



# NEWSLETTER No. 2

September 2025

Dear Saint John's families,

As ever, it has been a lovely week of seeing children settled in classes, being ready, respectful and responsible. We have continued to think about what we do to ensure "we all flourish" and classes have some great displays of our school vision and values. Older children have also thought about the 5 Cs:

Community, Caring, Challenge, Citizenship and Curriculum. These are all key elements that we think about when we consider what Saint John's is like and it has been great to review our vision and values during these first weeks of a new year.

I have had the opportunity to visit a number of our nurseries: our children come from many different places, with some quite small playgroups and other very large nurseries. Staff have been very welcoming and keen to hear about Saint John's; many of them know our school well as they have sent children over many years, sometimes decades! We will be inviting the nurseries to events at school and provide opportunities for parents/carers to visit Saint John's. If you know any families who are looking at primary schools and would like to know more, please do ask them to contact us via the school office.

I have also been in discussion with both Cheltenham College and Cheltenham Ladies' College about our partnerships, with their students spending time in our classrooms and these schools offering our children new and exciting opportunities, alongside our regular arrangements for swimming and Forest School. We are also looking at trips this year with visits to the Everyman Theatre, Literature/Science/Music Festivals and possibly even a whole school trip! Connecting with our local community is also important; please do look at the St Luke's Harvest Festival and I know there is a Fairview Fireworks Party on Friday 7th November at the cricket club: [www.cheltenhamcc.co.uk](http://www.cheltenhamcc.co.uk)

During this academic year, we will have a visit from the SIAMS inspectors. The inspection is for Church of England schools; our last one was before Covid. The inspectors consider different aspects including the teaching and learning and the curriculum for Religious Education (including various faiths, not just Christianity) and they will be interested in our "assemblies" when we meet for Collective Worship together. Our Saint John's focus for this is:

Learn Reflect Live

The emphasis being on not just learning with our heads, but also reflecting in our hearts and then living values in our lives. We will also be asked about our culture and how we encourage responsibility, justice and how we ensure that we are all treated well. If you would like to know any more about the inspection, please do contact me. It would be brilliant to have a group of parents/carers who would be prepared to come and chat with the inspectors about Saint John's.

Finally, we are aware of our Year 6 pupils thinking about secondary schools for next year, with visits to local schools happening throughout this month and with final applications being made by the end of October. It is an important time of decisions and again do be in touch for any advice or guidance.

School dates to remember are:

**Friday 10th October:** School disco at 6.30pm for all year groups; Reception parents must stay for the event.

**Thursday 23rd October:** Celebration of Learning at 9.30am at Highbury Church, GL52 6DT (walkers pls!)

**Friday 24th October:** Inset Day so no school for children with term finishing at 3.15pm on Thursday 23rd October.

Let's hope for a sunny weekend so that we can enjoy this wonderful Autumnal weather!

Mrs Beevers



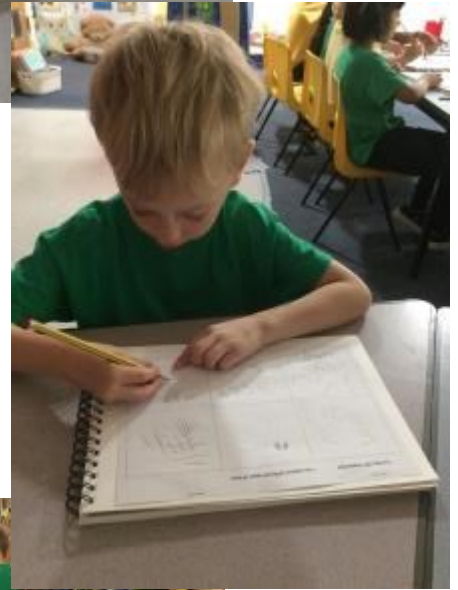
Written by Sharon Morrow TA



The **Reception** children have settled into their new routines, attending worship with the rest of the school and having lots of fun lessons. They absolutely loved their first messy play session - splashing with the water, painting the fence, blowing bubbles and digging in the mud! The children have also started to learn their phonic sounds for reading and in Maths they have been sorting, matching and finding the odd one out in a set. Plus, they have been spending lots of time enjoying the outside play area, riding the bikes, scooters and cars!



