



NEWSLETTER No. 9

January 2025

Dear Saint John's families,

This January term can feel quite a tough term, especially to the many in our community who are used to (or just prefer) warm, dry days in the sunshine. We want to recognise the efforts being made to bring children into school in uniform that will help keep them dry and on time! Getting up in the dark is hard, isn't it!

There have been quite a number of children unwell, with a wide range of symptoms; again, thank you for keeping them at home to get better and to ensure that any bugs are not passed on to others. Please remember the 48 hour rule for vomiting or diarrhoea.

Also, well done for those who have brought children in with slight sniffles or just January blues. We do monitor the children really carefully and will be in touch if they show symptoms of illness, so it is better to try being in school rather than giving up easily.

Please do be assured that the school, hall and classrooms are very warm so children really do not need triple layers; instead a good thick coat is the best idea as the only cold place is outside. We often see children walking around in short sleeves in the school.

(As an aside, we are careful with our heating too and are beginning to see the benefits of our solar panels!)

Enjoy the photos from each group; remember to check Dojo for more information. Hopefully, this helps families to feel involved in their children's learning at school. There are is another Open Classroom and Tea with Mrs B on **Tuesday 25th March**. This is a change of date as we have events the previous date which means some classes would be out! Do book time off work/arrange family commitments to join us in school.

We are trying to use a range of days for events so that we make things available as much as possible. Please do give feedback about different events: both positives and suggestions are gratefully received.

EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY:

Tonight's disco! Please do join us at Saint John's for our Winter Disco. It starts at 6,30pm and finishes at 8pm. Parents/carers must drop off and pick up; children will NOT be allowed to walk home on their own at the end. Reception children must be accompanied by an adult.

On **Thursday 13th February**, we have our Celebration of Learning at Highbury Church. We are going to start a little earlier, leaving school straight after registration and aiming to begin our celebration at 9.30am. Please help with walking to and from church. We will back by 10.30am at the latest.

Crazy Hair Day is on **Friday 14th February**. On this last day before half term, please come in with a crazy hairstyle, donating £1 to raise money.

Some have been asking about how PTFA money is spent: there are many events and experiences that the school would not be able to afford: Drama Adventures sessions, the Literature Festival, chicks being born, as well as end of Year 6 events. We are very grateful for the many ways that you, as a community, support your children and the education that they receive here. THANK YOU!

It might be worth thinking about **World Book Day** which will be celebrated in the first week of March. Children will be invited to come dressed as a book character for the day, so perhaps something to organise over half term?

Also, at half term, St Luke's are offering a Holiday Club, Details are on the back page. Registration for this needs to be by next Thursday (6th) so that the church are aware of numbers. Please do think about this.

I hope that everyone has a relaxing weekend and are able to enjoy time with family and friends. Please remember that we celebrate children's achievements outside of school, so let us know about any certificates!

Take care, Mrs Beevers



Written by Sharon Morrow TA



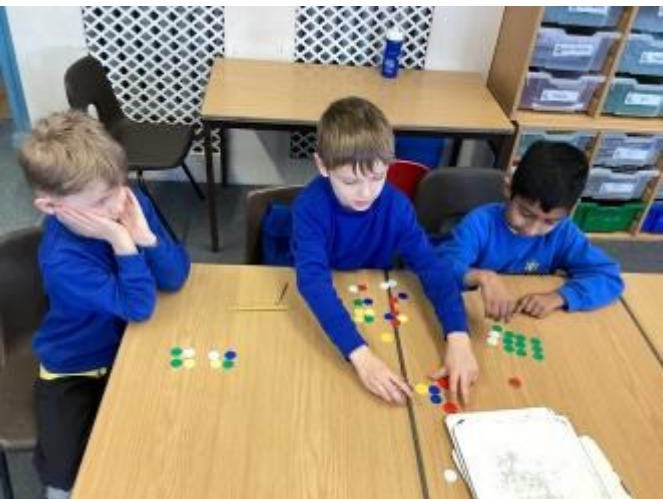
Another great week in **Reception!** Despite the windy weather, the children absolutely loved their first Balanceability session. They all looked so happy whizzing around the playground on balance and pedal bikes. There are another 9 sessions booked, so imagine how confident the children will be on bikes by Easter! The key text this term is 'Tom and the Island of the Dinosaurs'. In the story, Tom and Katy rescue the last few dinosaurs on Earth from an erupting volcano. The children made their own erupting volcanos in class by blowing bubbles! Finally, the children had a fantastic drama session with Gemma Bolwell about the life of Mary Anning. They looked for fossils on the beach and pretended to hammer and chisel them out of rocks. They absolutely loved it and were chatting about their session all afternoon.



As part of their 'Toys from the Past' topic in History, **Year 1** children sorted old and new toys in a variety of ways. They used photographs and actual toys and used labels to help classify them. The children thought about what materials the toys were made out of and whether they could move. During Science, they carried out an investigation: 'Does the tallest child in the class have the biggest feet?' as part of their 'Animals Including Humans' unit of work. The children started off working out who the tallest child in the class was, before working in pairs to measure their feet on squared paper. Once they had done that, they compared the measurements. Their results were that the tallest child does NOT have the biggest feet!



This week, **Year 2** started their new topic in Maths - multiplication and division. The children have been focusing on recognising and making equal groups and have used counters to create their own equal groups. During Art, they have enjoyed becoming texture detectives and took part in a texture hunt around the school grounds. In their Art lesson this week, the children will be exploring how texture can be created with paint.



Year 3 loved taking part in a powerful drama workshop led by Gemma Bolwell, where they learnt about Apartheid. The children took part in several activities to explore how it would have felt to have lived in South Africa at the time and used freeze frames to portray segregation in different social settings. Thank you, Gemma!



