



NEWSLETTER No. 8

February 2026

Dear Saint John's families,

We come to the end of the January term: probably one of the hardest terms for everyone. Well done for getting through: lighter mornings and evenings are on their way!

On Wednesday, we had one of our school highlights: the Celebration of Learning. These are special to Saint John's, providing an opportunity for families to see children on a stage presenting their learning. It is such a lovely chance for parents/carers to find out about topics learnt during the term, as well as seeing how well their children are developing the skills to speak in public. I was very proud of each class and all that they showed us.

Dates for your diary:

- Monday 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
- 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
- HALF TERM starts on Friday 22nd May at 3.15pm**
- Monday 1st June:** Term 6 starts at 8.45am
- Monday 8th June at 2.15pm:** Open Classrooms
- 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**

Keeping children safe:

There have been a couple of situations that have been slightly worrying regarding pupils before or after school and so we wanted to take the opportunity to raise these with families. In this way, we can avoid any unsafe situations for our children.

The school gate opens at 8.45am. We do not expect any children to be waiting ALONE before that time. If your child travels to school on their own, please talk to them about what time they should arrive at the gate. With the school gate being next to a car park, we are concerned for the children's safety, particularly without an adult to support them.

Please can we also ask that parents do not "send" their children to the gate from a distance, sometimes this includes walking across the car park on their own. Written permission is needed for a child in Year 5 or 6 to travel alone to school and those who are brought by an adult need to be brought to the gate itself. This is particularly important for our younger children who seem to be making their way to the gate with an adult quite a distance away.

Finally, if your child is attending an after-school activity, they need to be picked up by a parent/carer, unless written permission is sought from the person running the activity. Children cannot go home with another adult unless the school has been informed by the parent/carer beforehand. We have had situations where children have arranged to go home together without parental permission; we cannot allow this as it is not the best way to keep children safe!

If you have any questions around this, please do not hesitate to contact the school office for clarification.

I hope everyone has a good half term and is able to enjoy some rest and relaxation with friends and family. Do take advantage of the various activities available - go back through Dojo if you have not spotted them all.

Keep safe, Mrs Beevers



Written by Sharon Morrow TA



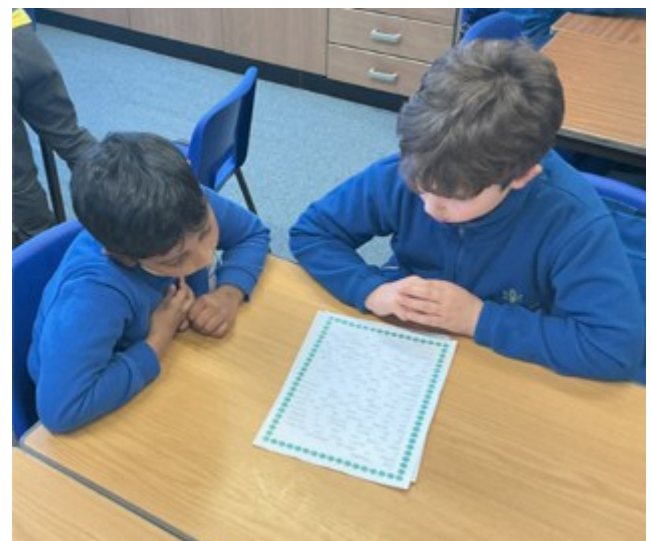
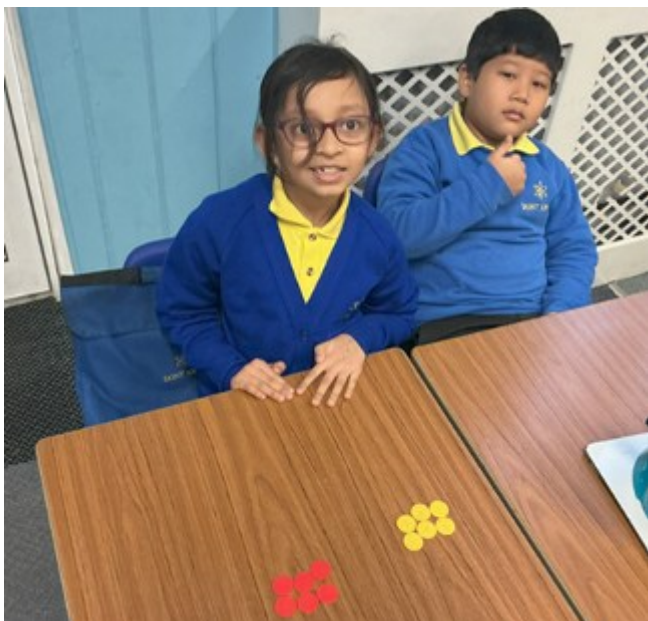
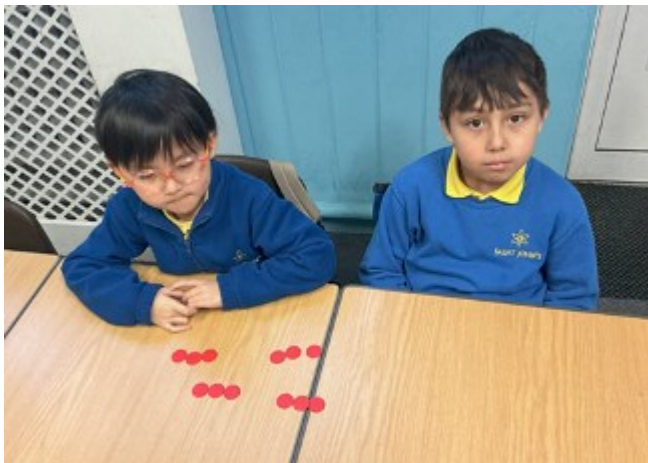
Reception class have been making the most of the bits of bright sunshine to play outside and blow away the winter cobwebs! The children have been learning to recognize numbers instantly, plus one more than and one less than. They have been representing these sums on a tens frame. All of the rain that we have had has made for great Messy Play sessions, with lots of splashing in the big muddy puddle as well as splashing in puddles in the playground! The children are doing so well with their Balanceability and are loving their Friday sessions. James, the instructor, is really impressed with their progress and listening skills! Well done, everyone!



