



NEWSLETTER No. 15

June 2024

Dear Saint John's families,

As you will see from the final page, this newsletter covers the final week before half term as well as this first week back.

We enjoyed a wonderful Celebration of Learning at Highbury Church, when each class presented something of their learning from Term 5. Each time we complete these presentations, I am struck by the improvement as our children become increasingly confident when on the stage at the front of the church. Speaking in public is one of the many skills which we want to promote at Saint John's; we recognise that there are many situations in secondary school and then in adult work when it is good to be able to present ideas in front of an audience. Another achievement are those independent projects produced in Key Stage 2, brought into school and then showed in the classroom to different classes. I enjoy seeing the projects themselves, but I also love seeing individual children talking with such animation about their work.

During the half term holiday, we had some major work completed in the outside area behind Reception and Year 1. Any parents/carers are welcome to walk around at the end of school to view the new and improved playground area and the various additional resources which our youngest children are able to enjoy. This installation has been very successful and we are delighted to see the way it has helped our children's play, even in such a short time! We continue to consider other improvements across the school and are in constant conversation with the Diocese (as we are a Church of England Primary School) and the Local Authority about ways that they can help finance work that we think needs to be done. Do speak with our Parent Governors: Andy Bates and Bethany Taylor as they are up to date with these conversations!

A number of year groups have had trips to the Science Festival this week. Along with the Literature Festival, we look for suitable events which will inspire and teach our children and it is great to be so close to these town events. It is important to recognise the PTFA's role in providing the funds for trips such as these. Without the regular financial support given by our PTFA, our school budget would not stretch this far! Along with our trips to the Wilson Museum and, of course, the residential which our Year 6 pupils enjoy, we are pleased to be able to get our children "out and about". Various individual classes organise trips connected to their learning and we have visitors in: Gemma Bolwell visits each class for a Drama Adventure during the year and most recently we have had Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust visiting and making the most of our front garden with Year 3.

This week, I have been attending a conference for Head Teachers, where we have been discussing MATs (Multi-Academy Trusts) in the light of government decisions that all schools should be in a MAT by 2030.

Please can I remind everyone of key events during this term. All of these events will need support with walking and I would really encourage families to see them as key opportunities to share with and experience important school events in your child's life. They are always memorable!

Thursday 20th June: Sports Day in the morning at Cheltenham Cricket Club, Prince's Street. GL52 6BE (Reserve day is Thursday 27th June)

Friday 12th July: School Fair 5.30-7.30pm (Further details are on the back page of the newsletter)

Thursday 18th July: Leavers' Service 10am St Luke's

Friday 19th July: End of Term at 2pm. No OSCA.

I hope that we are all able to enjoy a restful and fun weekend. Do visit the Science Festival in town; there are lots of free activities as well as events! Mrs Beevers



Written by Sharon Morrow TA



Reception's topic in Maths has involved learning the teen numbers, trying to instantly recognise different representations with tens frames, cubes and Numicon. The children have been learning that teen numbers are $10 +$ a number e.g. 15 is $10 + 5$, 13 is $10 + 3$ etc. We are encouraging the children to not count all of the equipment; if they see a full tens frame then they know it is 10 . In RE, the children are listening to the story of the 'Precious Pearl', which was a story that Jesus told. They discussed the idea of rules and why we have them. They linked this to the Bible having the Ten Commandments and made precious pearl biscuits to help them remember the story. The Maths 'Jelly Bean' investigations were great fun. The children consolidated their knowledge on shapes by building some 2D and 3D shapes. They practiced number bonds to 10 , measured length with the jelly beans and used them to add on a tens frame. A wonderful morning of maths learning!



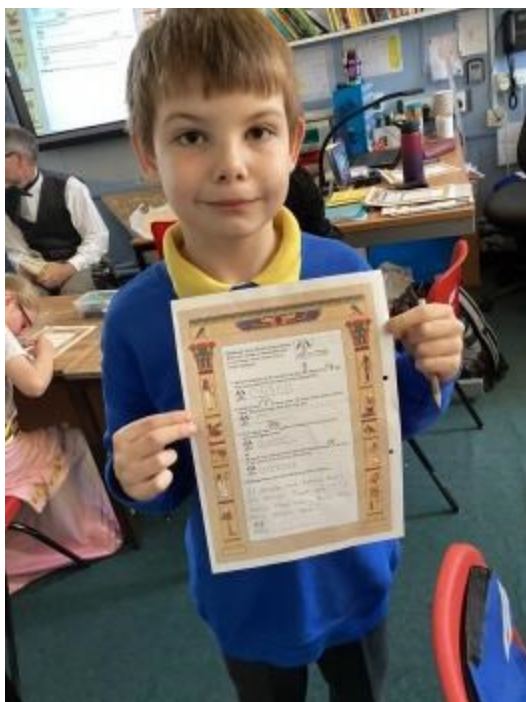
Year 1 had such a fun Jelly Beans Maths morning! The children did lots of maths activities, including sorting jelly beans into colours and then arranging them on a block graph, moving them along a grid following a set of instructions, as well as writing addition sentences with a partner. The children enjoyed a drama session and went back in time and visited a Victorian seaside with 'Elsie'. They travelled by steam train, enjoyed afternoon tea in a posh hotel before strolling along the promenade. They then walked along the pier and enjoyed lots of different kinds of entertainment, including a Punch and Judy show, a brass band and a tea stall.



