrees that it's good – but has some rude content.

So is Tik Tok really the best app ever? Miss McClintock disagrees – she says it is silly and could put children in danger if they don't know what they are doing. So take care!