



NEWSLETTER No. 14

May 2025

Dear Saint John's families,

I hope that the Easter holidays provided some time of rest and relaxation for all our families and that you have also been able to enjoy the bank holiday weekend just gone.

I think this is the shortest term I have ever experienced in all my years of working in the education sector. We are endeavoring to fit everything into these four weeks and to make the most of the sunshine too! It has been great to see classes spend extra time outside in our playgrounds or the front garden.

The chicks have hatched in the Reception classroom and there has been great excitement across the school, with children popping in to see them and hold them. Alongside the weekly visits of Daisy, our "reading" dog, we are delighted to have these opportunities for our children to be engaging with animals at close quarters.

Each week, students from Cheltenham College and Cheltenham Ladies' College join our children in their classrooms, reading with them and engaging in different activities; these partnerships help our children to build their learning, as well as develop skills of working with students of different ages. We also enjoy visits from volunteer readers, many of whom have retired and want to be involved in their local school.

Next week, we have the excitement of the SATS tests.

On Monday 12th May—Thursday 15th May, the Year 6 pupils will be completing various assessments in Reading, Maths and Spelling/Grammar. We will provide breakfast each morning from 8.15am to help the children settle in before the tests.

Governors

We have two parent governors who have been part of the governing body here at Saint John's for a couple of years. If you are aware of anyone who might be interested in joining our governing body as a "co-opted" governor, then please do contact Barry Lambert on chair@st-johns-pri.gloucs.sch.uk or speak with me about this role.

Dates for this Summer Term:

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

Friday 16th May: School disco at 6.30pm

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.

As we head into warmer weather, please can we encourage children to bring a hat into school and to wear sun cream for protection. Having said that, it can also be quite unpredictable, so a coat is always helpful to have. I know some parents have sent in a thin waterproof that sits in their child's school bag for those times when it is needed. We have been discussing additional shade arrangements for those hot days that might come over the next couple of months! It is good to have our outside classroom, as this provides shade for those who like it.

Have a lovely weekend,

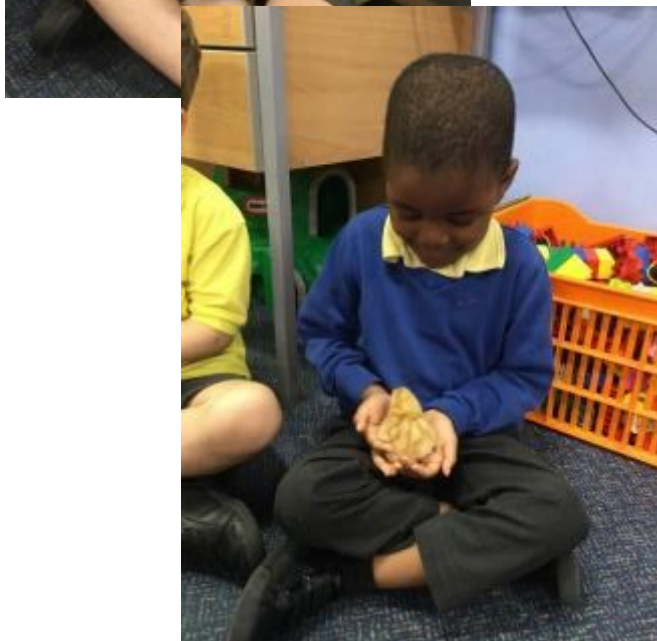
Mrs Beevers (Head Teacher)



Written by Sharon Morrow TA



Reception have had the most amazing first couple of weeks back! All 10 of the eggs hatched into fluffy little chicks, with the majority of them hatching during class time, which was so exciting for the children to watch. Everyone has held a chick (multiple times) and are loving their little visitors. What a wonderful learning experience!



As part of their new Art unit of work on sculptures, **Year 1** made paper cylindrical sculptures. The children needed to think about how each cylinder was going to be attached to the base as well as consider how to add different heights and detail to their work. During Maths, the children carried out an investigation to find out what multiples of 2, 5 and 10 end in. They worked in pairs using a 100 grid and Numicon to find the answer. They then played a multiplication game to check their understanding.



Year 2 took part in a fantastic drama workshop with Gemma. They were transported to London in 1666 and learned about what London looked like. They visited Pudding Lane and the River Thames before learning about how the Great Fire of London started. In groups, they thought about how London should be rebuilt and presented their designs to King Charles II.



Year 3 have been learning how to use a thesaurus to enhance their vocabulary. They used this new skill to write impressive setting descriptions for a story set inside an Ancient Egyptian pyramid. In PE, the children have been developing their teamwork and have completed different challenges which involved working collaboratively.



As an exciting start to their topic on Romans, **Year 4** learnt about Roman warfare and why the shield was so important. They learnt about the shape, colour and decorative designs before designing and creating their own Roman shield. The children have been extending their understanding of decimals by partitioning decimal numbers using standard and non-standard forms. To aid their learning, they used decimal place-value counters to enable them to see how the original number was the same but was just 'grouped' in different ways.



Year 5 have had a lovely start to the summer term. The children are doing Athletics and Orienteering this term in PE. During English, the children are learning about Myths and Legends. They have been really enjoying the legend of Beowulf. They have analysed a video clip from the legend and used drama to act out some of the scenes. We welcome our new school councillors for the summer term: Eva and Frank. Thank you to Elsie and Ian who did a fantastic job representing Year 5 so far this year as school councillors.



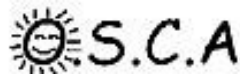
Year 6 have been working and revising hard ready for their End of Key Stage 2 Assessments next week. However, they have managed to squeeze in some fun! The class have begun a 10-week music course where they will be taught how to play the ukulele. There have been some great games and songs already to help them with their timing and playing as a group. As they progress through the course, the children will learn several songs to play along to, with the aim of performing them to an audience.



A Saint John's team competed superbly in the Indoor Athletics tournament held in the sports centre at Cheltenham College, showing great team spirit and togetherness. When one of the team took a nasty tumble (in the very first race!), every single teammate consoled and encouraged them afterwards. Credit must also go to that team member for carrying on despite the fall! We won 6 of the track races and came second in the other 6. Results for the field events (standing long jump, vertical jump, chest push, speed bounce, standing triple jump and javelin) were not announced but must have been equally impressive as Saint John's were declared competition winners - the children were thrilled and the photo says it all! Congratulations to everyone involved.



A team from Saint John's thoroughly enjoyed a curling competition held at Cheltenham Ladies College just before Easter. The team played against Oakwood, Charlton Kings, St Thomas More, Rowanfield and Bishop's Cleeve - the game was new to most of the children but they picked it up quickly and showed great progress with each game. All the children participating in the competition received medals to mark their participation.



Over May half term registration packs will be posted out to all current users and new staters to register for places at breakfast and after school club for the academic year 2025 - 2026. Everyone will need to re-register for places starting in September. If you are not already a OSCA user and would like to be sent a registration pack please send your postal address to Annette at

oscstjohns@yahoo.co.uk



We are looking forward to hosting our next School Disco on Friday May 16th at 6.30pm! Bring your dancing shoes and all your spare pennies to spend in the shops hosted by PTFA members and volunteers!



We will also be hosting another sponsored event happening in the PE classes the week starting May 19th! Keep your eyes out for the details coming soon!

We have a PTFA meeting for Tuesday 13th 7:30pm at the Strand and we would love for some new faces to join us!

Thank you to everyone who wore red, white and blue to celebrate VE Day.

