



# NEWSLETTER No. 17

July 2024

Dear Saint John's families,

We have had a good couple of weeks with individual classes taking part in various activities, many of which have been outside. The children have particularly enjoyed being in our front garden or in the new Play Garden for the younger years. The children's experiences with Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust have really helped to open their eyes to the natural world around them and we are grateful to Rosie from GWT who has led these sessions so enthusiastically.

We have two more weeks of term and the weather continues to be unpredictable. Please do help your children by providing a waterproof coat each day or putting on sunscreen and wearing a hat! Thank you too for the way that children are now wearing school uniform correctly!

### Saying Goodbye

As the end of term approaches, we have a few staff moving on to pastures new!

Mr Edwards (caretaker) is retiring, having done a great job of looking after our premises, plus getting balls down from the roof of the school building!

Miss Taylor is starting an engineering apprenticeship near to where she lives. This is a fantastic next step in her career; congratulations to her for achieving a place!

Mrs March is moving to work in her children's school; the commute will be a little easier now!

Miss McLeod will be starting her teacher training course at the University of Gloucestershire. Perhaps we will see her again during one of her placements!?

Each of these staff have brought an enormous amount to our team at Saint John's and we will miss them very much. Although they are leaving us, we are proud of their next steps and wish them all the best for the future.

### Classes Next Year

As you will have gathered from your children, we had a great Transition afternoon this week. I put lots of photos on Dojo so hopefully you enjoyed seeing the children settled into their new class.

For those of you who would like to know arrangements:

Reception: Ms Griffiths and Mrs Dawid

Year 1: Mrs Roper and Miss Walsh

Year 2: Mrs Burns (M-Th), Mrs Snow (Th/F) and a new member of staff

Year 3: Miss Sanders and Mr Allison

Year 4: Mrs Seabrook and Miss Morrow

Year 5: Mrs Omar (M-Th), Mr Vaughan (Th/F) and Miss Bennett

Year 6: Mr Jones and Mrs Whalley

Each of the teachers have an afternoon for PPA (Planning, Preparation and Assessment) and we have various staff covering these: Mrs Snow, Mr Vaughan and Mrs Young.

In addition, we have other support within the classrooms and in the Nest: Mrs Hudson, Mrs Offord, Mrs Charlesworth, Mrs Keys, and new staff who we hope to inform you of in the last newsletter, plus our wonderful school office and premises staff too. We are a great team! :)

Reminders about our End of Term events:

**Friday 12th July: School Fair 5.30-7.30pm**

**Tuesday 16th July: KS2 Event 10.30am** Highbury Church

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

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

Have a lovely weekend! Enjoy all the sports on offer!

Mrs Beevers



Written by Sharon Morrow TA



During R.E. this term, **Reception** have been learning about 'special places.' The children were thinking about special safe places in the classroom. They followed this up by making some special safe places in the form of dens. The children absolutely loved den building and the weather was perfect, as it provided extra shade during a very hot, sunny week! They worked as a team to create their designs and were thrilled with what they produced.



As part of their unit of work on money, **Year 1** children worked in pairs to investigate all of the different ways to make 25p. They also thought about which coin they would most like to spend at a sweet shop. The children had lots of different answers!



During P.E., **Year 2** have been practising their rolling skills. The children have been focussing particularly on stepping forward with their opposite foot to throwing hand to roll the ball. They have also been enjoying their Maths unit on Position and Direction. The children have had fun giving their friends instructions using the correct positional language e.g. left, right, above, below, between and clockwise and anticlockwise turns.



**Year 3** really enjoyed their visit to Sandford Park with Rosie from Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust. They completed an 'Earth Walk' and loved exploring the park in a sensory way. They used their senses to help them identify trees and created a bracelet by finding leaves and petals of different colours!



