



NEWSLETTER No. 1

September 2022

Dear Saint John's families,

These first days of the Autumn Term have been tinged with sadness over the death of Queen Elizabeth II and we were pleased to be able to spend some time reflecting on this last Friday. Having said that, there have been many moments of joy and excitement, both as we have talked about our new King Charles III and as we have begun our learning at Saint John's!

Hopefully, by the time this newsletter is read by our Saint John's families, I will have enjoyed a catch-up with Year 1 parents and carers at 2pm in the first "**Tea with Mrs B**". Please do note the date for the relevant year group - see last week's letter for details.

Wednesday had a completely different feel to it as we celebrated a **Maths Adventure Day**. Every class had the opportunity to spend time in the hall learning and exploring different Maths activities, solving problems and thinking "outside the box". The children were captivated by the tasks being set and showed real determination to work together to find out the answers! Well done, everyone, for your brilliant participation and enthusiasm.

Another wonderful opportunity for the children was the "**Festival of Stars**" last Saturday at The Pavilion in Cheltenham. A group of our children were up on stage singing and dancing the isingPOP songs learnt last term for a public audience. I was very proud of them; each one showed our Christian value of **courage** being prepared to stand up in front of other people! A fantastic achievement.

Please may I remind you that there is lots of information on the **school website**. General information about school dinners, uniform and other practical elements can be helpful and each year group has a class page with all the letters and curriculum outlines to show you what your children are learning this term! Perhaps you might have a look together with your child over the weekend? You might also enjoy the various videos available.

School Clubs

We have a really wonderful range of clubs and activities on offer this term! Below are some of those being offered, but I know that a few others are still pending!

We have tried to ensure that all year groups have something on offer and to put them at different times of the day. Some clubs do have a financial commitment but those offered by the teachers are free. If you have any questions about the clubs, please direct them to the office via email and then the office can pass on the email for the relevant person to respond.

LT means Lunch Time; AS means After School

Monday	Games fun! (LT)	Year 1
Tuesday	Recorders (LT)	Years 2 and 3
	Pottery (AS)	Years 3 - 6
	Science (AS)	Years 3 - 6
Wednesday	Drama (LT)	Years 1 and 2
	Timestables (LT)	Years 3 and 4
	Drama (AS)	Years 3 - 6
Thursday	Choir (before S)	Years 2 - 6
	Construction (LT)	Years 1 and 2
	Judo (AS)	Years 3 - 6
Friday	Watercolours (LT)	Years 5 and 6

Judo, Drama and Pottery are run by external staff; please contact the organiser directly or speak to the office for details. In addition, there will be a computing club (details to be finalised) and football matches, as well as meetings for the Worship Committee and School Council.

What a great start to the year!

Have a lovely, long weekend and see you next Tuesday!

Mrs Beevers (Head Teacher)



Written by Sharon Morrow TA



Reception class have had such a lot of fun making new friends in their first few days at school. They have been so lucky with the weather and have enjoyed lots of time playing in the sunshine on the play-garden. They are looking forward to a super year!



Year 1 have settled into their new class beautifully and are working very hard. In art, the children have been looking at line markings. They experimented with different types of lines. They drew them, recreated them using string and then picked their favourite to recreate on black card using chalk.



Year 2 have enjoyed using their new maths packs for the place value work they are doing in their maths lessons at the moment. They have also been using the front garden for their science work on living things and their habitats.



Year 3 have made a great start to the year. They have helped to create a super set of class rules to help keep the classroom a safe and happy place. They have also been exploring instruction writing and showed brilliant teamwork when washing toys and writing instructions for this task. In art, they have been learning about Julian Opie and creating self-portraits in his style! Well done for an amazing week, Year 3!



Year 4 have been developing their understanding of tone and proportion to create 3-D drawings. Their first challenge was to use sketching pencils to draw a twisted ribbon and then in the next lesson to use charcoal to draw a still-life.



Year 5 have been learning about the importance of collaborative working as part of their PSHE unit 'Me and My Relationships.' To understand this, they took on a collaboration challenge where they worked in groups to create the tallest tower out of only six sheets of newspaper and some sticky tape. They explored the attributes needed to work together, such as sharing of resources, communication and teamwork. They also discussed ways of overcoming some of the challenges when working in groups such as by being open and respectful towards alternative opinions. They have also been enjoying 'Reading for Pleasure' sessions in the 'Book Corner' and listening to their class book, 'Twitch' by M G Leonard.



Year 6 have been finding out about networks and how they work. The children built their own network using string and connected virtual devices that sent data around our network via a switch which made sure that the data got to the intended recipient. They have also begun their new dance unit in PE, where they have used body percussion and movement to choreograph a short performance.



Welcome back, everyone – and an especially warm welcome to new parents.

You are all automatically members of the Saint John's Parents, Teachers and Friends Association (PTFA). We organise social events for parents and children, fairs and other celebrations to raise money for and contribute to the life of the school. We are really looking forward to getting back to a normal year after such a long time affected by Covid.

You will be getting a letter soon with more information, explaining how you can get involved. In the meantime, here are some dates to hold in your diaries:

Friday 14th October – evening disco for all year groups

Thursday 3rd November – PTFA Annual General Meeting



Saturday 3rd December – Christmas Fair
If you haven't already, please do join our Facebook page to keep up to date with plans.

Maths Adventure Day: The whole school enjoyed an exciting day of Maths workshops, using various maths skills to solve the clues in order to crack the code to save the school from aliens!



