



NEWSLETTER No. 8

February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

We find ourselves at the end of Week 5 and the weather has allowed us to picture Spring, even if we know it is still a little time away!

I hope you enjoyed the videos on the website and have spotted activities being completed by your class. I am building up a set of wide-ranging photos and videos for next week's recording, which should give you a taster of the learning your children are enjoying at Saint John's.

Our value of "patience" has been shown by many this week and the children have given different examples when I have been chatting to them:

"I have to be patient when waiting to use the trim trail!"

"Waiting for lunch means I have to be patient!"

"I am waiting for my birthday - but I am not very patient!"

"Sometimes I have to be patient listening to [my teacher] when I just want to get on with the work!"

Honestly, these are all statements made to me in class, in the corridors and during my lunch duty!

Each week, we hear from Rev Patrick Wheaton from St Luke's Church (our linked church, despite a different name!) and each fortnight, Rev Jason Boyd comes from Highbury Church. These ministers speak to the whole school and bring a Christian perspective to our value, sometimes telling stories of their family experiences, traditional tales and often sharing a Bible story or verse to help us understand. This aspect of our life as a Church of England school is really important and I know that some families have also enjoyed joining these two churches for children's activities on Sundays or mid-week. If you have any questions or interest in this, please do contact them. They would love to hear from you!

There are a few events that I think are worth mentioning specifically, though I know that the Class Dojo or Tapestry contact provides a huge amount of information to families about individual year groups.

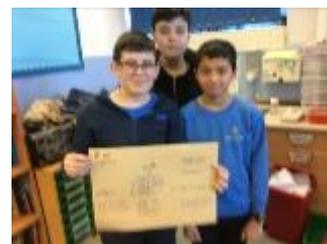
We want to celebrate World Book Day on Thursday 3rd March - this is straight after half term. It would be wonderful if your child could bring a book with them to school and come dressed to "represent" a character from that book. This does not require huge spending on Amazon, nor using family time sewing and creating, unless this is something you enjoy doing together!

There are many characters in books who require only minimal changes to clothes; the key is to find a character who really appeals to your child. We have many books in school which children are welcome to borrow if you are struggling to find something at home. Of course, there is also our wonderful Cheltenham libraries which would provide further options! We are really looking forward to celebrating books on this day and taking time out of our normal planning to engage in special book activities as part of our learning for the day.

In addition, we would like to be part of the Red Nose Day on Friday 18th March when everyone will be encouraged to make a donation and wear something red.

Finally, we have been given a wonderful chance for our Year 5 pupils to sing in a concert on Tuesday 26th April. There is an adult choir involved too and we have attached the music to tempt you to join this if you can! Further details will come nearer the time. We will be joining a selection of schools for this concert which looks to be a really exciting event run by Cheltenham College!

Have a lovely weekend, Victoria Beevers (Head)



Written by Sharon Morrow TA



Reception class love their Friday mornings of messy play. The children experiment with all manner of equipment, use their senses to investigate and, of course, extend their vocabulary describing what they see. Last week, the dinosaurs were having a bath in a jelly swamp and the children explored colour mixing and loved pouring (nicely warmed) water down the drainpipes!



Year 1 have been enjoying their gymnastics sessions with Mrs Bull. They have been pretending to be their favourite animal, travelling around as their animal would move and then balancing when they stopped moving. They have also been practising jumping and performing a controlled landing.



Year 2 were set the following challenge during our science lesson as part of their work on Materials and their Properties:

Can you design a bridge out of paper that is strong enough to hold a toy car without collapsing?

They started off drawing pictures of their bridge designs in pairs. Then they made their bridges. They had to show lots of patience when the bridges collapsed!!

Year 3 have created a cartouche that contains their name written in hieroglyphs. It was believed that the person whose name the cartouche contained would be protected from evil spirits.

