



NEWSLETTER No. 5

November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well, we are at the end of November with just three weeks to go before the end of term!

We are starting to prepare for our Christmas service of celebration which will be live streamed from St Luke's Church on Tuesday 14th December in the afternoon. Each class will present a song or readings with the Year 6 pupils leading the performance alongside Rev Wheaton and me. It is a joy walking around the school listening to the voices of the children learning their songs and I have even seen a few Christmas decorations creeping into the classrooms. We have both a live and an online pantomime booked and have discussed parties in our staff meeting! The festive season is upon us!

The PTFA have kindly agreed to provide a Christmas tree for the children to enjoy and we will put one in the school entrance too, since we have so few visitors coming into school currently.

There are still Covid cases within the school. Please make sure that you take note of any symptoms and keep your child at home if they are showing any signs of Covid. Getting a PCR is key because this is the focus of the government—thank you to parents who have organised to do this. Informing the office is key as we have to keep a record of all cases.

Having said that, school feels “normal” in most instances, with some restrictions around lunchtime as we keep the children in bubbles in the hall when eating their lunch; sadly, we are still not meeting as a whole school for collective worship. I am hopeful that restrictions will be lifted in January.

There are some lovely photographs of children's activities in this newsletter. We hope you enjoy them! We have updated the website this week and it should go live shortly: watch this space!

Some staff news:

Tracy Cupit and Clare Meakin will be leaving us at the end of this term. We are very sorry to see them go and they will be sorely missed. Fortunately, we have been able to appoint Nathan Jones to take over in the Year 5 class from January. Nathan worked at Saint John's a number of years ago and so the staff will be joined by a familiar face and, of course, for those of you who have children in the top part of the school, you may know Nathan as the parent of Henry!

As our school expands and develops, we are ensuring that we have enough staff to provide for the children and you may see a number of adverts on the GCC website. It is hard seeing familiar faces go but exciting to be joined by new faces too.

Having spent some time with prospective parents over the last few weeks, showing them around the school, I have been told again and again about the wonderful atmosphere and ethos that Saint John's has and I am proud to be part of the team here.

There will be one more newsletter which we will send out right at the end of term so that you can see those key Christmas moments that your children have enjoyed in the lead up to the holidays!

A quick reminder of some dates:

Wednesday 8th December: Panto at St Luke's

Thursday 9th December: Santa & an online panto

Tuesday 14th December: Christmas celebration

Friday 17th December: last day of term, finishing at normal time

Wednesday 5th January: first day of the Spring Term

Have a lovely weekend, everyone!

Kind regards, Mrs Beevers



Written by Sharon Morrow TA



Reception have had a fantastic messy morning, exploring different textures and making water runs with drainpipes. They also loved dressing up as pirates, looking for treasure and walking the plank! Last week they took part in World Nursery Rhyme Week where they learnt a new rhyme a day or expanded their knowledge about old favourites. They found out that Incy Wincy Spider not only climbed the waterspout but in verse 2 he climbed trees and the snow made him freeze! The children loved singing the rhymes and it was an excellent way to promote speaking skills and early reading.

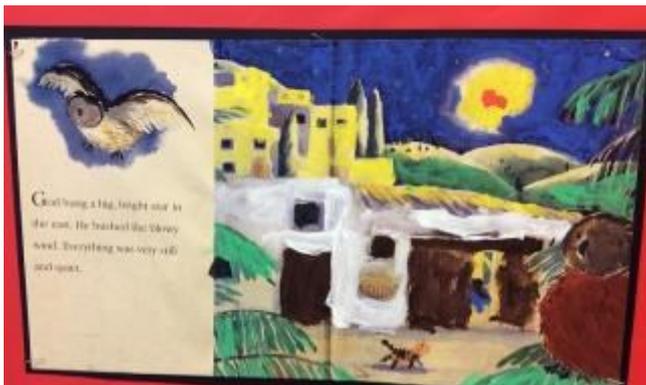
Year 1 have been looking at the properties of 3D and 2D shapes. They really enjoyed making 3D shapes such as cubes, cuboids and square based pyramids using marshmallows and cocktail sticks.



Year 2 have been learning about the meaning of Christmas. They have listened to the nativity story and discussed how important it is in the Christian calendar. They then used fine paintbrushes to paint and sequence the story. The children have also been learning about the gifts that were given to baby Jesus and comparing them to gifts that we might give to a new baby today. They are now learning a special song which celebrates the birth of Jesus and look forward to sharing it with others when we visit St Luke's church in December.



As part of Children in Need, Year 3 enjoyed playing a very spotty version of noughts and crosses.



As part of their RE work, **Year 3** have been learning about the Jewish festival Rosh Hashanah. The festival celebrates the start of the Hebrew New Year, during which apple is dipped in honey to represent a 'sweet' year ahead. The children enjoyed trying apples dipped in honey - it definitely got the thumbs up from the class for sweetness.



Year 4 have had a very busy couple of weeks. They have commemorated those who lost their lives during the War by writing poems and painting watercolour poppies. They have also used apples to practically explore how being unkind affects others, and created a fabulous 'kind words' flower for their anti-bullying display; Sofia created some amazing anti-bullying posters at home for us to display in class! They've been learning how to convert units of measurement so enjoyed an active maths lesson to embed their learning. Well done for all your hard work, Year 4!



Year 6 have been investigating the effect of Industrial Revolution on the people of Britain. They learnt how Britain changed from a rural country to a highly industrialised country with lots of negative and positive effects for people living during that era. They concluded that, despite a long list of negatives, the Industrial Revolution was beneficial for British people as it helped Britain become a wealthy and powerful nation.



Year 6 have also been exploring 'Crime and Punishment' during Victorian times. During the session, they had the opportunity to act as Victorian judges and pass judgements on cases such as theft of apples, pickpocketing, murder and forgery. Children felt that the Victorian justice system was not fair as some punishments were quite harsh. They also learnt how the invention of the camera helped police become more efficient at their job as it made it easier for them to catch criminals.

Victorian Court Files
Use the table to make notes about the punishments given for each case.

Case	Crime	Punishment (Including length of sentence)
A 1840	Stolen to the poor	Hard Labour (6 days) Prison with hard labour (10 years)
B 1845	Stolen a small bag to prison (10 years)	Solitary Confinement (10 days) Transportation to Australia
C 1872	Murder	Execution by hanging (death)
D 1858	Stealing	Hard Labour Solitary Confinement (10 days)
E 1840	Found in possession of stolen goods	Imprisonment (7 years) Transportation to Australia
F 1850	Bad language	Solitary Confinement
G 1850	Murder	Transportation to Australia Prison (10 years)
H		

Victorian Punishments			
Prison	Reformatory School	Public Whipping	Sent to the Army
Transportation to	Death by hanging	Hard labour	Money fine

Year 5 enjoyed a trip to Cadbury World, where they learnt about the Mayans and the history of chocolate.



BBC
**Children
in Need**

A big 'thank you' to everyone who helped to raise a fantastic £171.37 for this amazing charity.

I am sorry that we do not have photos of children receiving certificates this week—next week on video!