



NEWSLETTER No. 1

September 2024

Dear Saint John's families,

What a week!

I am sure it has been a mixture of delight and difficulty having no school this week and different families will have had different experiences. We are so sorry for the impact that the school closure has had on children and families. Thank you for your understanding; we have appreciated the various messages of support and positivity from so many of you. We hope that your children have enjoyed engaging with the remote learning posted on Dojo; please do post photos to be shared with the class!

You will have read in the Dojo message further details about how things will be moving forward and the hope we have for continued improvements to the school site.

In other areas of the school, we are so pleased with the improvements that have been made. Solar panels were installed by GCC, the high fence around the playground looks really smart and the mural on the Green Garden has been enjoyed by our younger children. We are very grateful to Ellie Russell, an ex-colleague, who provided this mural free of charge! Her generosity - and talent - is another example of our lovely Saint John's community.

We have to let you know some news about other staff. Sadly, Mrs Omar and Mrs Dawid will be leaving us at half term. Mrs Omar will be retiring from teaching (though we hope to persuade her back for a little supply after her trip overseas to see family) and Mrs Dawid is moving into a different sphere of work whilst also balancing family life! We are sad to see them go but wish them all the best for the future.

We are sure that adverts and interviews for these roles will provide new staff to fill these gaps; a number of applicants have shown interest already! Please be reassured that there will be continuity in both Reception and Year 5 as most of the staff will remain the same; we will manage the transition carefully so that children are able to continue to flourish in their classes.

Parent/Carer Meetings

During the year, there are two formal meetings with parents/carers to discuss how the children are getting on. We have one this term so that teachers can comment on how each child has settled into the new year group, having begun to get to know your child personally. This meeting also gives an opportunity for parents/carers to talk with the class teacher and ask any questions.

We meet again at the end of the Easter/start of the Summer term to review how things are going. At the end of the Summer term, you will receive a detailed written report.

The first set of face to face meetings will be on **Monday 30th, Tuesday 1st, Wednesday 2nd or Thursday 3rd November**, depending on the year group.

Class teachers will post information on Class Dojo and then bring a sign up sheet into the playground at pick up time the week before so that families can arrange a time. Those who do not pick up their children are welcome to suggest some options via Class Dojo and then teachers to can "slot" those appointments in. If you have more than one meeting to arrange, please be careful not to put them close together as this can cause difficulties with timings!

If you prefer to speak on the phone, due to family/work commitments, then we can arrange this too. However, we do value the chance to meet with parents/carers face to face so please do try to make arrangements to come to school. The meetings are ten minutes. If you require a longer meeting, then please request an alternative meeting day as it is not possible to extend the time due to the impact on other families.

Please can I encourage you to look at the Yearly Overview posted on Dojo. We apologise again that, so soon after the long summer holidays, we have not been in school. We hope you have enjoyed the learning via Dojo and we are very excited to be seeing you on Monday!

Have a good weekend, Mrs Beevers



Written by Sharon Morrow TA



What a wonderful few days the children have had in **Reception**! Thank you for all of your help and support in making it run so smoothly! The children have laughed, made friends, played, eaten their lunch and had the most wonderful time! They have loved the new wall mural, which was painted during the summer by Ellie Russell. The children have enjoyed finding the different bugs and animals and climbing along the flower climbing wall.



Year 1 children have a great start to the year and shown how they are ready to take on new challenges. They have done lots of learning and playing with their friends, including reading their new guided reading books, doing phonics, playing with 'loose parts' during brain breaks and enjoying their first PE lesson.



Year 2 have had a fantastic start to the term! The children have been focusing on the 3 R's - Ready, Respectful and Responsible. They have thought of lots of ways they can show these in the classroom and around the school. The children have also been enjoying their Maths unit, focusing on place value to 20. They have been looking carefully at what each number represents and using a range of equipment to help them.



Year 3 have made a great start to the term. They enjoyed playing snakes and ladders to explore expectations and have shown a great understanding of our school expectations. They also loved washing Miss Sanders' dogs' toys as their hook to their 'Instructions' writing unit.



Year 4 have been thinking about the 3Rs and everyday examples within school. These are just some of the amazing scenarios that they came up with. The children have also been thinking about how they can regulate themselves, ready for learning, through the use of 'calm palms'

WE ARE RESPONSIBLE

WHEN...



...we help a friend in need



...we walk into school



...we hold the door open



...we go to the office



...we go to the classroom



...we go to the library



...we take the lunch order



...we leave the classroom



WE ARE READY WHEN...



