



NEWSLETTER No. 13

May 2024

Dear Saint John's families,

It is another rainy end to the week, but it has not stopped our children making the most of a range of outdoor activities, including messy play in our Green Garden area and Forest School at Cheltenham College! We are very grateful for the partnership that we enjoy with Cheltenham College and for the different ways that they support Saint John's.

Most recently, a member of their staff, Barry Lambert, has joined our governors' body, bringing with him a great deal of wisdom and experience. Currently, we have the following people on our Full Governing Body:

Mandy Palmer (Chair), Patrick Wheaton (Vice-Chair), Rachel Wadsworth, Annie Plews, Barbara Clark, Barry Lambert, Dot Seabrook (staff governor) and our two parent governors: Bethany Taylor and Andy Bates. We are always looking for new governors, so if you have friends who might be interested, do ask them to be in touch. The parent/carer roles come up after a set period, so if you are interested in being a parent governor, let us know for the future.

DATES for your diary:

Friday 17th May:

Open Classrooms and Tea with Mrs B (2pm)
School Disco (6.30pm)

Friday 24th May:

Finish for half term at normal time (3.15pm)

Apparently, I wrote the wrong date for Sports Day somewhere; my apologies!

SPORTS DAY is **Thursday 20th June** in the morning. (The reserve date is Thursday 27th June.) Details will follow nearer the time.

It is exciting to begin to think about next year and we have had our places in Reception accepted by many new families, as well as a number of families bringing a new child to join their sibling(s). This is the first time when we have not had "gaps" or been waiting for families to accept their place. It is good to know that our reputation continues to build and that families can see what a great offer there is for a child's education at Saint John's. Thank you for the positive feedback that many of you have given over these last few months; it is very much appreciated by the staff who work incredibly hard with our children.

You will be aware that, not least due to feedback from our Parent Surveys, we have been reviewing our policies and practices around behaviour and relationships. The children and staff have been focusing on our three Rs in school:

- Ready
- Respectful
- Responsible

Do talk to your children about this as it such an essential part of school life. The children are brilliant when discussing this with class teachers, visitors or me! If you want to find out more, have a look at our Behaviour and Relationships Policy on the website.

We encourage you to communicate with us at school:

- Absences to the office via phone or email
- Contact with the class teacher via Dojo or at the end of the day in the playground
- Contact with other staff via the office email: admin@st-johns-pri.gloucs.sch.uk

Have a lovely weekend, Mrs Beevers



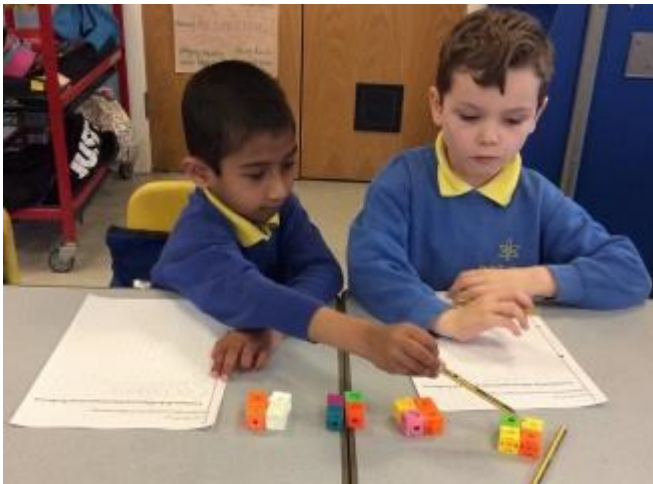
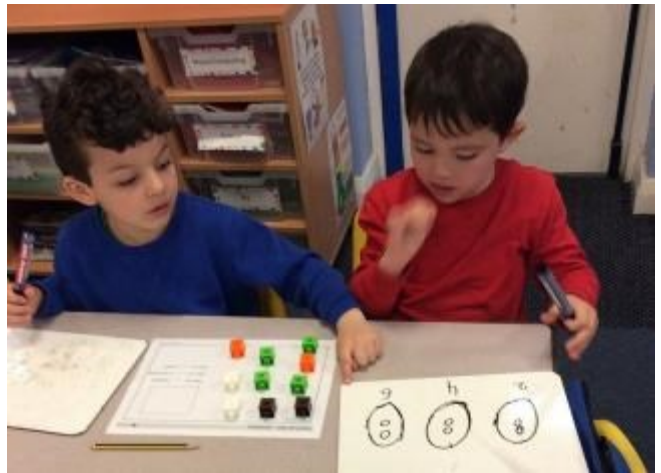
Written by Sharon Morrow TA



In **Reception** class this week, the children have been continuing their 'chicken' themed learning by starting their key text of 'The Little Red Hen.' They have been sequencing the main parts of the story, writing some speech for the Little Red Hen and learning a song! In Maths, the children have been continuing their 'spring/new life theme' by using lambs, chicks, eggs and rabbits for their 'part, part, whole' sums or number bonds to 10. In RE, they have been learning about the Creation Story and using instruments to retell the story using twinkly sounds for the moon and stars and loud noises for lions roaring. The children have had such a lot of fun!



