



NEWSLETTER No. 2

September 2022

Dear Saint John's families,

Later today, I am looking forward to seeing the Year 3 parents for Tea with Mrs B! The first two weeks seem to have been a success with various parents coming into school and enjoying a chance to chat with each other and with me. Please do see if you can arrange to come to school for 2pm on the relevant day:

Friday 4th November – Year 4 parents/carers

Friday 11th November – Year 5 parents/carers

Friday 18th November – Year 6 parents/carers

Friday 25th November – Reception parents/carers

This week, we had a visit from Coram Life, an organisation who focus on PHSE (Personal, Health and Social Education) and who spoke to different classes in the hall or classroom. Puppets, videos and interactive games were used and the children seem to have lots of fun whilst learning some key points in decision-making, relationship building and self-esteem. We continue to find ways to help children develop in this way, as we know that personal development, as well as social development, are fundamental to a child flourishing. Our new PHSE curriculum has improved our teaching and learning and has up to date information to help children (and staff!) understand the challenges of our lives within society.

Yesterday, I was on a course for school leaders looking at how we establish a culture, policies and practices that have relationships at the centre of everything and how we consider ways to re-align those relationships when things have gone wrong. These are such important life lessons, aren't they?!

In the next few weeks, we have visits and visitors for many of the children: going to the Literature Festival and to Cheltenham Ladies' College to hear an author, as well as our regular events such as swimming and visits from Rev Patrick Wheaton from St Luke's or Jason Boyd from Highbury Congregational Church.

We have also had a number of people visiting the school who are interested in applying for the Deputy Head position; it has been a delight to show off our school and hear so many positive remarks about our learning environments, our engagement in classrooms and our beautifully behaved children. Even when things were going slightly awry as I was walking around school, our children and staff are dealing with all situations wisely and calmly.

I cannot believe it is the 30th September and we are definitely entering Autumn time. Next month is October and we want to focus on celebrating our diversity. Many schools and organisations will be thinking about "Black History Month" and we will be spending some time thinking about historical and current figures who have shown courage (our Christian value this term) particularly due to their ethnicity, religion or background. Please do have a look on our website at the many books available which help our understanding and raise questions around diversity.

Thank you to the many parents who have responded to our request for allergy/health care plans and have given in the relevant paper work. It is essential that we have up to date medical information about your child, so please do call the office if you have questions.

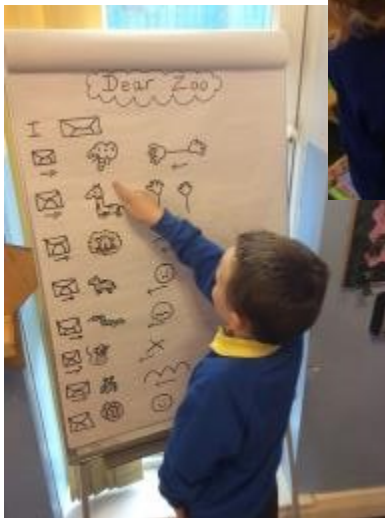
Have a lovely weekend, Mrs Beevers



Written by Sharon Morrow TA



Reception class have been learning all about the story 'Dear Zoo' by Rod Campbell. They have loved using the story map to prompt them with the re-telling and have been making up actions to represent each animal. They have also loved matching the animals to their boxes and drawing the animals.



In Art, **Year 1** have continued their work on lines and mark making. This week, the children have used different styles of lines to represent waves. They drew lines to the music of Debussy's 'La Mer' - 'Play on the Waves'. They then used a mixture of media to add colour to their seascapes and finally the added sea life such as coral and fish.



As part of their unit of work in art and developing their drawing skills, **Year 2** have been looking at different kinds of texture. The children used different drawing techniques to try and show different kinds of texture.



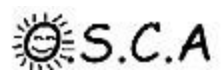
Year 3 have been learning about Stone Age art. They have explored cave paintings and tried creating their own using chalk and charcoal. They have also been showing Miss Sanders their coding skills and have enjoyed sharing their creations with each other!



Year 4 have been using drama to help learn about the three states of matter. They learnt that in a solid the particles are tightly close together, whilst in a gas they have room to move around. They have also looked at the work of Matisse, who developed a style called 'drawing with scissors' to create collages from different mechanical images.



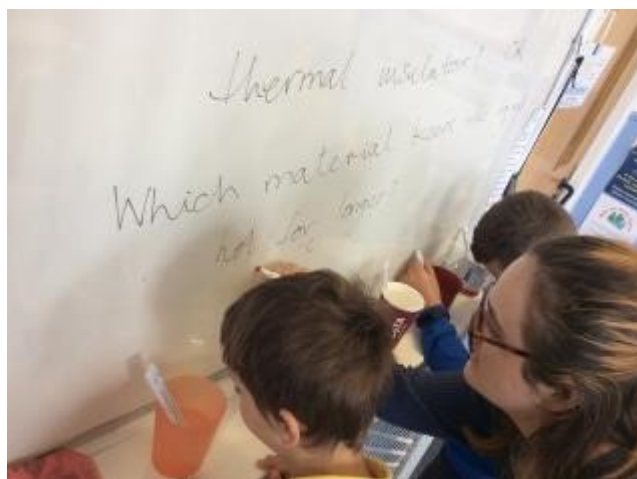
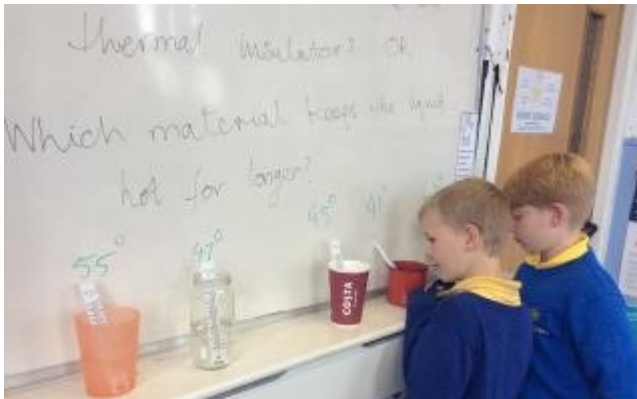
Also, as part of their current topic on their local area, Year 4 have enjoyed a fun afternoon looking at local architecture, taking photos and sketching in the park.



There are spaces in breakfast club on a Monday, Thursday and Friday.

Please contact oscastjohns@yahoo.co.uk

Year 5 children have been learning about the properties of materials during their science lessons. They have been investigating how different thermal insulators can be used for various purposes and have carried out a scientific enquiry to find a material that would keep Mrs Omar's tea hot for longer! To find an answer to their enquiry, children used their working scientifically skills and thought carefully about ways of keeping a test fair. The children also discussed the limitations to their test when writing their conclusions. Superb learning, Year 5!



Year 6 have been learning about the circulatory system in science. After exploring the structure of the human heart, they took a closer look at the blood which it pumps around our body. They discovered that blood is not just a red liquid, but is actually made up of different components that all have different tasks to perform. The children then made some blood using a variety of objects to represent the different parts of blood.



Some of the children enjoyed a PSHE workshop.

