



NEWSLETTER No. 7

December 2024

Dear Saint John's families,

As we near the end of the long, long, LONG, Autumn Term, I think we should pat ourselves on the back for a really successful start to our new academic year!

The children have settled into their classes well, with a clear recognition of the importance of being:

- Ready
- Respectful
- Responsible

Our teaching staff have worked tirelessly to provide exciting, well-executed learning both inside and outside the classroom.

The office and premises team has ensured that the environment is improving every day, even as we (still!) wait for the improvements promised by Gloucestershire County Council.

New staff have arrived and become part of our community quickly and positively and we have said goodbye to various people who are moving on to pastures new! After more than ten years teaching in KS1, we are very sad to be saying goodbye to Mrs Burns. Earlier in the term, we also said goodbye to Mrs Bloxham after more than twenty years as a valued member of the team.

The PTFA committee should also get a big "shout out!" as they have organised some fantastic events for our children and raised large amounts of money. There are some great benefits to be seen inside and outside the school, along with trips and visits which are possible with this financial support. Thinking of grants, I would like to thank publicly the St Luke's Hall committee who have agreed to all of the grant requests that I made. This means that we are able to enjoy musical events and teaching, take part in great pastoral support through The Rock and even make some improvements to a pretty tired looking staff room!

Our governing body have been supporting the work at Saint John's, popping in for visits, bringing a box of biscuits and helping make decisions about the best way to move the school forward.

Finally, I would like to thank the families of Saint John's. Without the support of the mums, dads, grandmas, grandads, uncles, aunts, older (and younger!) siblings, cousins and family friends, it would be much, much harder for us as a school to do what we do. I wonder if you know that well-known saying:



When home and school work together, within the community, children can flourish. We have seen enormous amounts of flourishing this term. Do have a look back at all the newsletters; review all the dojo photos and go onto the website to see information about your child's learning, as well as additional photos and videos.

SO - THANK YOU! It has been a great team effort!

Have a really wonderful holiday; please get some rest and relaxation. Enjoy time as a family (maybe even without a screen in sight!) and arrange to see friends. Be kind and caring and come back refreshed and ready for the Spring Term.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS!!

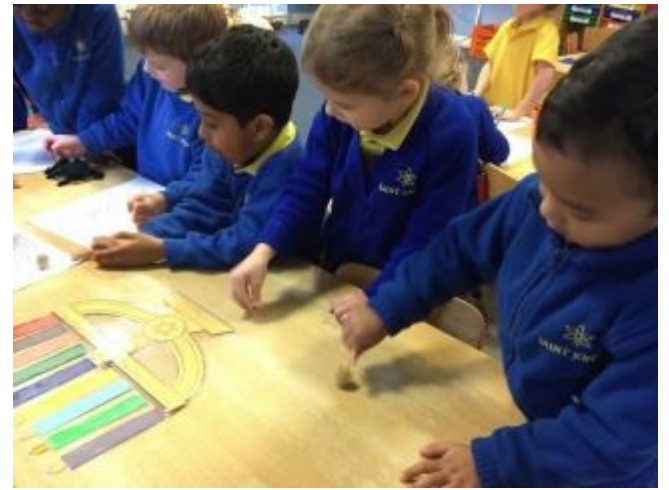
Mrs Beevers



Written by Sharon Morrow TA



Reception class absolutely loved performing their Nativity Play, 'Whoops a Daisy Angel.' They sang beautifully and loved dressing up as angels and shepherds. Thank you for all of the lovely comments! This term, the children have been learning about 'Celebrations and Festivals'. They have enjoyed sending in photos of their Christmas trees and we have had lots of information from families on their family traditions. The children have found out about how Christmas is celebrated in other countries, Eid-ul Fitr, Hanukah and the children learned about Diwali earlier in the term. Thank you to all our families who have shared their traditions.



As part of their unit of work on Changing Materials in Science, **Year 1** enjoyed carrying out an ice investigation. The children had lots of questions to think about including, 'What is ice?', 'How are ice and water similar?', 'How are they different?' and 'What else can change from a solid to a liquid?' At the end of their Geography unit of work called 'Where do we live?' the children enjoyed spotting the deliberate mistakes in their Find it and Fix it Task. Once they found the mistakes, they needed to show off their knowledge and correct the mistakes. The children used the work in their folders and the Geography working wall to help them.



Year 2 have been investigating which 2D shapes can tessellate. The children tried lots of different shapes and then made pictures and patterns with the shapes. They have also been investigating the properties of different materials, finding out which materials can bend, stretch, twist or squash.



Year 3 have been working on their defensive skills in netball and enjoyed using these in a tournament. There were lots of fantastic interceptions and also great spatial awareness when attacking! During DT, the children have been learning about information design and have been designing electronic posters about the water cycle. The variety of designs has been very impressive. They are looking forward to adding their electrical circuit to finish off their posters next week.