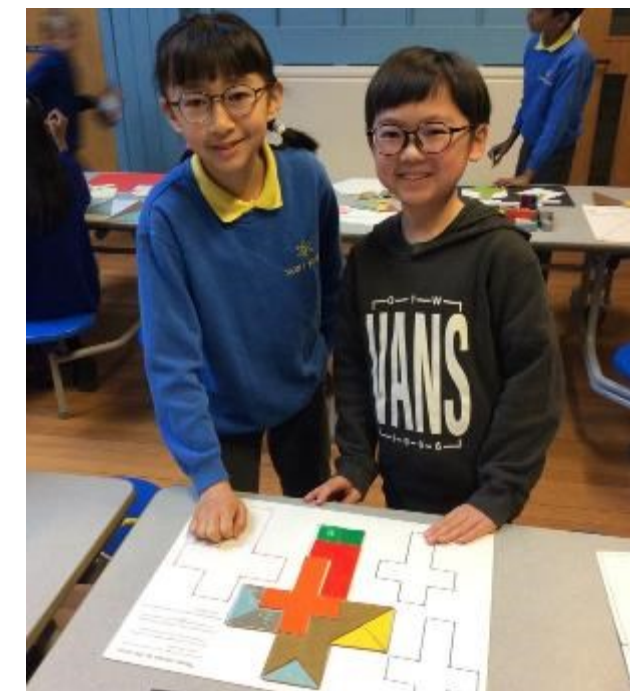
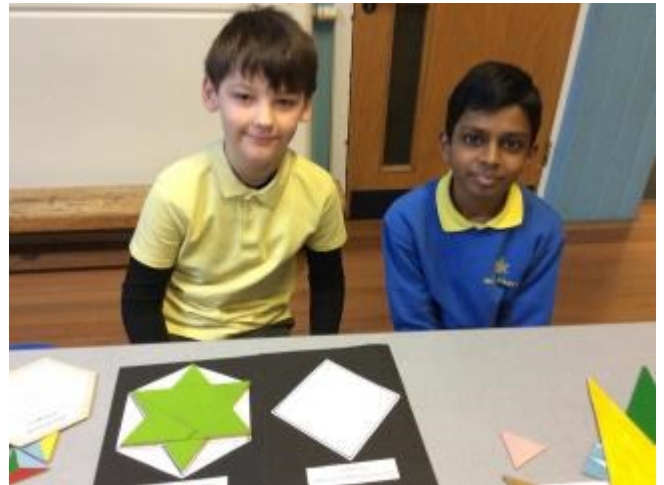
As part of their current Art unit, **Year 4** enjoyed creating large scale art in the playground. The children used chalk and large arm movements to create images that, despite being 2D, looked 3D through the use of curved lines and shading. To reinforce their maths learning using written methods of multiplication, the children used place value counters to help them visualise which calculations required exchanging and how this linked to their written workings out.



The **Year 5** children have been looking at illustrations from the 'Space Race' era in art. They are exploring how imagery was used in the past and how it influenced art and design. The children are learning the term retrofuturism - what people in the past imagined the future to look like, and evaluating images using knowledge of the formal elements. They made their own view finders to focus on one piece of art to replicate and created lots of really impressive pieces of work. The children also enjoyed a Maths geometry workshop, where they had to solve various 2D and 3D puzzles.



Year 6 enjoyed a geometry workshop involving a wide variety of puzzles to solve. Logic, teamwork and perseverance were qualities needed to be successful during this workshop, which all the children displayed, with even some of the most challenging puzzles being solved by some. The children also enjoyed having the apparatus out during PE, using it to travel around the hall.



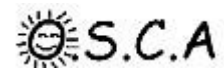
Just a reminder about the disco today! We look forward to seeing everyone 6:30 - 8pm.

Another exciting thing we have planned is Crazy Hair Day on Friday February 14th. Donate a £1 to show off your craziest hairstyle. All the money raised goes directly back into the school

Some ways we use the money donated include Easter chocolates for everyone, baby chicks for the Reception class, Leavers Disco for the year 6 class, money for each year group and so much more!

Please join us at the Strand on Tuesday February 25th at 7:30pm for our next PTFA meeting - we would love to hear your thoughts and opinions and your involvement to help make us an even better PTFA!

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



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

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

ASHLEY MANOR 2 - SAINT JOHN'S 5

The school football team produced an excellent performance against an Ashley Manor side which had beaten them comprehensively in the first game of the season. After a disastrous start, conceding in the first minute, Saint John's began to take control of the game and created numerous chances, forcing the Ashley Manor goalkeeper into some fine saves. When he was beaten, the ball crashed back off the bar, and it began to look as if it wouldn't be Saint John's day when, against the run of play, Ashley Manor scored again on the stroke of half-time. Trailing 2-0, it would have been easy for heads to drop in the second half but the boys showed great resilience and came out determined to get back into the game. Owen and Keyon were controlling the midfield, making incisive runs and playing some superb, defence splitting passes; from one of these, Frankie's superb turn and shot was parried into the path of Liam, who fired home. Bertie's pace was also troubling the Ashley Manor defence and he went close to scoring the equaliser before Liam claimed his second with another fine finish. Ashley Manor rallied but Jack, Joseph and Ramy defended strongly and Daniel produced some excellent saves when called upon. Keyon had his shooting boots on and two excellent strikes from distance put Saint John's 4-2 up. In the last minute, Keyon's free-kick was turned into his own net by an unfortunate Ashley Manor defender, capping a stirring Saint John's comeback.





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: 

[stlukescheltenham](https://www.stlukescheltenham.org.uk) 