



NEWSLETTER No. 5

November 2022

Dear Saint John's families,

This week has been a little different with our focus on Anti-Bullying and Children in Need. The children have been enjoying learning about how to care for each other and what is in place to STOP any bullying.

STOP means Several Times On Purpose

We continue to remind children about the difference between mean/unkind and bullying: that occasional unkind comments are not the same as bullying, though all of it needs to be managed and have a response. We want all our children to flourish and this will happen when they are safe, happy and learning!

It is good to hear that many parents feel very positively about their child's experience at Saint John's and I am very grateful for the many returned survey responses. Please do bring these into the office or let the class teacher have them at the end of the day. We sent them as an attachment but the office can let you have a paper copy if you prefer.

Of course, there are some comments which need reflection and action from us at school and we will discuss next steps to ensure that parents are able to see how we have responded at Saint John's. We have a group of parents and staff who will be reflecting together and working on our policies and practices over the next few months. Thank you to those who have offered to be a part of this working group.

Considering the dark (and sometimes gloomy) days, time in school provides some brightness and joy, with the children thriving with their learning, both academically and personally. Development in social, emotional, moral, cultural areas are important, along with mental health and well-being and Mrs Kimber has been working with the staff on these areas of PHSE and in the wider curriculum. We also consider them in our times of collective worship!

Dates for your Diary:

Tea with Mrs B—Friday 25th November

Parents of Reception children—please come to the office at 2pm and we can have a cup of tea/coffee together!

Christmas Fair—Saturday 3rd December 12-3pm.

Thank you for all those who are organizing and helping with this event. Do be in touch with the PTFA (see the back page) if you have anything to offer.

Pantomime at St Luke's Wednesday 7th December

During the school day, Years 2-6 will head down to the church for a pantomime experience!

Christmas Service—Monday 12th December 1.30pm

Please be aware that we are aiming for this to start at **1.30pm** (earlier than originally planned) because it will include the infant drama group performing. All the children will take part, with songs and poems and a telling of the events of that first Christmas in Bethlehem.

End of Term: Friday 16th December 2pm

Just a reminder of clubs that the children are currently enjoying. These may change in Term 3 after Christmas—but do have a chat with your child about what they might want to do in the future.

Lunch time clubs: watercolours, TimesTables Rockstars, recorders, games fun, drama

After school: chess, judo, pottery, drama

Of course, there are also various football matches which happen and I have been delighted to see the enthusiasm of the children (and staff!) as they head off to these matches! It is also brilliant when they return with a win—or some impressive play. What a team!

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Beevers



Written by Sharon Morrow TA



This week, **Reception** Class are taking part in World Nursery Rhyme Week. The children love singing songs and nursery rhymes, which help to boost vocabulary and language development. They also help children to develop literacy and numeracy skills, plus social, physical and emotional skills. This year, they are learning 'The Big Ship Sails on the Ally Ally Oh', '1,2,3,4,5, Once I Caught a Fish Alive', '5 Little Speckled Frogs', 'B.I.N.G.O' and 'Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star'. They will learn one each day and even after all these years of singing nursery rhymes, there are new verses that Ms Griffiths has not heard before!

Year 1 had a great time making poppy biscuits for Remembrance Day. They carefully spread the red icing onto the biscuit to make a flower shape and added a chocolate button for the centre.



As part of their Geography unit of work on continents and oceans, **Year 2** used globes, floor maps and jigsaw puzzles to locate where each continent and ocean is in the world.



Year 3 have been enjoying the start of their netball unit. They have developed their throwing and catching skills and worked well when organising small competitive games! They have also enjoyed using maps to find out which rivers run through our local area.



Year 4 are creating sling-shot cars in D.T this term. The children have built the chassis, tested that they travel in a straight line and added the sling-shot mechanism. They will need to practise using the sling-shot as they need to be very coordinated in order to get the car to move!



Year 5 have been busy making parachutes during their science lessons in order to understand which materials are useful for increasing the air resistance to ensure safe landing. Children used their working scientifically skills to investigate a variety of materials including bin liners, fabric, polythene, paper and tin foil. They discovered that light but strong and flexible materials are far better suited for this purpose as they stretch easily with an increase in the air resistance. Children also explored and labelled the forces that act on stationary and moving objects such as parachutes, automobiles and boats. Well done, Year 5!



On Friday, the **Year 6** classroom turned into a book cafe for the morning. The children "tasted" some new additions to their classroom library while making notes of what they thought about them on a tasting menu card. They then enjoyed a nibble or two over a few pages of their own books, sharing and discussing their current reads. There was a real buzz about books in the classroom and by the end of the session the children had a number of new books on their reading list.



Our **football teams** have been very busy - in fact, four different teams have been in action: the 1st team, our development squad, a mixed team and a girls' team. Matches have been played against Springbank, Glenfall, St Gregory's, Holy Apostles and Gloucester Road, with some notable victories - the 1st team are currently unbeaten in the league. A special mention for Anthony, who scored 4 times against Glenfall, and Belle, who hit 5 against Gloucester Road.



As part of **Anti-Bullying Week**, the children have been wearing odd socks to celebrate their diversity



PTFA
PARENTS, TEACHERS &
FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

We're really looking forward to the Christmas Fair – a reminder that it is on Saturday 3rd December, 1 -3 pm. Please do come along for some festive cheer, food and drink, games, stalls etc.

It will be cash only, so please bring plenty so that we can raise lots for our lovely school! Don't forget it is a non-uniform day on Friday in exchange for contributions towards the tombola as well as Children in Need.



At the moment we are still in need of volunteers to help both in advance and on the day. If you can offer any time at all we would be really grateful, to make sure the event can go ahead.

Please email stjohnspftfachelt@gmail.com

For all the details about the fair and our preparations, please check the letter that was in book bags and has been emailed to everyone.

Some of the children enjoyed a visit by Charlotte from the Dogs Trust, who brought in her 'dog' Benny, to teach them how to interact safely with dogs.

