



## NEWSLETTER No. 3

October 2025

Dear Saint John's families,

It has been a busy, busy term. I think it has also been the longest term that I have ever experienced in 30 years of teaching: 8 weeks in the Autumn Term is tough for children!

However, we have completed the term brilliantly. I am very proud of all the children and all that they have achieved in their learning, academically, emotionally, in relationships - in every area of school life.

It has been a real privilege to lead the school and Wednesday's inspection provided me with the opportunity to "show case" what we do at Saint John's. Although the official report will not be published for a few weeks, I am allowed to say that the inspector was pleased with what she saw and experienced and the other external advisor who joined us at the end of the day made many positive comments to me about the feedback from the inspector.

The groups of children who spoke to the inspector, with no adults present to prompt or guide, were incredibly mature and articulate, commenting on their learning with huge enthusiasm. They said that they knew who their trusted adults were, reeling of a list of people who they would turn to with a worry.

Those parents who offered up their time to meet the inspector seemed equally positive and I received a number of heart-warming emails that I was able to share with the inspector.

Finally, the staff work tirelessly at school. Anyone walking through town early in the morning will note how many are here at the crack of dawn; many of us arrive in the dark at the moment. We have a terrific team and I hope that each of them has a really relaxing half term; it is well-deserved!

I hope that families feel well-informed with all the wonderful photographs and information that are posted on Dojo. To make things a little easier, I have "given up" the second part of this page so that we can keep an updated list of dates for reference. We aim to keep to these dates, but there are occasions when dates or timings have to change so please keep an eye on these when they come out every fortnight.

Have a great half term! Mrs Beevers

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

**Friday 24th October:** Inset Day - no school for pupils

**Tuesday 11th November:** Remembrance Day

**Friday 14th November:** Children in Need

**Friday 28th November:** Open Classrooms & Tea with Mrs B plus then a **late finish (4.30pm)** as the whole school are going to the Everyman for the pantomime

**Saturday 6th December from 1-3pm:** Christmas Fair

**Tuesday 9th December in the afternoon:** Infant Nativity at Highbury

**Tuesday 16th December at 2pm:** Christmas Service at St Luke's Church

**Friday 19th December:** School finishes at 2pm

**Monday 5th January:** Inset Day - no school for pupils

**Wednesday 11th February at 9.30am :** Celebration of Learning at Highbury

**Friday 23rd January at 6.30pm:** PTFA Disco

**Thursday 19th March at 9am:** Open Classrooms

**Thursday 26th March at 2pm:** Easter Service at St Luke's Church

**Friday 27th March: School finishes at 2pm**

**Monday 13th April:** Inset Day - no school for children

**Week commencing 20th April:** parent consultations

**Monday 4th May: Bank Holiday – School closed**

**Friday 15th May at 6.30pm:** PTFA Disco

**Friday 22nd May at 9.30am:** Celebration of Learning at Highbury

**Friday 22nd May:** School finishes at 3:15pm

**Mon 8th June at 2.15pm:** Open Classrooms and a talk from the police - really important to join us if you can!

**Thursday 18th June:** Sports Morning

**Wednesday 15th July:** Y6 & KS2 Show at Highbury

**Wednesday 15th July:** Leavers' Disco (time tbc)

**Thursday 16th July at 2pm:** Leavers' Service:

**Friday 17th July: School finishes at 2pm**

Written by Sharon Morrow TA



Well done to all of the Reception children for a fantastic first half term in school. They have made new friends, learnt new skills and are happy and settled.

This week, we have been reading the story of 'We're going on a bear hunt', learning the repeated pattern phrases and looking at the different settings. The children loved making a collage map of the journey from home to the bear's cave.

In Maths, we have been learning to subitise which is the instant recognition of numbers in a pattern eg dice patterns etc. We also had some friends from Year 5 help us with our work.

The children are thoroughly enjoying their messy play sessions, running water down drainpipes, cooking in the mud kitchen and digging in the mud. They especially seem to enjoy jumping in the mud puddle!

Have a lovely half term break!

