



## NEWSLETTER No. 18

July 2023

Dear Saint John's families,

In my family, we try to take time to reflect on the week gone by or at the end of a term/holiday to talk about those highlights which will remain in our memories. I have looked back through the 18 newsletters this year, as well as glancing through children's folders of work, remembering the displays in classrooms and thinking about celebrations in the school hall, Highbury Church or St Luke's. Perhaps there are particular moments which immediately come to mind for each family? It would not be possible to list all that comes to my mind but there are a few reflections I would like to share with you.

The first is seeing the Reception pupils join us for the drama performances this week. Last September, it would not have been possible for most of them to sit for that long, engaging in the performance and laughing at the comedy! Their development has been wonderful to watch; they are a credit to both families and school.

The second is seeing the Year 6 pupils at the Leavers' Service at St Luke's on Friday. These children are definitely secondary-ready! It is clear that they are able to present to a large audience, to share their thoughts and aspirations and to make us smile too. As they leave us, I am sure that they will be a great example of children who have flourished at primary school and will make the most of secondary school and beyond.

The inspection is my final reflection. Let us be clear: the report is based on an inspector's opinion after a visit lasting two days, but it is brilliant that, during the visit, we were able to show something of the work that both staff and pupils have achieved during this year. The comments are testament to the determination and commitment that has been put into ensuring that both policy and daily practice are good; those comments show that we are ***"a place where leaders encourage all to flourish. Pupils are happy... and feel safe and well looked after... and find lessons exciting."***

Below are some key sections to think about during the holidays; please encourage others within your year groups to note key dates and information!

End of Term: **Tuesday 25th July at 2pm**

Start of Term: **Wednesday 6th September at 8.45am.**

New Reception pupils are allocated one day in the first week; please refer to individual letters.

### Clubs

Please note that there will be no clubs during this first week: clubs will start from Monday 11th September. We anticipate Drama Club on a Wednesday and Judo on a Thursday. Chess Club will begin again but this may move from a Monday. Details of clubs will come out during the first few days.

### Uniform

The summer break is a really good time to have a check for any gaps in uniform. Our uniform list is found on the school website, along with details about where to get the right clothes and shoes. Pupils will still be able to attend school in their PE kit on those days that they have PE and we will send Dojo messages on the 4th or 5th September, when the staff have Inset Training Days, to let you know about PE days and other termly information.

Please be aware that we expect children to be wearing **BRANDED sweatshirts and cardigans** and that PE kit includes **PLAIN BLACK shorts/tracksuits**. We will also be reviewing the summer uniform for next year, so please do not buy a summer dress yet!

As you look forward to the next few weeks of no school, please be aware that there are many resources and links to support families during the summer holidays on our website and on the Glos Families Directory.

<https://www.glosfamiliesdirectory.org.uk/kb5/gloucs/glosfamilies/family.page?familychannel=1>

We wish you all a lovely summer break; we look forward to welcoming you back in September.

Take care, Mrs Beevers :)



Written by Sharon Morrow TA





It is hard to believe that the school year has almost finished! The **Reception** children loved their transition morning with Mrs Roper and Miss Walsh in Year 1, and we also welcomed the new Reception class for a play visit. This week, as well dodging the showers, the children enjoyed one of their last messy play sessions of the year. They have loved these sessions, whether it is experimenting with drainpipes to make the best channel, investigating the wind direction by watching which way the bubbles blow or developing gross motor skills by swinging on the tree. But I think they have had the most fun jumping in muddy puddles! Have a lovely summer!





**Year 1** enjoyed making fruit kebabs. They learned to peel and chop the fruit and then threaded it on to skewers before eating them.  
'I enjoyed putting the banana onto the skewer.'  
'I enjoyed eating it all.'  
'I liked making my fruit skewer and then eating it.'





**Year 2** really enjoyed their Food Technology Day. The task was to create a healthy, balanced wrap. The children started the day looking at the different food groups and thought about which foods fitted into which groups. They then had a chance to think about food combinations and try some out. Some of their favourites were cheese and cucumber, as well as red pepper and hummus. After, they made their own wraps, making sure they contained protein, dairy and vegetables. The wraps went down well and some of the children's comments included "best wrap I've ever tasted!" and 'tastes like paradise!'





**Year 3** have had a very busy week and especially enjoyed their trip to Pittville Park. They completed some observational sketching, participated in some house competitions, had their picnic lunch and then played in the park. They really enjoyed looking through all the pictures when they got back and sharing stories about all their adventures! They also loved making seasonal vegetable tarts during their DT day later in the week. The classroom smelt amazing and the children worked very sensibly and safely for the entire day.





**Year 4** had a very busy morning making biscuits. They adapted a recipe with their own flavouring and then made them. Whilst they were cooking, they designed a brand name, the packaging and persuasive poster for their new product. Blueberry biscuits were a definite favourite! They also had a lovely day at Pittville Park.





**Year 5** enjoyed a trip to Concert for Schools at Cheltenham Town Hall. During the concert, two children from Saint John's shared their findings from the research about their given piece of music with the audience. Children had discovered that their classical piece was called Dance of the Knights, which was composed by Sergei Prokofiev, a Russian composer, in 1935 and it was included in Prokofiev's second suite of ballet music from Romeo and Juliet. The audience also enjoyed listening to a various other classical pieces played by the orchestra. The day ended with children attending a variety of musical workshops, where they had the opportunity to play different instruments including violin and brass. A great time was had by all!





**Year 6** had a great time at the Cheltenham Music Festival Concert for Schools. They listened to an amazing orchestra play some classical pieces, some of which were well known to the children. After a sunny picnic lunch in the park, they returned to the Town Hall for some music workshops involving cornets, violas and percussion. The children also completed their cooking and nutrition unit of work for DT by designing and making their own turkey burgers. With a limited range of different ingredients, the children “spiced up” a standard turkey burger to something a bit more interesting and tasty. Some alternative and healthy ideas included the addition of carrots and apples into their mix. Hopefully, this DT morning has inspired and excited the children to get creative in the kitchen this summer!





Years 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 all enjoyed spending some time at Pittville Park.









**Year 6** enjoyed a day of cricket, courtesy of Gloucestershire Cricket Foundation. They watched a game between Gloucestershire and Glamorgan, had some coaching, a player question and answer session, and got their 4 and 6 runs cards signed.





The **Year 6** children held a lovely Leavers' Service at St Luke's Church. There were performances by the Year 6 children, the Choir and even Mr Jones! We wish them all the very best for the future at their new schools.

















