



NEWSLETTER No. 11

March 2025

Dear Families,

March has begun and these first two weeks have seen the beginnings of Spring. The lighter mornings help with getting up in the morning and seeing the flowers blossom is a delight! Do have a look at our front garden as our fantastic caretaker, Mr Tennant, has worked hard in preparing it for this time of year: there are daffodils and buds just starting to open! He has also done some work in the messy play garden in the Reception/Year 1 area which has brought many a smile on the faces of our youngest children!

Celebrating World Book Day has been a highlight for me and I think there were more children dressed up than ever before. Some of the costumes were incredibly creative: the inside of a body and also a car, both made out of cardboard and painted! Amazing! It was also brilliant to see all the decorated potatoes; I hope you enjoyed the photos on Dojo. They are displayed in the hall, so if you are lucky enough to collect your child from OSCA, do walk through the hall to have a look at them. House points and prizes have been awarded and Friday's assembly will have a particular focus on the poetry that has been learnt over these past few days. Going round the classes, it is clear that the children have loved the nonsense poems they have been studying; I imagine you may have heard extracts at home! Finally, we had a "real-life" author spend some time in classes. Sian Hughes writes picture books and the infant children enjoyed listening to her talk about her books and process of writing, along with "meeting" all of her props! We are already planning for next year's author visit, which should include all classes.

We continue to revise and renew our books at school. If you have (no more than 10) high quality books that you are getting rid of, then please do ask your class teacher if they might be good for our classrooms. We are also working on our library to ensure there are some great books to choose from there.

There are a couple of dates for your diary, in case you have missed them in previous newsletters/Dojo.

Tuesday 25th March 9am

We are having a MORNING Open Classrooms and Tea with Mrs B. Hopefully, this might make it possible for those who have afternoon commitments, plus a different day too. Logistically, this will mean children going into class at 8.45am as normal to do registration and lunches. Parents/carers will wait in the playground for a few minutes and then shortly after 9am, we will head into the school to see what is happening in the classrooms. You are welcome to visit any classroom, though please do not assume that "Ms. X will be the teacher next year" as staff do change year groups for professional development.

Friday 11th April 10.30am

Our Easter Service at St Luke's will be a little later in the morning. **We will be taking the whole school**, so please make arrangements to come with your child if you are concerned about behaviours with this trip out. It is brilliant to have many parents join us for these events and we always need additional adults to ensure our children are safe on the walk to and from St Luke's. We will be leaving at 10.15am and returning for 11.30am. Please offer your support by joining us.

Finally, please can I encourage families to be wise regarding the changeable weather at this time of year. Children still need coats and sensible BLACK shoes. Many families have bought a cheap lightweight anorak that stays in their child's bag all the time. This is such a sensible plan for our unpredictable British weather! Please can I also remind parents/carers that children will not be wearing different summer dresses. As per our Uniform Policy on the website, they will be in grey skirts/pinafores/shorts/trousers to ensure continuity across the school.

Have a great weekend, Mrs Beevers



Written by Sharon Morrow TA



Reception children absolutely loved their first 'messy play' session! They dug in the mud, splashed and squelched in the mud puddle, ran water down drainpipes, blew bubbles and cooked in mud kitchen! The children laughed and explored the outside environment. They noticed how the drainpipes needed to be on a slant for the water to run and how the wind influenced the way the bubbles blew. Thank you to Mr Tennant, our school caretaker, who has worked hard on our wildlife area, ensuring that the children can enjoy this exciting opportunity.



Year 1 enjoyed their first visit to Forest school last week. The sun shone and the children all had so much fun digging for worms, making potions in the mud kitchen, playing on the swing, balancing on the logs and playing hide and seek.



Year 2 have really enjoyed reading and exploring their new text in English - The Great Explorer. In one of their lessons last week, the children used their drama skills to act out the story. During PE, the children have been focussing on rolling a ball towards a target and enjoyed using cones as targets. They also practised rolling the ball to each other through the gate and receiving it with their hands.



Year 3 have started their football unit in PE and have been learning how to dribble the ball effectively. They are looking forward to developing their attacking and defending skills next week. During Maths, the children have been working collaboratively to measure and calculate the perimeter of different shapes. What a great start to the term, Year 3!



During computing, **Year 4** children were challenged to turn the Microbits into a wearable fitness coach. As part of their gymnastic unit this half term, the children had to put their trust in their partner when creating, and holding, counter-balances and partner balances. They worked collaboratively to safely recreate the balances, ensuring they could hold them for a length of time.



The **Year 5** children have really been enjoying poetry from 'The Lost Words' book since they returned after half term. They have performed some poetry to the class with their own actions to help make the poem memorable and meaningful. To inspire their own poetry, they went on a nature walk around the school exploring the living things around us. The children made up their own similes and performed them together as a class.



Year 6 have been using maths skills during Science. Measurement and angles were important skills to have when they combined their science knowledge of light and shadows. The children were challenged to find the best height and angle for a set of flood lights that would cause the least amount of shadow on a pitch. At the end of last term, Year 6 were given their School Leavers' hoodies. The children were excited to finally have them and they all look great as part of their uniform. On Friday, they had a fantastic opportunity to speak with Cheltenham's Member of Parliament, Max Wilkinson. Our MP spent time talking to the children about his role and experiences as an MP and gladly answered a wide range of thoughtful questions from our Year 6 children.



Cheltenham Prep Football Festival

The first team thoroughly enjoyed the inaugural Cheltenham Prep Football Festival held just before half-term. Saint John's was drawn in a group with Ashley Manor, Warden Hill and Richard Pates - the boys played really well in these games against often much bigger schools, scoring freely and winning two out of three games. The standings from each group were used to place each team with those in the same position from other groups - these were all very tight games and the team may have peaked too early, as they were unable to replicate their earlier success! There were skills stations for everyone to enjoy in-between the games and the players all received a t-shirt with 25 on the back and the names of all the schools who participated in the festival recorded within the numbers. Many thanks to Mr Vaughan for taking the team and Cheltenham Prep School for organising and hosting.



Thank you so much for everyone who participated in Crazy Hair Day, we loved seeing everyone's crazy hair! This fun event raised £120.40 for the school which is just amazing!

Keep your eyes peeled for more fun events coming your way like another disco and a bake sale!



World Book Day





Give thanks, remember and pray

Mothering Sunday Service



Sunday 30th March at 10am

 @stlukescheltenham

 St Lukes Church





Thursdays in
term time
9:30-11am

Come along for
play, songs &
stories!

Our warm and
friendly group:
space to play, learn
& grow



 St
Lukes
Rooted and Flourishing