



NEWSLETTER No. 1

September 2026

Dear Saint John's families,

WELCOME BACK!

We have had a lovely start to the year, with the children settling in quickly and learning going full steam ahead! We have been getting to know each other and building relationships; these are key to children feeling safe and happy at school. It is clear that, it is only when they are safe and happy, that they will make the most of the learning experience!

Staff have been working hard to prepare for a new year and to ensure that their classrooms and resources are set up for the best learning environment. We hope that you will come into school on as many occasions as possible: open classrooms and parent consultations are important dates for your diary! In addition, please do come to the various performances and events during the year. It is a wonderful opportunity to see what your child has been doing and to meet staff and other parents.

Overall, there have not been many changes to staff, although there are a couple of new faces (Miss Snow and Miss Millin) who are with us to support our children. We have had to say goodbye to Mrs Charlesworth who is taking some time away from work currently, She will be missed.

We must say a big thank you to those who volunteer for both PTFA and governor roles. The PTFA do an amazing job: see the back page for the first events. I must also say another thank you to Bethany Taylor and Andy Bates for their brilliant work as governors for the last four years. We have two new governors starting this term: Sarah Allard and Isobel Laing. We are very excited to have them join our team. Please see a note from our Chair of Governors, Jenny Faulkner, at the back of the newsletter.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Monday 12th October: 2pm: Open Classrooms

Friday 23rd October: 9.30am Celebration of Learning at Highbury Church, GL52 6DT

Friday 23rd October: School finishes at 3:15pm

Friday 13th November: Children in Need (wear spots!)

Fri 27th & Mon 30th Nov: **SCHOOL CLOSED for INSET**

Saturday 5th December: Christmas Fair

Wednesday 9th December: 10.30am Nativity at Highbury

Tuesday 15th December: School trip to the Panto

Thursday 17th December: 2pm Christmas Service at St Luke's Church, GL53 7JJ

Friday 18th December: School finishes at 2pm

Monday 4th January: **SCHOOL CLOSED for INSET**

Friday 15th January: 6pm School Disco

Thursday 11th February: 9.30am Celebration of Learning

Friday 12th February: **School closes at 3.15pm**

Thursday 4th March: World Book Day (costumes!)

Friday 12th March: 9am Open Classrooms

Friday 19th March: **Red Nose Day (wear red!)**

Tuesday 23rd March: 2pm Easter Service at St Luke's

Thursday 25th March: Mad Hair Day (wear mad hair!)

Monday 3rd May: Bank Holiday—School Closed

Wednesday 26th May: 9.30am Celebration of Learning

Thursday 27th May: School finishes at 3.15pm (Fri = INSET)

Friday 11th June: Sports Day

Monday 21st June: 2pm Open Classrooms

Friday 2nd July: Summer Fair in the late afternoon

Wednesday 14th July: 10.30am Y6/KS2 Show at Highbury

Tuesday 20th July: 2pm Leavers' Service at St Luke's

Wednesday 21st July: **School finishes at 2pm**



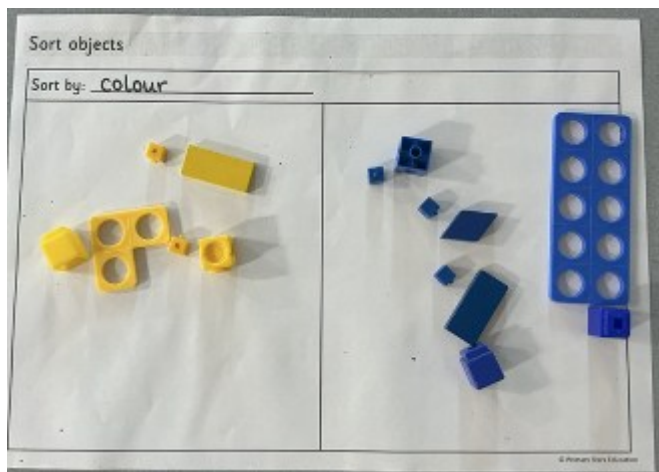
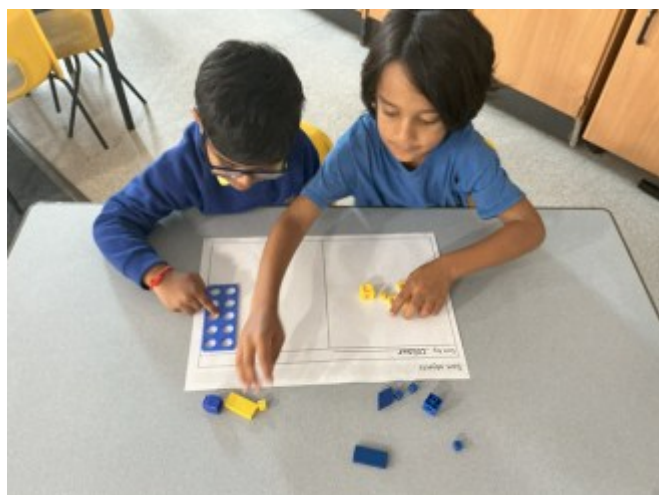
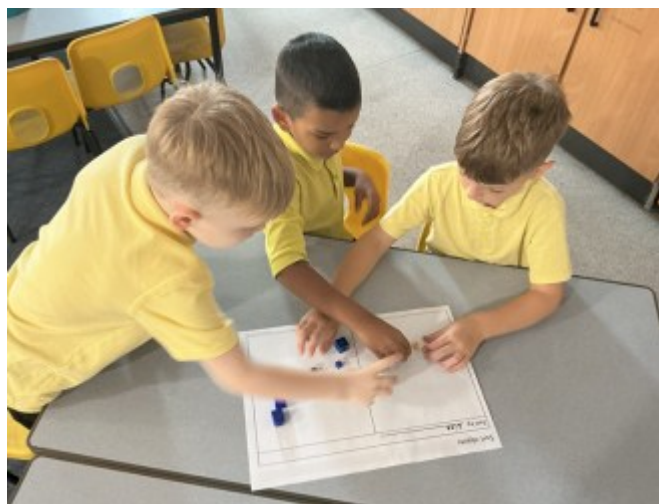
Written by Sharon Morrow TA



What an amazing first few days of school and a wonderful start to their new school adventure: our **Reception** children have settled beautifully into their new routines and have made new friends. They have enjoyed eating their lunches and playing outside in the sunshine! We are looking forward to another great year!



