



NEWSLETTER No. 13

April 2025

Dear Saint John's families,

We come to the end of a long Spring Term with Easter holidays being later than ever before! The months of January and February are often hard, with dark days and grey skies, but we have been lucky not to have had too much rain. March has brought some warmth and the sun has been shining this week, bringing out smiles and summer clothes.

As always, it has been a busy few weeks, with children enjoying a variety of activities. We have taken teams to various sports events, including events at both Cheltenham College and Cheltenham Ladies' College, when our teams did really well. Having our own minibuses does allow us flexibility and keeps costs down, especially when we know many of our families would not be able to help with lifts to places around Gloucestershire! I have to admit I rather enjoy driving the minibus around the local area and I am very proud of how well our children behave as they are taken to new places to try out new experiences. Thank you to Miss Sanders and Mr Allison who organise and attend these events; the children gain a great deal from them!

Parent/carer consultations have happened in this last week and it has been good to see how many parents/carers have attended. It is a lovely opportunity to chat to the class teacher and hear how things are going and to see the work that has been completed over the year so far. In addition, Mrs Kimber has spoken with a number of families about any SEND (Special Educational Needs/Disability) questions. Mr Vaughan and I have caught up with families too; it is helpful to have feedback. If anyone has missed their booking, please contact the class teacher via Dojo, to make an appointment. A telephone call is always possible, so make this request if this would work better for you.

At the end of the Summer Term, there will be a written report for each child, given to the parent/carer. This will outline the child's efforts and achievements and helps to show the progress that they have made. It also aims to include information about external tests too. This would include Phonics, Times Tables and SATs results. We recognise that these assessments are a "one-off" event and therefore any external result needs to be held alongside the daily assessment that the teacher will complete. If you have questions about these, please do contact the class teacher.

Dates: to help families organise diaries!

Monday 28th April: Term 5 starts at 8.45am

Monday 5th May: Bank holiday so **NO SCHOOL**

Monday 12th - Thursday 15th May: SATs for Year 6

Friday 16th May: School disco at 6.30 - 8pm

Friday 23rd May: Finish at 3.15pm for half term

Monday 2nd June: Term 6 starts at 8.45am

Tuesday 10th June: Yr6 service at Gloucester Cathedral

Thursday 19th June: Sports Morning

Monday 7th July: Open Classrooms at 2.15pm and an Internet Safety presentation/workshop with really important information for families so please come if you can.

Friday 11th July: School Summer Fair at 5.30pm

Wednesday 16th July: Leavers' Disco at 6pm

Thursday 17th July: Leavers' Service: timing to be confirmed as considering afternoon

Friday 18th July: Final day of the year. **Finish at 2pm.**

There will also be class trips out during the school day.

As has been the case now for a number of years, we finish **at 2pm at the end of the Autumn, Spring and Summer** Term, with OSCA not being available on this final day. This is NOT the case for Terms 1, 3 and 5, as these finish for half term at 3.15pm, with OSCA available.

We try to stick to dates published but are at the "mercy" of external agencies/venues and we have to consider staffing arrangements for events away from the school premises. We listen to the feedback from families about availability and this is why we have different timings/days of the week for events: it allows parents/carers with different responsibilities to attend. Next term, we will send out a survey for parents/carers, asking for feedback about different aspects of school life at Saint John's and we would appreciate families taking the time to complete these; it will be really helpful as we make plans for the following year.

Have a wonderful Easter holidays: rest, relationships and reading seem to be the best way to spend the two weeks!

Mrs Beevers (Head Teacher)

Written by Sharon Morrow TA



The lovely sunny weather has meant a really fun end to a long term, with plenty of outdoor fun on the garden. The **Reception** children have loved dressing up, reading, plus playing with the cars and model building. The children have become confident with their phonic knowledge and are enjoying writing captions and short sentences during play, plus writing sentences about their topic on 'Space.' In Maths, the children have been subitizing numbers, where they are learning to instantly recognise numbers by their patterns e.g. dice patterns. Plus using Spring-time objects to learn 'part part whole' sums. Have a lovely Easter!



