



NEWSLETTER No. 10

February 2023

Dear Saint John's families,

Today feels like Spring and I have enjoyed being outside with children during break time and with the Reception children during their day. We had a number of parents come to visit in the afternoon. Not one sip of coffee was drunk since all our visitors became completely involved in the children's activities both inside and outside!

These opportunities for parents to come into school have been successful and we will look at dates for the Summer Term when parents and carers can be invited in to Saint John's.

After half term, there are **parent consultations**. I hope that everyone has been able to book in with the class teacher as this is a key time to find out about the progress and attainment of your child, alongside asking about their health and well-being and their personal development. Each of these aspects is important to us and we want to communicate with parents about your child. In our survey, some responses indicated a desire for more information, so please do make sure you use these meetings to ask the questions you may have. Having said that, please remember that the meetings are only 10 minutes. If you need a longer time, this can be arranged on an alternative occasion.

SPEAKING COMPETITION

During the first week back, we will be hearing those pupils who want to present their ideas as part of our oracy competition: Look Who's Talking! Children from Year 1 to Year 6 have the opportunity to speak in front of an audience, speaking for no more than 2 minutes on a subject of their choice. Details are on the back of the newsletter and Mrs Beevers will arrange to hear the presentations so that a decision can be made about who we put forward to represent Saint John's in this Cheltenham-wide competition.

WORLD BOOK DAY(S)

On **Thursday 2nd March**, we are very excited to inform you it is World Book Day! We are extremely excited and have different activities planned to inspire and engage the children about the world of reading. Our focus this year is all about 'reading is everywhere'. There is often a particular focus on reading for pleasure but it is important for children to understand that words are everywhere, even when you do not particularly notice them e.g. signs, emails, names of shops, recipes etc.

We would love to invite children (and adults!) to come into school **on the Friday**, with a chosen book and dressed up as character from that book. We have a visitor coming to talk to us about books and libraries and we want to do a little "mixing up" of our teaching arrangements, so it should be a great day.

Finally, we are asking the children to bring in cut-out sections or printed photos of reading text which they have noticed in their daily routine. This could be: writing on cereal boxes or other food packaging, pictures of road signs with words on them, bits of cut out newspapers etc. The list is endless! Have a think over half term and bring these things in during the first week back. We will send out a reminder in the first week back after half term but we wanted to give you advanced notice so you can plan and prepare. Thank you in advance for your support.

Finally, please do keep an eye on the school calendar as this aims to inform parents of events that are happening in school. One event we are planning is our Easter Celebration on **Thursday 30th March** in the morning. I hope that many of you will be able to arrange to join us there (or on the live-stream). Details to follow.

I hope you all have a lovely half term,

Mrs Beevers :)

Please note:

Term starts on Tuesday 28th February at 8.45am.

Term finishes on Friday 31st March at 2pm.



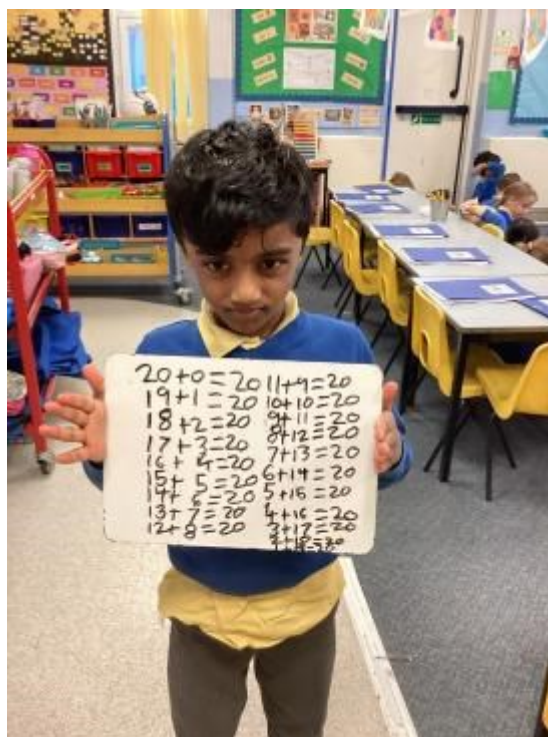
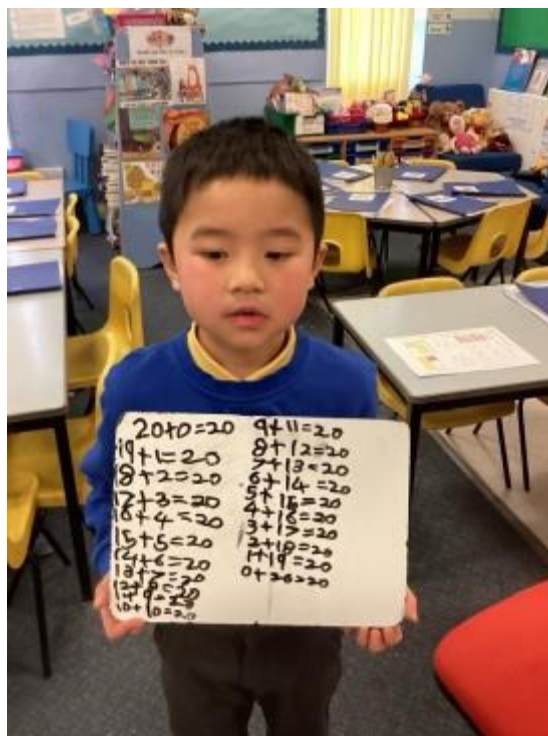
Written by Sharon Morrow TA