...we have our equipment



...we wash our hands



...we are sat listening



...we put up our chairs



...we are ready to learn



...we sit in assembly



...we collect our things



...we line up for lunch



...we line up to go home



...we say grace for lunch



WE SHOW RESPECT BY...



...talking to an adult



...playing nicely with friends



...listening to each other



...being a good friend



...sharing a book



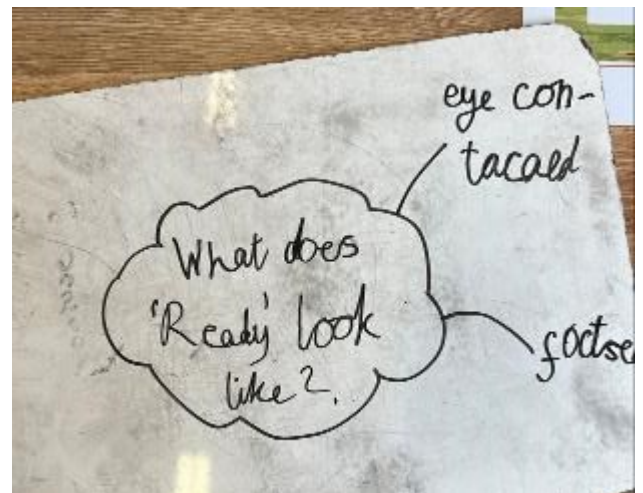
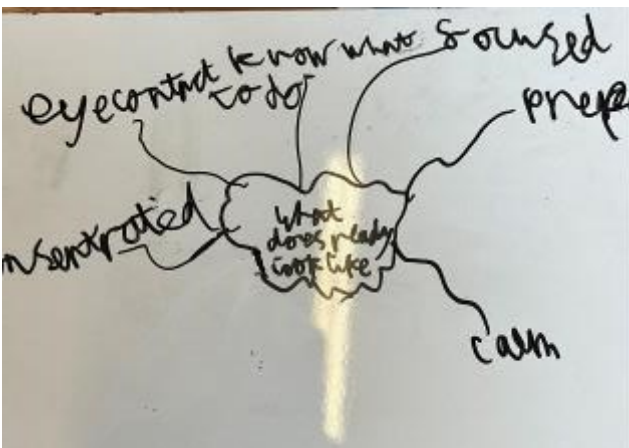
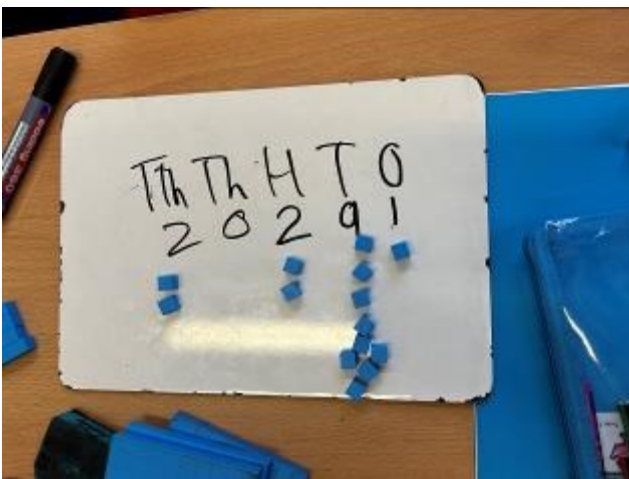
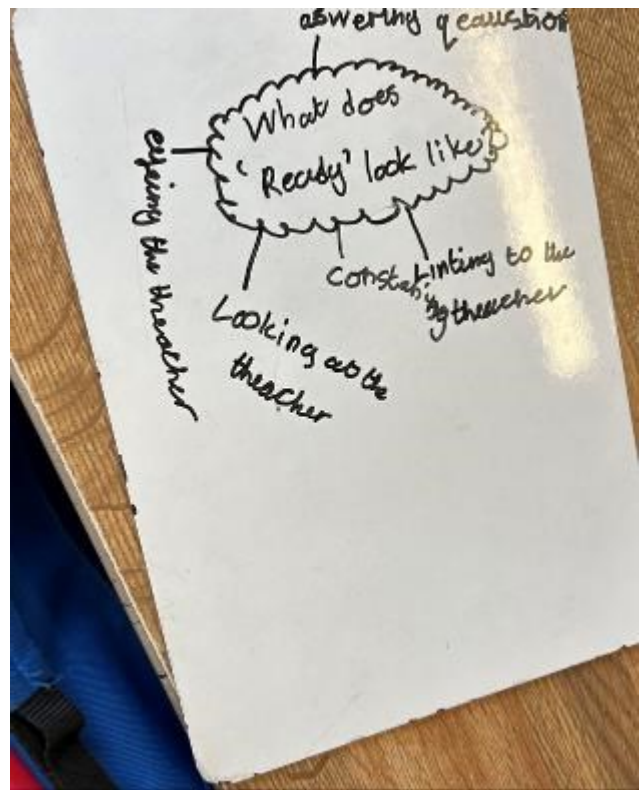
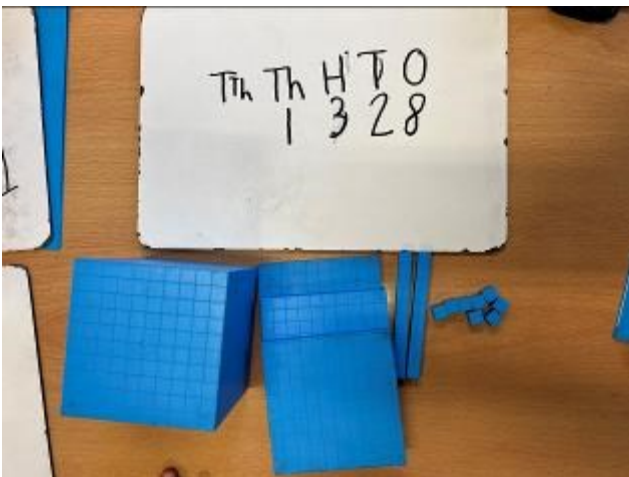
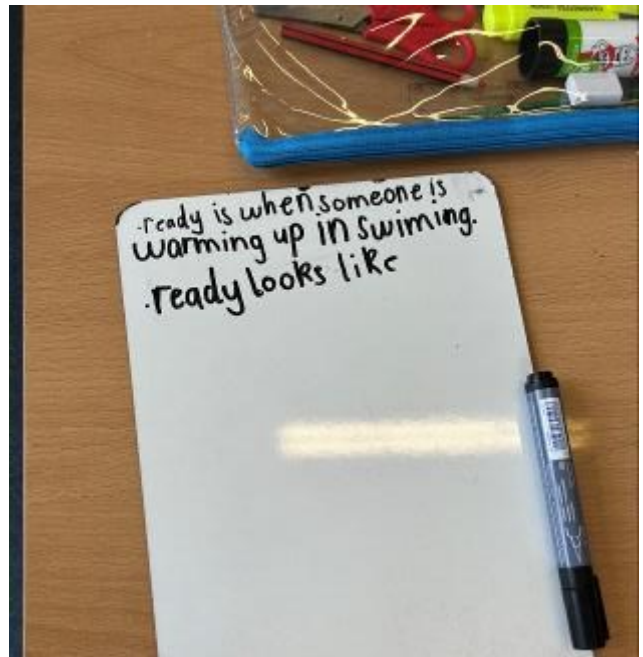
...spending time with friends



