



NEWSLETTER No. 8

January 2023

Dear Saint John's families,

As I show visitors round our school, I am always struck by the purposeful enthusiasm with which our pupils engage with school life! It has been good to see them settle back after the holidays and begin again the routines of each day, making the most of the opportunities on offer. We have had various people coming round the school: prospective parents/carers viewing Saint John's as they consider a Reception place in September 2023, as well as those considering the Teaching Assistant post being advertised currently. Please be in touch if you are interested in this or in a minibus-driving, cleaning or gardening role at the school. We also have almost a dozen volunteers who come into school to help in classrooms or the playground; it is brilliant to have them join our team on a regular basis.

As I mentioned in last week's letter, we have some new activities starting this term and Year 5 had a fantastic first experience of the Cheltenham Prep Science and DT laboratories this week. Year 2 will be heading to the Prep School's Forest School shortly, with the chance for Year 1 and Reception to do the same later this year.

New topics of learning have begun; all of this information is on the website under the class pages, as well as being sent home on paper. We continue to work hard on our communications and hope that you will use both this newsletter and the website to find out what we are doing!

I have been out of school for family reasons for two days this week and our new deputy, Mr Vaughan, has stepped up to lead the school, ably supported by the rest of the staff team. Mr Vaughan has said how much he feels a part of the Saint John's community, as has Mrs Fox who is settling into Year 1, with the children helping her to know what should happen each day!

Be assured that Mr Brown and Mrs Burns are doing well too!

The governors will be meeting over these next few weeks, as they do on a termly basis. Bethany Taylor has joined the governing body recently and Andy Bates will be joining this term, as Andy Youell has stepped down from his role.

A number of responses in our parent survey requested the chance to come into school. We have put in place an arrangement that provides this. Please do join us on your allocated Friday afternoon when the children will continue their "normal" learning and you can come into the classroom, participate in their learning and see some of their work. There will also be the chance to join me in the library for a cup of tea and a biscuit.

Tea with Mrs B and visit the classroom - 2.15pm

Friday 20th January – Year 3 and 4

Friday 27th January – Year 1 and 2

Friday 10th February – Year 5 and 6

Friday 17th February – Reception

We will also have an end of term event when the children celebrate their work; we are looking at possible dates and venues currently.

Other Dates for the Diary:

Inset days: Tuesday 3rd January and Monday 27th February

Half Term: Monday 20th – Friday 24th February

Spring Term finishes: 2pm on Friday 31st March

Summer Term: Monday 17th April; Half Term: Monday 29th May – Friday 2nd June

Tuesday 9th May—Friday 12th May: Year 6 SATS

All Year 6 pupils must be in school during this week.

End of Term 2pm on TUESDAY 25th July (please note!)

Other Days: Bank Holidays will be on Monday 1st May AND Monday 8th May (Coronation Day)

Have a lovely weekend, Mrs Beevers (Head Teacher)



Written by Sharon Morrow TA



Dear parents & carers,

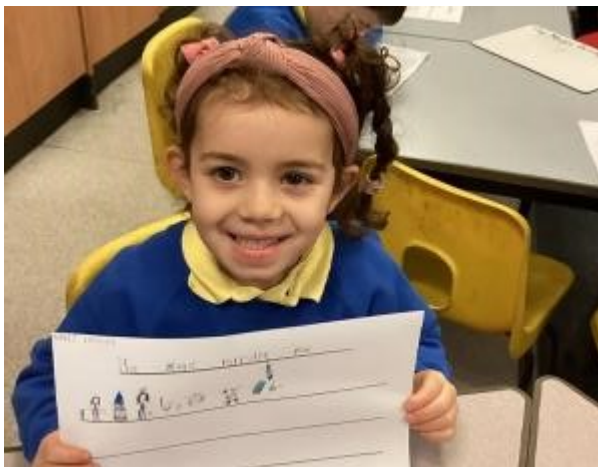
You may remember that I have recently started at Saint John's as the new Deputy Headteacher. I have now been part of the Saint John's community for a week and the staff team and children have made me feel extremely welcome. It has been lovely meeting the children, as it has been meeting many of you at the start and end of school also. I am busy learning as much as I can about this wonderful school as well as teaching in Year 5 and 6 at different points throughout the week. I just wanted to say a quick thank you to everyone for making my transition run smoothly. Please don't be shy to say hello if you see me and I will continue to see you all around as we move through Term 3.

Mr Vaughan

Reception Class have had a very exciting start to the new term. The children have started their Balanceability sessions, where they are learning to ride without stabilisers. These sessions are great for their listening skills, as they need to follow instructions, plus the sessions improve their co-ordination and balance. The children have also started to use the apparatus in gym, which was very exciting. They practised their jumping, sliding and rolling skills. They cannot wait for their next session!



Year 1 have been learning the story of the 'Magic Porridge Pot' and drawing their story maps. In PE, they have been learning ways of travelling. They have also been getting to know Mrs Fox, who is covering Mrs Burns' maternity leave.



Year 2's story this term is about a papaya that was able to speak! The children started off by tasting papaya, then looking really closely at it and drawing what they saw. They used their senses to think of adjectives to describe it.



Year 3 have been exploring their creativity in Art and Music. They have begun to learn how to read music and have been exploring pitch using the glockenspiels. They also used warm and cool colours to create a fabulous piece of art as a class, depicting Nelson Mandela. The children are looking forward to learning about the impact that Nelson Mandela had on the world.



Year 4 children have been learning to draw in the style of Magdalene Odundo, using chalks to draw on the playground surface with long, sweeping arm movements and using curves to give the impression of dimension. They enjoyed showing them to adults at the end of the day.



Year 5 have had an exciting start to the term as they enjoyed their gymnastics session with Move More. They had lots of fun learning about various types of balances, counter-balance and counter-tension.

During their writing sessions, children have also enjoyed exploring a legend - Beowulf - from the time of the Anglo-Saxon king, Alfred the Great, and they cannot wait to write their own legends based on this epic poem. Keep up the good work, Year 5!



Year 6 have started their new Gymnastics unit looking at counter balances. During the session, they challenged themselves by coming up with a balance and completing it on a range of apparatus.

In their Science unit, they have revised what they already know about light and shadows. They ended the session using their hands to create our own animal shadow puppets. In Art, the children got creative with an experimental mark making exercise. Using the work of Diego Rivera, they used a range of items to draw and paint with; lollipop sticks, pieces of cardboard and pasta were just some of the tools used to make some interesting and creative marks.



Last Summer, the children of Saint John's took part in the 'Read for Good' Readathon, raising money for books for children in hospital. The donation pot has now closed and Saint John's children have managed to raise £400.50 in sponsorship. What a fantastic amount of money! Thank you for taking part and enjoying 'Reading for Pleasure.' To thank us for taking part, we have been given a voucher to spend on books.

