



## NEWSLETTER No. 4

November 2023

Dear Saint John's families,

Another week of excitement and learning at Saint John's, with the culmination being celebrating today with:

### Children in Need

### Anti-bullying Week

### Geography Day

I imagine that the children will come home this evening with lots to say about each of these elements! I have to admit, it is strange to stand in front of the whole school and see them out of uniform. I love being able to wear jeans, honestly, but I did miss that sense of community that comes from school uniform. The sea of Saint John's t-shirts and sweatshirts/cardigans with the school logo really provides a vision of belonging to a group. So, I will look forward to seeing them all back in uniform on Monday! Do have a look at the Uniform Policy on the website, if you have any questions around what is expected in school. We are not as tough as many schools, but it would be helpful to ensure that your child is wearing the correct clothes and shoes, for PE as well as on "ordinary" days.

There have been various important messages on Dojo this week: the Nativity which will be performed by Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 in December (13th and 14th) and the Christmas Fair on Saturday 2nd December 1-3pm. We will need help, particularly for the Christmas Fair so, if you have some time to offer, please email [PTFA@st-johns-pri.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:PTFA@st-johns-pri.gloucs.sch.uk)

We continue to build partnerships with local schools and organisations. Enjoy reading about the crocus planting and see the photographs of our trips to Cheltenham College for Science and DT and to the Forest School. There are some more opportunities in the future too with singing at the Town Hall and engaging with an Arts project connecting adults who live in the locality with our children. More details nearer the time.

As we head towards Christmas, we would like to tell you about some additional events.

### Sunday 10th December: Choir singing

Our children's choir have been invited to sing at the 10am Carol Service at St Luke's Church. They will be leading some singing and may also have the chance to be involved in other ways, as it is a very family-friendly service. Pippa Ginns, who directs our choir, has been rehearsing the group and we hope that all of the children will be available to come to the church on that Sunday. Of course, any other families are welcome to come and join in with the service too; no previous experience of St Luke's is necessary!

### Tuesday 19th December: Pantomime!

4Front Theatre will be presenting the nativity message in a fun way at 10am at St Luke's Church. Families are welcome to join us for this too.

### Wednesday 20th December: Christmas Service

The whole school will be going to St Luke's for their Christmas Service, led by Revd Patrick Wheaton. This is a wonderful opportunity for the children to experience a church service with the familiar face of Patrick, who visits school every week to speak to the children and who is also on our governing body. Parents and carers are welcome to join us, as well as younger siblings.

Recently, we have had particular feedback from those who have enjoyed the company of Saint John's. I have received the following comments:

**"Your children are some of the best behaved pupils we have had visiting here."**

**Some visitors to the school "had a lovely time; the children were delightful and the staff so helpful."**

**"Your children, staff and helpers were a credit to the school."**

I couldn't be prouder of our Saint John's community!

THANK YOU and well done, everyone! Mrs Beevers



Written by Sharon Morrow TA



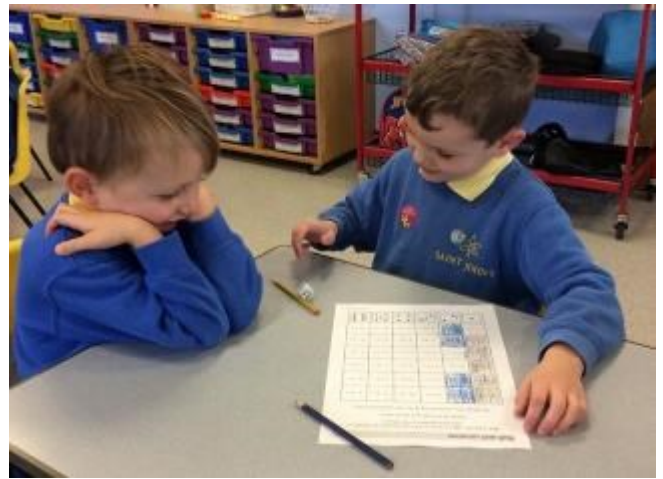


**Reception** class absolutely loved their first messy play session. They made channels with drainpipes, swung on the tree, explored textures with jelli bath and gloop, made mud pies and splashed in the mud puddle!





During Maths in **Year 1**, the children have consolidated their learning on addition and subtraction by playing games and carrying out investigations. They always enjoy working with a partner and they are really good at sharing their ideas and helping each other.





**Year 2** have been enjoying their Forest School sessions at Cheltenham College. They have been climbing on the logs, crawling through the tunnels, swinging in the trees and making mud pies.





**Year 3** have spent time reflecting on those who sacrificed their lives so we could enjoy the freedom that we have today. They explored the poem 'In Flanders Fields' and used watercolour paint to create their own art to commemorate those who lost their lives in war. The children also wore odd socks on Monday to mark the start of Anti-Bullying Week and celebrate what makes us all unique!



**Year 4** and **Reception** enjoyed a lovely session sharing books together and playing maths games. It was hard to tell who was the most excited!





**Year 4** and **Year 5** enjoyed being part of a local project organised by the Rotary Club and Friends of Sandford Park on World Polio Day. The aim of this was to raise awareness about the importance of the polio vaccination to protect children from this devastating disease. To mark the occasion, the children planted crocus bulbs in Sandford Park. It is envisaged that the crocus bulbs will morph into a delightful bloom for the many visitors of Sandford Park in Spring and remind everyone of the efforts of healthcare professionals all over the world to eradicate this life-threatening disease.

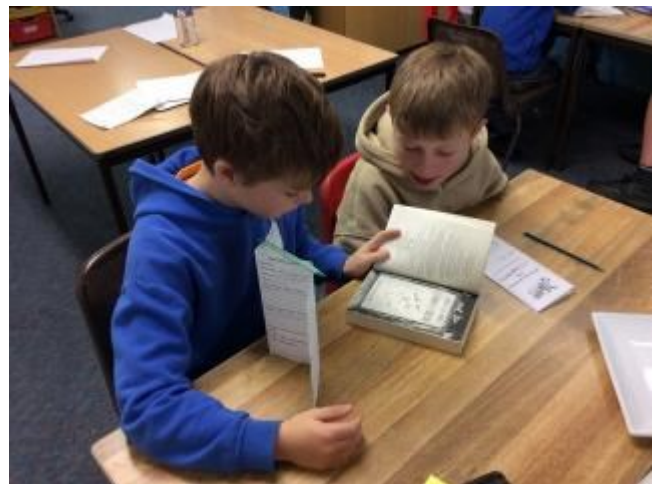


**Year 5** have had a fantastic time attending their very first Science and DT sessions at Cheltenham College. During Science, the children learnt about solubility by making different types of solutions and then observing and recording their findings in a table. During DT, they enjoyed using special equipment to learn about sanding down a surface and drilling holes. They are very much looking forward to future sessions.





**Year 6** spent a morning enjoying their first Book Café. In groups, the children "tasted" several new additions to their classroom library and discussed them in their groups. They looked at the front covers, read the blurbs and perhaps even a page or two to get an idea of the genre of the book and whether it was a book that interested them. It was a lovely, informal session where the children could natter over literature (as well as nibbling on a biscuit) while also discovering some new reads.



The football team has enjoyed a busy week with games against Greatfield Park and Holy Trinity, resulting in one defeat and one victory, and a tournament at Prestbury St Mary's, which Saint John's took two teams to and which one of our teams won! We are very grateful to St Gregory's for hosting our match against Holy Trinity.

