



NEWSLETTER No. 11

March 2023

Dear Saint John's families,

I hope that there were some moments of rest and relaxation during half term, as well as the chance to do lots of reading in preparation for World Book Day!

It has been a busy couple of weeks with some fantastic experiences around reading and books; enjoy looking at the photographs in this newsletter, as well as asking your children what they did and where they went. The reading rivers are particularly interesting and help us to remember that reading is a skill which is needed for many, many different activities in daily life!

It has also been a joy to hear so many children come and present to me for our "Look Who's Talking!" oracy competition. There was a huge range of subjects: Harry Potter, Deforestation, the Beano, Needle Felting, Animal Friends, Capybaras and The Beatles were just a few! Now that our school heats have been completed, we will prepare three pupils to speak at the Cheltenham Schools' competition on Monday 20th March: Dexter will speak about flags; Isaac about Martial Arts and Eva about Animal Eggs (details to follow).

As you will see on the website, we continue to welcome new staff into the school, with Mrs Cagnoli and Mrs Dawid joining us most recently. We have many talented individuals here at Saint John's but it is particularly brilliant to see how we work as a team, welcoming newcomers and helping them settle in so quickly. It has also been good to welcome Andy Bates onto the governors team. Having parents represented on the governing body is important and, alongside Andy Bolas and Bethany Taylor, we have our parental voice represented well.

Strike Days: 15th and 16th March

Please be aware that Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March are teacher strike days. We are not 100% sure whether there will be any impact on classes but we will inform you if any year groups will be closed.



Mental Health and Wellbeing

Particularly since the pandemic, we have become aware of some of the anxiety that children (and adults) can feel. Below are two websites which might be useful. They provide guidance and support, give assurance and ideas about how to look after the children in our care.

#OnMyMind: Better mental health for every child

Every child deserves to grow up in loving, nurturing and safe environments.



NSPCC

Summer Events

I wanted to let you all know that we are just putting together our plans for Summer events and the dates will be published soon. Tea with Mrs B will be on offer, alongside opportunities to visit the classrooms. There will be Sports Day, of course, and our Leavers' events which includes a celebration service at St Luke's and an evening of fun! This year, we are joining with three other local schools to be involved in a Summer Fair. More details will follow but please do put **Saturday 8th July** in your diaries.

There are many, many lovely events at school but I would still say that our Friday celebration is one of my favourites! What a lovely chance for us to praise and celebrate what our children have achieved; do look out for the photographs on the website!

I hope you all have a good weekend.

Mrs Beevers :)

Please note:

Easter Celebration: Thursday 30th March - 10am (ish).

Term finishes: Friday 31st March at 2pm.



Written by Sharon Morrow TA



Reception class have been having lots of fun outside in the garden for their messy play sessions. They have cooked on the mud kitchen, dug holes looking for worms and loved playing with the drainpipes! The children have also celebrated World Book Day with the theme 'Reading is all around us' by thinking about how many activities they do in their lives when they use their reading skills, from reading door numbers on houses to their name on the cloakroom tags. They made a 'reading river' to show this.



A group of children in blue school uniforms are sitting on a red carpeted floor in a library, listening to a woman sitting on a red chair. The woman is wearing a pink shirt and blue jeans. The children are sitting in a semi-circle, and the background shows bookshelves filled with books.

A large group of children and adults are posing for a group photo in front of the entrance to a Waterstone's bookstore. The children, mostly of primary school age, are dressed in winter clothing, including coats, hats, and scarves. Many of the children are wearing blue school uniforms. They are arranged in several rows, with some standing on the sidewalk and others slightly elevated. The bookstore's entrance is visible behind them, featuring a large sign that reads "Waterstone's" in white lettering on a dark background. The entrance itself is a large glass doorway, and a colorful poster is visible inside. The building's facade is made of light-colored stone or concrete blocks. The overall atmosphere is festive and organized, suggesting a school event or a community gathering.



Year 3 have made a great start to this term. They have been working hard to create actions for their model text and are looking forward to creating toolkits to help them with writing a newspaper article. They enjoyed learning about different aspects of the Muslim faith during their 'living faith' visitor experience and also had an excellent time during their iSingPop workshop. World Book Day was a particular highlight and the costumes were amazing. They thought about how they use their reading skills everyday and created a reading river to show all the different places that they use their reading.



Year 4 took part in lots of activities to promote reading as part of World Book Day. They created reading rivers showing when reading is used in everyday life, had a fun time chatting about their books with biscuits and squash during Reading for Pleasure and had a fun-filled afternoon at the library in town.



Year 5 had lots of fun and excitement on World Book Day. They attended a session with Michael Morpurgo, during which he spoke about his inspiration for War Horse and also read an extract from this well-known book. After that, the children visited Waterstone's in Cheltenham and enjoyed taking part in reading based activities including listening to the extracts from some of the latest books and predicting what might happen next in the stories.



Year 6 were lucky to take part in the KNEX Challenge, set up by local engineering firm, Renishaw. The children were challenged to design and build a machine that could automatically sort recycled waste. They were required to build their machine from Knex and then present their model and ideas to the rest of the class. The challenge is run across the county and two lucky pupils will be invited to take part in a finals event at Renishaw later in the year.



The children enjoyed dressing up for World Book Day 2023.





