



NEWSLETTER No. 12

April 2024

Dear Saint John's families,

Our Christian value for this term is COMPASSION.

In our collective worship each afternoon at 1.15pm, we look at these values, thinking about how we can:

- Learn
- Reflect
- Live

and we have been hearing different stories about those who have shown compassion. This helps us to consider how we can show compassion each day in school and at home.

Dates for your Diary:

Tuesday 23rd April: Big Sing for Year 6 pupils

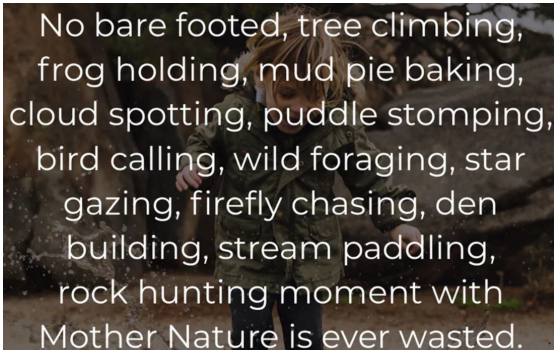
Monday 6th May: BANK HOLIDAY - no school

Friday 17th May: 2pm Tea with Mrs B and Open Classrooms for ALL YEAR GROUPS!

Friday 17th May: 6.30pm School Disco

Tuesday 21st May: Celebration of Learning at Highbury Church (am)

Friday 24th May: Last day of Term 5. Finish at 3.15pm



No bare footed, tree climbing,
frog holding, mud pie baking,
cloud spotting, puddle stomping,
bird calling, wild foraging, star
gazing, firefly chasing, den
building, stream paddling,
rock hunting moment with
Mother Nature is ever wasted.

Uniform

We raised the issue of summer uniform earlier in the year and I wanted to clarify that this will be the last summer when children will be able to wear summer dresses. Please do not buy a dress for your child this term as we are wanting children to wear the grey skirts/pinafores throughout the year, rather than changing in the summer to the range of dresses which we see at school! This change in policy will mean that children have one set of uniform clothes, reducing cost, ensuring that there will be more second-hand items and the children will have greater continuity in what they wear. We would also encourage families to buy the Saint John's blue sweatshirt and yellow t-shirt, as it gives children a sense of belonging. Again, there is a second-hand arrangement with the PTFA .

Please do have a look at the information from the **PTFA on the back page**. There are lots of PTFA events to tell you about; please do get involved! I know those already organising things would love to meet you, so we can always help that connection to happen in the playground at pick up! I hope that there will also be PTFA members available on Friday 17th May when we have Open Classrooms and Tea with Mrs B. Remember the Disco is that day too!

The Summer Term is really enjoyable as children are settled in classes, understand expectations (mostly!) and we are able to be outside and to make the most of good weather. We have a project happening at half term to improve the outside play area for Reception and Year 1: this will provide many opportunities for our youngest children to engage with the outdoors!

I hope you have a lovely weekend and are able to get out and about too: see the quote on the left-hand side which I think is great!

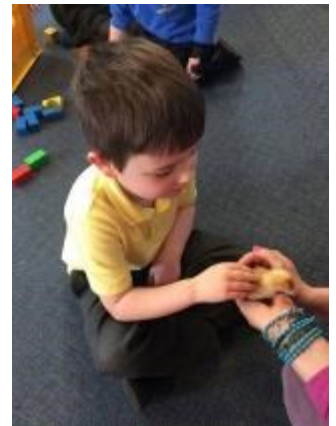
Mrs Beevers



Written by Sharon Morrow TA



It has been such an 'egg'citing start to the new term in **Reception!** The children have absolutely loved watching the chicks hatch in the incubator. They have observed that the chicks are wet when they hatch and they need the warmth to dry. They have noticed how they are beginning to change over the week and that the yellow chicks are boys and the girls are brown. Most of all, they have absolutely loved having a little cuddle with a fluffy chick! It has been wonderful to see the joy on their faces and the excitement as a little crack appeared in the shell and they could see the chick moving inside.



As part of their Art unit of work, **Year 1** made their own sculptures in pairs. The children rolled card and paper into cylinders. To add interest, they tried to make sure their cylinders were different heights. They experimented with different ways to attach the cylinders to the bases. The children also looked at the work of Australian sculptor Samantha Stephenson for inspiration. They discussed the materials she might have used and what her sculptures might represent.



In English, **Year 2** have been busy creating actions for this term's model text 'Kassim and the Greedy Dragon.' The children worked hard in groups, exploring lots of different actions and they enjoyed performing these to the rest of the class. In Maths this week, the children have been focussing on recognising half of numbers and shapes. They had lots of fun using counters to find halves of numbers.



Year 3 have made a great start to the term. The children have enjoyed creating a picture map for their new model text and have been learning about money in PSHE. They really impressed Miss Sanders with their knowledge of budgeting and enjoyed using calculators to help Harold work out how much money he had left after buying the essentials that he needed!



Year 4 are collecting inspiration ideas for their art by creating mood boards using magazine images. The children collected images that they liked and then presented them in their sketch-books. They then looked for similarities in their choices, as many had gone for a colour theme! As an exciting start to their topic about the Romans, the children have designed and created their own Roman style shields. They are red to represent power and Ares, the god of war. The gold is to represent Jupiter, the king of the Roman gods.



Year 5 have had an exciting start to the term with lots of new interesting topics and learning activities. They have been exploring the reasons behind the Anglo Saxon invasion of Britain through learning about push and pull factors that persuade people to migrate to different places. Children also used their analysing skills to assess the situation after the Romans left Britain in 410 AD and concluded that an invasion by tribes from Scandinavia and northern Germany was inevitable, as Britain was not in a position to defend itself. Next, the children are going to explore what life was like in Anglo Saxon Britain - to gauge the influence of the two large tribes, Angles and Saxons, in shaping the England we know today! In Science, the children are learning about the lifecycles of birds and, as part of their learning, they have been to see the living chicks.



At the end of last term, **Year 6** enjoyed a day out in the Forest of Dean with a spot of mountain biking. In groups, the children set off from Cannop ponds and explored the forest using the cycle tracks. There were some tricky uphill sections and some thrilling downhill routes to challenge the children. To finish their science topic, the children investigated what living organisms they could find in the front garden. They gathered species of animals and plants, trying to identify them with their scientific name and finding out some interesting information about them. They collected these together and created a Saint John's Field Guide for their folders.



A team from Year 4 enjoyed a New Age Kurling competition, held at Cheltenham Ladies College. The game is similar to bowls, but is traditionally played inside and uses a static target rather than a moving ball. Four players on opposing teams compete in a tactical game which involves sliding weighted stones towards a circular target. The children made huge progress in their ability to control the distance and direction of their stones.



Contact: ptfa@st-johns-pri.gloucs.sch.uk

Or ask in the playground at the end of the day and staff can point out PTFA organisers.

Thank you for everyone who participated in the Easter Colouring Contest. There were so many amazing entries!

Another THANK YOU to everyone who supported the bake sale - those who donated, helped out and bought. We made £68!

Some important PTFA dates for your calendar:

Spring Disco - May 17th 6:30pm - 8pm

Summer Fair - July 12th 5:30pm - 7:30pm

We will be doing a sponsored event in the upcoming months with the help of Miss Sanders and Mr. Allison - more to come soon!

We would love for you to join our next planning meeting for the Summer Fair on May 21st at the Swan (pub at the bottom of the car park by St John's) at 7:30 pm. All ideas are welcomed!

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