



NEWSLETTER No. 16

June 2024

Dear Saint John's families,

Thank you to the many families who came to support our fantastic Sports Morning! We had a wonderful time of competitive and collaborative races and it was a lovely opportunity to see the whole school in once place engaging in some fun!

I do also want to thank the staff for their work with the children and particularly Miss Sanders and Mr Allison for the time and effort they put in to organise this important event. Please may I also thank the PTFA members. These are parents who have shown such commitment to the school, turning up to meetings, sorting out arrangements, spending time doing many different things and being a smiley, supportive face on Sports Day itself! Please read on the back page the brilliant result of the sponsored event, completed in school. Please do contact the PTFA if you would like to be involved: it does not require giving up many hours, but just giving in a way that works for you.

An example of a willing hand this week was seen on Monday during our RE (Religious Education) Day. One of our older pupils, Alan, presented to four of the classes about the "living faith" of a family. We had four presenters for four religions: Christianity, Islam, Judaism and Hinduism with a chance for questions and discussions during each session.

Also during the morning, Years 4-6 went to St Luke's to consider their key RE questions for this term:

- How/why do people mark the significant events of life?
- Why do some people believe in God and others not?
- How does faith help people when life gets hard?

Various members of the St Luke's community helped with presentations and activities. The children loved their learning!

Some key dates for your diary:

Friday 12th July: School Fair 5.30-7.30pm

Again, please note the comment on the back page! This will be a great event and one which is memorable for our children and the community more widely. Please do support it, either by giving prizes, helping with stalls and/or bringing large numbers of friends and family.

Tuesday 16th July: KS2 Event Highbury Church

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

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

The observant amongst you will see that we have an additional event in the diary. This has been a matter of discussion during this year and one which we are now able to share with you. In December, we presented a nativity with Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children involved. In July, we want to provide an opportunity for our Year 3-6 pupils to present to their parents/carers. It will be an informal and low-key event but will involve the KS2 classes, with the Year 6 pupils taking a particular lead. We will be presenting this at Highbury Church on **Tuesday 16th July at 11am**. There will be one show, live-streamed. This is a small step in our journey towards further productions/presentations. We want to be successful with each small step, rather than biting off more than we can chew! In a school where the hall is used at every moment, producing a "show" is a big ask! The infants will not be coming to Highbury that morning, though we are hoping to livestream into our hall instead!

Finally, you will be receiving a **Parent Voice/Survey** this week. We will send this on Dojo so that it can be completed on-line and sent/printed off. We will also send a printed copy home with every child. This ensures that all families are able to access it and proved very successful last time. Please see further details on Dojo.

Take care in this (lovely!) hot weather, Mrs Beevers



Written by Sharon Morrow TA



Reception have had the most amazing couple of weeks back at school! The sun has been shining and the children have been able to make full use of the new super-duper outdoor area, plus have fun with all of the new equipment! It is lovely for them to play with their friends in Year 1. The children were asked, "Which is your favourite activity - the water wall, the balance equipment, the sand pit, the kitchen or the new tepee house?" They just cannot decide and say they love it all! The children have been making sand sculptures as a follow up to the story 'The Sand Horse.' They carefully moulded the sand into flowers, tigers, dinosaurs, an elephant and volcanoes! They also took a trip on Google Earth to Cornwall to see some of the towns and landmarks mentioned in the Sand Horse story. In Maths, the children have been rotating shapes to make pictures, plus making pictures out of tangram shapes.



During Computing, Year 1 have been learning how to program Bee-Bots. The children used words like left, right, forwards, backwards, half turn, whole turn and a quarter turn when planning the routes. During Science, the children looked closely at a selection of plants to identify their parts. They discovered that even though the some of the plants looked very different, they all had the same parts.



Year 2 went to Cheltenham Science Festival to watch Bubble Superstars. The children discovered that whatever shape bubble wand you use, you will always make a sphere shaped bubble and that the bubbles will always show colours from the rainbow. This is because the bubble is made out of three layers which are soap, water and soap.



