



NEWSLETTER No. 5

December 2025

Dear Saint John's families,

The Christmas term is such a joy, with so many fabulous activities and events; it is a time when we can celebrate time with family and friends, as well as learning about the message of Christmas.

The infant performances of "Bundle of Joy" were brilliant with all of the children taking part, singing songs and speaking aloud in front of the audience. With a wave of chicken pox in school, there were a number of children who had to step into a role with only one hour's practice! So, well done, everyone; it was a memorable production.

We also enjoyed our Christmas Service at St Luke's Church, with readings and prayers by the Worship Team and our "dancers" leading from the front and making sure we all joined in the various carols and songs.

Our Saint John's Choir have been performing in different places this year, including a public Community Carols in mid-December at St Luke's. It was a beautiful moment listening to them; they were as good as the adult choir who followed.

Finally, we had our Christmas Fair. It was a huge success and raised an incredible amount of money for school. Thank you, as ever, to the PTFA for all their hard work!

We wanted to inform you of two areas of support for families, particularly during this season:

Firstly, Gloucestershire Bundles help local families by giving bundles of clothing, toiletries and certain equipment, especially at Christmas, including useful, new presents (e.g. pyjamas, underwear, toys) for children. Families have to be referred and school is one of the agencies that can do this. If this is something of interest, please speak to Mrs Beevers, Mr Vaughan or Mrs Kimber, send an email to head@st-johns-pri.gloucs.sch.uk or visit www.gloucestershirebundles.org

Secondly, below is the Winter Edition of All About Family magazine, giving your parents valuable information:

<https://allabout-family.co.uk/national-magazine/>

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Friday 19th December: School finishes at 2pm

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

Friday 23rd January at 6.30pm: PTFA Disco

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

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 pupils

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

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

The children have enjoyed finishing off the term with "parties" and games, along with completing their learning in different areas.

Everyone deserves a restful break, with a chance to rest and relax and we hope you have a WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Come back safe and sound in January.

Take care, Mrs Beevers



Written by Sharon Morrow TA



The children loved showing their Nativity Play to Nurseries, Key Stage 2 children and of course, to their families last week! It was a long day, but we were so proud of their behaviour and their total enjoyment. Well done, everyone!

This week, they have been continuing their learning about different festivals and learnt about Hanukkah. They read the story about Sammy Spider watching the candles being lit on the Menorah, learning how a candle would be lit for the eight nights of Hanukkah. They read about the delicious food including doughnuts and potato latkes. Finally, the children learnt to spin dreidels. The excitement on the children's faces was amazing as they managed to spin more and more dreidels together!

We have had a lovely first term in school. The children have learnt many new skills, but most importantly have bonded so well as friends. Well done, children! Have a wonderful Christmas break and we look forward to hearing all of your news when we are back.

Merry Christmas!



In **Year 1**, the children worked with their Maths partners to investigate patterns. They used a range of objects to make their own patterns and challenged themselves by trying to come up with a three object pattern. As part of their Christmas work, the children made snowy city scenes. They imagined they were looking out of their bedroom windows across a busy town or city at night time.



In their dance lessons this term, **Year 2** have enjoyed developing new skills as they explored how to use space and move their bodies to express different moods, characters and feelings. Their learning was brought to life through a fun circus theme, where the children worked with a partner and successfully used counts of eight to stay in time with the music. In Geography, the children have continued their exciting journey around the world by learning about the continents and oceans. They researched each continent and confidently discussed the similarities and differences between them, showing great curiosity and enthusiasm for our world.



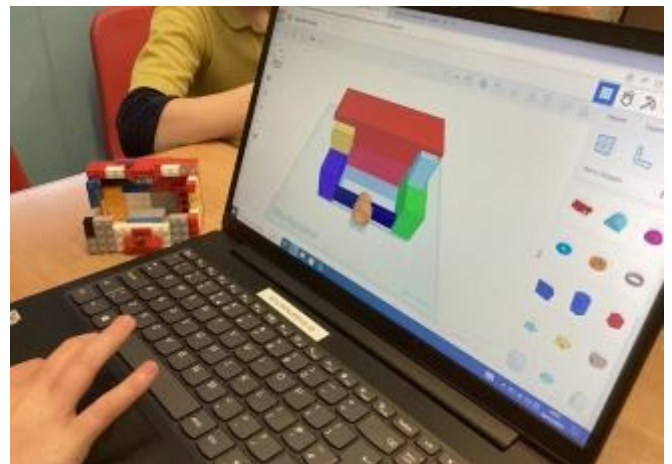
Year 3 have been learning about castles. The children have explored features of castles and their purpose e.g. curtain walls, tower, battlements, drawbridge, moat, turret and many more. Their task was to plan, design and make their own castle using these features. The children drew their castle in 2D format and then began cutting out and building 3D shapes from their nets. This helped them to see how 3D shapes form together. The final step was to build the castle. They used card to create the base, carefully folding and cutting to ensure it was structurally strong. Finally, they used some recyclable materials like cardboard and string to design the features that had been discussed.



Year 4 have been developing their map reading skills using OS maps. The children have learnt that maps are full of information and have been exploring how to read and interpret them accurately. They were particularly excited to identify the features of their local area! In PE, the children have been working incredibly hard in their hockey lessons and have shown a fantastic improvement in the key skills. Miss Sanders has been particularly impressed with their ability to find space when attacking and their interception of the ball when defending! Well done, Year 4.



Year 5 have been learning some basic elements of Rock 'n' Roll during their dance unit. With its lively and upbeat rhythm, the children have been creating their own routines using toe-heel walks, spins and hand jives. In DT, the children used TinkerCad, a 3D modelling tool, to build a 3D model of their monitoring prototypes that were built out of Lego earlier in the unit. The children have enjoyed using this software and quickly got to grips with it. In science, the children have been thinking about forces. They investigated the link between mass and the amount of gravity by heading out into the playground and drawing some of the celestial bodies that we find in our solar system to scale. They then found out the amount of gravity that exists on each body and looked for patterns - this helped them make conclusions. Although many planets followed what they expected, there were some surprising exceptions to the rule.



As part of their current geography work on Gloucester Docks, **Year 6** visited the site for hands-on experience of how the docks developed, declined and how now have been regenerated. They spent time learning about the River Severn, the Sharpness to Gloucester Canal and water safety.

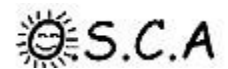


Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the PTFA!



We had an amazing time at the Christmas fair! Thank you to everyone for your support, your kindness and generosity! As a school we have raised £978 from the Christmas fair - an astonishing amount!

We hope you all have a restful break and we look forward to more events in the new year - starting with the Winter disco on January 23rd!



There are places available at OSCA after school club on a Thursday and Friday afternoon.

Please email Annette for details.

oscstjohns@yahoo.co.uk

Places can be booked for one off sessions or block booked for a number of weeks.

The whole school watched a wonderful adaptation of Charles Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol' by the Drama Adventures club and the school choir. A massive THANK YOU to Gemma Bolwel and Pippa Glins for organising it!



Christmas AT  **St Lukes**
Cheltenham

Sunday 7th December 10am Community Carols

Christmas Eve 4pm Crib service
7pm Traditional Carols & Communion

Christmas Day 10am Christmas Celebration

*He will be
our Peace*

