



# NEWSLETTER No. 16

June 2025

Dear Saint John's families,

The summer term is beginning to get very busy and it does feel like these last two weeks have been longer than just ten days at school! There have been many, many events and experiences for the children and I hope you enjoy the information coming on Dojo and in this newsletter.

I thought I would let you know about some developments planned during the next few months:

~ The Religious Education curriculum will be reviewed and renewed as the Diocese has developed a new syllabus which we are likely to introduce over next year

~ The SEND/ Inclusion needs across Gloucestershire are being reviewed too and I am one of two Cheltenham Head Teachers who are representing local schools, in the hopes of impacting the Gloucestershire offer positively. We are very hopeful!

~ The playground fence at the far end will be replaced to include gates which will provide access.

~ The junior toilets will be re-done/refurbished alongside new carpets for the main corridor.

### Dates for your diary:

We recognise that many of us have commitments with work or families but we hope that many parents/carers will be able to find the time to join us for these events.

### Thursday 19th June: Sports Morning

Please do help with walking there and back. We intend to leave around 9.20am and will head up to the Cheltenham Cricket Club on Prince's Street, GL52 6BE. We will start as soon after 9.45 as possible. Please bring any additional friends or family members who might enjoy a morning of watching different races. If we have to postpone the event, we will communicate via Dojo on the morning, so please do check carefully if it is poor weather.

### Monday 7th July: Open Classrooms at 2.15pm

After a chance to see the children in their classrooms, there will be an Internet Safety presentation with really **important information** for parents/carers. In order to make this as accessible as possible, we have arranged this for the end of the afternoon in the hope that parents/carers can stay a little longer after the end of the school day. We will provide child care outside in the playground (an extra playtime for the children!) and we would really encourage parents/carers to commit to listening to this excellent presentation. We continue to see concerning behaviours involving devices across schools in Gloucestershire and therefore, at Saint John's, we want to ensure our parents have all the information they need to support their child's use of a phone/laptop/device.

### Friday 11th July: School Summer Fair at 5.30pm

### Wednesday 16th July: Year 6 Performance: 10.30am

As we did last year, we will be having a performance for the Year 6 at the end of their time with us at Saint John's. The other junior classes will also be involved, but with the focus on the Year 6 pupils. Please do put this date in the diary. It will be at Highbury Church at **10.30am (approx)** but we will need help walking down with the whole school at about 10.10am. Please help!

### Wednesday 16th July: Leavers' Disco at 6pm

**Thursday 17th July: Leavers' Service at 2pm**, with the option of pupils being taken home directly from St Luke's. Again, all parents/carers are welcome with the supporters of Year 6 pupils strongly encouraged to come!

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

Lots of activities to look forward to and enjoy!

Have a lovely weekend, Mrs Beavers



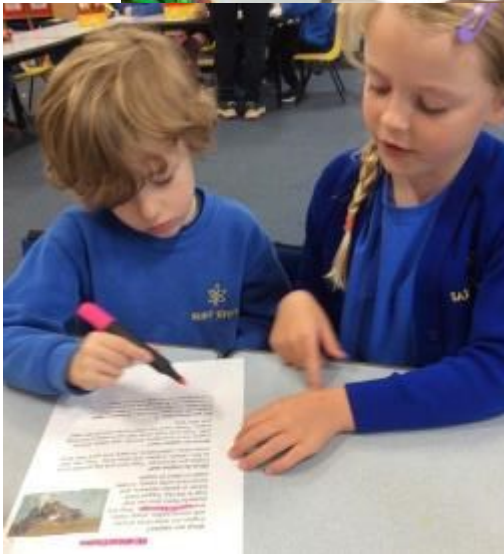
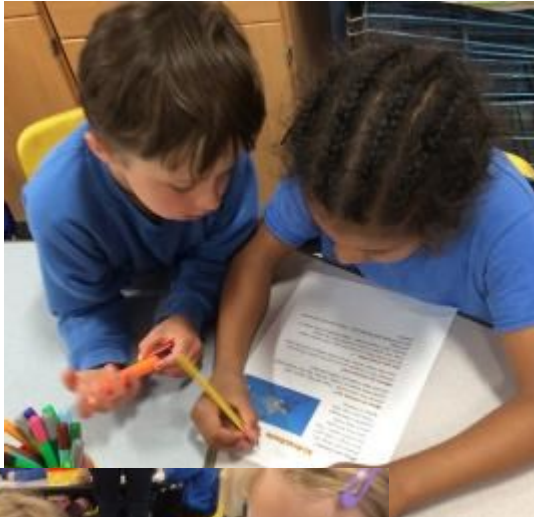
Written by Sharon Morrow TA



