



NEWSLETTER No. 2

October 2026

Dear Saint John's families,

Since I last wrote, I have had the chance to join Year 6 on the residential; what a fantastic week! It is a little while since I was away from school for this length of time and it was strange not to see children and families for so many days. However, it was wonderful to spend that time with the group of children and adults experiencing the delights of a brilliant activity centre. I enjoyed seeing the children in a different light and I have no doubt that it was a "bit different" seeing Mrs Seabrook, Miss Morrow and me early every morning and late each evening, drinking hot chocolate and even joining in with the different activities. Thank you to the staff at Morfa Bay, as well as our Year 6 staff, for making the week such fun—but also, thank you to Mr Vaughan, Mrs Kimber and Mrs Brown as well as all the other staff here at Saint John's, for letting me head off on the residential for the week. I suspect it will be the last time I do that kind of thing, as I head towards my 60s!

There have been many exciting things going on in school, as well as sports activities out of school—so do enjoy looking at the class pages here. Plus do keep an eye on Dojo! It is such a wonderful way for families to be able to see what children are doing all through their primary education.

We have begun to welcome visitors to see round the school, as families look at Saint John's for their child joining Reception in September 2027. If you know anyone who has a child this age, do let them know that they can visit at any point. Just be in touch with the office on 01242 523786. We are working on being "known" around Cheltenham, but word of mouth is the best way for families to find out about the school!

For the next two weeks, the Literature Festival fills the centre of Cheltenham; do go and have a look! I might see you there. Have a good weekend, Mrs Beevers

WHOLE SCHOOL 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 1pm - 3pm

Wednesday 9th December: 1.30pm 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



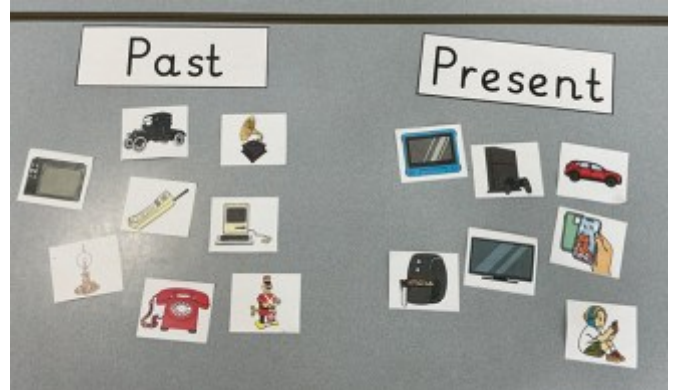
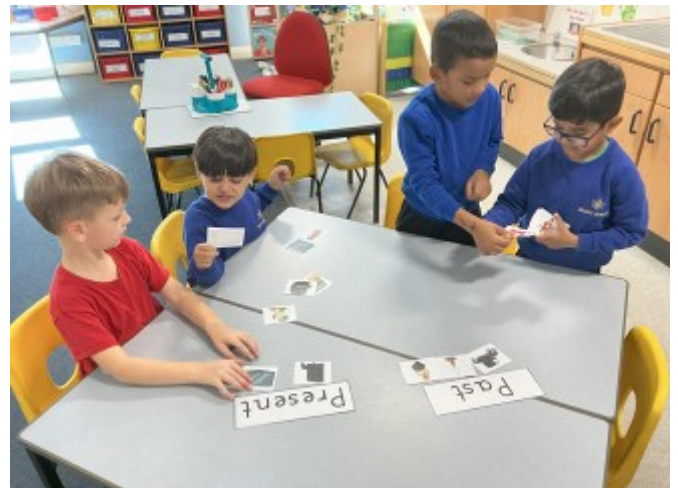
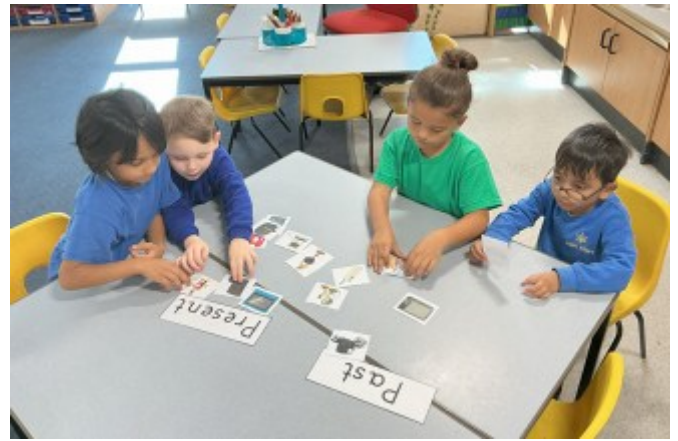
Written by Sharon Morrow TA