...talking terms and sharing



Year 5 have made a superb start to the term with their topic about The Mayas. They have been creating a timeline of key events during the Maya time period and learning lots of interesting facts about this ancient civilisation. The children were surprised to learn that just like Egyptians, the Mayas also built pyramids and used hieroglyphs for writing. They have also been using manipulatives to read and write numbers up to a million. Next, they will complete a maths investigation using numbers up to a million. The children have also been thinking about being 'ready' and 'respectful' in school - our values this term.



Year 6 have been using drama to quickly learn a story that will help with guided reading and writing activities this term. Each group took part of the story and acted it out, thinking carefully about the emotions and actions of the main characters.



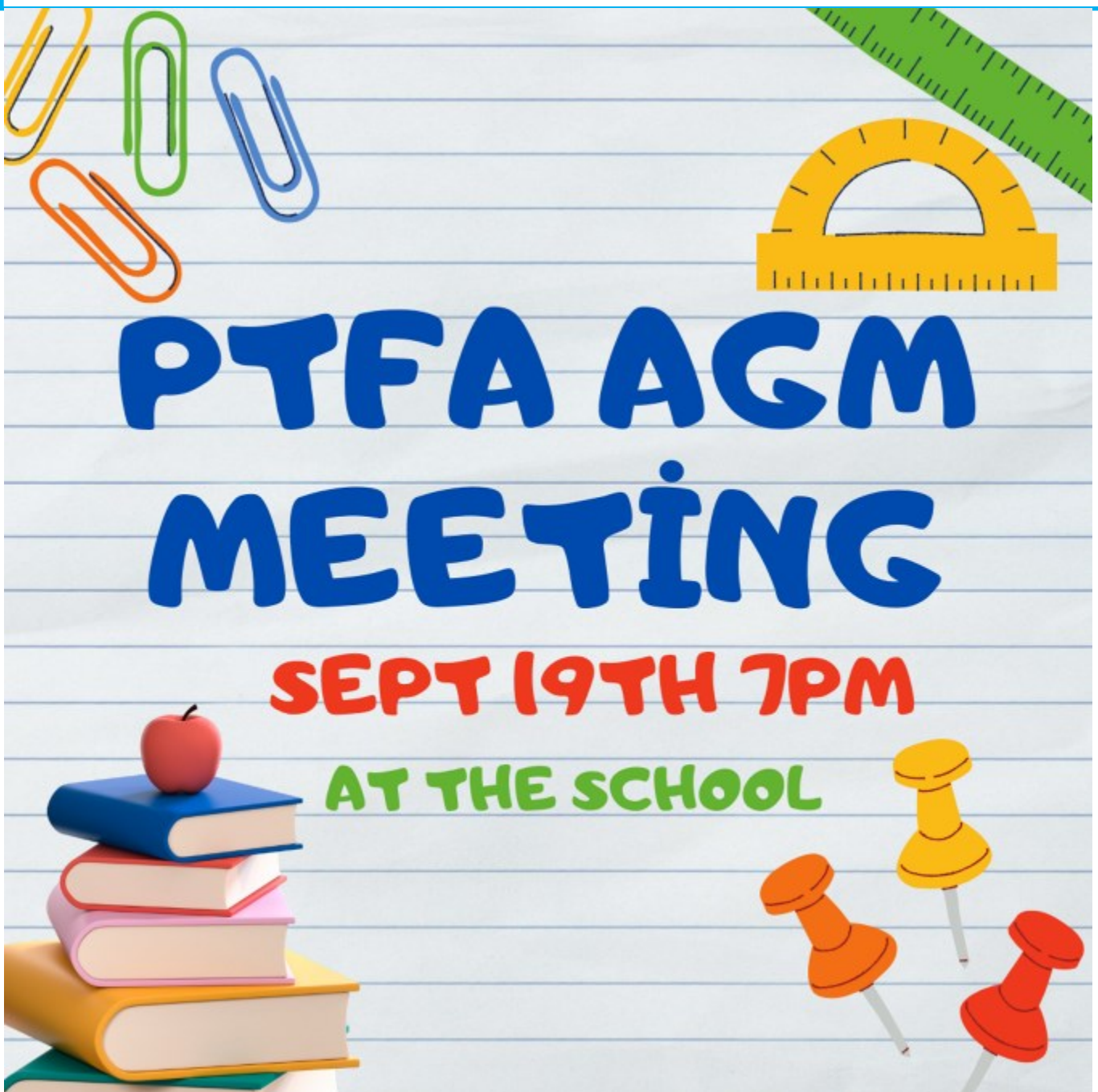
JEWELLERY- EARRINGS:

In line with safe practice guidelines from the Association for Physical Education, earrings should be **removed or taped up before coming into school** on PE days. We understand that families may need to organise themselves with tape/plasters and so we will support families with this until the end of Week 3 (Fri 20th Sept). After this, it will not be possible for children to take part in the PE lesson if removal/taping has not been done by families.

We are super excited to get the PTFA rolling with a new school year with so many ideas and plans for the year ahead! To start off, we have our annual AGM meeting on September 19th at 7pm at the school and we would love for you to come by and join us! We will be discussing new ideas for the year to come as well as recapping how it went last year. Please come join as we would love to hear your ideas of what you would like happen in this next school year. Any questions please email us on

PTFA@ST-JOHNS-PRI.GLOUCS.SCH.UK

or find a PTFA member in the school grounds before or after school.





PTFA

DID YOU KNOW:

- Pays for the Living Eggs for reception class
- Pays for the coach for the year 6 residential trip
 - Buys all the chocolate easter eggs
 - Hosts the school discos and pays for the year 6 leavers disco
- Supports each year group by giving funds every year
 - Supplies ice lollies on sports day

AND SO MUCH MORE!

Do you want to have a voice and support your kids?

Join the PTFA - no contribution is too small!

Give as much or as little of your time as you'd like but every little bit makes a big difference

EMAIL: PTFA@ST-JOHNS-PRI.GLOUCS.SCH.UK

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.instagram.com/stlukescheltenham)

 **St Lukes**

faithfuel
Wednesday lunchtime:
Bible, games & fun!



 **St Lukes**

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.