Year 1 enjoyed making 3D shapes out of cocktail sticks and mini marshmallows. This was part of their Maths unit of work on 2D and 3D shapes. They were able to identify that they couldn't make a sphere or a cylinder, due to the fact that these shapes had curved edges and faces. The children are really enjoying reading to Daisy, the therapy dog, and Claire on a Wednesday afternoon. Stroking Daisy is the first time that some children have ever touched a dog before and it is great to see everyone grow in confidence.



Year 2 have been learning about hockey in PE this week. The children have learned how to hold the hockey stick correctly and dribble the ball. They also practised passing and stopping the ball. In DT, the children have really enjoyed exploring which 3D shapes are the strongest. The children then used this knowledge to create a stable and strong chair for Baby Bear.



Year 3 have come to the end of their animation unit in computing and spent the afternoon producing their final animation in the sunshine. They showed great teamwork when photographing their frames and made thoughtful comments when evaluating the success of their animations.



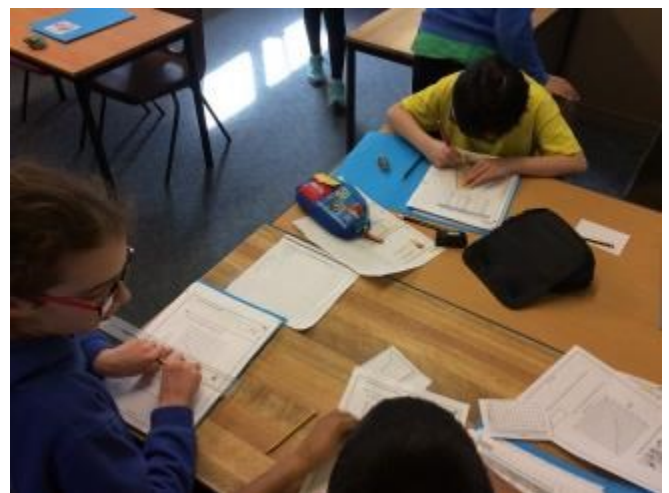
As part of their DT unit, **Year 4** created pavilions that were both stable and aesthetically pleasing whilst also meeting the design criteria. They then cladded their structures using a range of materials and techniques. During their work on electric circuits, the children made simple switches and used them within circuits to turn off a variety of components. They then used their switches to send Morse code messages to each other.



This term, the **Year 5** children have really been enjoying their computing and DT lessons, where they have been learning about traditional designs with physical resources and virtual designs with a computer. They used a computer app called Tinkercad, which they engaged with really well. CAD is used in many adult jobs today so this is a good sign that we might have some future engineers amongst us! The children also had lots of lovely stories to share as they wrote a heartfelt Thank You letter for Mother's Day. It was a great way to show off their writing skills with a meaningful purpose to their writing.



Year 6 have been searching the school garden for all kinds of living organisms. The children then researched these organisms, classified them and collated them into a field guide. Also in Science, the children have completed their investigations into what conditions allow mould to grow. Some interesting, but unpleasant results! During Maths, the children have recently finished their statistics unit, where they have interpreted and created their own line graphs and pie charts to display and analyse data. They have also learnt about using and calculating the mean. The children used counters to help demonstrate how the mean average works and found a useful formula that they could use to calculate the mean efficiently.



The girls' football club held a final session not at school but at Cheltenham Cricket Club, which has fully marked out junior pitches. With 19 girls attending the club, a fantastic number for a school of our size, there were enough players for a full game. This was keenly contested and enjoyed by all in the spring sunshine.



The development squad played back to back fixtures against Bishop's Cleeve on consecutive Thursdays, losing 4-2 in the first but emerging victorious in the second, coming from behind to win 2-1. Congratulations to all the players!



Thank you so much for supporting our bake sale and we hope you enjoyed all the goodies!

Date to pop in your diary: Friday May 16th and don't forget your dancing shoes! The next school disco will be here before you know it!

Every year, it's our pleasure to supply every child with Easter treats as a little something extra, we hope your child enjoys their Easter goodie bag.

Happy Easter - keep your eyes peeled for the next PTFA meeting as we would love for you to join us!

Easter AT St Lukes Cheltenham

Good Friday 18th April

12 noon - Family Service

Explore the Easter story in a creative way. Great for young children & their adults.

Lunch included.



Easter Sunday, 20th April

10am - Outdoor Celebration

Join us from 9:30 for a community breakfast, and stay after the service for an Easter Egg hunt





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