



# NEWSLETTER No. 6

January 2026

Dear Saint John's families,

The last newsletter, in December, feels a long time ago! Somehow the Christmas holidays have come and gone and we are now into a new year!

HAPPY NEW YEAR, everyone!

I hope that all of our families were able to enjoy some special time with family and friends, have a chance to rest and relax and perhaps even reflect on the year 2025, whilst also thinking about the year ahead: 2026!

For some reason, I am particularly struck this week by the photographs that staff have put together for this newsletter. *[As an aside, I would like to thank Miss Morrow publicly for her amazing work throughout the year as she puts these newsletters together: thank you!]* Perhaps it is the happy faces or perhaps it is the range of activities and learning that is taking place? Whatever the reason, I hope that families appreciate the chance to "see into" our classrooms, whether in the newsletter or on our Dojo app. It has also been fun popping into classes and catching children showing photos of trips they made during the holidays, maybe to sunnier climes, but more likely walking on Robinswood Hill or visiting Pittville or Sandford Park. We love families sharing photos via Dojo and it certainly helps to build the relationships amongst the children.

I think the other reason that I have been thinking about the photographs of our children is because, in January, I receive many emails from pupils requesting to spend their work experience here at Saint John's. These come from secondary pupils from all over Cheltenham, but many of them are ex-pupils wanting to return and spend a week here. What a testament to their experience of their own time at Saint John's: they want to return to their primary school, supporting in classes often with staff that they know. We are not able to offer places to everyone who asks, but for many it is a lovely opportunity to build up skills in preparation for sixth form, further education and the big wide world of jobs and careers. Look out for some familiar faces in the summer term!

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

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

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February at 9.30am :** Celebration of Learning at Highbury Church

**HALF TERM starts on Friday 13th February at 3.15pm**

**Mon 23rd Feb:** Term 4 starts at 8.45am

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March at 9am:** Open Classrooms

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm** Easter Service @ St Luke's

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March: School finishes at 2pm**

**EASTER HOLIDAYS start on Fri 27th March at 2pm**

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April:** Inset Day - no school for pupils

**Tuesday 14th April:** Term 5 starts at 8.45am

**Week commencing 20<sup>th</sup> April:** parent consultations

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May: Bank Holiday – School closed**

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

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May at 9.30am:** Celebration of Learning at Highbury Church

**HALF TERM starts Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May at 3.15pm**

**Monday 1st June:** Term 6 starts at 8.45am

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

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June:** Sports Morning

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July:** Y6 & KS2 Show at Highbury

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July:** Leavers' Disco (time tbc)

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July at 2pm:** Leavers' Service:

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July: School finishes at 2pm**

I hope that families are able to join us for the relevant whole school events; we try to arrange the days these happen to ensure everyone gets a chance to attend.

Have a lovely weekend, Mrs Beevers



Written by Sharon Morrow TA



**Reception** class have loved getting back into the routine of fun and learning after the Christmas break. The children have begun to learn about dinosaurs, in particular about Mary Anning, and have made some salt dough fossils and also some dinosaur models out of paper plates. In Maths, they have been writing numbers, plus counting groups of objects and finding one more than. This term, the children started Balanceability sessions, where they are learning to ride a bike without stabilisers. For those who can already ride, they will be perfecting their skills and riding about a course. It looks like another fun term ahead!



This term in **Year 1**, the writing unit of work is based on a monkey story. The children enjoyed spending a morning last week doing work about monkeys. They watched a video about them and used these facts to produce fact sheets. They also made monkey biscuits, did monkey mindful colouring and enjoyed working together to produce monkey pictures.



**Year 2** have had a great start to the new term. In Gymnastics, the children have explored how to make different shapes. They then worked within a small group to link shapes together in a sequence. In History, the children have started to learn about the life of Edward Wilson. They have been developing their understanding of chronology by placing key events on a timeline and discovering when Edward Wilson lived. This learning will come to life even more during our visit to The Wilson Museum next week, which we are all very much looking forward to.



**Year 3** have settled back into the new year brilliantly. In their first week, the children have been exploring our school value of Joy, thinking about who brings light into our lives and how joy can be shared with others. In RE, the children used Bibles to help them understand what it means to follow God and how faith can guide us in bringing joy and light into the world.



**Year 4** began the term as detectives, using their maths skills to decode secret messages. Their investigations led to the exciting discovery of a locked box hidden in the front garden! Unfortunately, the padlock code remains a mystery so there is plenty of speculation about what might be inside. In History, the children have started learning about Ancient Greece as they explore their big question: Would you rather be a Spartan or an Athenian? They enjoyed sketching artefacts and making predictions about their purpose. Well done to Year 4 for such a fantastic start to the term!



In **Year 5**, the children have started their new writing unit using the science fiction novel *War of the Worlds* as inspiration. To get to know the story quickly, the class performed a drama activity and acted out the main plot. They will use this novel to develop their own ideas over the next few weeks and write their own science fiction work. The children have already been doing some gymnastics and developing their use of body tension and balance to create a sequence of movements that show a range of shape. In Art, the children have had a go at a continuous line drawing that was then used as a base to create a poem portrait all about joy.



To provide inspiration for their poetry work, **Year 6** spent a very creative afternoon designing and making 'relief' style doors from plasticine. The children had to think about symbols and designs that would imply what was behind the door rather than it just being a normal door. They will use their designs to create poetry that uses figurative language to create images in the reader's mind.



Happy New Year and welcome back! We will be starting off the year with our Winter Disco on January 23rd 6:30 - 8 pm! Hope to see you there! If you'd like to help out with the disco please let us know. We will also be having a super-fun sponsored event at the end of February time so keep your eyes peeled for some more information soon!



# School Disco

January 23rd 6:30pm - 8pm

**Tickets £3 per child at the Door**

**Reception Kids must be accompanied by  
an Adult**

**Remember to bring change for stalls and  
tuck shop**

**No mobile Phones**





St  
**Lukes**  
Rooted and Flourishing

## **Regular Services**

### **Sunday 8am Communion**

Spoken service with Bible reading, talk & prayers.

### **Sunday 10am Morning Worship**

Songs, Bible reading, talk & prayers with provision for children and young people. A chance to get to know others after the service each week.

### **Wednesday 11am Communion**

Quiet service with Bible reading, talk & prayers. Refreshments after the service on 1st Wednesday in the month.

#### **Contact us:**

Patrick Wheaton (Vicar)  
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# Christingle service

A service to come and  
receive God's blessing  
Make your own Christingle  
and join us for an  
opportunity to receive prayer

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> Feb**  
**10am at St Luke's**





Thursdays in  
term time  
10-11:30am

Come along for  
play, songs &  
stories!

Our warm and  
friendly group  
for babies &  
toddlers



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