



NEWSLETTER No. 6

December 2022

Dear Saint John's families,

I hope that you have our **Christmas Fair** in your diary!

Tomorrow, we will have a fair here at Saint John's from 1pm until 3pm and we hope that everyone will come and join in the fun. There will be games and stalls, a visit from Father Christmas and a wonderful chance to say goodbye (with a wet sponge?!) to Mr Brown!

We are also hopeful that Mr Vaughan, our new deputy starting in January, will be joining us as he is very keen to get to know the school community.

Thank you for all the **parent surveys** sent into school. We have delved into book bags and collected those put in the box in the office and have been reading them carefully to hear your parent voice. I will feedback to staff and governors and then give some headline information to parents, possibly at the start of next term, once we have considered what next steps are needed. As a quick comment though, we have over 90% of the responses saying that their children feel safe and happy at school. This is wonderful to hear!

Thank you, also, to those parents who have stepped forward to join a working party to discuss policies and practices around behaviour and attitudes. It is really important that children and adults in school and at home are completely clear about expectations and processes; we want to improve communications and consistency. One of the most interesting elements of the survey is the range of comments about communications: some parents concerned that they aren't aware of events and others saying please reduce the number of communication streams! We will make sure we address this during our discussions too.

Various children have been interviewed this week as part of our creation of a school video, describing school life. It has been fun putting it together and hearing the children's thoughts on learning, the playground and lunches!

It has been particularly heart-warming listening to the children rehearsing for our Christmas service and performance. **Please don't forget: Monday 12th December at about 1.30pm.** (Live-streamed too) Every child will be involved as we tell the Christmas story and the Infant Drama Club and the Choir will also be taking part.

I wanted to let parents know about some staffing arrangements from January onwards:

Mrs Burns (Year 1) will return after Christmas but then will be leaving for her maternity leave in early January and Mrs Sarah Fox will be teaching the class Monday to Thursday lunchtime, with Mrs Snow teaching on Thursday afternoon and Friday.

Miss Jolliffe is going to remain working in Reception with Ms Griffiths, alongside Mrs Holmes and Mrs Gunn. We are sad to say goodbye to Mrs Krori, who has taken up a full-time post elsewhere; as a result, Miss Taylor will be joining our staff team, having spent the last year as a PE Assistant. We continue to have two other PE Assistants who support our curriculum and playground time at lunch.

A final request: if any parent would be interested in sharing their faith and/or cultural experiences with groups/a class of children, we would be delighted to hear from you. Living faith is something we want to help our children understand.

Have a lovely weekend, Victoria Beevers



Written by Sharon Morrow TA



Reception class have been busy linking some of their DT skills to making Christmas stockings! The children carefully cut out their template and had such fun using the hole punch to make the holes for threading. Ms Griffiths was really impressed with the children's concentration whilst threading ribbon through the holes. Well done, everyone!



Year 1 have had a fun time writing their own 'house for sale' adverts. They focussed carefully on positive language to try and persuade the reader to buy the house. The children have also been looking at alliteration to use in their writing



Year 2 enjoyed using the technique of 'tear art' to create their own Christmas trees.



School Council enjoyed experiencing the wonderful Christmas tradition of untangling the lights before decorating the tree! Thank you to the **PTFA** for purchasing it.



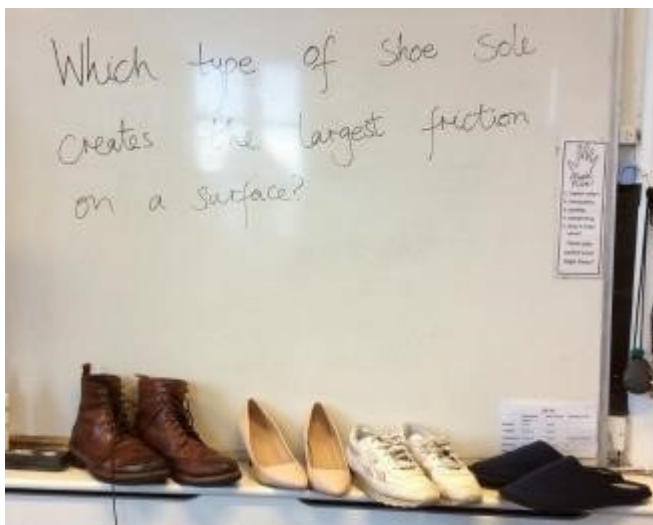
Year 3 have been learning how electrical circuits work in preparation for constructing their electronic posters. They have also been developing their coding skills and learnt how to use the pen function in Scratch to get their sprite to draw shapes!



To help **Year 4** with their understanding of the water cycle, the children made their own mini water cycles in a bowl. The warm water evaporated as steam before condensing on the underside of the cling film and creating rain drops.



Year 5 have been exploring friction as part of their learning in science about 'Forces.' They investigated which type of footwear creates most friction on a surface and used their findings to carry out a risk assessment of different surfaces around the school. Children decided that school shoes are by far the best footwear for everyday use in school as they not only look smart as part of the school uniform but also offer safety and protection. Good work, Year 5!



While studying the genre of Soul, **Year 6** have been studying Pharrell Williams' "Happy" in music. Over the last few weeks, the children have learnt to sing the song, play instruments along with the tune, and are now beginning to improvise and compose their own riffs to accompany the song.

In PE, the children have been working on their fitness, using a variety of circuit training activities to develop their speed and stamina.



The children enjoyed dressing up for **Children in Need** - thank you to everyone who donated money to this amazing charity - we raised £193.



Please come along to the

Christmas Fair

on Saturday 3 December, 1 - 3 pm.

There will be festive food and drink, games, stalls, the choir will sing, and there are even rumors that Father Christmas will pay a visit! It will be cash only, so please bring plenty so we can raise a fantastic amount for the school.



Community Carols at St Luke's

Sunday 4th December 10am

Join our service of Bible
readings and carols in the
church grounds



Come and meet our live
Nativity animals from 9.45am.
Stay for seasonal refreshments
with neighbours and friends.