During their Maths unit of work on Multiplication and Division, **Year 1** had lots of opportunities to work practically using manipulatives. Working with a 'maths buddy' meant that the children could share ideas and help each other. They shared cakes into equal groups, investigated different ways to share out different amounts, as well as using manipulatives to demonstrate 'arrays' and repeated addition. They found out that an even number of objects can be shared out equally but an odd number can not.



Year 2 took part in a Great Fire of London Workshop run by Gemma Bolwell. The children had a fantastic time learning about how and where the fire started and enjoyed using their imagination to act out how the fire spread. The children worked in groups to draw a plan of how they would rebuild the city and presented these ideas to King Charles.



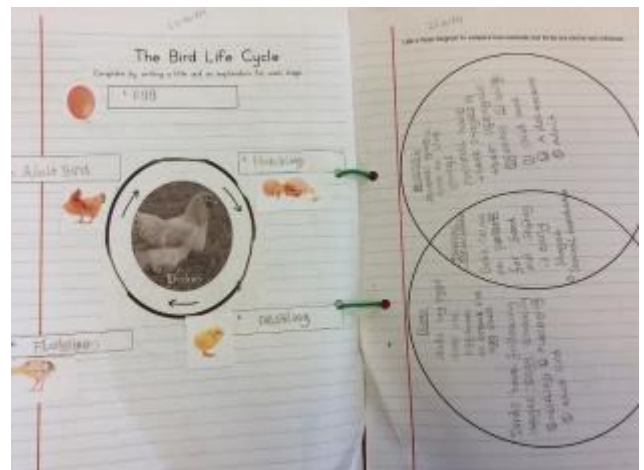
Year 3 have enjoyed learning new skills in football. They explored different ways of changing direction when dribbling and have become a lot more confident with moving the football at speed. They also enjoyed searching for insects in the front garden and classifying them according to the number of legs they had. One group even found a centipede!



Year 4 have been learning about how large the Roman Empire was at its peak. They also considered the benefits of invasion in terms of gold, slaves and natural resources. As part of their learning based around The Kingdom of God, the children have been learning about Pentecost. Having learnt what happened to the disciples during Pentecost, the children created artwork depicting the event.



During Orienteering sessions in PE, **Year 5** have been exploring the concept of a map and the use of symbols and a key. They have been developing their spatial awareness skills by transferring information from a plan to reality. As part of this, children enjoyed creating an obstacle course while demonstrating all the physical skills needed for orienteering: agility, balance and co-ordination. In Science, the children have been exploring the life cycles of mammals and were surprised to learn that the gestation period of an elephant can range between 18 to 22 months! They used Venn diagrams to present the findings of their research and explored the similarities and differences between the life cycles of mammals and birds. The children had a wonderful opportunity to learn all about money during a workshop led by Paul Dorking. The children were involved in activities and they were able to ask lots of questions about money from around the world, about the value of things and how money has evolved and continues to evolve from paper and coins to digital platforms, such as online banking. The children loved the workshop and learnt lots about the value of things in society.



Year 6 did a fantastic job during the Big Sing event at the Town Hall on Tuesday night. It was a wonderful evening of music and singing. Performing with over 300 other pupils in front of such a large audience, they can be very proud of themselves. In Art, the children have been analysing some pieces of art, namely David Hockney's "My Parents". After looking carefully at the content, style, shape, form and colours, the children created their own tableaux of the picture.



Saint John's enjoyed their final game of the season in the spring sunshine at Dunalley. With two players making their debuts, the girls started strongly but fell behind following excellent finishing from Dunalley. Further goals followed for the hosts but Saint John's rallied and pulled one back on the stroke of half-time. Despite creating further chances in the second half, Saint John's could not get themselves back on level terms. However, they can be very proud of their efforts this season.



In a first for Saint John's, a Year 5 football match was arranged, Dunalley providing the opposition on a fine spring afternoon. Saint John's started superbly and raced into a 2-goal lead but Dunalley always looked dangerous on the break. Fine goalkeeping and solid defending ensured Saint John's did not concede while excellent finishing at the other end meant Saints went into the half-time break 4-0 up. Dunalley pressed hard in the second half but Saint John's scored again from long-range before the hosts pulled one back with a finely taken goal.



A team from Saint John's took part in a Sportshall Athletics competition at Oxstalls. All the track events were relays, including an obstacle race and a 6 lap Paarlauf. The young athletes also participated in the following field events: soft javelin, standing long jump, standing triple jump, vertical jump, speed bounce and chest push. It was a great experience and the children represented Saint John's superbly.



We are getting super excited for the Spring Disco at 6.30pm on May 17th and hope to see many happy faces there! Don't forget to send change for the tuck shop and stalls. We are always looking for volunteers to help out, please get in touch with PTFA if you can spare some time on the evening.

We will be having a sponsored event during PE lessons after the May half term - more info coming soon!

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

All ideas are welcomed! ptfa@st-johns-pri.gloucs.sch.uk