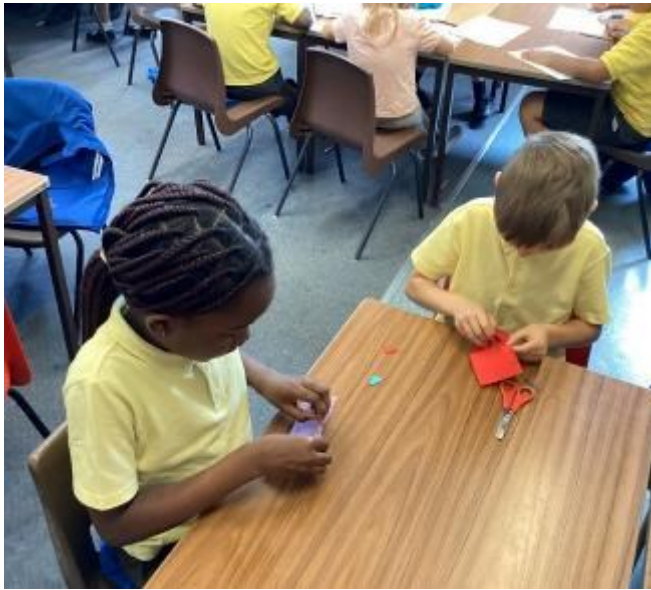
**Reception** have had a lovely first week back. It is hard to believe that they only have a few weeks left of their first year in school! This week, the children have been learning the story of the Sand Horse, which was sculpted out of sand on the beach. They made their own sand sculptures of dinosaurs, dolphins, turtles, butterflies and many other creatures. In Maths, the children are learning numbers beyond 10. They are beginning to understand that teen numbers are number 10 plus a number and learning to recognise written teen numbers and representations. A little bit of rain did not dampen their fun during messy play morning! The children loved the drainpipe channels, digging in the mud and watching the bubbles blow around in the wind!



**Year 1** have had a busy couple of weeks. Mrs Roper's dog, Mabel, came into school to visit. The children asked Mrs Roper lots of questions about Mabel and they will use this information later on in the term when they write their own information text. In their English lesson, the children worked in pairs to identify some of the features of an information text. The children started their Science unit of work about plants by going into the front garden and trying to identify the plants and flowers growing there.



**Year 2** have had a great start to the new term. The children have started their DT unit focusing on textiles. In this unit, the children will be designing and making a pouch. They have been developing their sewing skills, including threading a needle and sewing a running stitch. Tricky lessons to learn!



**Year 3** learnt about eight-point compass directions and used their new skills to describe the location of different countries across the continent of Africa. The children particularly enjoyed using the new atlases in this lesson. In computing, they demonstrated their skills with SCRATCH software and learnt how to make three sprites perform different movements at the same time.



**Year 4** presented their projects based around the Romans and our local area to several classes recently. They were amazing! The children were clearly very proud of the work they had achieved and there was an amazing selection of creative projects on display ranging from videos and PowerPoints to 3D models and posters. As part of their ongoing work in Science on local habitats and classification, the children spent time in the front garden collecting a range of items. Once back in class they had to sort them into different groups depending upon their characteristics and features. The children then had to try and predict the classifications used by other groups.



This week, **Year 5** had a therapeutic workshop with The Rock. The children learned different techniques to use to settle their worries or concerns about moving onto secondary school. They also had the opportunity to recognise each of their own unique qualities and their achievements too. In Art, the children are learning about installation art and taking inspiration from the artist, Cai Guo-Qiang. They considered their display space and the scale of their artwork, creating a scaled-down version of an installation similar to Guo-Qiang's gunpowder drawings. The children used stencils, teabags, powdered chalk and paintbrushes to create their installations.



**Year 6** have been lucky enough to have a number of workshops this term. It began with a wonderful drama workshop that got the children thinking about the Windrush generation. The children had to freeze frame some of the events from the time, before listening to the stories of people who experienced it. They finished with a celebration of the amazing influences that this generation brought to the UK. Other workshops included one run by The Rock, which helped the children think about their feelings and emotions regarding the transitions that they will be experiencing and how they can deal with some of these. Lastly, our author visit gave a lovely opportunity for the children to write creatively with complete freedom. Some wonderful pieces of writing were produced from narratives and play scripts to poetry and rap.



The whole school enjoyed an assembly with author: B. Ware. She read some extracts from her latest book, "Warning: May Contain Dragons" and then spent time in each of the junior classrooms. She was an inspiring writer!



Our Panathlon team thoroughly enjoyed the County Final held at Oxstalls Sports Park. Ten schools from all over Gloucestershire took part and our team represented Saint John's superbly, encouraging and supporting each other throughout the nine different activities and the fun races which followed. Everyone was given a t-shirt to keep and a medal for taking part. Thank you to Mrs Beevers for taking us in the minibus.



Another term down and we can't believe we are on the last term of this year! The PTFA have some great things planned in for you to celebrate the end of the current school year!



Some key dates we are involved in / running are:

**Sports day - June 19th** - Did you know we supply the ice lollies to cool down all the athletes?

**Sponsored Glow Stick Party** - Week starting June 30th in PE - an event we host to raise more funds for the school

**Summer Fair - July 11th** - join us for an evening of fun, games and food!

In order to raise awareness and to explain to the children to the work of different emergency services, the whole school took part in assembly run by the Midlands Air Ambulance.



We need your help and support to make the PTFA events possible! We are looking for: Volunteers (to help with summer fair), Raffle Prizes (perfect way to promote your business within the community) and we are still looking for a food truck to serve at our Summer Fair!

If you can help with any of the above please do get in touch at

In addition, the Year 6 children attended a Leavers' Service at Gloucester Cathedral. This was a wonderful event when, with over 400 other children, we were able to reflect on our "family" of Church of England schools. The children enjoyed singing iSingPop songs and watching each school parade their banners around the cathedral. We also lit candles and considered how we each might "bring light" to our surroundings. It was a lovely event. Thank you, as ever, to Cheltenham College for providing minibuses to take us there and back.

