



NEWSLETTER No. 18

July 2024

Dear Saint John's families,

The end of a summer term in a primary school is always busy and we have been able to enjoy many amazing and exciting events over these final weeks of the year.

Some highlights:

Various year groups have been playing cricket and rounders on a Thursday afternoon at the Cricket Ground and we have been making the most of being outside in our various spaces: playground, outside classroom, front garden and the new play area for our youngest classes.

The **Wildlife Trust** visiting and spending time in our front garden, improving it and helping our children know about the nature we have right on our doorstep!

Year 5 went to **SkillZone** to understand a little more about the jobs and responsibilities which come with growing into adulthood. Some really good learning was achieved there.

Classes went to the **Cheltenham Music Festival** with opportunities to listen to music in the Town Hall and then engage in some musical workshops.

Reception's **Pirate Day** was a tremendous success with the children putting on a costume and participating in lots of pirate adventures. They love being outdoors!

The **Key Stage Two** show: this was a wonderful demonstration of skills and engagement with every child in Years 3 to 6 having the chance to take part, acting and singing. The Year 6 pupils took the lead and we enjoyed seeing them take on different characters, set the scene for each moment in history and negotiate to the audience responses! A huge thank you to Mr Jones and the rest of the Key Stage Two team for all the work that you put in to make this happen. Well done to all of the children.

I want to make special mention of the PTFA funds which go towards the costs of trips out and visitors in; we would not be able to offer these without this financial support.

Our **Leavers' Service** was beautiful. There were some lovely moments, with the choir singing their two songs and then the whole school singing Brighter Day and We Are Not Alone! The Year 6 were presented with various items to remember Saint John's: one of our leaves, a book for pupils and staff to sign, a holding cross (presented by a representative of the Gloucester Diocese) and a Bible. The Bibles were bought by individuals who are part of the St Luke's congregation, one for each pupil in Year 6, with a name plate in the front of the Bible. We hope that each of these items will remain with the children as they face the future, reminding them that they are not alone.

Year 6: we will be thinking of you as you leave Saint John's and as you start the next step of your journey. We hope that you settle smoothly into your secondary school and are able to make friends quickly. We will miss you and we wish you all the very best.

In all that you do, we encourage you to:

- Learn
- Reflect
- Live

The term ends on Friday 19th July at 2pm and we hope that you will ensure that all your children's belongings go with them.

Next term starts on Wednesday 4th September, with the gate opening at 8.45am.

Please use the holidays to ensure your child has the right uniform: grey shorts/trousers/skirts/dresses, yellow t-shirt and blue cardigan/jumper (with logo) with black school shoes and black socks. No summer dresses please.

Have a really wonderful summer holiday! We look forward to seeing everyone in September!

Mrs Beevers



Written by Sharon Morrow TA



Reception Class have been celebrating the end of a wonderful first year in school with a 'Pirate Fun Day!' The children made hats, decorated pirate cakes, took part in some pirate arts and craft, plus sung pirate songs. They also played 'pin the eye patch on the pirate', played with swords and no party fun day is complete without ice cream! What an amazing day! This week, the children also chose to have the apparatus out for their final PE lesson, as it was their favourite PE area of learning. It was lovely to see how the children's confidence has grown with jumping and balancing since they last had the apparatus out. Have a lovely Summer!



As part of the work they have been doing on non-fiction texts, **Year 1** created their own information page. The children chose a subject that really interested them and these varied from football to dinosaurs, to flowers and plants as well as animals. During Maths, the children have been learning to tell the time to the nearest hour. They have been learning the days of the week and the months of the year.



During Science, **Year 2** have been learning where plants come from and what they need to grow well. The children planted beans to test out what they have learnt. During DT, the children made marsupial hand puppets using running stitch. This was linked to their Geography topic about Australia.



Year 3 loved their final session with Rosie from Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust. The children planted their own seeds and enjoyed presenting the card that they had made for her. During PE, they have been learning how to bat in rounders and are ready for their tournament. They have also brought their first school project in and the quality of these was outstanding. They are really looking forward to showing other classes!



As a follow up to their recent Robinswood Trip, **Year 4** had a nature session in the school garden run by the Wilderness Centre. The children created nature rainbows where they collected items to match colours and learnt how bees pollinate flowers. Some of the class enjoyed the last session at the Cricket Ground, playing a game of rounders with Year 5, and the rest of the class enjoyed tea, cake and games at the Creative Age Project.



Year 5 children enjoyed a visit to SkillZONE - a purpose-built safety education centre in Gloucester - where they learnt about making safer choices in different situations. At the centre, the children participated in the following scenarios: Fire, 999, Road Safety, Railway & Level Crossing, Water Safety, Dark Alley, Park and NetZONE: internet safety. The class were awarded a certificate for scoring over 90% in SkillZONE's Safety Quiz at the end of the visit. They also enjoyed a trip to Cheltenham Music Festival to attend 'Concert for Schools' and took part in various music workshops.



Year 6 enjoyed a session in our front garden with Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust. The children spent time investigating some wildlife items that they might find out and about and tried to identify as many as they could. The children learned about pollination and the important pollinators that we may have in our gardens, before playing a fun pollinating race. On Thursday, they went to the Concert for Schools and Explorer Workshops at the Town Hall as part of the Cheltenham Music Festival. After listening to a full orchestra playing some familiar classical music, they spent time in workshops having a go with percussion, string instruments and brass instruments.



The KS2 children put on an amazing show on Tuesday morning. Thank you to the Year 6 children and staff for their hard work to bring it all together.





The KS2 Drama Group put on a show for the rest of the school.





We said a fond farewell to the Year 6 children in a service at St Luke's Church.

We also said goodbye to four members of staff - Mr Edwards, Miss Taylor, Mrs March and Miss McLeod.







What an amazing year we have had supporting the school, classes and teachers and we couldn't have done it without all your support! We want to say

THANK YOU for everything you have done to help us achieve such amazing events, some great experiences and the money raised gets cycled back into the school, of course!

The Summer Fair was a booming success and we raised £1034! It was great seeing so many parents and families from the Saint John's community supporting their school and having so much fun.

If you would like to get involved next year, please do get in touch

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as we would love to see you and hear your ideas. Our AGM meeting is on Thursday 19th September and we would love to have you there.

Again, thank you, for such a great year and we hope everyone has a good, restful summer. See you in September for more fun!

