



NEWSLETTER No. 14

May 2023

Dear Saint John's families,

Thank you to the many families who have bought a "personalised" bag during these last two weeks. It has been great seeing families going away with a bag with their child's name on: it is a lovely memento that, I am sure, many will keep for years to come, whether as a useful shopping bag or framed as a primary school memory! There are still a few left, so it might be worth thinking about this as a present for extended family too.

On Friday last week, for the Coronation, we had a lovely day, dressed up in red, white and blue and singing and dancing, as well as learning, during our iSingPoP performance. This is the second iSingPoP event of this year and the children love taking part.

This week has been busy with SATs for both the Year 2 pupils and the Year 6 pupils. The Year 2s had a slightly more relaxed experience but still had the challenge of concentrating and working completely independently for their assessment tests; Year 6 had some tough papers for English and Maths but showed their resilience and determination throughout the week. WELL DONE!

I wanted to take the opportunity to mention in the newsletter about some of the pupil leadership opportunities our children have at Saint John's. I meet with the **School Council** and the **Worship Committee** regularly; these two groups are able to engage in discussions around school improvement, what experiences all of the children want to have in school, as well as any worries that might be brought to teachers' attention. In addition, we have **Helpers** for activities and also **Playground Buddies** who support and play with children in both the Reception playground and the main playground.

Please remember that we will be at **Highbury Church on Thursday 25th May** in the morning, when children from each class will be presenting in different ways about their learning this term.

Requests for help:

The PTFA team are asking for help from parents for the various events which we put on for the children at Saint John's. These are:

Sports Day: Thursday 22nd June in the morning

Movie Night: Thursday 29th June 6-8pm

School Summer Festival: Saturday 8th July 11-3pm

School staff will be helping but we need to have other volunteers to support these events. Please email if you are interested:

ptfa@st-johns-pri.gloucs.sch.uk

or talk to the staff or possibly members of the PTFA at pick up in the playground.

Like a typical school fete, this Summer Festival is going to be brilliant! We will be offering some exciting activities: disco, plant and cake stalls; face painting; various food vans and even climbing and football activities! We will be running a bottle tombola and a pre-loved teddy stall so please do keep to one side those bottles of drink (lemonade or something stronger!) or bottles of "bathroom smellies", as well as any soft toys that are in good condition. We will collect these in school in early July.

Please also look in the school calendar as we will be arranging some "open school" events so that parents and carers can come into school again and see what we are doing. More details in the next newsletter.

My final comment is to say how incredibly pleased we are at the improvement in daily attendance and punctuality. Families are doing a great job at bringing children in each day in time: THANK YOU! It makes all the difference to the children to be settled in the classroom by 8.55am so being at the gate before then is really helpful.

Have a good weekend.

Kind regards, Victoria Beevers



Written by Sharon Morrow TA



It has been another busy and fun week in Reception. The children have been learning the teen numbers and different representations of numbers 11-20 in Maths. They have been playing lots of number games to help them with this and are beginning to achieve instant recognition of some of the number bonds. The children celebrated the Coronation by exploring lots of London landmarks on Google Earth and making their own crowns. They have practised using different joining techniques this week, including using Sellotape and the stapler! In Art, the children drew the other half of King Charles and had to concentrate really hard to match up his crown and face.



Year 1 have been putting their new 3D paper crafting skills to good use by using them to support their RE knowledge of the Jewish faith. They have learned that the Jewish sacred text is the Torah and that it comes in scroll form. The children enjoyed making their own scrolls.



