



NEWSLETTER No. 1

September 2023

Dear Saint John's families,

I hope that you all enjoyed some rest and relaxation over the summer, catching up with friends and family and making the most of the sunny days. After six weeks, it is always a bit of a shock returning to school but I know that many children thrive on routine and love their learning at school. Certainly, the smiley faces greeting me at the gate each morning, hammering to be "let inside", suggest this!

Managing the transition into a new year group is always a challenge and we have put in place many opportunities for the each class to get to know each other and settle into its own pattern. Please do chat to the class teacher at the end of the day so that you get to know them:

Reception: Ms Griffiths

Year 1: Mrs Roper Year 2: Mrs Fox and Mrs Snow

Year 3: Miss Sanders Year 4: Mrs Seabrook

Year 5: Mrs Omar and Mr Vaughan Year 6: Mr Jones

Mrs Read and Mrs Mayhew work in the office and are the first port of call on admin@st-johns-pri.gloucs.sch.uk.

You may notice that I am not on the gate quite as much as I have been in the past. This is because I have been asked to join a number of local education committees. This gives us at Saint John's a voice in the meetings and it ensures that we are aware of local developments, particularly within school provision and education. Mr Vaughan deputises in my absence and the school continues to run smoothly. Where it is relevant, I will feedback to parents and carers. This week, I joined a group of Primary Headteachers to speak with three key personnel who lead the Education Department at Gloucestershire County Council to discuss questions around budgets, support for mental health and what specialist provision is available for those who need more than a maintained school (such as Saint John's) can offer. It is helpful being part of the debate as I am able to put forward the needs of our children and families.

PTFA (Parents, Teachers and Friends Association)

We have a PTFA meeting (AGM) on Thursday 28th September at 7pm at school. Please come. This will be an opportunity to talk about events for the year and to meet other parents and carers.

In July, we joined with three other schools for a Summer Festival and had a brilliant day at Pittville School. Despite the rain, many families came and the PTFA did a wonderful job, giving up their time to set up, organise stalls and make the whole event run well. Excitingly, we raised £1400 for each school!

So, **please come on Thursday** to discuss what would be good to organise this year: Disco? Movie? Christmas Fair?

Supporting the governors at Saint John's as a Clerk

The governors at Saint John's are a great support to the school, meeting regularly and discussing the different issues around school life. We need a clerk to minute the six meetings a year and oversee the governance, working with Governor Services at the County Council. This is a paid role and would suit someone with some hours spare. Meetings are after school, usually on a Thursday. Please do let your friends and neighbours know that this role is available. They can contact Catherine Simpson by email: chair@st-johns-pri.gloucs.sch.uk or contact the school office to arrange to come and chat with me.

Each term, we focus on a Christian value. This term, we are focusing on RESPECT.

After some pretty awful rain this week, it seems important to remind families that all children must come into school with a coat; we want to be outside as much as possible and the children need a waterproof for these break times - and at school pick up, as we saw on Friday at 3.15pm!

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards, Mrs Beevers



Written by Sharon Morrow TA



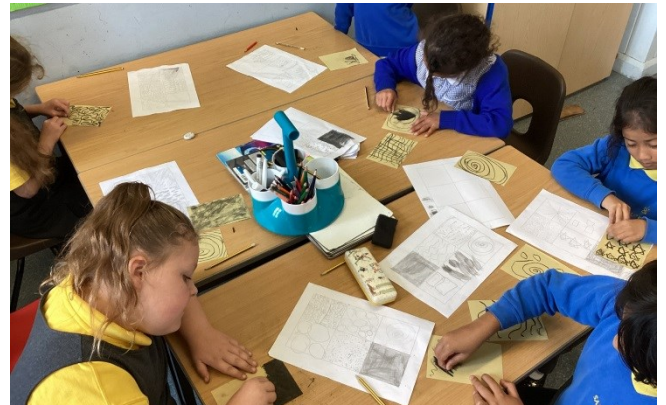
It has been lovely to welcome the new **Reception** Class to Saint Johns. The children are settling in beautifully and have been very busy making friends, learning new routines and having lots of fun! They have had their first session on the bikes and large wheeled toys and have loved playing on the garden, especially in the sand pit. The children have also been making the most of the warm weather and have enjoyed splashing in the water tray!



As part of our unit of work on place value, the children in **Year 1** sorted objects in a variety of ways. They used practical equipment and sorted it according to size, colour, shape and number.



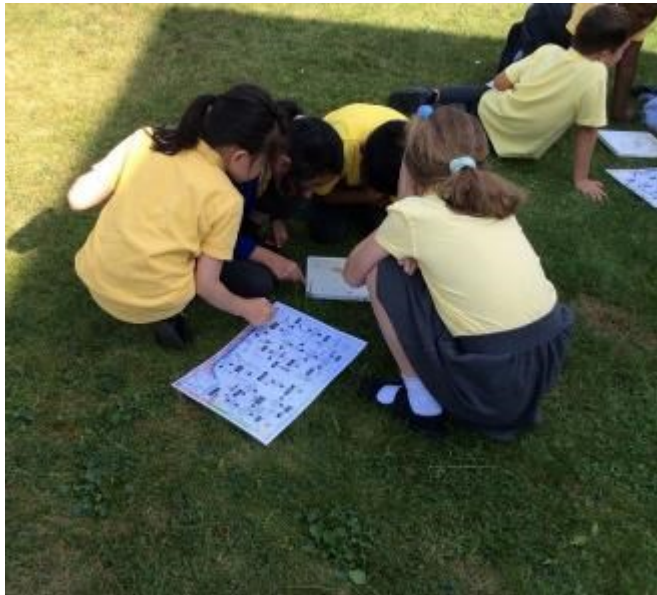
During their PHSE lesson, **Year 2** have been thinking about words such as gentle, powerful, enormous and tiny. They then represented these words on paper using chalk and pencil.



