



NEWSLETTER No. 9

February 2023

Dear Saint John's families,

I had some fun this week looking at the website: onthisday.com as it provided various interesting and fun facts about what has happened in history this week. Two items struck a chord with me: the earthquake that hit Gujarat, India in 2001 (I had visited India just a few months earlier) and the Eiffel Tower started to be built in 1887. (I love the book, "Paris" by Edward Rutherford.) This term's Christian value is CREATIVITY and we have been talking about the creative activity of our community, some of which are practical and useful, some of which are imaginative and fun. We have also talked about "building each other" up with positive comments and being creative in helping and encouraging others. Please do let us know about creative activities or actions happening at home, as we will celebrate these during our Praise and Celebration time together on a Friday.

Many parents and carers have enjoyed the opportunity to come and see their children on a Friday afternoon, visiting classrooms and joining in with Art or History, watching our "Talk4Writing" stories being told and having a wander around the building seeing the various changes and improvements in different areas. I hope that those who have not visited yet will join us:

Friday 10th February: Year 5 & 6

Friday 17th February: Reception

During this time, there is also the chance to chat in my office/the library; this week, I was able to show some parents the video of the Christmas Celebration, as it continues to be problematic getting it onto our website. Be assured that I have not forgotten about this!

P.E. Activities and Events

A number of exciting activities and events have been happening this term: football, tennis, judo clubs, plus the chance for children to attend events at Leisure@ and Cheltenham Ladies' College to encourage physical exercise and team-building. Lots of fun!

Wednesday 1st February

For your information, all classes at Saint John's will be open on Wednesday. A number of other schools are having to close classes and this has a knock-on effect for our staff, but we will cover those who are absent for child-care. I would like to say that, when I speak to others locally and nationally, teachers are not striking about their personal pay but instead about their desire for schools to be given appropriate budgets for the increasing needs of schools, both with the management of premises and with the educational needs of the children in our care. Whatever views there may be around striking, I think it is fair to say that many, many within our community feel very strongly about funding for schools and want the government to consider this issue urgently.

After half term: World Book Day

We will be celebrating World Book Day as one of many occasions when we focus in on books and reading. Like last year, we are planning for a wonderful day of book-focused activities, visits to Waterstones and online discussions with authors. On **Friday 3rd March**, at the end of the first week back after half term, we will have a dressing-up day, with children coming into school as a book character, ideally bringing with them the book they have chosen! Please do not go to any expense; there are many characters in books who can be represented with an expensive costume. The focus is on encouraging our children to look at the characters within books and to have fun thinking about how to represent them!

Our next newsletter will come out just before half term. We finish on Friday 17th February at normal time. The end of the Easter Term is Friday 31st March at 2pm.

Have a lovely weekend; enjoy the mornings getting a little brighter each day!

Mrs Beevers



Written by Sharon Morrow TA



Reception class have been celebrating the Lunar New Year and learning about celebrations and traditions, which was linked back to their topic on Celebrations last term. We have listened to stories, sang songs and made lanterns, write numbers in Cantonese and made 'Year of the Rabbit' hats! This week, the children also enjoyed a drama workshop on the life of Mary Anning, where we looked for fossils, chiselled them out of rocks and practised the tongue twister 'She sells sea shells!' Many thanks to Gemma Bolwell, who led this fantastic session.



During their PE lessons, **Year 1** have been travelling and then balancing on their backs, tummies and feet. During Art, they have been exploring primary and secondary colours and have been creating a number painting based on Jasper Johns' number artwork.



As part of their gymnastics unit of work in PE, **Year 2** have been working on making up sequences using a variety of shapes. They have worked with a partner and used a variety of shapes including a straddle, a back support, a pike, a star and a plank.



Year 3 have been using manipulatives in Maths to explore division. They have found this challenging, but have persevered and made great progress. They have also been exploring 'danger' and 'risk' in PSHE. The children used drama to explore scenarios before deciding what to do to reduce the risk and keep safe.



In DT, **Year 4** have been making soap sculptures of fish; first, they drew the fish shape in their sketch book, then they scratched the shape into their bar of soap and finally carved their soap using knives, spoons and carving tools.



Year 5 have had a fantastic time attending their Science and DT sessions at Cheltenham College. During Science, children learnt about solubility by making different types of solutions and then observing and recording their findings in a table. In DT, they enjoyed using special equipment to learn about sanding down a surface and drilling holes. They are very much looking forward to the future sessions.



Year 6 attended the annual Christingle service at Gloucester Cathedral. Saint John's Year 6 children joined over 350 other children from a number of different schools at the service. It was a lovely event to celebrate and share fun and hope with others, while raising funds for The Children's Society.





FAITHFU(E)L

Faithfu(e)l is a lunchtime club at Saint John's for Years 4,5 & 6. It will include Bible stories, games and a chance to ask questions about faith and spirituality.

Faithfu(e)l will meet Wednesday lunchtime from 12.45 until 1.10, in the Year 3 classroom.

Faithfu(e)l will be led by Hanna, the Youth Worker from St Luke's church. Helpers will include Rev. Wheaton, and volunteers from St Luke's.
