



NEWSLETTER No. 7

January 2026

Dear Saint John's families,

January is often a "long month" with dark mornings and cold weather; I am sure we all know that people can feel low at this time of year. There is no doubt that working in a school ensures that there is "light" during the day, with the bubbly enthusiasm of young children and the perhaps more measured engagement of our older pupils! My heart is lifted each morning as we welcome children through the gates and then again when we meet for Collective Worship in the middle of the day. Singing our iSingPOP songs (at a good volume!) is a good way to get rid of any "blues" and I would encourage you to look these up on YouTube and have a good sing-a-long at home or in the car!

As ever, it has been a busy couple of weeks with the children enjoying different history topics and many of the classes participating in the drama sessions provided by Gemma Bolwell who also runs the Drama Adventures clubs. I thought it might be useful to provide a list of the clubs that are happening this term. A number are run by external providers and involve payment; some are free. Sometimes there are restrictions on numbers and age.

Monday: Language Club and Lucky Feet - Irish Dancing

Tuesday: Drama Adventures and Football Club

Wednesday: Drama Adventures (x 2) and Chess Club

Thursday: Choir and Judo

The details are on School Dojo - on 9th January - so scroll back to check out contact information. We also provide sessions at lunch time for TimesTables Rockstars or to catch up on homework.

Finally, I wanted to mention our charity connections: we want to build children's understanding of those in need and therefore, through the year, we talk about different charities. Next week, we will focus on the NSPCC for Number Day. Do look at their website: www.nspcc.org.uk

Have a good weekend, Mrs Beevers

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Sunday 1st Feb: Christingle Service at St Luke's 10am

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

We will need parents to walk with us to this event; please do let the class teacher know via Dojo if you can help!

HALF TERM starts on Friday 13th February at 3.15pm

Mon 23rd February: Term 4 starts at 8.45am

Thursday 19th March at 9am: Open Classrooms

Thursday 26th March at 2pm Easter Service @ St Luke's

Friday 27th March: School finishes at 2pm

EASTER HOLIDAYS start on Fri 27th March at 2pm

Monday 13th April: Inset Day - no school for pupils

Tuesday 14th April: Term 5 starts at 8.45am

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 Church

HALF TERM starts Friday 22nd May at 3.15pm

Monday 1st June: Term 6 starts at 8.45am

Monday 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



This week, Reception had the excitement of their first apparatus lesson for PE. The children absolutely loved climbing, sliding, crawling and jumping on and off the equipment! They also had a drama session led by Gemma Bolwell about their topic on dinosaurs. The children imagined they were Mary Anning, digging for fossils on the beach and finding the Ichthyosaur! They were totally engaged and had an amazing time. The children drew some dinosaurs, listening and following instruction from 'Draw along with Rob'. Rob Biddulph is an author and illustrator and has lots of drawing activities on YouTube. We thoroughly enjoyed learning how to draw a dinosaur and everyone was very proud of their results. They will be drawing more dinosaurs over the next few weeks! Here is the YouTube address if anyone would like to have a go at some!

<https://www.youtube.com/c/RobBiddulph72/videos>



Year 1 took part in a great Toys from the Past workshop at the Wilson Museum last week. The children got a chance to see a selection of dolls made from a range of materials including china, fabric and wax. Most of them were over 100 years old. They then had a chance to play with a selection of old traditional toys, which was great fun. At the end of the morning the children all made a traditional Victorian spinning toy called a thaumatrope.



Year 2 had a fantastic and memorable morning at The Wilson Museum, where they stepped back in time to learn all about the life of Edward Wilson. The children were fascinated to discover more about his incredible expedition on the Terra Nova alongside Captain Scott in the dramatic race to the South Pole. One of the highlights was learning about the clothing worn by the explorers - even trying on replica outfits themselves! In PE, the children have been developing their striking skills by aiming a ball at a target. They enjoyed learning how to hold a golf club safely and accurately, as well as exploring different levels of force to see how far the ball would travel. Great focus, enthusiasm and determination were shown by everyone!



In **Year 3**, the children have been transferring their Maths skills into our wider curriculum. In art, the children have been developing their observational drawing skills by using shapes to help them 'plan out' pictures. They have then looked at how they could use shading to add detail and depth into their work. They showed great focus and creativity when looking closely at objects and translating what they saw onto paper. In PE, the children have begun their gymnastics unit, where they have been exploring the different shapes, they can make with their bodies. They have been practising balance, control and teamwork; it has been lovely to see their confidence grow as they try new movements.



Year 4 enjoyed a fantastic drama workshop, led by Gemma, which explored a myth that the Ancient Greeks used to explain the seasons. Gemma was in role as the Goddess of Nature throughout and the children helped her to solve the mystery of Persephone's disappearance! They really got into character and created a brilliant performance at the end of the workshop. Thank you to Gemma for planning such an enjoyable morning and well done, Year 4, for such impressive drama performances!



Year 5 have been working on their balances in gymnastics, both symmetrical and asymmetrical. In pairs, they have been thinking of ways to link these balances to create a sequence. In Maths, the children have been learning formal written methods for multiplication and division. To round off their unit, the children played a game in teams where they tried to answer multiplication and division questions to claim a numbered square. If their number was selected by a random number generator, then they won the game. The children became quicker and more accurate with their calculations as the game progressed.



In Art, **Year 6** have been learning to draw a street scene in perspective, using a horizon line and a vanishing point. They discovered that by drawing objects smaller as they got closer to the vanishing point, they could create the illusion of depth and space.



On Monday and Tuesday last week, children across KS1 and KS2 participated in a Panathlon event with other schools. They took part in a number of activities, including Boccia Blast, Bean Bag Throw, Polybat, Kurling, Parachute Popcorn, Baseball, Flight Path and Bowling. They all represented our school fantastically and had a great time. Our KS2 team took home the gold medal and trophy!



We had the best first disco of the year and we hope everyone enjoyed it as much as we did! We raised a huge amount of money for the school, £566 to be exact! The next event we have lined up is the 'Pancake Flipping' sponsored event happening Monday February 23rd. Keep your eyes peeled for more info on that but we will be asking for volunteers and to borrow some frying pans! If you'd like to help out, please email us or catch us at the gate and let us know!



We have places available at after school club.

 S.C.A

1 on a Monday, 2 on a Thursday and 5 on a Friday.

If anyone would like to book any of these places, these can be one off sessions or permanent bookings, please email Annette_oscstjohns@yahoo.co.uk

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 1st Feb
10am at St Luke's