As part of their Science work on Humans, **Year 1** carried out an experiment to see if they could identify types of tastes. The children tried five different types of food. Some they loved the taste of and some they were not so sure about! In their Writing unit of work, the children have innovated their modelled text - Monkey See, Monkey Do! has become Kangaroo See, Kangaroo Do! They have made up new actions to help them remember the structure of the story.



Year 2 have been busy exploring multiplication in Maths. The children developed their understanding of equal groups using counters, which then led on to writing repeated addition and multiplication sentences. In English, the children enjoyed writing recounts based on the text 'The Great Explorer'. They carefully edited their work before publishing it and then were enthusiastic about sharing their writing with the children in Year 4.



This week, **Year 3** children took part in the powerful drama of workshop by exploring the history of Apartheid in South Africa. Through role-play, discussions and reflective activities they developed their understanding of fairness, equality and the impact of discrimination. The workshop encouraged sympathy and thoughtful conversation - helping the children to consider how we can stand up for what is right and treat others with respect. Thank you, Gemma, for this powerful workshop.



Year 4 have enjoyed sharing their learning with other classes this week. They started by visiting Year 2 to talk about the writing process and to share writing with the younger children. The Year 2s loved our suspense writing! Year 4 also visited Year 6 to look their projects about the Windrush generation. They projects were so impressive and definitely gave Year 4 lots of ideas that they can use towards their own projects later in the year.



Year 5 have been developing their gymnastics further by using some apparatus to adapt their routines. As a group, they explored how they could show different levels, different balances and ways to travel between them. In Science, we were lucky with the weather and managed to enjoy some sunshine. This was helpful as the class were learning about sundials. Our enquiry involved finding out how these devices can be used not only to tell the time, but also to demonstrate the rotation of our planet.



Year 6 took part in a STEM K'nex challenge, where they had to design and build parts of an automated warehouse. The winning team, chosen for their teamwork and innovative design and build, will be going on to an inter-schools competition later on in the year. The children enjoyed bringing their Windrush projects into school and sharing them with each other and other classes. There was an amazing variety of different formats.



The whole school took part in the NSPCC's 2026 Number Day to fundraise for this fantastic charity. Thanks to your generosity, we raised £129 and the children had a lot of fun taking part in some number-based activities.

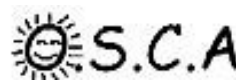


We are super excited for our Pancake Flip sponsored event the first day back after half term!



See below for details. We hope it is a lot of fun for all the students and raises a good amount of money for the school! If you would like to help out with this event please do message us. It will only take about an hour of your time!

We have places available at after school club on a Monday, Thursday and Friday. Please email Annette at oscstjohns@yahoo.co.uk for further information or to make a booking. These can be one off sessions or permanent places. We look forward to hearing from you.



THE GREAT PANCAKE FLIP



Sponsored event brought to you by the PTFA

On Monday February 23rd every student will get the opportunity to flip some pancakes (or tortilla wraps) in aid of raising money for the school! Students can either be sponsored per successful flip or just an amount from their families and friends

Sponsor forms will go out shortly with the option to gift aid where possible - please bring these back to school by Friday February 27th to be handed to a PTFA member at the gate or to the office

The class that raises the most money collectively will receive a prize!



SAINT JOHN'S

The whole school enjoyed a morning at Highbury Church for our celebration of learning.





