



NEWSLETTER No. 8

January 2025

Dear Saint John's families,

I want to start with a thank you for the way that everyone has started this new year. With a difficult start last week and with the challenge of returning with cold, dark days, it has been heartening to see how positively children, staff and families have engaged with the Spring Term, already there is much to celebrate. Sadly, due to attending a meeting of Gloucestershire Head Teachers on Friday 17th, I have not been able to enjoy this week's assembly when we talk about the achievements of children throughout the school. However, I know that Mr Vaughan will have done a great job leading that whole school time together!

Personally, there have been two highlights for me since the start of term. Firstly, it was brilliant watching the children participate in the Geometry Workshops in the hall: the KS2 children were given a wide variety of tasks and thrived on the group learning and stimulation from our visitor, Mr E. We are hopeful to set up something similar for our younger children in the future. Secondly, I was able to drive the minibus to take a small group of children to represent the school at a Panathlon Competition at All Saint's Academy. We have been sending a team for this event for many years and meet up with local schools in sporting activities where participation and inclusion are the focus, not just competition. Hearing the children discuss the skills they learnt and the children they met during the day was a delight! Medals were won so they were very proud of their achievements.

A less positive experience has been the negotiation with the County Council and various contractors around the works needed in school. Although the situation is better than it was before Christmas, there is further work to be done and we continue to wait for final decisions from those in charge of this project about timings. Please be assured that the school has been putting pressure where it can and governors have been involved in communications too.

We have welcomed two new members of staff: Mrs Smith has joined Mrs Snow to teach in Year 2 and we have seen her build relationships with the children and families. Do say hello to her at the end of the day, if you have not met her yet! Miss Stubley has joined our group of support staff, assisting in classrooms and the Nest. Both of these staff bring a smiley, calming presence to the school which is great!

In terms of other absences, please do direct SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) questions to me, either via the office or directly, as we continue to provide continuity in the area of Inclusion. Just ask, if you are unsure!

Swimming has started well, with the Years 3 and 4 going to Cheltenham College for their lessons, with transport provided by College too. The partnership that we have with College is really quite unique and it provides us with opportunities that are not always available to mainstream primary schools. I have yet to find a school who does swimming lessons from Year 2 upwards, in every year group!

Another partnership which I would like to highlight is with St Luke's Church Hall. This charity, connected but separate to St Luke's Church, provides funding for enrichment activities such as musical instruments and iSingPOP events, our choir (every Thursday at 8.15am—free!) and visits to The Rock. I apply for these each year and so far we have been blessed with the money being granted, boosting our budget. If any parent is interested in following up on other grants for the school, please do be in touch! We are hearing about possible accesses to grants and we need someone who has the time, computer ability and interest to pursue this on behalf of the school. Also, if there is anyone who would like to help review our library (five or six times a year, or even more regularly), then that would be amazing!

Have a good weekend, Mrs Beevers



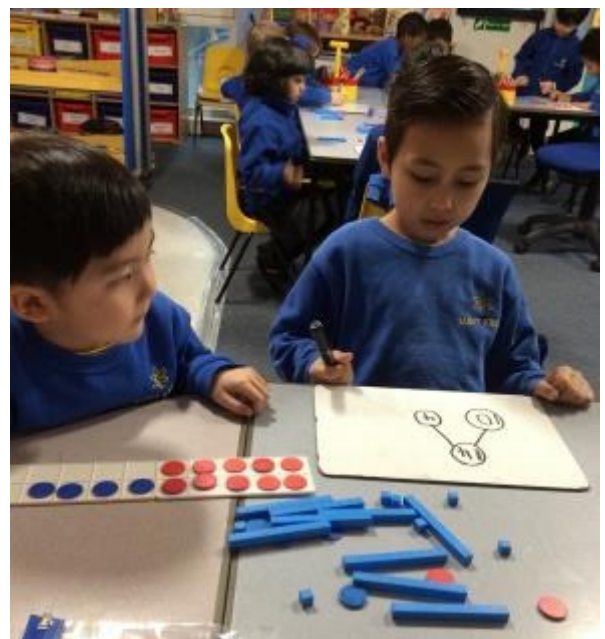
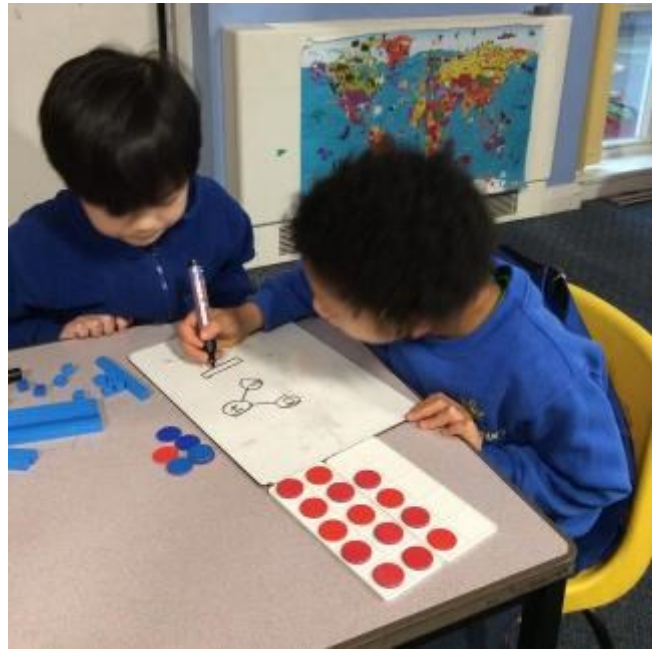
Written by Sharon Morrow TA



