



NEWSLETTER No. 1

September 2025

Dear Saint John's families,

We have had a great start to the new academic year, with children and adults settling into school quickly. During the first two weeks, our Reception children have begun to know their way around school and to understand school routines, plus children have joined us in older year groups too! We continue to be a school with diversity of culture, language and ethnicity, celebrating all that our families bring to our community. On Monday, a visitor came to see around the school and talk about safeguarding policy and practice with me; she was delighted to see how diverse our school was. "It is such a privilege for your children to be able to meet, get to know and become friends with those who might have a very different background," she said. "What a great start to life in the real world!"

Alongside our celebration of diversity sits our Saint John's vision, with a focus on "flourishing" in this first part of the Autumn Term, and a desire to learn values that will aid us being a caring community. We have also talked about being "Ready, Respectful and Responsible": words worth using at home too!

Thank you to those who completed the parent survey over the summer; I will put some paper copies in the office in case there is anyone who prefers to use paper rather than a form on the phone! There are always things to work on at school and we really value your suggestions. Hopefully, you have seen the bike racks outside the school gate and the development of the playground, as well as (obviously) completing a refurbishment of the junior toilets. The whole of that inside area is so much better with new carpets, brighter lighting and a really good paint job. Thank you to Mr Tennant for all his hard work over the summer, negotiating all the contractors. We are still working on the playground surface and have some tyres to add to our play area; the children just need to remember waterproof (and warm) coats to ensure they can go outside!

As I said in my Dojo message, we had to say a sad goodbye to Mrs Mayhew, who has been a key part of the Saint John's staff community for many years. We wish her all the best with her new lease of life!

Mrs Brown has joined us as the School Business Manager and has settled in quickly, not least with support in the office with Ms Read, and procuring some screens for computer use! Please do introduce yourself to her and bear with us as we complete her induction and secure her knowledge in all things financial!

We have also welcomed Miss Smith into Year 3: what a bright and enthusiastic addition to the teaching staff. She brings all sorts of interests and talents that we hope to develop here at Saint John's. Ms Kot, Miss Randall and Miss Santos have started here as class teaching assistants, taking on their various roles and responsibilities with determination and positivity.

There was a PTFA (Parents, Teachers, Friends Association) meeting on Tuesday and we were able to agree dates for key events during this year. Please make sure you read the final page for that information and also consider whether you might be able to join the brilliant team who organise these events for your children.

School dates to remember are:

Friday 10th October: School disco at 6.30pm for all year groups; Reception parents must stay for the event

Thursday 23rd October: Celebration of Learning at 9.30am at Highbury Church, GL52 6DT (walkers pls!)

Friday 24th October: Inset Day so no school for children with term finishing at 3.15pm on Thursday

I hope you all have a really lovely weekend and are able to relax after our first two weeks back!

Mrs Beevers



Written by Sharon Morrow TA



It has been lovely to welcome our new **Reception** children to Saint Johns. They have all settled in really well and it has been wonderful to begin to get to know them in their small groups. The children have played, ridden the bikes and scooters, plus mixed lots with the children in Year 1, making new friends. They have even stayed for lunch! It has been such an exciting start to the children's new adventure of school.



Year 1 have had a brilliant start to the new academic year. The children have had lots of time to play with the new toys in their classroom and in the outside area. They have thought about what it means to be ready to learn and ready to listen. The children have enjoyed drawing self portraits in their new sketch books, as well as writing some high five sentences. What a great start!!



Year 2 have been enjoying exploring the book 'Grandad's Secret Giant' during their English lessons. They looked closely at the illustration on the front cover and made predictions about the plot of the story. The children found the story exciting and shared their likes and dislikes about it with the class. In spelling lessons, the children have been using the iPads to practise their weekly spelling words using Spelling Shed. They enjoyed challenging themselves with the trickier games!



Year 3 have had a fantastic start to the year! They have been focusing on the 3 Rs, taking part in teamwork games and exploring the Zones of Regulation to help them understand their emotions. The children have also reflected on what it means to be part of their class and the wider Saint John's community, finishing the week by designing their own celebration certificates to recognise one another's achievements. Great start, Year 3!



Year 4 have made a fabulous start to the year. The children spent the first week focusing on our 3 Rs and lots of brilliant discussions were had. The class put their thoughts into practice when they were challenged to complete the 'cup tower' activity. They made sure their teammates were ready, they were responsible with the equipment and they communicated respectfully with each other throughout the challenge. Well done, Year 4!



Year 5 have been learning the story of Macbeth. The children will be using this Shakespeare play to help them with their writing later in the term. To get to know the story quickly, the class acted out the play, taking it in turns to portray the various characters. There are some great characters in this play, which the children helped bring to life with enthusiasm and energy. The class have also had a go at creating a self-portrait for the front of their Year 5 sketch book. Using a black and white photo of themselves which was cut in half, the children re-drew the missing half of themselves. Although challenging, they stuck at it and produced some lovely sketches.



As an introduction to their new Science topic, **Year 6** created stethoscopes to enable the children to listen to their hearts. They listened to the effect of exercise upon their hearts and how they could hear the valves and blood in their heart working to take oxygenated blood to their muscles.



Welcome back to another great school year! The PTFA are excited to bring you another year of events and fundraising. Last year we ended on a great high! With your help, we added £3184.71 to our funds for the school to be able to spend on the students this year.



- Some things we help the school with:
- £1400 into the class funds - each year group gets a £200 boost from the PTFA
- The living egg experience in the Reception classroom
- Easter gifts for all students
- Transport to the year 6 residential trip
- Gazebos for the school to use all year round for events
- Ice lollies on sports day
- And so much more!

We have booked dates for our main events this year for you to pop into your diaries!

- School Disco Dates: October 10th, January 23rd and May 15th
- Christmas Fair: December 6th 1pm-3pm
- Sponsored Event: During the week of February 23rd
- Summer Fair: July 10th 5:30pm - 7:30pm

We have our next meeting Tuesday 7th October, 7pm at the Strand and we would love to see you there. We are a friendly group of parents and the PTFA is very easy going. We often meet at a pub, have a drink while we chat about events, how to make the school year more fun and exciting for the kids and other ways we can help! If you have any questions or would like more information please do grab one of the PTFA members or email to PTFA@st-johns-pri.gloucs.sch.uk

Thank you all for your continued support!

St Lukes
Rooted and Flourishing

Regular Services

Sunday 8am Communion
Spoken service with Bible reading, talk & prayers.

Sunday 10am Morning Worship
Songs, Bible reading, talk & prayers with provision for children and young people. A chance to get to know others after the service each week.

Wednesday 11am Communion
Quiet service with Bible reading, talk & prayers. Refreshments after the service on 1st Wednesday in the month.

Contact us:
Patrick Wheaton (Vicar)
patrick@stlukescheltenham.org.uk
Alice Pinney (Ministry Assistant)
alice@stlukescheltenham.org.uk

The flyer for St Lukes features a blue and white color scheme. At the top left is the St Lukes logo, which includes a stylized house icon. The text is centered and uses various font weights to highlight different services. The contact information is located at the bottom in a white box with blue text.

Seedlings
Baby & Toddler group

Thursdays in term time
10-11:30am

Come along for play, songs & stories!

Our warm and friendly group for babies & toddlers

The flyer for the Seedlings group has a vibrant blue background with green leaf patterns. It features a circular logo with a leaf and the word 'Seedlings'. Two photos are included: one showing hands painting a colorful design on a surface, and another showing a group of children in a room. The text is arranged in a friendly, inviting manner with various colored callouts.