This week, **Reception** children have had great fun with the play dough. Their challenge was to roll a snake longer than their arm. They have also been learning about looking after pets. The children discussed and matched all the items that a pet needs, looking at the differences, such as a horse sleeps in a stable but a dog may have a kennel. They painted their favourite pet and their paintings were amazing! To continue this pet theme, we set up a vet role play area, where the receptionists took phone messages from customers about injured pets, and the vets treated them. The children loved it! In RE, the children have been learning about how Christians thank God for food by saying Grace. In school, we also say Grace at lunchtime. The children made some place mats, which they used at lunchtimes and will be going home next week.



Year 1 have been enjoying lots of exciting learning and have been showing great enthusiasm across the curriculum. In Art, the children have been exploring lines and shapes, becoming increasingly confident at spotting different shapes in artwork before using them to inspire their own portrait drawings. In History, they have been learning how they can find out about the past. The children have enjoyed looking closely at photographs and pictures, sorting them into past and present and talking about the clues they give us about what people, places and things were like in the past. They have also been thoroughly enjoying their special reading sessions with Claire and her lovely therapy dog Daisy. The children are always excited to spend time with Daisy and share stories together!



Year 2 are really enjoying developing their drawing skills in art. The children have looked at how artists add texture and tone into their work. They did rubbings of different textures they found around school and then organised these in their sketch books with words to describe the different textures. They have also spent time showing tone in their work by using different amounts of pressure with their pencils. The children then put all of the skills they have learnt so far into drawing pictures of a teddy bear, showing texture and tone.



Year 3 have been travelling back in time to the Stone Age! As part of our history learning, we explored how early humans may have used natural materials to create paints and pigments. We got creative and made our very own Stone Age paints using spices including paprika, turmeric and cinnamon. We experimented with mixing the different colours and textures before using our homemade paints to create our own Stone Age-inspired artwork. It was a wonderfully messy and creative way to bring our history learning to life!



Year 4 thoroughly enjoyed their PSHE workshop and learnt lots about how to keep their bodies and minds healthy. Their engagement was fantastic and they were especially impressed by Tom's 'X-ray' machine, which allowed them to delve deeper inside the human body. In French, the children have been getting to grips with new vocabulary. There was great excitement as they played a game of pairs to develop their reading skills and improve their pronunciation!



Year 5 have been investigating solutions and finding out what substances are soluble in water. The children had fun demonstrating how salt dissolves in water, before investigating a range of different substances. During art, they have been developing their use of line to show emotion and movement. The children experimented with a printing technique to create a repeating image of a small section of their work.



Twenty-two **Year 6** children thoroughly enjoyed their residential week at Morfa Bay in Wales. They enjoyed a variety of activities - climbing, abseiling, cycling, sea activities, archery and rock pooling to name but a few.



PTFA are looking forward to all the events of this school year. Here are some important dates for your diaries:



October 9th - DISCO 6-7:30pm

December 5th - CHRISTMAS FAIR 1pm - 3pm

If you would like to come to our next PTFA meeting, it will be at the Strand on 22nd October at 7pm. We would love to see you there

OSCA currently has places at Breakfast club on a Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday morning and at After School club on a Monday, Tuesday and Friday afternoon.

Please email Annette for further information or to book places

oscastjohns@yahoo.co.uk



HARVEST FESTIVAL

SUNDAY 11TH
OCTOBER 10AM

**Join us in giving
thanks for everything
God provides**

**Please bring food
donations to the
service, and stay for
some wonderful
cakes afterwards.**