



## NEWSLETTER No. 2

September 2024

Dear Saint John's families,

How brilliant it has been to have two full weeks of school! It has been particularly lovely to see the children continue to settle into their classes and to engage with the expectations and arrangements of the new staff working with them. It always takes a bit of time to get used to and the children still sometimes forget they have moved into a new year group. At various points in the last week, I have ask for a "Year 4 child", for example, and Year 5 children have put their hands up! We recognise that it can be tricky at the start of the year but we are so impressed with the positive attitude that our children bring into school and the way that they engage so well with each other.

We are very pleased with our new Reception class as they have been so responsive to the work that Ms Griffiths and Miss Dawid have been doing with them. There are some wonderful paintings and writing to be seen in class and it is always fun to watch the children play with their peers and with the adults. Lots of laughing happens every day!

Other year groups have also been working hard and when I visit each classroom, check out Dojo or see the photos in this newsletter, I am always very impressed with the learning being done and the activities the children enjoy.

We had a successful meeting for the PTFA (Parent Teacher Friends Association) and we are grateful to those parents and carers who came to discuss the events and arrangements for the year. Keep an eye out for the various discos, bake sales and special events! Please do be in touch if you want to get involved; helpers are always needed to ensure these things happen! Details of the next meeting are on the last page of the newsletter. Please also make sure you have the date for our Christmas Fair in the diary:

**Saturday 7th December 1-4pm**

Come and help; bring friends and family!



We are very fortunate to have the support of various nearby communities.

Members of St Luke's Church and Highbury Church visit to present in assemblies, to lead a club, to help by being a governor or by reading with children. We are grateful for those who give up time for our school. Please do note the different activities offered by the churches: toddler groups, Messy church, youth group fun and special services.

The other group of people who should be mentioned are our governors, our "Governing Body". This is a group of volunteers who provide leadership and governance for Saint John's, helping move the school forward and ensuring that all things work so that "we all flourish".

They are:

- Barry Lambert (Chair)
- Patrick Wheaton (Vice-Chair)
- Barbara Clark (Local Authority Governor)
- Rachel Wadsworth (Foundation Governor)
- Andy Bates (Parent Governor)
- Bethany Taylor (Parent Governor)
- Mrs Seabrook (Staff Governor)
- Me as Head Teacher.

We can only have two parent governors and two members of staff on the Governing Body. However, if there are any friends or extended family members who are NOT parents/carers, but would like to be involved as a governor, please do ask them to be in touch. They can speak with me or with our Chair of Governors, Barry Lambert, on [chair@st-johns-pri.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:chair@st-johns-pri.gloucs.sch.uk)

We hope you have a lovely weekend and some rest and recuperation after the busy week.

Take care, Mrs Beevers

Written by Sharon Morrow TA



The **Reception** children have loved their first full week at school! It has been so lovely watching them form their first friendships, tuck into their lunches and have plenty of laughs and giggles as they played either in the sun or in their new classroom, experimenting with the magnets or painting self portraits. Bike time is a particular favourite! The children enjoyed a visit from Charlotte from the Dog's Trust, who bought her soft toy dog, Benny. Charlotte taught the children how to be safe around dogs by using the 3 Cs. - Checking with owner that they can stroke their dog, Calling the dog over by patting their knees and then Calmly stroking the dog only three times. We loved stroking Benny!



**Year 1** are using actions to learn the story of The Three Little Pigs, their modelled text for this term. The children also spent time in the school garden looking for signs of autumn as part of their work in Science. They found berries, apples on the ground, red, orange and yellow leaves, as well as flower petals turning brown.



**Year 2** had a fantastic morning at forest school last week. The children enjoyed digging holes, raking leaves, making dens, playing on the rope swing and so much more. They even found a frog!  
"I loved playing on the swing."  
"I loved making mud soup."  
"I enjoyed digging in the mud for rocks."



**Year 3** have been exploring rules in PSHE. The children enjoyed playing their new card games and demonstrated that they could be ready, respectful and responsible when playing. Thank you to Mrs March for donating these games when she left - the children are looking forward to playing them again soon!



As part of their Science topic studying local habitats, **Year 4** spent an afternoon in the front garden, investigating the school pond and what lives there. The children found a surprising amount of pond life and even caught a tadpole! They enjoyed using magnifying glasses and identification keys to encourage them to look closely at their findings.



**Year 5** have had a busy couple of weeks welcoming visitors to their class. They enjoyed a visit by Mrs Parsley and Mrs Anderes from Cheltenham College and spent the afternoon exploring artwork of the well-known British painter and sculptor, PJ Crook. They then created their own pieces using her 'Through the Keyhole' theme. The children's artwork will be displayed at an art exhibition at Cheltenham College alongside the artwork from some of the other local schools. They also enjoyed a fantastic session with the Dogs Trust and learnt all about staying safe around dogs.



**Year 6** have been enjoying the start to their fitness unit in PE. They worked hard on a range of skills involving agility, speed, balance and stamina. Their Science unit has begun by looking at the heart - an important part of the circulatory system. The children used stethoscopes to listen to their own heart beats. They also had a visit from the Dogs Trust, where they learned about the body language of dogs and what they might be trying to tell us humans. During Maths, the children have been using the Gattegno Chart to help them learn about powers of ten, while in French they are learning to say the days of the week and months of the year.



After a lovely PTFA meeting last week we have some exciting news to share - this year the PTFA will be busy hosting three Discos, many bake sales, Christmas and Summer Fairs and much more!

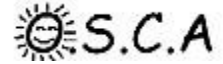


A festive date for your diary is for the Christmas Fair on December 7th from 1pm-4pm. We will also be hosting our first Disco of the year in November, exact date to be announced soon, so keep your eyes peeled!

If you would like to come to the next PTFA meeting please join us at The Strand Pub on Tuesday October 8th at 7pm - we would love to hear your thoughts and ideas for the year ahead!

We have places available at breakfast club on a Monday, Wednesday and Thursday morning and at after school club on a Wednesday, Thursday and Friday afternoon.

If anyone is interested please email Annette at [oscastjohns@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:oscastjohns@yahoo.co.uk) or text on 07505411558



ST LUKE'S CHELTENHAM  
6TH OCTOBER  
9:45AM FOR BBQ BREAKFAST

# HARVEST SERVICE

THE YEAR OF THE LORD'S FAVOUR

OUTDOOR CELEBRATION SERVICE

PLEASE BRING DONATIONS FOR CHELTENHAM FOODBANK

St Lukes  
Rooted and Flourishing

# Seedlings

We meet on Thursday mornings, 9:30-11am during term time.

Our toddler group for pre-school children & their adults. Come along for play, songs & stories!

Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS  
with Foundation Trust

## Small Footprints on our Hearts



### Annual Baby Remembrance Service

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October  
St Luke's Church, Cheltenham  
[opposite Cheltenham General Hospital, A&E]  
7pm



Organised by the Department of Spiritual Care: 0300 422 6200  
gln-4-spiritualcare@nhs.net