



## NEWSLETTER No. 3

October 2022

Dear Saint John's families,

It is amazing to think that in a week's time, we will have all finished for the October half term holiday. Please remember that there is **NO SCHOOL ON FRIDAY**, as the teachers have a training INSET day. The children finish at normal time on Thursday.

**(At the end of the Christmas term, on Friday 16th December, we finish at 2pm.)**

I imagine that one of the highlights of your child's week was the visit the Literature Festival (Years 1 to 6) and you will be able to enjoy lots of photographs in this newsletter which show the children enjoying themselves, engaging with books and meeting not only authors but The Gruffalo too!

Tonight, we have the **School Disco**, starting at 6.30pm—please do come. The PTFA and Mr Brown do a brilliant job of making the evening a huge success and I know that there are many, many children planning to come! I am just sad that I will not be able to make it myself tonight :( !

Please be aware that next **Wednesday - 19th October** - we are having a celebration at St Luke's Church. Parents and carers are welcome to come and join us and we will live-stream it for those who find it hard to be with us. If parents arrive and wait outside, we will invite you in when the children are ready and we plan to start at about 1.50pm.

It may also be worth putting the following in the diary: **Monday 12th December**: our Christmas service in the afternoon. We will look at numbers for this, but again we will live-stream the event so that everyone should be able to join us either physically or virtually. We have also a pantomime and a visit from Father Christmas planned—plus our Christmas Fayre on Saturday 3rd December.

Christmas is definitely on the way!

Our arrangements for drop off have been very successful at ensuring children are in class ready for registration at 8.55am and for lessons to be able to begin promptly. Those of you who miss the gate now have to come to the front entrance. We understand that there are occasions when something very unusual happens. We just want to ensure that none of the children are regularly late: it impacts how quickly they settle and get ready for learning.

There are three other ways that parents can help children with being ready to learn: all beginning with S!

**Snacks** - please make sure that you child has both a healthy breakfast and then brings in a healthy snack. We allow crisps on a Friday as a treat. However, please provide a suitable size of crisp bag, not a family sized bag!

**Screens** - monitoring a child's screen time is also important. The content is key so please check what they are doing and ask whether it is really suitable for the age of your child. Limiting the time can also be very helpful, particularly because blue screens before bed time make it hard to switch off. Advice is two hours of no screens before sleep!

**Sleep** - young children need sleep and aiming for between 9 and 12 hours is worth considering. Tired children find life far harder to deal with and we would encourage parents to think about Sunday evening and mid-week activities so that your child is able to focus at school.

Finally, it is brilliant to see the choir move from a small group to almost a class-size and to see our children enjoying clubs. Chess is starting after half-term, so please let the office know if you are interested. It will happen on a Tuesday after school; this does "clash" with other clubs but is the only day possible!

Have a lovely weekend. Mrs Beevers



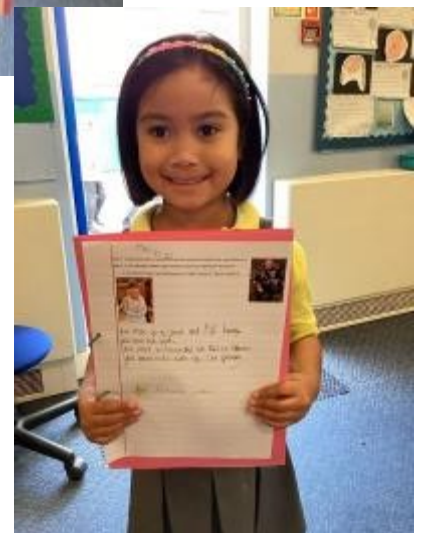
Written by Sharon Morrow TA



In maths this week, **Reception** children have been sorting and matching objects to colour, shape, size. The children have loved these activities, especially matching Duplo patterns and sorting through buttons. They have begun to sort everything, even the fairies on the fairy garden! Great job, children! They have also been learning the story of 'We're going on a Bear hunt' by Michael Rosen. The children are currently crafting a story map to help them retell the story.



**Year 1** have been learning about what a monarch is and the qualities needed to be a good monarch. They enjoyed coming up with some rules and laws that they might create if they were a monarch. The children also had great fun dressing up as kings and queens. Some of the rules they thought of were, "You must take care of our people", "You must go to school", "You must eat your vegetables", "You must be brave".



In **Year 2**, as part of their topic on Materials and their Properties, the children carried out a science investigation. Their question was, 'Do big balls bounce higher?' The children worked in groups, testing how high a range of different sized balls bounced. They discussed the importance of trying to make the test fair. The results varied but most groups thought that bigger balls do not bounce higher!



**Year 3** have been learning how natural materials were used in the Stone Age to paint. They have been using spices and berries to create paintings of their own and are looking forward to adding the finishing touches using charcoal later this week!



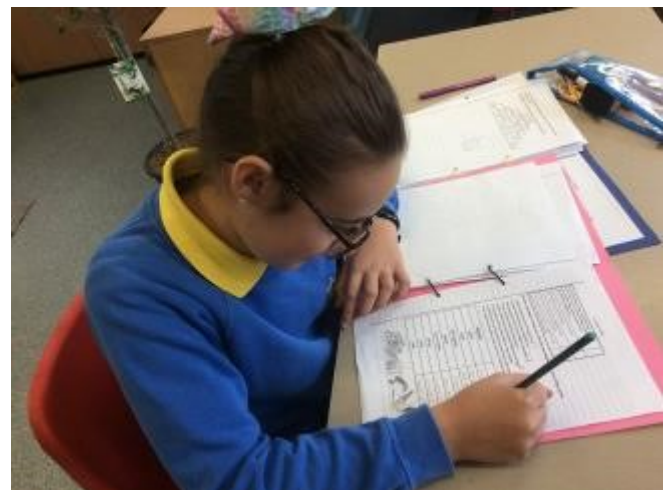
As part of their games unit on ball skills, **Year 4** have been practising their dribbling skills, including a 'V' dribble.



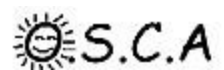
**Year 5** have been learning lots of new and amazing facts about food during Maya times. They researched the use of corn and chocolate during this era and decided which food was more important for the Mayas. Children learnt that Maya people worshipped the maize god and believed that the first humans were created from maize dough! They were also surprised to discover that, because of this, when suffering from severe illness, they would eat nothing but corn. Children also learnt that chocolate as a drink was considered fit for only rich and noble members of society. During R.E., the children have been learning about the Five Pillars of Islam.

I think chocolate was the most important food to the ancient Maya people because they used it as a form of currency. It was a gift from the gods. It was drunk at wedding ceremonies.

I think corn was the most important food to the ancient Maya people because it is 80% of their diet. They believe humans are made of corn. This food was often mixed with herbs and used in medicines.



**Year 6** were lucky enough to be invited by the Cheltenham Ladies' College to attend an author talk by Robin Stevens in their beautiful auditorium. Robin Stevens gave an informative and interesting talk about how she got into writing, where her ideas come from and how she created the 'Murder Most Unladylike' series. In science, the children have been learning how nutrients are transported around our body, via blood, through a process called diffusion. We observed this process using skittles sweets before creating our own diffusion art.



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

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The KS1 and KS2 children enjoyed various activities at the Cheltenham Literature Festival.