**Year 1** have had a busy couple of weeks. As part of their writing unit of work, the children made houses for the Three Little Pigs using a range of construction. The aim was to make the houses as strong and stable as possible. In maths, the children worked in pairs to organise equipment in different ways. They were organised according to colour, size and shape. During art, the children investigated different ways to draw lines. They looked at the work of artist Bridget Riley for inspiration.



**Year 2** have been enjoying learning about Florence Nightingale in History. The children have explored when she lived and have discovered what inspired her to become a nurse. We were particularly impressed with their understanding of chronology, as they confidently ordered significant historical figures on a timeline. The children have also had the exciting opportunity to explore artefacts related to the history of nursing, thanks to our Wilson Museum box. This hands-on experience really brought the past to life. Last week, the children also enjoyed their first Forest School session. The children had a wonderful time playing in nature and discovering all sorts of minibeasts in the outdoor environment.



In Year 3, the children have been exploring the wonderful world around us during RE, taking time to notice and appreciate the beauty in our everyday surroundings. In English, the children have begun learning their "How to wash a woolly mammoth" instructions, having great fun exploring the steps and actions needed to tackle such a tricky task!



**Year 4** enjoyed their trip to The Wilson Museum. They took part in several activities to learn about Cheltenham's history, with a particular focus on how Cheltenham's architecture has changed over time. During the workshop, they learnt how to use census documents, explored a range of artefacts and even got to dress up in Georgian costume. The learning continued on the way back to school as they spotted lots of Georgian architecture during their walk!



**Year 5** have been using gattegno charts to help them with place value work in maths. These charts are useful when using powers of ten or thinking about a value that is a certain amount more or less. Using counters, children can visually build the numbers, finding patterns and rules to aid understanding. They have also been learning to write direct speech using accurate punctuation. The children had fun using a silly song that helped them remember the tricky structure of direct speech.



**Year 6** have been immersing themselves in life during the Victorian era. They began by handling a range of Victorian artefacts, carefully examining each one to work out what it might have been, who would have used it, and for what purpose. From this, they drew generalisations about what life was like during Victorian times. In their following lesson, the children explored the expansion of the British Empire. Using atlases, they mapped how the Empire grew throughout the Victorian era. They then considered different perspectives by sorting statements about whether the Empire was beneficial for everyone, before forming and justifying their own opinions.





What a great start to our fundraising year with the bake sale we hosted on Monday. With everyone's support we raised £61! Thank you to everyone who donated time or baked goods and we hope you all enjoyed your tasty treats!

Did you know we also sell preloved uniform? If you have uniform you would like to donate please do get in touch. Here is the link if you'd like to purchase:

<https://uniformerly.co.uk/search-listings/?q=&c=1237>

Dates for your diary:

**Tuesday 7th October** - PTFA meeting at The Strand 7pm - Join the PTFA members for a drink and a chat about upcoming events and how to further help the school

**Friday 10th October** - First School Disco of the year

**Saturday 6th December** - Christmas Fair

Hope to see you there!

*You are warmly invited to our*

**HARVEST FESTIVAL**

**FEAST OR FAMINE?**

*Discover the God who provides*

9:30am - BBQ Breakfast  
10am - All Age service

**5TH OCTOBER**

Donations for  
Cheltenham Foodbank  
gratefully received

The poster features the St Lukes logo at the top right, which includes a house icon and the text 'St Lukes Rooted and Flourishing'. The background is a light blue color. There are detailed line drawings of harvest produce: a large pumpkin on the right, a corn cob on the left, and a stalk of wheat at the top right. The text is a mix of bold sans-serif fonts and elegant cursive script.