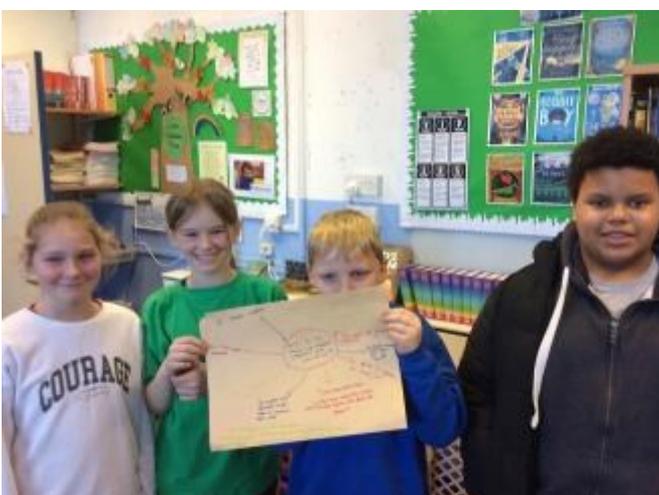
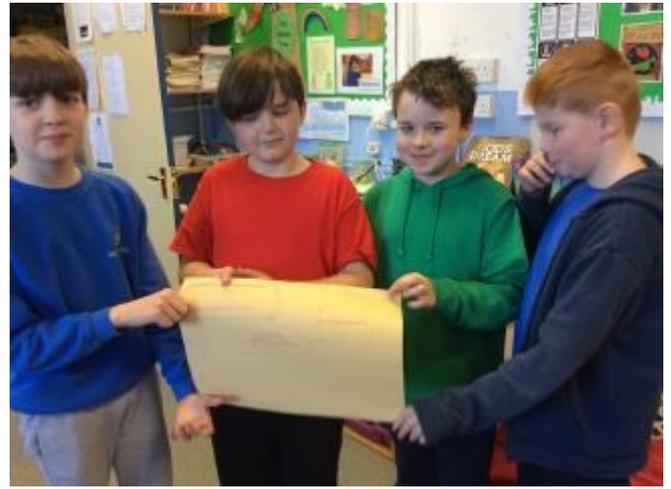
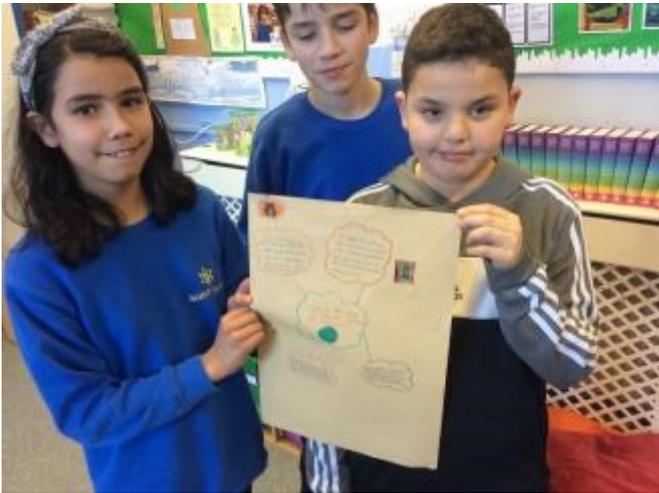


Year 4 have been exploring descriptive settings. They have examined and improved the setting from 'Escape from Pompeii' and have also written their own description based on their current topic of 'Mountains.' The children have also been working hard in maths. They have been exploring area and learning how to use their times tables to calculate the area of rectangles!

During their dance sessions, **Year 5** have been using actions, dynamics and movement to link snapshots together to create a fluid piece of dance involving four or more individuals. In art they have been taking a close look at Vincent Van Gogh and his works, before creating their own versions of his 'Cafe Terrace at Night' using oil pastels.



Year 6 enjoyed an afternoon of lively debate, around the subject of creation and evolution, discussing the reasons why the Creation Story is important to Christians. They have also been enjoying spending some of their lunch breaks at Sandford Park, weather permitting!



Well done to the children who won certificates in this week's celebration.