Year 3 have made a great start to the term and have quickly adapted to the new routines that come with being in KS2. They have started their first English unit and enjoyed washing Miss Sanders' dogs' toys to help them with their instructions writing. They have also created brilliant pictures and actions to help them remember their model text.



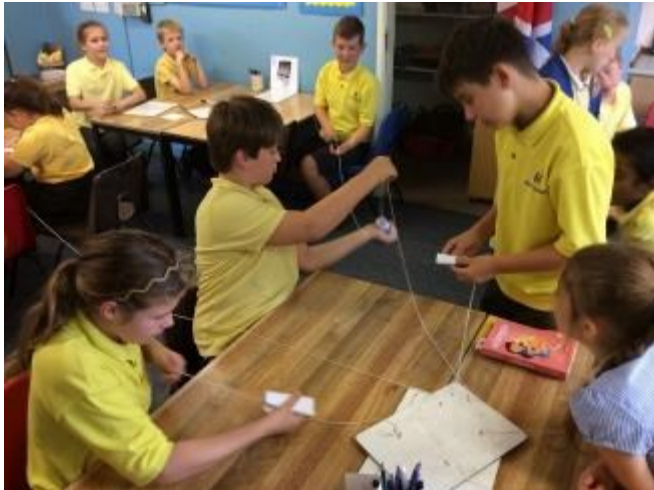
Year 4 had a lovely time in the afternoon sunshine exploring our school environment. They had to use their observation skills to look for signs of summer in the garden as well as taking part in a pond dipping task.



Year 5 have made a superb start to the term with their new topic 'The Mayas'. They have been completing a timeline of the key events during the Maya time period and have also been learning lots of interesting facts about their religious beliefs. During the sessions, the children were surprised to learn that Mayas believed in an underworld called 'Xibalba' meaning 'place of fright.' They also learnt that Mayas had lots of different gods responsible for different tasks, for example, they had 'Kukulcan' for resurrection and reincarnation and 'Chac' to bring rain to make the crops grow. They have also been busy decorating their values tree to show their understanding of our current Christian value - Respect.



In computing, **Year 6** have been learning about networks. The children modelled how devices “talk” to each other and how they distribute data across wide areas, such as the internet. They have also had their first hockey lesson with Cheltenham College. They played some fun games to develop some basic skills to help us with our future lessons. Finally, the children have been putting some actions to their model text in writing, to help them internalise some of the language and sentence structure which they might be able to use in their own work.



The PTFA Annual General Meeting is at 7pm on Thursday 28th September. Everyone is welcome and refreshments will be provided. Entrance via the front door.



Welcome to the start of a new year. St Luke's is the Church of England church paired with Saint John's School. We love to see the children visit the church for lessons and whole school events. We also have volunteers from the church helping at Saint John's as Governors and in various other capacities.

Reverend Wheaton leads Collective Worship at the school every Wednesday and, during lunchtime on a Wednesday, Hanna from St Luke's leads Faithfu(e)l. This is a club for those in Year 4, 5 & 6. There are games and a chance to learn and ask questions about the Christian faith.

There are various things going on at St Luke's that we think families from Saint John's can connect with. In particular, we have our outdoor Harvest Festival service this Sunday at 10am.



What's on

Sunday

8am Holy Communion
10am Morning Worship with children and youth groups

Tuesday

9.30-11am Tinies & Toddlers

Wednesday

11am Holy Communion
7.30pm Growth Group

Thursday

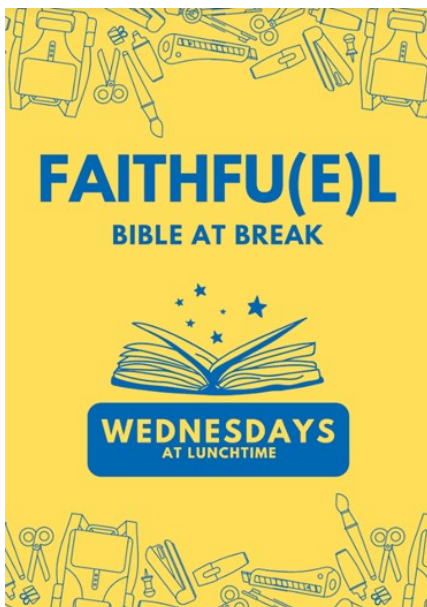
7.30pm Growth Group

Friday

9.30am Women's Bible Study

www.stlukescheltenham.org.uk

stlukescheltenham



Celebrating the Highbury Community

*Come and meet the church and
community groups who 'live' in this
building*

Saturday 30th September
2.30-5pm

Demonstrations - Activities - Refreshments



HIGHBURY
Congregational Church

Priory Walk
Top Oxford Street
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