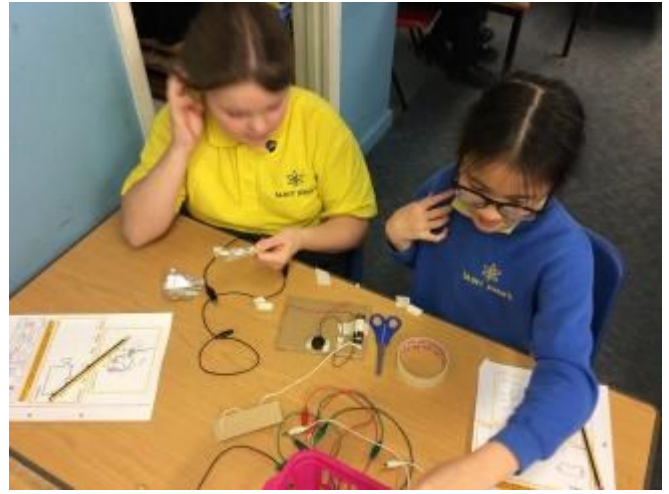
To reinforce their learning on Roman Numerals, **Year 4** had a fun session playing Roman Numeral bingo. Some of the numbers were quite a challenge! The children have made their final alterations and adaptations to their sling-shot cars before competing in 'races'!



As well as swimming lessons in Cheltenham College, **Year 5** have been learning to dance this term. They have been working on actions and dynamics to match the beat. The children have also been enjoying learning about Forces this term. They have learned about gravity, air and water resistance and now they have learned about friction. Using Newton Meters, they measured the force required to move a shoe across different surfaces.



Year 6 have been completing their learning of Electricity. After learning about circuit diagrams, the children investigated how the length of the wires in the circuit affected the brightness of a bulb. They made conclusions about the results that they recorded, which were not always the same as other groups. The children then used their skills and knowledge to make an electrical device, as they were challenged to design and create a burglar alarm. They have also had their first School Beat session. Local police constable, PC Jones, visited the classroom to talk to the children about internet safety and how to stay safe online.



The Christmas Fair was a big success and the PTFA would like to thank all of you! We had amazing Tombola prizes donated, a great turn out on the day and lots of help from parents and teachers! The Christmas fair has raised £1082!! What an amazing amount to put back into the school and our children. Keep your ears and eyes peeled for more information on the next event, which will be a Winter Disco. Until then, we wish you all Happy Holidays and a relaxing New Year.”



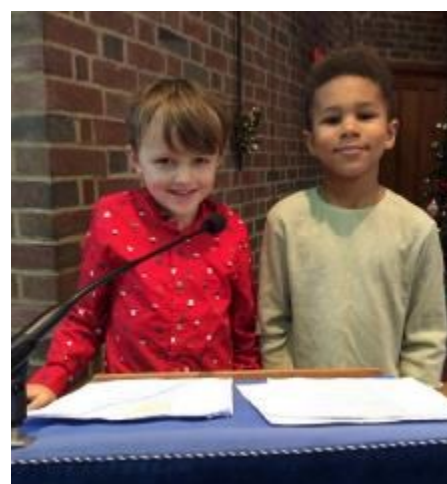
The Junior Drama group performed 'A Life of Adventure' for the whole school. A huge thank you to Gemma Bolwell who provides drama lessons during the week and these wonderful shows! Well done, everyone!



The children enjoyed wearing their Christmas jumpers and eating their Christmas dinner.



The KS2 children thoroughly enjoyed Reception and KS1's Nativity 'Whoops a Daisy Angel' at Highbury Church. Each of the classes sang songs with actions and the Year 2 children took the key parts in the Nativity.



The whole school took part in a wonderful Christmas Carol service at St. Luke's Church on Tuesday morning. Well done to our choir, to the "dance leaders" and to our Collective Worship Team who helped our brilliantly.



This wonderful choir also performed at the Major's concert and the Community Carols at St Luke's Church, as well as at our School Fair. Thank you to Miss Ginns and to all the parents/carers for making this possible.



Christmas

AT
St Lukes
Cheltenham

- Tues 24th Dec 4pm Crib service**
7pm Traditional Carols & Communion
- Wed 25th Dec 10am Christmas Celebration**

Our 10am service each Sunday has provision for children and young people, and we would love to see you!



DOCTOR! **DOCTOR!**

17TH-19TH FEBRUARY

**JOIN US AT ST LUKE'S THIS
FEBRUARY HALF TERM!**

**9:15-1:15
EACH DAY**

**SCHOOL
YEAR 3-6**

**£5 PER
HOUSEHOLD**

**LUNCH
INCLUDED**



SAVE THE DATE!