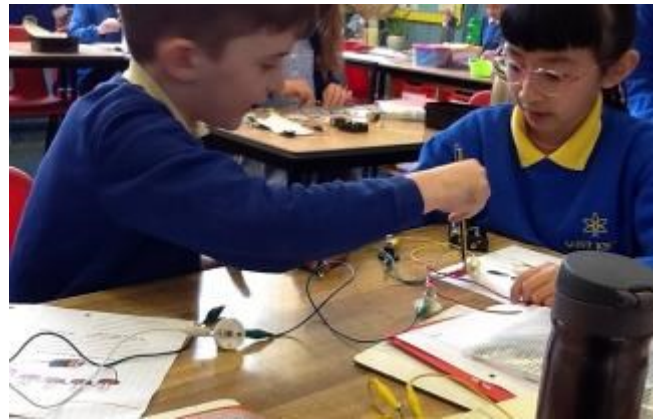
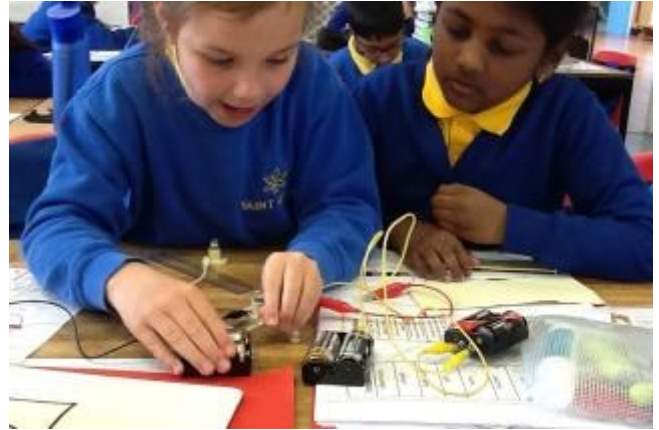
Year 2 had a great time at the Wilson Museum, learning about Edward Wilson. The children found lots of relevant artefacts around the museum, including his paintings, a sled and snow goggles. They took part in different workshops learning about his life and legacy and we even got to taste 'sled biscuits,' which were eaten during expeditions.



Year 3 celebrated the Coronation by creating a fantastic piece of art. They designed a background by sketching important Coronation items and painted them using watercolours. They then used their knowledge of tone to sketch King Charles himself!



Year 4 have enjoyed exploring simple electrical circuits in Science. They have learnt how to create a circuit, problem solve when issues arise and draw their circuits using correct component symbols. They also enjoyed a visit from two Cheltenham College students, who talked to them about the Latin language and Ancient Greece.



Year 5 have been flexing their creative muscles in Art by creating a printing plate. A printing plate is a textured board with different resources attached, which is used as a stamp. The children used bubble wrap, cardboard, crunched up paper, pasta and rice. They painted them and stamped them onto a piece of paper to form a textured background, ready for their pictures to be sketched on top. You can see from this example the texture from a piece of cardboard with grooves on it.



Year 6 have been investigating the theory of evolution and seeing how different characteristic traits can make an animal more or less successful in its environment. The class used a 'Battle of the Beaks' activity to see how successfully they could eat different "foods" using the "beaks" that they were given. Our investigations will continue to see how competition for the same foods might affect the population. In their WWII History unit, the children discussed 'Dig for Victory' and how society as a whole needed to pull together, not only to conserve and share what resources were available, but also to produce as much for themselves as possible, using available land in their communities.



Congratulations to our team which reached the second round of the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust School Quiz. There were some really challenging questions and the children handled the pressure admirably!



Congratulations to our team which took part in the Sportshall Athletics at Cheltenham College. Everyone competed superbly and the children were delighted to come away with silver medals.



A team from Year 4 really enjoyed a New Age Kurling tournament held at Cheltenham Ladies College Sports Centre. They picked the game up really quickly and even came back with medals!



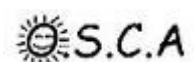
The Year 6 children have been enjoying breakfast club during SATs week. A big 'Well Done' to all the Year 2 and Year 6 pupils for their positive and determined attitude towards KS1 and KS2 assessments.



OSCA places academic year 2023-2024.

Anyone who would like to be sent a registration pack to sign up for places at osca next academic year please email Annette Hudson at oscastjohns@yahoo.co.uk with your full postal address and number of children you would like to register.

Registration packs will be posted at half term.



We had a wonderful day on Friday 5th May when the whole school took part in an iSingPOP concert to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III. Lots of singing and learning about kings and queens!



Saint John's is taking a key role in this event and we hope many families will help and enjoy all that is on offer.