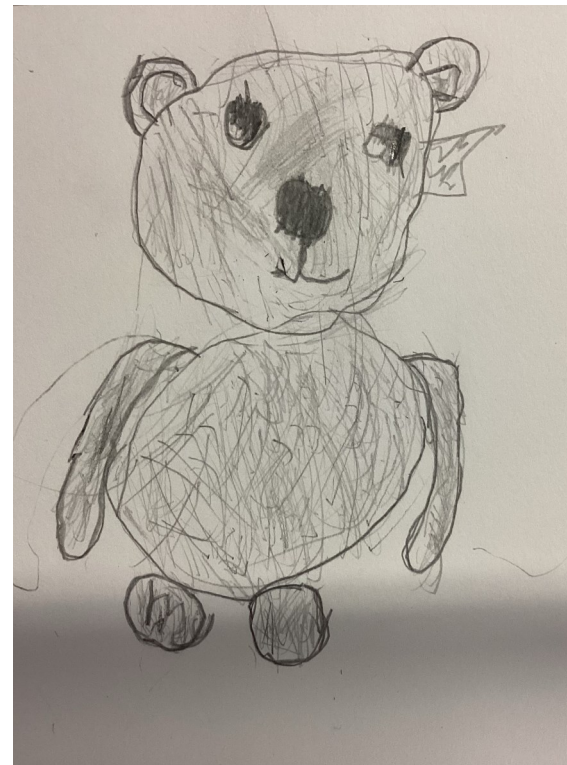
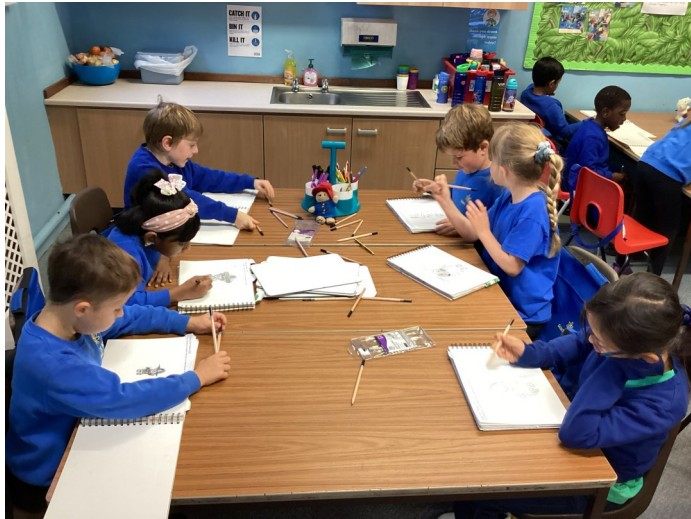


At the end of our **Year 1** drawing unit of work in art, the children produced some great self-portraits in the style of the artist Paul Klee. They worked hard to include the skills they had learnt.

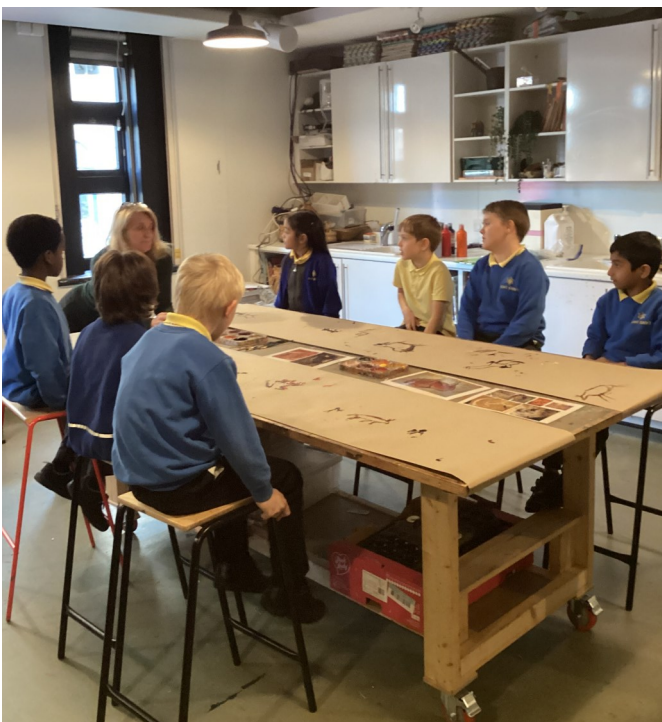
The children also enjoyed working with their maths partner to investigate number bonds to 10 using the 'part whole' method.



