



# NEWSLETTER No. 9

March 2026

Dear Saint John's families,

I am writing this having spent the morning break playing with a couple of dogs, a dinosaur and a few Harry Potters! It is World Book Day and we have had the best turn-out of children representing book characters. Thank you to all the family members who have organised to dress the children up, often using clothes already in a wardrobe and sometimes drawing items on large pieces of card. Face-paints have also been very effective in creating characters.

There have been lots of different activities happening during the last few days: trips to Waterstones, two different authors speaking with the children, visits to another school and, of course, assemblies to celebrate and talk about books. It has been particularly interesting seeing the number of "real" people being represented, with the pupil holding a non-fiction, information book about that person. Others have found comics, notebooks or magazines of the superhero they wanted to be for the day! Throughout the day, children have been completing book reviews, discussing books they love, sharing with other year groups in our "Reading Together" session after lunch. Thank you to the staff for their hard work in putting these fun activities together. We love reading at Saint John's!

As well as World Book Day, we also had a Geography Day on Monday. What a great chance to become geographers and to understand the kind of jobs people who like geography might do. We had a visit from an environmental lawyer who talked about flood risks, a topic close to the heart of those who live near rivers in Gloucestershire!

We continue to encourage children to think widely about jobs and careers. It may seem a long way away for a primary school child but we want them to see the range of opportunities available in their future! I continue to plan for a "careers day" and will be contacting parents and carers to see who might be available to chat with our children about the work that they do. Watch this space!

### Dates for your diary:

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

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

**EASTER HOLIDAYS start on Fri 27<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm**

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

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> May at 6.30pm:** PTFA Disco

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

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

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June:** Term 6 starts at 8.45am

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June at 2.15pm:** Open Classrooms

**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**

### Please note:

We will have our Open Classrooms and Tea with Mrs on **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March at 9am** and we are looking forward to seeing many parents and carers at this event. It is such a lovely chance to come into the classrooms throughout the school and to see your child engaging in their learning. If you have a relative who is closely involved in your child's life, then please do bring a guest with you. If they need to come instead of you, then please inform the class teacher on Dojo.

On **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm**, we will celebrate with our Easter Service at St Luke's Church. Please do join us and even help with walking to and from church!

Have a lovely weekend, Mrs Beevers



Written by Sharon Morrow TA



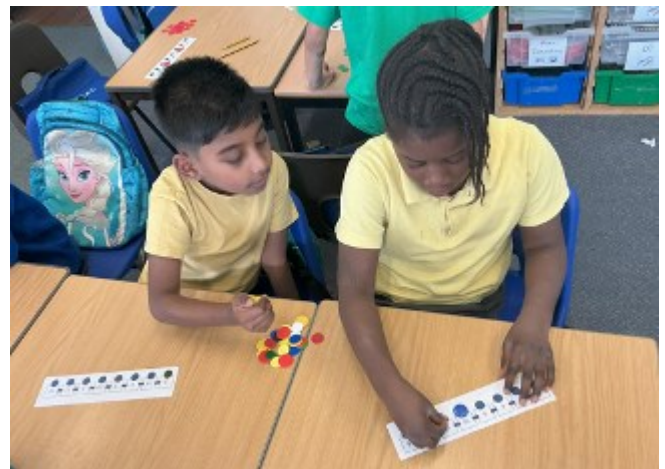
**Reception** have had a wonderful first week back after half term. The weather at the beginning of the week was warm and sunny, so the children made use of the garden. They were lucky to find a toad resting in the sun, which they were able to study before he was returned to the wildlife area and pond in the front garden. The children followed up their work on habitats last half term by making a bug hotel in their 'messy play' session. They were able to explain why they had added different materials and moved some worms and snails into their new home!



**Year 1** loved their first Forest School session this week. They played hide and seek, dug for treasure, swung on the swing and hunted for worms!



**Year 2** have made a fantastic start to Term 4. The children have been thoroughly enjoying their new DT project, where they have been exploring the stability of different shapes. They will use this understanding to design and make a chair for Baby Bear in the coming weeks. In Maths, the children have been strengthening their understanding of times tables through a range of fun and engaging games.



**Year 3** have had a very exciting week! The children became reporters after discovering that the Iron Man had apparently broken into their classroom – they were full of curiosity and asked fantastic questions as they investigated the scene and began writing their own newspaper reports. In PSHE, the children enjoyed taking part in circle time games, helping them build confidence, teamwork and respect for one another. In Maths, they have been using rulers carefully to measure the sides of shapes and calculate their perimeter, developing their accuracy and problem-solving skills. It has been a week full of imagination, collaboration and great learning!



**Year 4** have been busy learning about structures in DT. They explored what makes them strong and stable, thinking carefully about shape, support and balance. To investigate their ideas, they used cocktail sticks and plasticine to build and test different frameworks. They showed great resilience and fantastic problem solving skills throughout this challenging task. Their designs were very creative and will definitely come in handy when planning their final pavilion structure!



**Year 5** have been looking at Scandinavia in Geography. The children have been locating the countries and cities from this region. They will begin to explore the differences in climate and geographical features over the next few weeks. During Science, the children have investigated mixtures, creating their own using a range of substances and observing differences between them. In PE, the children have been playing dodgeball. They will practise some dodgeball skills over the coming weeks and bring these to their games over this term.



**Year 6** looked at the parts needed to make a simple tote-bag as part of their current DT topic. They learnt how to thread needles, tie knots and attach a handle to the panel of the bag. The children also took part in a workshop led by Laura Stevenson, an environmental lawyer, who talked to them about her role as well as discussing the effects of pollution. The children had to consider whether new laws should be passed - children under the age of 12 should not have access to devices, local journeys can only be made on public transport - they had to consider the law and justify their reasons.



# Mothering Sunday

AT  **St Lukes**  
Cheltenham

**Sunday 15th March 10am**

'Thanking God for those who love, nurture and inspire us'

*Find out more:*



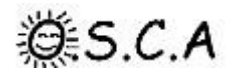
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http:// [www.stlukescheltenham.org.uk](http://www.stlukescheltenham.org.uk)



St Lukes Church



We have places available at after school club on a Friday. Please email Annette at [oscstjohns@yahoo.co.uk](mailto: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.

## WORLD BOOK DAY 2026!





**World Book Day  
2026**