



NEWSLETTER No. 15

May 2025

Dear Saint John's families,

We come to the end of the shortest term, having achieved an enormous amount in just 19 days!

Swimming for Year 2 has been a real highlight this term. There are no other state schools, that I am aware of, who offer the chance for Year 2 to swim. Schools are not obliged to have sessions every year for each year group either, so it is brilliant that the children at Saint John's will have five sets of swimming during their primary journey and an extra session in Year 6 if they are still struggling to achieve 25 metres. The Year 2 children have been very enthusiastic and have focused their excitement in learning the different skills needed to be a confident swimmer.

Another highlight for me has been seeing the Drama Adventures class sessions that Gemma Bolwell provides. Each year group has a morning when she draws them into the drama of a particular moment in history. The hall is transformed and Gemma is always in costume, so the children are given the experience of "being" and "exploring feelings" of living at that particular time. Along with special days such as Ancient Egypt and Viking Day, there are many opportunities for WOW experiences to balance with the daily learning in lessons.

We must say a big WELL DONE to Year 6 for completing their SATs tests. These assessments are a culmination of all their work done in primary school and is a chance to show their learning in Reading, SPaG (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) and Maths. The results of the tests come through in mid-July and will be reported in the end of term written report. Writing and Science will be reported to the government in late June by school. Secondary schools are informed of the results, as part of the transition documentation provided by us, but they are only a fraction of the information. Our secondary schools are really good at speaking with us and meeting the children, so that they have a full picture of a child's strengths and areas for development.

Please could we ask that Year 6 parents inform Mr Jones about any transition letters received from secondary school, particularly about days spent at Pittville, Bournside, Cleeve, Crypt, Balcarras, Marling, All Saints. The schools do not always inform Saint John's so it would be helpful for our planning.

Please note the dates on this page and let other families know about these important events. It is good to have as many parents/carers as possible for these whole school events and to be able to enjoy celebrating together, particularly Sports Morning, Summer Fair and the Leavers' Service.

Dates for this Summer Term:

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 a 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 as an option.

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.

Staff news:

We are sad to let you know that Miss Bennett and Mr Allison will be leaving their positions as Class Teaching Assistants. Miss Bennett has been working in Year 5 and does an amazing job with the dining hall each lunch time; she will be missed! Mr Allison has been part of the Saint John's team for many, many years. His involvement with teaching and sport has impacted decades of children here and we will recognise this dedication at the end of the Summer Term. We wish them both all the very best as they move into a different phase of life.

Knowing of the gaps to be left, we advertised and were able to interview eleven candidates for the roles available. The pool of applicants was very strong and we are delighted to be able to announce that we will be joined by the following staff, some of who will start immediately, others in September: Mrs Worth, Miss Santos and Miss Randall.

I hope that everyone has a really relaxing half term and is able to enjoy time with friends and family!

Mrs Beevers (Head Teacher)



Written by Sharon Morrow TA



Reception Class loved celebrating the 80th Anniversary of VE Day. The children all dressed in red, white and blue and learnt about the Union Jack flag. They watched footage of the Red Arrows fly past over Buckingham Palace and looked at lots of old photos of street parties and celebrations. They decorated their own cakes and made hats and bunting!



Year 1 spent a exciting morning at a Victorian beach with a lovely lady called Elsie. The children caught a steam train and enjoyed waving their hankies out of the windows. Once they arrived at the beach, they enjoyed afternoon tea at the Seaside Hotel before walking along the promenade. Afterwards, the children played on the sand making sandcastles. They then got changed in a bathing machine and splashed in the sea. Once they were dry, they walked along the pier and took part in some of the activities on offer. This included dancing, a puppet show, making music, riding a carousel, serving fish and chips and making cups of tea. They ended the morning by singing the song 'We do like to be beside the seaside.'



In Art, **Year 2** have been exploring the artwork of ceramic artist Ranti Bam. The children used their hands to shape a pinch pot and then used a joining technique called 'score and slip' to add decoration. They also used a range of clay tools to add further decoration to their pinch pots.



Year 3 have been exploring ancient Egyptian art in preparation for making their own scrolls. They have looked at the key symbols that were used at the time, tried adapting these to tell their own story and have learnt how to make paper the Egyptian way!



As part of **Year 4's** current paint topic in art, the children used tints and shades to create 3-dimensional artwork. The technique involved using a grid underneath the initial 2-D outline and painting each square a slightly different colour - the overall effect was very impressive. In RE, the children have been learning about Pentecost and the unusual experiences the disciples had following Jesus' ascension to Heaven. They then created artwork that depicted the events of Pentecost.



Year 5 have been thoroughly enjoying learning about the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings through History, Guided Reading and English (myths and legends) lessons. They celebrated World History Day on the 13th of May with an amazing Viking drama workshop led by our specialist drama teacher, Gemma. They did lots of storytelling through role play and still frames. The children also dressed up as Vikings for the day with some truly creative costumes. In class, they have also done some drama to support the retelling of myths and legends such as Beowulf.



After an intensive week of testing, **Year 6** have had the opportunity to relax a little during a trip to Sandford Park. After some class games, the children had plenty of free time to enjoy themselves with some football, French cricket or playing on the playground equipment. A great time was had by all in the lovely sunshine and the children behaved wonderfully, showcasing many of this term's values. Back in the classroom, the children have been using the laptops to get to grips with TinkerCad - a 3D modelling program. They have already tried creating their dream homes, fully equipped with football pitches, swimming pools and hot tubs!



A few months ago, Year 6 took part in a KEX Challenge in school where they worked in pairs to design a model of a machine that could hold the weight of a small box. All of the children did a fantastic job and had a great time. Frankie and Felicia won that competition and, as a result, had the opportunity to represent Saint John's in the county final. On Monday, they competed against lots of other schools where they were given the task of creating a model of a machine that could pick up and move the small box from one place to another. Frankie and Felicia worked incredibly hard for an hour to create an amazing model and thoroughly enjoyed the day. Well done to both children; we may have the next budding engineers in our midst!



The girls' football team finished their season in warm sunshine, a stark contrast to the arctic conditions they experienced at the same venue in February! Two games took place at the same time against Bishop's Cleeve and although neither ended in victory, the girls showed tremendous spirit and endeavour and have made a lot of progress during the season. 19 girls attended the most recent football club at school - a record for Saint John's! Well done to everyone and a huge thank you to parents for all the help with transport.



What a fun Disco last Friday! The PTFA loved seeing how much fun you all had, so many happy faces dancing, singing and spending pennies! We raised a record breaking £578 in profit for the school! Thank you to all



the parents for their support with us as we continue to raise money for the school!

The sponsored event has been pushed until after the half term so keep your eyes out for it!

Next meeting is Tuesday, June 3rd, 7:30 pm at The Swan - we would love to see you there for a casual chat about the Summer Fair and some other fun events we have in the works coming up for the last term of school!