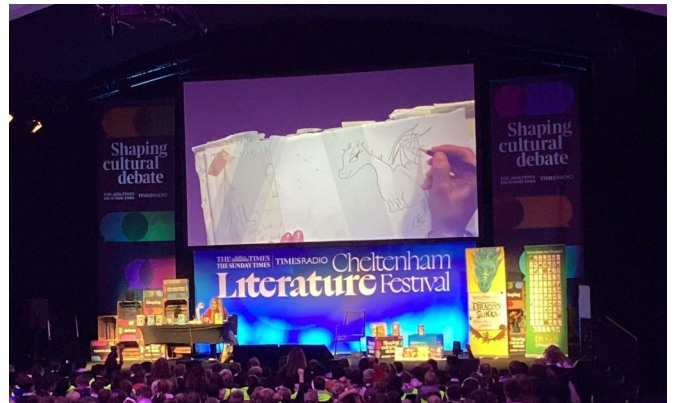
In Art, Year 2 have been learning about tone and texture. We looked at artwork by two amazing artists – Käthe Kollwitz and Saeed Akhtar – and talked about how they used light and dark tones in their work. The children then used what they had learned to create their own detailed observational drawings, focusing on different tones and textures. We were very impressed with their fantastic artwork!



Year 3 have been historians this week and went on a school trip to The Wilson Art Gallery for a Stone Age workshop. We were able to hold real life Stone Age artefacts, such as an axe and a flint knife. We also developed our prehistoric paintings and made clay jewellery!

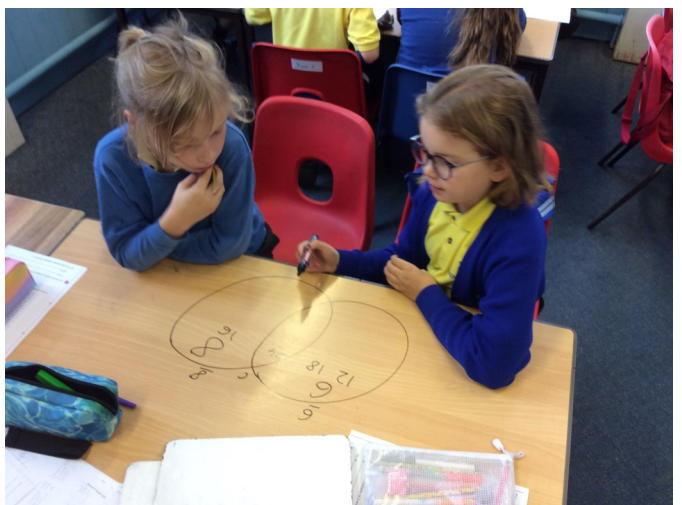
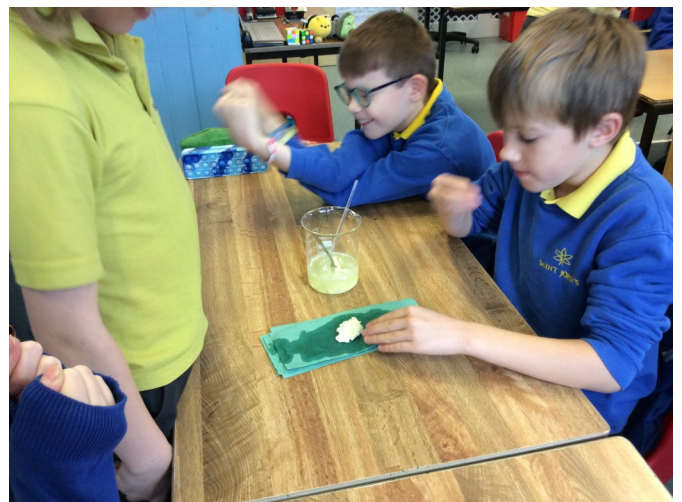


