



NEWSLETTER No. 16

June 2023

Dear Saint John's families,

We know it is hot when the gazebos are put up in the playground. It has been brilliant to see so many of our children enjoying some outdoor activities and, I have to say, I do enjoy hearing the youngest ones making the most of their "Messy Play" when it is warm outside! Thank you to parents and carers for ensuring that your children have hats and sun cream on. We encourage the children to drink water throughout the day; please can we encourage these bottles to be washed regularly. I was a bit aghast to hear one parent say that it is washed each holiday. Having been unwell at the start of this week, I would not want anyone to catch a tummy bug! We will be sending all water bottles home today to ensure a really good clean in preparation for next week!

I am pleased to see that using Dojo has provided ways for parents to get communications; thank you for the positive feedback we have received. Please do keep checking the website for information, especially about dates. You will receive a School Dojo about Sports Morning; we hope many parents will join us for this event!

This week, we received over 200 books from Read for Good: <https://readforgood.org/> which are being enjoyed in the classroom by all our children. This is an amazing organisation that raises the profile of reading, supports reading for pleasure and money raised helps a hospital reading programme. With children that we know who are regularly in hospital, it feels like an important charity to support. Look out for Readathon plans in the Autumn Term, as well as the Summer Party at the end of this month!

Year 1 pupils have completed their Phonics Screening and Year 4 pupils did their Multiplication Tables Check. These "tests" provide the government with information that helps "to track standards over time". Class teachers already know how well our children read and know their times tables but we have to complete the tests.

'Tea with Mrs B' starts today, along with the Open Classroom opportunity. I hope many will come today. You are very welcome to come and check out your children's learning and meet in my office/the library with other parents and carers.

Friday 16th June: Year 1 and Year 4

Friday 30th June: Year 2 and Year 3

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

Other key dates:

Sports Day: Thursday 22nd June at about 10am

Movie Night: Thursday 29th June 6-8pm

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

This event needs your support: please see the flyer!

Thursday 20th July: Year 6 Leavers' Event (Disco)

Friday 21st July: End of Term and Leavers' Service at St Luke's Church (approximate start time is 10am)

Tuesday 24th July: End of Term at 2pm

School staff will be helping at many of these events but please consider supporting these events as the PTFA (Parents (Carers), Friends and Teachers Association) is a little "thin on the ground" at the moment. It would be a shame if some events are not able to go ahead due to too few parent/carers volunteers. Please email the PTFA if you are able to help: ptfa@st-johns-pri.gloucs.sch.uk

Year 6 pupils have begun their transition activities, both in class and with external contacts. Many secondary schools visit Saint John's and all pupils should attend the transition events at the secondary school. Please do ensure you know these details: secondary schools should have contacted parents.

Have a lovely weekend, everyone. Enjoy (and be careful in) the sunshine!

Mrs Beevers



Written by Sharon Morrow TA



Reception's 'Talk for Writing' book this term is the Sand Horse, where an artist sculpts a horse out of sand on the beach. The Sand Horse wants to play with the white horses out in the bay. As a follow up to the story, the children made their own sand sculptures. They made cats, suns, smiley faces and butterflies and even a snowman!

"The sand has to be wet so we can mould it."

"I can make lots of mountains by bringing the sand up in my hands."



Year 1 have been enjoying their cricket coaching sessions with Alex. The children have also been learning how to type on the laptops using Word.



Year 2 have been enjoying cricket coaching and, for the last two weeks, have been learning how to bowl. The children have also started their DT unit of work: this week they learned how to thread a needle and do running stitch!!



Year 3 have been creating actions for their model text. They have had to be creative, as the creature that they are writing about is a mix between a snake, an eagle and an alligator! The children have also really enjoyed the start of their cricket lessons. They have been focusing on bowling and have made great progress.



Year 5 have been exploring lots of amazing facts about the climate zones and biomes in South America. They were baffled to learn that in the Atacama Desert it rained in 1971 for the first time in 400 years! They were also surprised to learn that some countries of South America, such as Argentina, have their summer months from December to February and their winter lasts from May to September. Children were able to link these facts with their learning in Science about seasons, and established that this was because of Argentina's location in Southern hemisphere.



Year 4 enjoyed a fantastic morning at the Science Festival. They spent some time in the Maker Shack, where they could learn how to weave, make Lego models, explore how vaccines are made and make and test a car as well as other activities. Afterwards, they had to become code-breakers to release an imprisoned unicorn!



Year 6 have been expanding their French vocabulary by learning how to translate various items found in a cafe. The children will be continuing their conversational skills to include ordering food and drink. During Geography, the children have been exploring earthquakes, finding out what causes them and how they are measured. They made their own seismograph instruments and attempted to trace out the vibrations from a simulated quake.



It has been a busy time on the cricketing front as the cricket club members travelled to Bishop's Cleeve Academy for a friendly. They had proper cricket weather this time and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the experience.



For Year 1's DT project, the children will be making sock puppets. If anyone has any old socks, scraps of fabric or buttons etc., any donations over the next week would be greatly