This term, as part of their dinosaur topic, **Reception** children have been learning about Mary Anning, who found and sold fossils on the beach. They had great fun making their own fossils out of salt dough. They have also been learning about the different types of dinosaurs and how they had different teeth depending on whether they were carnivores or herbivores. This was linked to their topic on 'oral hygiene' and are very grateful to Emma (Oscar's mum), who came to talk to the children about her role as a dental nurse. The children learnt how to brush their teeth and tickle their gums, how much sugar was in food and what happens when we visit the dentist. Thank you for such an interesting visit. A big thank you as well to Hossam's mother, who spoke to the children about her Islamic faith as part of a 'Living Faith' morning. The children learnt about festivals, traditions and celebrations!



During Science, **Year 1** have been learning about herbivores, omnivores and carnivores and what types of food they eat. They investigated and then sorted them into groups. They have also been learning their number bonds to 20.



To round off their history topic on The Great Fire of London, **Year 2** had an amazing drama workshop with Gemma. The children met Molly, the maid, who showed them around her apothecary shop, took them down Pudding Lane and walked along the river Thames. They also met King Charles II and enjoyed sharing their ideas about how London should be rebuilt so a fire would not destroy London again.



Year 3 enjoyed a thought-provoking drama workshop led by Gemma, where they explored Apartheid. They thought carefully about how it would have felt to have lived in South Africa at the time and gained a greater understanding of the impact that Nelson Mandela had on the world. During Children's Mental Health Week, the children explored the theme of connections and had fun seeing how many connections they could make as a class. They have also been developing their sketching skills and really impressed Miss Sanders and Mr Allison with their botanical sketches inspired by Charles Darwin!



Year 4 have been investigating and learning about pitch as part of their current Science topic on sound. After learning about how pitch can be different and why, they created their own 'tuned' stringed instrument. They spent an afternoon learning the myth Demeter and Persephone. Hades had taken Persephone into the underworld and they had to help Demeter rescue her. As their final piece of work in their sculpture unit, the children created large words that they thought were important to Saint John's. They then created very creative sculptures in the playground, many utilising the lovely sunny afternoon. The results were very impressive and had a real impact.



Year 5 have had lots of fun learning about Vikings and Anglo-Saxon invaders on Vikings Day. They enjoyed writing their names using Nordic runes (Viking alphabets), made Viking shields and used a variety of artefacts to learn about their lifestyle as well as Viking and Anglo-Saxon longhouses. They were amazed to learn that places with suffixes -ford, -bury and -ham (such as Oxford, Tewkesbury and Cheltenham) were named by Anglo-Saxons, while places with suffixes -by (such as Derby and Whitby) were named by Vikings. They ended the day by making some Viking bread using plain flour and oats, which was mostly eaten by rich members of the society such as chiefs and kings.