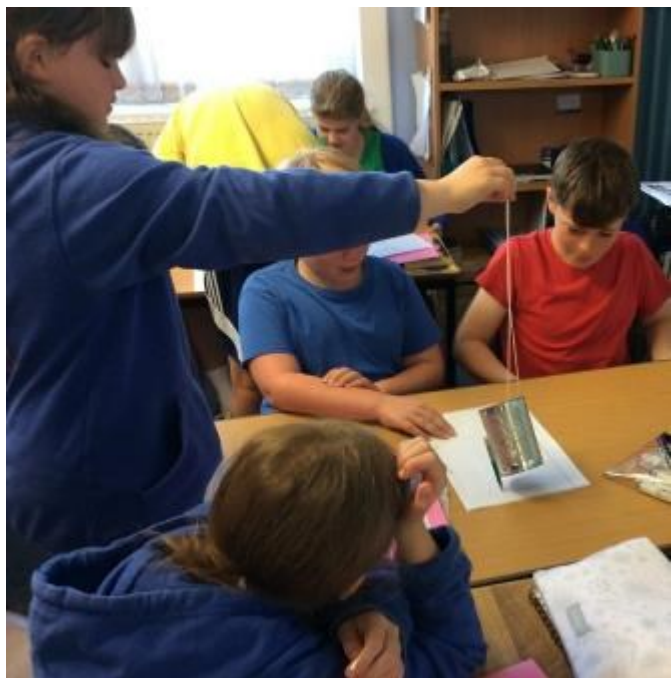
**Year 4** attended a theatre production at St. Gregory's last week, which reinforced the importance of staying safe online. Through the use of a very entertaining story, the children learnt how it is important that information is kept safe when using online games and chat forums. As part of their Literacy work, the children have been using conjunctions as a means to join sentences, create subordinate clauses and order events. To reinforce their learning, the children played Conjunctopoly whereby points could be won, and lost, depending upon the type of conjunction used.



**Year 5** have had a busy couple of weeks doing lots of exciting learning in Geography, R.E. and P.E. During Geography, they have been investigating South America's physical features as well as its climate zones and biomes. Children chose the World's most diverse biome, The Amazon Rainforest, to explore the impact of climate change on this heterogenous ecosystem. In P.E., children have been practising basic shots in tennis including serve, return, forehand and backhand. They have been working hard to build their stamina to prepare themselves for rallies. The children have also enjoyed playing rounders at Cheltenham Cricket Ground on Thursday afternoons. In R.E., they have been using drama to understand dilemmas faced by people when making difficult choices in life.



**Year 6** have been learning about earthquakes. The children looked at how they are measured and compared against others. They discovered that some earthquakes are so small that they can only be detected on special instruments called seismometers, whereas others are so large that they can cause buildings to collapse. The children attempted to make their own seismometers and simulate earthquakes in order to create our own seismographs. In their final clarinet session, the children put on a mini performance to some of the other classes to show what they had learnt. They have done a great job learning a tricky instrument and have managed to create and perform music together.



Not long until the Summer Fair and we are super excited and have everything crossed for good weather! We have a burger van lined up; remember to bring lots of change for all the games and stalls!



We are after some baked goods for the bake sale for the Summer Fair. If you are able to donate to this delicious cause please let us know or bring them to the gate on the morning of July 12th.

Raffle tickets will be going out soon and we have some amazing raffle prizes lined up!

The ice-cream sale was a huge success and we sold out very quickly! We are hopeful that we can fit in another sale before the term ends.

A vibrant poster for a Summer Fair. The background is light blue with white clouds and small white flowers. At the top, there are colorful bunting flags in yellow, orange, and blue. The main title 'SUMMER FAIR' is written in large, bold, white letters on an orange banner. Below this, the date and time 'Friday 12th July 5:30pm - 7:30pm' are displayed in red text inside a white cloud. The location 'AT ST JOHN'S C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL' is written in green text below the cloud. A yellow banner with 'FREE ENTRY' in white text is positioned below the location. The phrase 'JOIN US FOR LOTS OF FUN!' is written in large, bold, blue letters. Below this, several activities are listed in different colors: 'CARNIVAL GAMES' (red), 'FOOD' (orange), 'SPLAT THE TEACHER' (purple), 'RAFFLE' (green), 'TOMBOLA' (purple), and 'FACE PAINTING' (green). At the bottom, 'CASH ONLY!!' is written in large, bold, orange letters. The footer contains contact information: 'Contact the PTFA for more information: pfta@st-johns-pri.gloucs.sch.uk' in white text on a blue background.

Contact the PTFA for more information: [pfta@st-johns-pri.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:pfta@st-johns-pri.gloucs.sch.uk)