



NEWSLETTER No. 14

May 2024

Dear Saint John's families,

It has been a tough week for Year 6 as they have completed four days of testing. The SATs tests are now finished and the class can relax! It has been pleasing to see them respond to the demands in a sensible, calm manner during the tests and we are hopeful that they will all feel a sense of satisfaction with the effort they have made each day. Well done, Year 6. They can now focus on their other areas of learning, including their writing which is assessed during next term. It will also be an important time to prepare for the transition to secondary school. We are waiting to hear from local schools when the Year 6 pupils will spend a day (or more) at the school; if families are informed, do let Mr Jones know!

A thank you to Year 5 as well. Their classroom was needed for the Year 6 tests, so they spent four mornings at Highbury Church completing their learning. The children seemed to enjoy a change of scenery and I know that they particularly enjoyed their drama morning with Gemma Bolwell. Gemma does an amazing job working with each class during the year, providing learning in an engaging and exciting way, using drama, music and art forms; it is a real highlight for our children at Saint John's.

Gemma's club is one of many clubs we have on offer:

Monday: Language Club

Tuesday: STEM - Science & Technology

Wednesday: Drama, Tennis, Chess

Thursday: Choir, Judo, Coding Club (new in Term 6)

We would love to have a gardening club and I wonder if there is a green-fingered parent/carer who would be interested in spending 30 minutes a week with a group of children to learn about gardens and "the outside"?

Please be aware of dates for next term. It starts to get busy.

Friday 24th May

Finish for half term at normal time (3.15pm)

Monday 3rd June

Return to school, normal time: 8.45am—3.15pm

Monday 17th June

RE Day: we will be spending the day discovering about Religious Education and have a few visitors/visits planned. It would BRILLIANT to have some from our community come and speak to a group of children about Islam, Hinduism, Judaism or other religions. Please do email: head@st-johns-pri.gloucs.sch.uk if you would be interested.

Thursday 20th June

Sports Day in the morning

(Reserve day is Thursday 27th June)

Thursday 18th July

Leavers' Service at St Luke's Church: 10am

Friday 19th July

End of Term at 2pm. No OSCA.

Have a good weekend, everyone. Hoping for some lovely weather :)

Mrs Beevers



Written by Sharon Morrow TA



Reception have completed their unit of work on 3D shapes and patterns and had fun investigating and experimenting. Over the course of the unit, the children have tested which shapes roll and which ones slide using drainpipes, investigated flat faces by printing and made repeated patterns using sticks, shells, conkers and stones. They have also been enjoying the beautiful weather, splashing in the water tray and making dens to shelter from the sun!



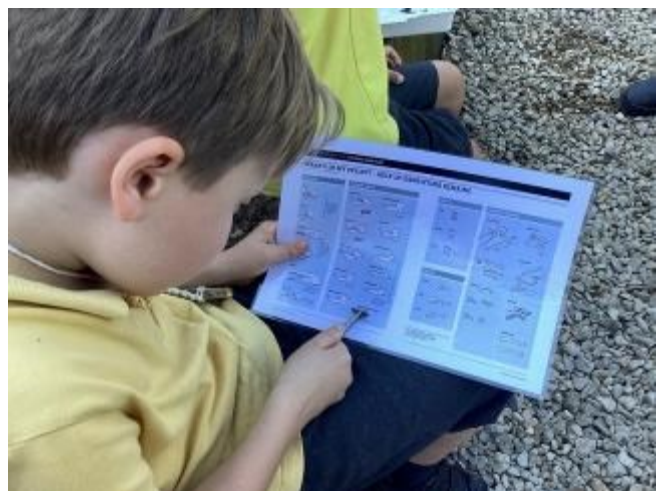
Year 1 had to use their problem solving skills at Forest School this week. They were given large plastic sheets and tried to make tents out of them. They had to work as teams to attach the end of the sheets. One group were very organised and quickly attached the sides to make a shelter. They then set to work bringing pots into the shelter and started cooking. The other group were very excited and spent longer getting organised. Once organised, they dragged logs and tree stumps into their shelter so they could sit down and take a rest!



During Art, **Year 2** have been busy working on their Sculpture and 3D unit. The children have been learning to shape and decorate clay using a variety of tools to create pinch pots. They are very excited to design and make their very own house clay tile.



Year 3 had an enjoyable afternoon in the sun learning about what owls eat, how they catch their food and how they digest it. During their lesson, they dissected owl pellets and found lots of animal skulls along with a large variety of bones! During Art, the children have been learning how the Ancient Egyptians used paintings to tell others about their life. They have started to create their own Ancient Egyptian style symbols and are excited to make their own scrolls telling other people about their life.



As part of **Year 4's** current Art topic based on pattern, the children took part in a workshop at the Wilson Museum. They spent time investigating how the 'Arts and Craft Movement' used patterns when creating everyday items, especially the works of William Morris. The children also spent a very exciting morning at Pizza Express, learning the different steps involved to make pizza. Having worked hard creating their pizza, they got to eat the product of their hard work back at school for their lunch.



Year 5 had a fantastic time attending a workshop at the Wilson Museum for their Anglo-Saxon and Vikings Day. During the workshop, the children looked at various artefacts, wrote their names in runes and created brooches in the style of the Anglo - Saxons. They learnt how and why the two tribes invaded Britain and also explored the words in modern English language with Anglo -Saxon and Viking origins.



Year 6 have been studying evolution and have been taking a closer look at Charles Darwin's theory of evolution. Part of Darwin's theory involved the struggle to survive combined with competition for food. To demonstrate how this could work, the children took part in a 'Battle of the Beaks' activity. Each child became a bird with a different type of 'beak' and attempted to pick up a range of 'food' with it. Some found this easier than others, giving them an advantage over other birds. This meant that they had a better chance of survival and therefore passing on their genetic adaptations to their offspring. The children have also been enjoying learning to play the clarinet. Gloucestershire Music have been giving weekly tutorials to the children, who are beginning to put together some tunes. These lessons will continue into next term. Lastly, the children received their leavers hoodies last week. Thanks to the PTFA for organising and supplying these hoodies. They look great in them!



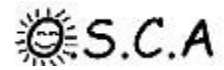
With the sun now showing its face, we have been brainstorming on how to help keep the children cool after a long day. We will be hosting ice cream days at the end of some nice hot school days so keep an eye on Dojo for when these will be! We suggest parents/carers keep change in your pocket as, with British weather, we won't have a lot of warning!



Our sponsored event will be happening the week that the children come back to school after the half-term holiday. This will be in their PE lessons. Sponsor forms will be coming home next week and there will be a prize for the class who raises the most money.

Don't forget the planning meeting for the Summer Fair is Tuesday May 21st at the Swan pub at 7:30pm - all ideas welcomed! We will be needing volunteers for the Summer Fair to help make it the best it can be. If you can spare some time on July 12th in the evening, please get in touch.

If any parents would like a registration pack to sign up for places at breakfast and after school club, please email your postal address to



Annette Hudson - oscastjohns@yahoo.co.uk

Existing club users will automatically be sent forms to register for next year.