Year 1 have had a fantastic start to the school year! In English, the children have enjoyed listening to the story The Three Little Pigs. We talked about the different materials the pigs' houses were made from and discussed what makes a house strong, stable and sturdy. The children then had lots of fun designing and building their own houses for the pigs. In Maths, the children have been learning about sorting objects. They have worked hard to sort objects in different ways, including by size, colour and type. They have enjoyed explaining how they have sorted their objects and talking about their choices.



Year 2 have had a busy time back at school. We are working hard already! The children have spent time identifying some of the Year 1 common exception words they think they need to revisit and putting them into sentences, as well as adding actions to some parts of our pirate story. They have also drawn a self-portrait and completed some sessions of handwriting, using our new scheme: Kinetic Letters!



Year 3 have made a fantastic start to life in Key Stage 2 and have settled in really quickly! The children have been learning all about what it means to be Ready, Respectful and Responsible and how they can show these values every day. We have also been getting creative in Art, drawing self-portraits and creating colourful Dream Jars using watercolours. It has been a brilliant start to the year and we are so excited for all the learning still to come!



Year 4 have made a fabulous start to the year. The children spent some time focusing on our 3 Rs (Ready, Responsible, Respectful) and demonstrated these when they were challenged to complete the 'cup tower' activity. They made sure their teammates were ready, they were responsible with the equipment and they communicated respectfully with each other throughout the challenge. They have also been demonstrating their creativity by thinking outside the box. They were given a picture of a wave and had to turn it into a new picture. There were lots of fantastic ideas including a witch's hat, a pumpkin, a star, a shark, a whale, a monster and even a boat! Well done, Year 4.



Year 5 have had a great start to the year. We have played indoor and outdoor games to get to know each other and had lots of discussion about the year ahead. The children have made bookmark characters to use with their reading book. Using their creativity and imagination, a wide variety of animals, monsters and fun characters were created.



Year 6 have been developing their drawing skills by creating self-portraits using drawing pencils. The children focused on careful observation, accurate facial proportions and a range of shading techniques to create light, shadow and depth. It has been wonderful to see their concentration and attention to detail as they worked to produce realistic portraits.





Governor Spotlight:

Jenny Faulkner

(Chair of Governors)

Welcome to another school year! We have had our first PTFA meeting for the year and are very excited to bring some amazing events and fundraising opportunities so we can continue to support the children at Saint John's.

The PTFA team for the year is:

Chair is Tash (Year 3 & 6 parent),

John will be treasurer (Year 4 & 6 parent)

Amy will be secretary (Year 4 & 6 parent)

so if you have any questions about the PTFA they would love to help you!

Some dates for your diary:

The first disco will be on Friday 9th October

Christmas Fair is Saturday 5th December

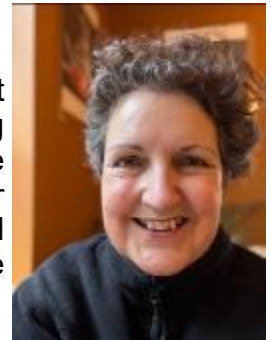
We cannot wait for the first Disco and welcoming you all there to dance with DJ Rossy! See you soon!

PTFA

Hi, I'm Jenny. I've been a school governor at St John's since last September, and the Chair of Governors since January.

Originally from Lincolnshire, I have lived locally in Cheltenham for over twenty years. Although my background is in music, I work in IT and I am currently working at the University of Oxford.

I'm passionate about education and ensuring that all children have the opportunity to fulfil their potential, so I'm delighted and honoured to be able to support St John's.



I can often be found at the school gates on Monday mornings, so please do come and say hello!



THE FAIRVIEW COMMUNITY IS RELAUNCHING!

To bring residents together, support our neighbourhood and help make Fairview an even better place to live, work and connect.

Our mission is to unlock funding in order to develop a more prosperous and connected community.

<https://fairviewcommunity.uk/>



The Fairview Community is looking for someone to volunteer, just 2-3 hours a month, either as secretary or treasurer. Do be in touch if you are interested.



THURSDAYS IN TERM TIME
JUNIORS (Years 3-6) 5-6pm
SENIORS (Years 7-13) 6-7pm

Cheltenham Youth Choir

*Bringing confidence to young people
through a love of singing*

OPEN REHEARSAL
THURSDAY 1st OCTOBER or
COME FOR A FREE TASTER SESSION

SIGN UP HERE



REHEARSAL VENUE
CHRIST CHURCH
CHELTENHAM, GL50 2JH

Faithfuel

Our Wednesday lunchtime group which looks at the Christian faith together, including videos and games!



Seedlings

Our Thursday morning baby and toddler group, meeting 10-11.30 each week. A warm welcome, tea & coffee, and songs & stories



Acorns

Every Sunday morning we have provision for children with a led Sunday School session for those in Primary School, with games, songs and crafts. This takes place during our 10am service.



Seasonal Services

We are always delighted to welcome the children of Saint John's for Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas.

