



NEWSLETTER No. 15

May 2023

Dear Saint John's families,

We come to the end of Term 5, bathed in sunshine and with smiles on everyone's faces.

What a term it has been!

There have been some exciting "extra" events, such as visiting Cheltenham College for Forest School, DT and Science, listening to jazz in the Town Hall, completing SATs in Year 2 and Year 6, some coronation celebrations - along with a couple of bank holidays - and then the inspection last week. As well as these unusual events, we have enjoyed our "normal" classroom learning and those parents and carers who were able to attend yesterday morning, in person or online, were treated to some wonderful performances by every class. Considering how little we had rehearsed, we thought they did a great job! We have been told that the live link should continue to be open for a couple of weeks, so please do invite friends and family to see what we did.

I would like to say "Thank You" to our governors who give up their time in school to support the staff and pupils; it was particularly good having the chance for the inspector to hear about their input into school governance and leadership.

Please note dates for your diary which we put in the school calendar. The calendar can be found on the school website, under Community.

I have arranged some "Tea with Mrs B; Open Classroom" dates so please do see if you can make yourselves available to come and check out your children's learning and meet in my office/the library with other parents and carers. These events start at 2pm.

Friday 16th June: Year 1 and Year 2

Friday 30th June: Year 3 and Year 4

Friday 7th July: Reception, Year 5 and Year 6

We have been talking to parents about how we can improve the school, particularly thinking about communications with families. We have gathered that there are too many different types of communication, so we have decided to focus on Dojo and extend our use of this system. It is possible to post information for the whole school and Mr Vaughan, the office and I will be working on this over these next few weeks to see what can be done. It is essential that all families check Dojo for messages and "stories" and use this as a way to communicate with the class teachers. However, please remember that any absences (for any reason) MUST go to the office. Please also know that messages given to me on the gate do not always make it to the relevant person in time, so please contact the class teacher via Dojo. We will publish some information about the do's and don'ts of using Dojo in order to clarify the school's expectations of staff and parents/carers. In this way, everyone will know when and how communications will work between school and home.

On communication, we are publishing a new Behaviour and Relationships Policy. This has been put together through conversations with the children, with the parent working party, staff and governors. We are keen to put it on the website so that our community can see it and Mr Vaughan will be in touch with the parent working party for a review in the second half of the Summer Term. Please do have a look: it will be put in the Policies, under the Information section part of the school website.

Finally, this morning I was at the Guildhall in Gloucester for the Oracy Competition final, which included one of our Year 2 pupils. It was a brilliant event and Isaac did really well standing in front of the audience. Well done, Isaac!

Have a relaxing half term! We look forward to seeing you when we return on Monday 5th June. Gates open at 8.45am and **school finishes at 3.15pm for everyone!**

Kind regards, Mrs Beevers



Written by Sharon Morrow TA



Reception have had a very exciting term, learning about growing. They started off the term by hatching chicks and learning about the life cycles of animals. This week, the children have been linking their knowledge to see how plants change over time by planting sunflower seeds. They are very excited and are keeping a close eye out for any signs of germination!



Year 1 have been working in pairs to create a 'Tree of Life' as part of their 3D paper art topic. During Maths, they enjoyed using the play-dough to find quarters of an object or shape.



Year 2 used all of the skills they have learnt during their Art unit of work to make their own dragon's eyes with clay. The children used the technique of imprinting and relief to add texture to their design. They also used 'score and slip' to ensure their designs were secure.



Year 4 enjoyed sharing their projects with other classes. The children had researched, at home, how the Romans have impacted our local area.



Year 3 have enjoyed learning about the Ancient Egyptians this term. They celebrated their learning with an Ancient Egyptian day where they made their own paper and created scrolls containing symbols that would have been seen at that time. They also learnt how Tutankhamun's tomb was discovered and wrote brilliant diary entries from Howard Carter's perspective.



Year 5 enjoyed learning about 'Staying Safe and Speaking Out' by attending a workshop with the NSPCC. They met Buddy, a speech bubble, who explained to the children that they have the right to speak out and have their views taken seriously, and to be kept safe and get help when they need it. During the workshop, children also thought about safe adults to talk to, both in school and out of school. Children were also informed about Childline and how they can get in contact if they are worried or need to talk.



In writing this term, **Year 6** have been focusing on creating atmosphere and tension through a "Tale of Fear". To help them with their final writing task, the children enjoyed a drama workshop, where they created atmospheric rooms of an old, strange mansion that a character could walk through. In each room, the items and furniture were mimed and described by the pupils using some descriptive language. Peculiar and creepy happenings occurred in this mansion, where items began to move or come to life. They watched as characters walked through the room and reacted to the strange occurrences that unfolded in each one.



The whole school enjoyed a morning of celebration at Highbury Church, with the children showing some of the things they have been learning about this term.

It was particularly impressive as we had not been able to rehearse, due to the inspection. We were pleased that many parents were able to join us and others who watched online.









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