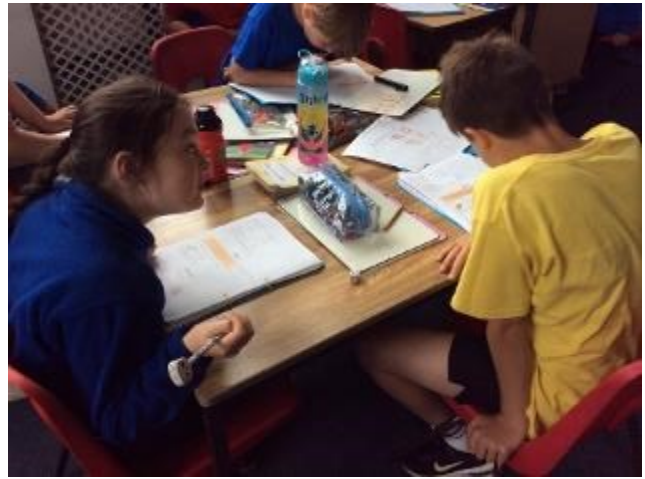
Year 3 have been busy creating actions to help them learn their model text. They have done a brilliant job and are already confident with performing them and remembering the words! During DT, the children are designing cushion covers. Threading needles has proved to be a challenge but they have shown great perseverance and are making good progress with their running stitch.



Last Friday, **Year 4** attended a nature day at Robinswood Nature Reserve. As part of the day, the children completed a woodland habitat hunt where they found lots of evidence about the animals that inhabited the woodland. They also took part in a pond dipping session where a large selection of creatures were found.



As part of their topic about the human lifecycle, **Year 5** have been learning about the physiological as well as the emotional changes at different stages of human lifecycle. Within this cross curricular unit, they have been exploring and identifying emotions that may be more prevalent at different stages of the human lifecycle. During the session, the children created little characters using finger painting to associate different colours with emotions and thought about the reasons why certain colours are used to represent particular emotions. They have also been playing dice games in Maths to help them learn how to add and subtract decimal numbers with the same and different numbers of decimal places.



Year 6 have been working hard to complete their last few pieces of writing to add to their bank of independent writes. Children have written non-chronological reports on the Heroes of World War Two, some character descriptions, as well as a recount that recalls the events of a rather strange and eerie incident as told through the eyes of the main character. They have also been planning the Year 6 multi-skills race for Sports Day. The children have created this event and layout in collaboration with each other. They have then spent some of their active time practising and honing their skills ready for Sports Day. It should be a close one!



On Monday, Years 4, 5 and 6 attended the whole school RE day at St. Luke's Church.



The whole school enjoyed a fantastic Sports Day at Victoria Cricket Ground. Thank you to everyone who helped us to walk there and back, and thank you to the PTFA, who set up the gazebos and provided refreshments for the children. Well done to Green and Yellow houses, who were joint winners of the House Point Cup.





The cricket team thoroughly enjoyed a tournament held at Cheltenham Cricket Ground on June 11th. Although the weather was distinctly on the cool side for a summer's day, the players competed really well in games against St Gregory's, Springbank and Warden Hill. The bowling was particularly impressive, with everyone bowling overarm accurately. Running between the wickets (especially knowing when not to take a run!) was also a great improvement on previous years. Congratulations to everyone involved!



Well done to the children from Judo club, who came third in an interschools Judo competition.



WOW - a BIG THANK YOU for all your support with the sponsored catch event. We have raised a MASSIVE £1592.28 and we couldn't have done it without everyone's help! This money, and all other money raised this past year, will go towards more things for the children next year, such as school trips, ice lollies on sports day, supporting the teachers with their class budgets, hosting more discos. The list is endless. Year 3 was the class who raised the most so a special treat is heading their way. Again, Thank You!



The Summer Fair is fast approaching on July 12th 5:30 - 7:30pm and the PTFA has been working hard in the background to make this fair an amazing one but we need your help! We are asking for help with raffle prizes; if you or someone you know has a small business, this is a great way to help get the name out by offering a raffle prize! We are also looking for baked goods for the bake sale as well as anyone who can volunteer their time. Please get in touch if you can help in any way.

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

A colorful poster for a Summer Fair. The background is light blue with white clouds and yellow and blue bunting at the top. A large orange banner with white text says 'SUMMER FAIR'. Below the banner, the date and time 'Friday 12th July 5:30pm - 7:30pm' are written in red and black. Underneath, it says 'AT ST JOHN'S C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL' in black. A yellow banner with black text says 'FREE ENTRY'. Below that, the text 'JOIN US FOR LOTS OF FUN!' is written in blue. A list of activities follows: 'CARNIVAL GAMES', 'FOOD', 'SPLAT THE TEACHER', 'RAFFLE', 'TOMBOLA', and 'FACE PAINTING'. At the bottom, a blue banner with white text says 'CASH ONLY!!'. The contact information 'Contact the PTFA for more information: ptfa@st-johns-pri.gloucs.sch.uk' is written in black at the very bottom.