



NEWSLETTER No. 4

November 2022

Dear Saint John's families,

The weather has changed and the leaves are falling: we find ourselves in Autumn! Fortunately, the children have been able to be out and about during break times and lunch times, so please do ensure they have a coat and jumper/cardigan to keep them warm. It has been brilliant to see the children smartly dressed in their school uniform; we are grateful that parents are making such an effort to ensure the right clothes and shoes are worn to school. Please do refer to the website for details.

A big thank you, too, for those who have made a contribution via Parent Pay; where it is possible, parental support of trips and activities which enrich the learning of our children can make all the difference. Unfortunately, the budget provided by the government only covers the bare minimum of what we want our children to have at Saint John's. Any questions about contributing, please be in touch with the office.

We are reviewing the policy and practices around managing behaviour and high needs in school and will be gaining pupil, staff, governor and parent views over the next few weeks. We are also putting together a working party which will include staff and governors (and, where appropriate, pupils) so if there is a parent or carer who is particularly interested in being part of the discussion about whole school policy, please contact me on: head@st-johns-pri.gloucs.sch.uk

We will be recognising the sacrifice of others in times of war on Friday 11th November and a display is being put up in the hall to show all those from Saint John's who went to war in both World War I and World War II. It is sobering to realise that some of our Ukrainian and Russian children are personally impacted by current wars; it is good to reflect that, even if we have some complicated politics and challenges to society here, we do still live in a peaceful country.

The Car Park

I was informed yesterday that there was an incident in the car park:

In St James' carpark, a parent from Saint John's was backing out of their space and reversed into the front of my parked/stationary car while my family and I were sitting in it. We assumed the driver would stop and investigate but they paused and then drove away. Thankfully the damage is pretty minimal and it helps that our attitude is that there are more important things to worry about in life than this sort of thing. But considering it was enough to make our whole car shudder, it can be assumed that the driver knew it had hit something yet drove away.

I have to be honest that I am quite shocked to hear about this and am very concerned about the risk of harm to anyone, local residents or our school community.

Two other requests please:

Keep home toys at home. It is far better for children to play with the toys and resources that we have here, rather than risking loss, breakage or arguments about ownership. We do allow cards currently, but will continue to review this depending on the impact these cards have. Please ensure that you **inform the office about absence** and that you seek permission if it is anything other than illness. Vomiting and diarrhoea mean 48 hours not in school, a temperature does not: hopefully, this helps you know what to say to the office when you contact them!

I look forward to seeing the Year 4 parents this afternoon for Friday 'Tea with Mrs B' and remind other year groups of the offer to join me for tea/coffee and biscuits at 2pm:
11th November: Year 5; 18th November: Year 6;
25th November: Reception

Have a lovely weekend, Mrs Beevers



Written by Sharon Morrow TA



The **Reception** children have been learning repeating patterns in maths, both copying and continuing a repeating pattern and making up one of their own. It was lovely to see all sorts of equipment and natural materials being used in the children's repeated patterns, including shells, conkers and sticks! As part of their introduction to maths and realising that maths is all around us and not just a lesson, we have introduced self registration using tens frames. This runs alongside the formal register. The children find their photo and stick it onto the tens frame. They then use these to count how many children are in class that day. The children are already recognising a full tens frame, know that 2 full tens frames are 20, plus a full top line is another 5. Well done, children! They are becoming great mathematicians!



Year 1 have been busy creating drawings of pumpkins. The children were able to apply their drawing skills and knowledge from their previous lessons to create an observational drawing piece that allowed them to experiment with marks and materials.



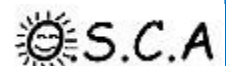
As part of the introduction to their persuasive writing unit, Mrs Roper and Ms Wynn tried to persuade the **Year 2** children to choose their choice of biscuit to eat. They both chose adjectives, verbs and sayings to entice the children!



Year 3 have been learning how to line dance in PE and have also put a lot of effort into producing amazing leaflets to sum up their learning about the Iron Age. They have thought carefully about our big question and decided which period of prehistory they would have liked to live in.



Year 4 returned to school on Monday to find evidence of a dragon having visited their classroom over the half-term break! They had to look at all the evidence and write a police report.



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

Please contact

oscastjohns@yahoo.co.uk

Year 5 have made a promising start to their new PSHE topic for this term - Valuing Differences. During their first session, children used drama to learn the importance of qualities such as trust, empathy and respect to develop long lasting friendships. Children also discussed why some friendships might come to an end and the impact this may have on individuals.



To finish their Art Photography unit, **Year 6** children were set the 'Getty Challenge'. Originally a challenge set by the Getty museum in Los Angeles, it involves people recreating famous paintings using items found at home and then photographing themselves. The children came up with some amazing creations. Below is a selection of their efforts.