This week, **Reception** have started their topic on dinosaurs and have been making salt dough dinosaur fossils. The children have been learning about Mary Anning, the famous fossil hunter and are looking forward to a drama session about her life, which will be great fun. During Maths, the children have been learning to subitise, or instantly recognise a number pattern, rather than counting every object. They are learning to identify dice patterns in everyday pictures and have been finding groups numbers. The children have been having great fun in PE - they have been exploring how their body moves and have been rolling, slithering, sliding, climbing and practising their jumping on the apparatus.



Year 1 children enjoyed making chocolate monkey biscuits to kick off their English unit of work. The text they are working on is called *Monkey See, Monkey Do!* The children also watched a video about monkeys to learn facts about them. During Maths, they are learning about Place Value to 20. They continue to use a range of maths manipulatives to help them partition teen numbers into 10's and 1's. Working in pairs helps them consolidate their learning and is lots of fun!



Year 2 have enjoyed exploring money during Maths. The children have looked at the value of different coins and notes then used their understanding to make different amounts of money. During PE, the children have been considering how much power to apply when aiming at a target. They used different equipment and shared with the class which object they found most accurate.



Year 3 enjoyed a geometry workshop led by Mr E. They showed great perseverance when completing the puzzles, displayed super teamwork and impressed everyone with their creativity. They even managed to complete one challenge that was usually set for Years 5 and 6! What a great start to the term, Year 3.



Year 4 have been using replica artefacts from the museum to make generalisations about what life was like in Ancient Greece. They enjoyed handling the artefacts and sketching them before considering what they may have been used for. The children enjoyed a geometry session last Friday, solving a variety of shape themed problems. The session allowed the children to work collaboratively with a partner, use their reasoning and problem solving skills as well as demonstrating a lot of perseverance.



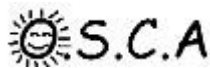
This term, **Year 5** will be writing their own 'Tale of Fear', filled with suspense (fear and/or excitement), so the children started the unit by sharing some of their greatest fears: heights, getting lost, spiders and many more. They acted out their fears and the rest of the class needed to guess what their fear was. The children also made a great start to PE, recapping prior learning they have done in gymnastics with lots of stretching, balancing and creating symmetrical and asymmetrical shapes.



Year 6 children have been looking at Ratio and Proportion during Maths, using counters to help them understand relationships between two sets of values. They will go on to understand the link between ratios and fractions before using these skills to scale drawings of shapes. During PSHE, the children have been discussing how they should value their differences. They spoke about how differences can lead to some problems such as bullying. After defining what bullying is, the children looked at some statements and thought about whether they agreed or disagreed with them, which sparked some useful and mature discussion between them.



A team from Saint John's travelled to All Saints in the school minibus (thank you for driving, Mrs Beevers!) to take part in the Primary Panathlon, competing against 8 other local schools. The children thoroughly enjoyed the 9 skills stations (parachute popcorn, polybat, precision bean bag, new age kurling, boccia blast, flight path, skittles, slam dunk and table cricket), all expertly run by students from All Saints. The teams earned points from each activity and when these were all added up and the final scores announced, the Saint John's team was delighted to discover that they were the winners! Congratulations to everyone who took part for excellent behaviour and performing to the best of their ability - the team will compete again in the summer in the Gloucestershire finals.



OSCA has a job vacancy - please click the link below for more information.

<https://www.pataglos.org.uk/vacancies/13449939>



Winter Disco

January 31st
6:30pm - 8pm

Tickets £3 per child at the Door
Reception Kids must be accompanied by an Adult
Remember to bring change for stalls and tuck shop
No mobile Phones



The PTFA are back and ready for another great term of fundraising and events! The next event is the anticipated Winter Disco on January 31st from 6-8:30pm! We cannot wait to see everyone with their dancing shoes on and the tuck shop will be restocked!

If you would like to get involved with the PTFA, we would love to have you! We are a friendly bunch of parents who want to help the kids and the school the best we can and would love to hear your thoughts! Please get in touch via email

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

or catch one of us at the gate for more information.



Sunday

8am Holy Communion

10am Morning Worship
(with provision for children & youth)

Wednesday

11am Holy Communion

Contact us: office@stlukescheltenham.org.uk [stlukescheltenham](https://www.stlukescheltenham.org.uk) 



**DOCTOR!
DOCTOR!**

Join Dr Luke as he helps us to deal with life's emergencies!

JOIN US AT ST LUKE'S THIS FEBRUARY HALF-TERM

**HOLIDAY BIBLE CLUB
17TH-19TH FEBRUARY**

9:15-1:15 EACH DAY

SCHOOL YEAR 3-6

MORE INFORMATION AND SIGN UP BELOW



Seedlings



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

We meet on Thursday mornings, 9.30-11am during term time.



Christingle service

A service to receive God's blessing

Make your own Christingle & receive prayer

Sunday 2nd February at 10am

Contact us: office@stlukescheltenham.org.uk Website: 

