



NEWSLETTER No. 12

March 2025

Dear Saint John's Families.

We finish this week with Red Nose Day, encouraging everyone to wear something red and to bring in a donation for this charity. Red Nose Day is an annual fundraising campaign by Comic Relief, raising funds to help end the cycle of poverty and to ensure children are safe, healthy, educated, and empowered, both in the UK and internationally. It is brilliant to be able to support this work and to encourage our children to be aware of the lives of others both near and far.

Our 3Rs of Ready, Respectful, Responsible continue to focus our children, not just on their own needs but on the needs of others, and there have been some lovely moments described to me by staff about when children have shown these qualities in class. A key moment of being "Ready" is coming in from morning playtime, when the children know what they need to do and settle into the classroom, prepared for the next bit of learning. "Respect" is seen time and again when children share, turn-take and support each other in lessons. Stepping back and allowing someone else to go through a door first, rather than pushing forward, is another way that our children show their respect towards others. Many children also show a real level of "Responsibility" at Saint John's, whether this is being a buddy in the playground, taking the lunch information to the office or speaking up in the School Council meetings. We would encourage families to use these words at home; it can be lovely when a family shares a "home moment" when the 3Rs have been seen!

We have had visitors round this week and they were able to watch various fun activities, including our MoveMore lessons out in the playground: football and invasion games being the focus and also Balancability for Reception with bikes and scooters helping our youngest children learn some balance skills. The playground is used constantly and we are continuing to look at what we can do to improve it.

Our School Council, with representatives from all the classes from Year 2 to Year 6 (and opportunities for Reception and Year 1 to feed in via their teachers) have been meeting regularly with Mr Vaughan and are working on some ideas for our outside spaces. Having completed an overhaul of the Reception and Year 1 outside play area, we are now focusing on our two main playgrounds. I have pursued quotes for surfaces and additional play equipment; it is going to be a challenge to find the budget, but I am hopeful that we will see improvements in these next few months.

Mrs Mayhew, Mr Tennant and I met with Gloucestershire County Council representatives earlier this month and the final decision has been made for the toilet refurbishment to be done in the Summer holidays. This seems a long time since the original concern; however, this ensures that there is time and space for it to be done really well and it means that there is no further risk of disruption to our children's education.

I do want to thank Mr Tennant publicly for his work at Saint John's. Since he started as caretaker, the premises have taken on a new lease of life, looking tidier and better maintained. He has also had various new ideas of improvement and we are delighted to have seen his many skills being used here at school. Please do say Hello to him on the gate in the morning!

As the weather begins to warm up, please do think about water bottles being in school each day, but remembering to take them home and clean them regularly! Sometimes, bottles are left in school for days (weeks?!) on end and this is not ideal... I would also say that bringing a coat is still fairly essential with the unpredictable climate though!

Have a lovely weekend, everyone. We hope to see many of you for **OPEN CLASSROOMS ON TUESDAY (25th)!** Please just come through the gate at 8.45am and classes will be open from 9am for an hour or so.

Take care, Mrs Beevers



Written by Sharon Morrow TA



This week **Reception** have been learning about the moon landings and the Apollo 11 mission. The children did some amazing writing about their knowledge of space. They have also been learning about the different constellations and made their own. During Maths, the children have been learning about measuring height and length. Messy play was great fun again - the children loved the dinosaur swamp made from Gelli Baff!



During their DT lesson this week, **Year 1** were learning how to cut soft fruits with a table knife. The children spent time thinking about how they should hold the knife correctly. They also used a fork to hold the fruit in place and keep their fingers safe. They enjoyed trying a variety of fruit once they had been cut into small pieces. The in Year 1 love reading and they enjoyed it even more on Friday, when they had a 'Books and Biscuits' session! The children got to share a favourite book with a friend, whilst eating a biscuit.



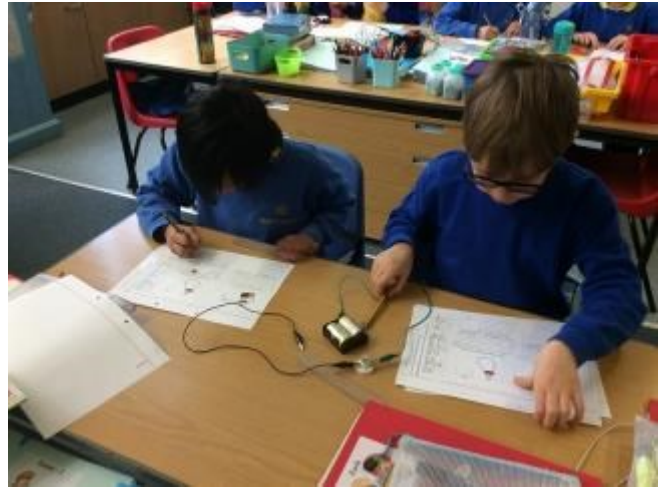
Year 2 have enjoyed exploring structures in DT. The children made different 3D shapes out of plasticine and tested the stability of the different shapes. As a class, we then created a checklist of key features of a stable structure. In Maths, the children have started to learn about measurement of mass and capacity. The children had fun using balance scales to compare mass.



Year 3 took part in lots of book related activities on World Book Day. The children particularly enjoyed a workshop with Michael Rosen and also loved showing their costumes to the rest of the school during morning assembly. During DT, they have started their structures unit by exploring the features of castles and designing their own castles in groups. They are looking forward to making their castles in the next few weeks.



Year 4 children enjoyed some time in the library last week during their Reading for Pleasure session. They were able to read a variety of genres, which they shared with a partner. During Science, the children have been learning about what makes an electrical circuit: they used different electrical components to identify mistakes in circuit diagrams.



Year 5 have been doing some very technical work in Computing and DT. The children have learned to program a micro:bit to show different symbols and sounds, which they are able to manipulate to change upon instruction. They also designed a protective case for the micro:bit by using Lego. This helped the children to understand that plastic can be used in multiple ways and have multiple functions. They have now moved onto Bluetooth, where the children have been working on connecting their micro:bits to other micro:bits using secret codes. Interestingly, the name Bluetooth came from a Danish King (Harald Bluetooth) who actually had a blue tooth!



In **Year 6**, the children have been enjoying their relaxing sessions of yoga during PE. It hasn't all been easy going, as many of the poses that they have tried require strength and stamina to complete with control. The children have spoken about how some of the techniques can be useful in their everyday lives, to help with anxieties and to allow them to switch off from the busy world around us. The children have also been finishing off some pieces of art that allows their voices to be heard. The piece involved something that the children were passionate about and a message that could be sent through their artwork.



A big **THANK YOU** to everyone who wore red and donated money to Comic Relief - we raised £162 for this fantastic charity.





Give thanks, remember and pray

Mothering Sunday Service

 St
Lukes
Cheltenham

Sunday 30th March at 10am



@stlukescheltenham



St Lukes Church