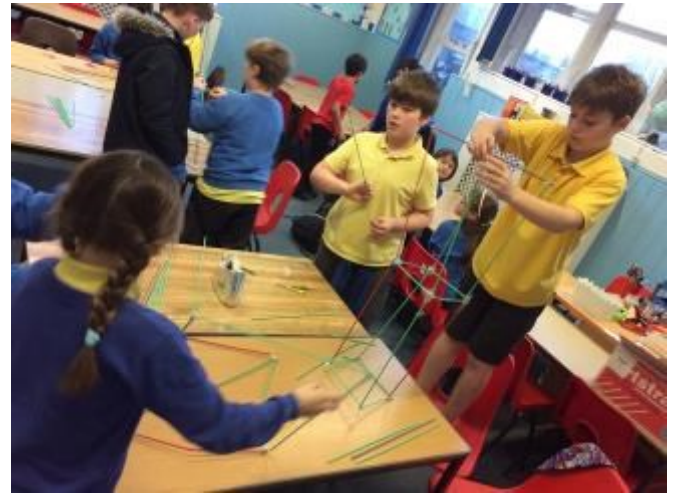
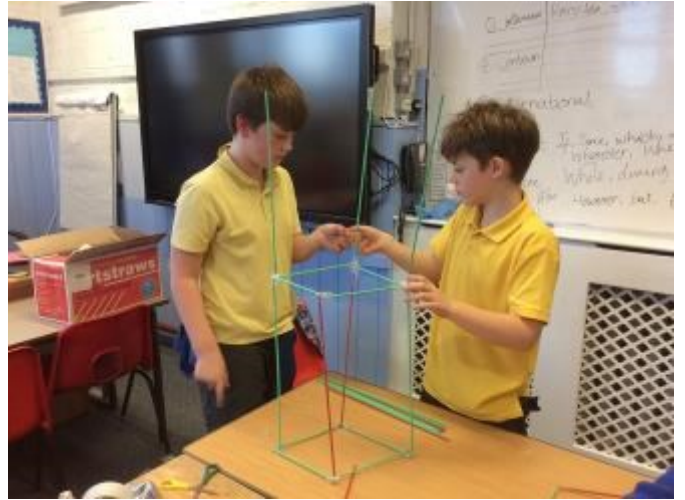
Year 6 have really enjoyed their gymnastics sessions. Over the last couple of weeks, they have been using the apparatus and wall frames to build and develop sequences for their final piece of work. For their 'Light' unit during Science, the children have been investigating reflection and refraction. Along with discovering the law of reflection, they have also been observing how refraction of light is used in areas of our day-to-day life. They were creating water lenses to observe how the refraction of light improved what they could see.



In addition to the National Curriculum, the children also have access to a wide variety of other enrichment activities: Year 3 and Year 4 are currently having swimming lessons; Year 2 are enjoying their weekly Forest School visits and there are numerous other clubs that children are able to be involved in, such as Science Club and Choir.







The football development squad enjoyed their game against Bishop's Cleeve.



Mrs Burns has given birth to a healthy baby girl!



Our school is very excited to be taking part in the 'Look Who's Talking!' competition, along with lots of other schools in Gloucestershire!

WHAT CAN YOUR CHILD TALK ABOUT?

Children can talk about absolutely anything that they choose to, for up to two-minutes. They can use any props that they want to that will help with their talk, but just cannot use any technology, so no Powerpoints please.

HOW CAN YOU HELP THEM AT HOME?

- ★ First of all, please help them to think about what they would like to talk about. The more interested they are in the subject, the more passionate their talk will be! What are they interested in? What excites them? It might be a toy, their pet, a book, something they have seen on TV, their favourite sports team, something they have learned about from you at home - or anything else! It can be anything at all!
- ★ They will need to write and rehearse their speech, so please listen to them practise and give them lots of encouragement!
- ★ Make sure they are speaking with big voices, nice and clearly, so everyone can hear their talk and learn about their chosen topic.

The talk should be no longer than two minutes – about any subject. Props are allowed but no technology

Pupils will present in the hall to an audience of pupils and staff

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Warden Hill Primary School

Cheltenham schools coming together to support their wider community

Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal

DEC Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal

run by The British Red Cross Society

Following the earthquake in Turkey and Syria, we have launched an emergency appeal. Whilst the situation is still developing there are

Beevers (and other staff) will listen to the presentations and choose three winners:

Year 1 and Year one from Year 3 Year 4 and one Year 5 and Year 6