During Science, **Year 2** were testing the strength of materials. The children were given 2 pots, 8 pieces of paper and masking tape. The pots had to be 40 cm apart. The children had to create a bridge between the two pots with the paper so that it was strong enough to hold a toy car. They were not allowed to tape the paper to the pots or create supports for the middle of the bridge.



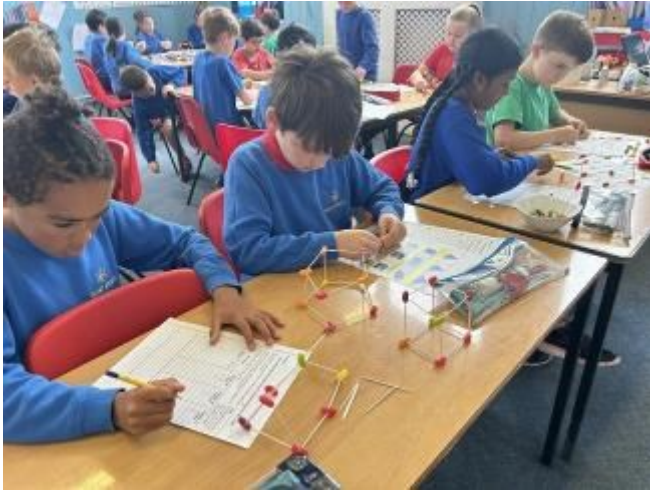
Year 3 loved their Ancient Egyptian Day. Their costumes were fantastic and they took part in lots of activities to experience what life was like at that time. In athletics, they have been developing their running, jumping and throwing in preparation for Sports Day. They are looking forward to testing out their new skills on grass!



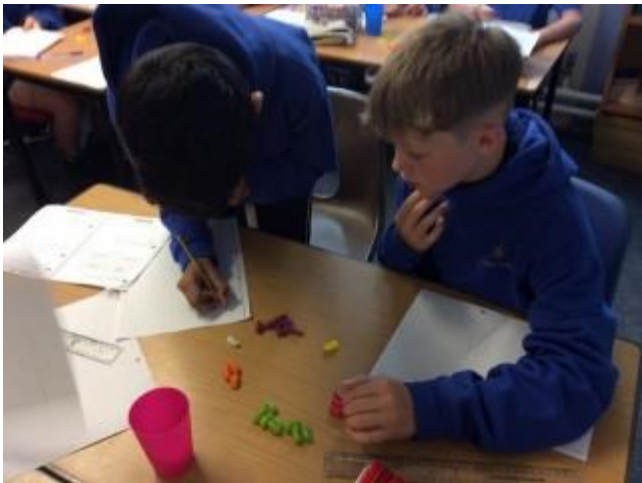
As part of our recent Maths Day, **Year 4** enjoyed practising their estimating skills and revising how to present data in pictograms. They also used their jelly beans to make links with their recent learning on fractions and decimals. As a final piece of work to their recent topic on classification, the children collected objects from the front garden and then sorted them according to their own criteria. Each group then had to try to work out how the items had been grouped.



What a fabulous Maths Day the children had in **Year 5**! They spent the morning making 3D shapes using cocktail sticks and jelly beans and tried to investigate a relationship between the number of faces, vertices and edges in the shapes. The children were surprised to find a pattern and tested their hypothesis carefully before deciding on a universal rule for all 3D shapes.



During History, **Year 6** have been looking at the Dig for Victory campaign and the Women's Land Army (WLA) who helped with the war effort on home soil. The children discovered that due to food shortages and rationing, people were encouraged to grow their own on any available land, while the WLA stepped into farming roles that were left behind when many of the farmers joined the armed forces. The children have planted their own vegetable patch in the front garden and over the next term will see what produce they can grow for themselves. For their Maths morning, the children were surprised as to how much maths could be done using the humble jelly bean. They looked at estimating, rounding, ratio/proportion and percentages, before putting their statistics skills to the test to create data tables and visual graphs (bar graphs and pie charts) to show their findings.



A big THANK YOU to you all for such an amazing Spring Disco! We raised an impressive amount of £574.85 and we couldn't have done it without everyone's help. We had a record number of volunteers, which helped make it the best disco yet and allowed us to even offer face painting by the talented parent Kay!



Our next big event is the Summer Fair on the evening of July 12th, where we will have games, food, raffles, tombola, Splat the Teacher and more. In order for this to be as successful as it can be we need VOLUNTEERS! Even if you can just spare some time setting up, during the event or helping us tidy after, every little bit helps!

If you would like to get involved please get in touch with the PTFA or the office, who can pass on your details. Thank you!



Saint John's 4 - Airthrie 0

The 1st team rounded off their season in style with probably their best performance of the year against a strong Airthrie team. On a beautiful playing surface, the boys dominated from the outset and played some flowing football, passing the ball with pace and precision and taking their chances with aplomb. When out of possession, they pressed superbly to win back the ball and fully deserved the 3 - 0 lead at half-time. On a very hot day, the pace unsurprisingly dropped off a little in the second half. Saint John's managed nevertheless to add to their tally with another fine finish and also kept a clean sheet - well played, everyone!



Saint John's 0 - St Gregory's 2

The development squad enjoyed their final match of the season on the AstroTurf at St Gregory's. The hosts had the best of the first half and despite some excellent goalkeeping and defending Saint John's conceded twice. After the break, the team came much more strongly into the game and were desperately unlucky not to pull a goal back, several chances going just wide or being well saved. The players have made great strides this year and can be proud of their progress.



We enjoyed a fantastic celebration of learning at Highbury Church at the end of last term.