Year 4 enjoyed a fantastic trip to the Cheltenham Literature Festival. They had the exciting opportunity to see Cressida Cowell who is the author of the much-loved 'How to Train Your Dragon' series. She spoke about her new book, Dragon School, and shared fascinating stories about her journey to becoming an author. The children were amazed to learn that she also illustrates her own books and she even gave a live drawing demonstration. A particular highlight was discovering how to understand and speak a little bit of dragon language! Cressida talked about the importance of reading and Year 4 are looking forward to reading one of her books as their next class novel.

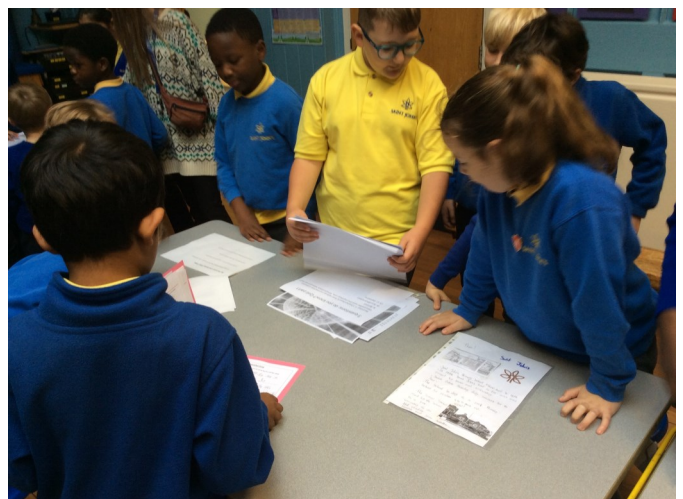


Year 5 have been learning about common factors in maths. We have been using Venn diagrams to help us identify these common factors.

During our guided reading sessions, the children have been listening to Tom Percival read his book *The Invisible*. We used this book to help us with our comprehension and it also initiated some interesting discussions about how we view other people within our society. To finish our science unit on properties of materials, we looked at reversible and irreversible changes. We observed how bicarbonate of soda and vinegar reacted together, as well as the process of curdling.



Year 6 enjoyed a Victorian-themed school day as part of their current History topic. The children took part in the style of lessons experienced by Victorian children - handwriting, arithmetic and an object lesson - as well as looking at maps that showed how the local area and school buildings have changed since 1867. We also enjoyed sharing our projects with other year groups.



## Our Celebration of Learning

We had a wonderful time this morning, celebrating the learning that our children have achieved this term.

Thank you to the many family members and carers who joined us to walk to and from the church; it was great that others joined use for the presentations in person or online.

It was the biggest crowd we have ever had and it was lovely finishing with a song called, "Friends for Life".

What a brilliant end to Term 1 - well done, everyone!



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>

Both preloved uniform and lost property will be available at the end of term.



Do remember:

## Saturday 6th December - Christmas Fair

Hope to see you there!

St Lukes  
Cheltenham  
**LIGHT PARTY!**  
Friday 31st October, 3:30-5pm

For babies, young children & their adults

Join us to celebrate the light of Jesus!

Stories, crafts, games and more!

The poster has a dark blue background with a string of yellow lights at the top. The text is in white and yellow. There are three colorful stars (orange, yellow, and purple) containing text. A small white icon of a house with a leaf is in the top right corner.

*Remembrance Sunday*  
Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November 10am

A service to remember those who served and sacrificed, and pray for peace in our world today

*'Greater love has no man than this'*  
~John 15:13

St Lukes  
Cheltenham

The poster features a cream-colored background with a border of red poppies at the top. In the center, there is a white cross with a cluster of red poppies at its base. The text is in a mix of black and cursive fonts. The St Lukes Cheltenham logo is in the bottom right corner.