



NEWSLETTER No. 7

January 2024

Dear Saint John's families,

It has been a cold and frosty start to the term and we have watched temperatures drop over these last few days. However, our new boiler continues to do a great job keeping the classrooms warm and our only challenge is reminding children that outside will not be as hot! Nevertheless, they have loved being outside during break and lunch time and the blue skies have made it particularly beautiful this week!

Our value for this term is FORGIVENESS. This is quite a challenging value to talk about and we recognise that it can be hard to forgive others or to seek forgiveness. It has been great hearing the examples during our Friday Collective Worship of children who have strengthened relationships within their class by showing forgiveness and it has certainly resulted in some interesting discussions amongst the children.

I have met with our School Council to discuss improvements to the school or concerns they might have. They will be asking the rest of the class for ideas and thoughts to share at our next meeting. At the moment, one request is to put some more signs up in the playground, including some with our school values and ethos. This was a real encouragement, especially when they asked for

READY RESPECTFUL RESPONSIBLE

to be displayed outside. I hope that you have heard your child talking about these three key words at home. Please do encourage them to talk about the times when they have shown these three at school, plus discuss when they might be ready, respectful and responsible at home! Perhaps the result might be a tidier bedroom or a polite response when asked to do something!

We continue to encourage you to look at our Behaviour and Relationships policy on our websites: there are many great comments which are proving useful to families at home.

Look Who's Talking Competition

This competition is running again and a few children have shown interest. In the next couple of weeks and certainly by half term, we will arrange for children to do their presentations in front of an audience. This may be at lunch time or towards the end of the school day and will be a good opportunity for those who did not take part last time to have a go this time.

The details are on Dojo and I will post them again. However, it is a simple competition:

Children from Year 2-6 can enter the competition, preparing a speech (not long, only a couple of minutes) and then presenting it to an audience. Props can be used, but we strongly encourage the children to avoid "reading" their speech. Prompt cards can be useful. There are no restrictions as to the subject matter, as long as it is something that would be interesting and appropriate to a primary school audience. Do come and speak to me in the playground if you would like any more information and encourage your child to be involved if they would like.

The various trips for this term have started, with pupils heading to Cheltenham College for Forest School and DT/Science activities, plus visits to the Wilson Museum. We have also had visitors in to talk to the children about History!

Please note that, on **Thursday 8th February**, in the morning, we will be going to Highbury Church for the children to present their learning to the school and any parents/carers/family. Please do put the date in your diary, as we will need support walking there and it will be a wonderful opportunity for parents, carers and any extended family to come and see what the children have been learning this term.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Beevers



Written by Sharon Morrow TA



What a lovely first few days back **Reception** have had! The children celebrated History Day by starting their topic on dinosaurs and, in particular, learning about Mary Anning, who was a pioneering palaeontologist. They made their own fossils out of salt dough and learnt the names of many dinosaurs - some were easier to pronounce than others! During their workshop with Hannah from the Wilson Museum, the children investigated artefacts from the past, working out what the objects were made from and finding out what they may have been used for. They have also started Balanceability sessions this term, which is so much fun. The children love whizzing around on the balance bikes, becoming more and more confident and using the space well. Hopefully, by Easter, many of the children will be confident on pedal bikes.



Year 1 have enjoyed lots of History work since the start of term. Many children dressed up as an historical figure for History Day and could tell everyone who they were. They spent time creating a timeline of historical figures. They then looked at artefacts from the Wilson Museum and tried to match them to photos of modern day equivalents, which was harder than it sounds! The children also visited the Wilson Museum, as part of unit of work on Toys from the Past. They spent a fantastic morning looking at a collection of dolls, some of which were over 100 years old - they played with a selection of toys from the past, as well as making their own peg dolls.



Year 2 had lots of fun dressing up as famous people from history. The children enjoyed ordering some of these chronologically on a time line. They listened very carefully to their workshop from the Wilson museum and guessed what the artefacts were used for 100 years ago. In their Art lessons, the children have been learning about secondary colours. They enjoyed mixing the primary colours together. They also explored what would happen if you mixed two secondary colours together.



Year 3 have had a very exciting start to the term. They really enjoyed History Day and impressed everyone with their interest and enthusiasm when examining artefacts. They have worked hard to create a story map for their model text and have produced amazing actions to help them internalise the story. In PE, they have learnt what makes a good balance and created sequences which link gymnastic shapes and point/patch balances.



During History Day, **Year 4** enjoyed creating a human timeline based upon their historical character. They also enjoyed sketching replica Ancient Greek artefacts and making generalisations about life at that time. Later in the week, as part of their Art topic, they created large scale sketches using chalk. In order to achieve this, they had to use their whole arm rather than just their wrist.



Year 5 have had an exciting start to the term with their visits to Cheltenham College for Science and DT lessons. In Science, the children enjoyed investigating the solubility of different solids including sodium chloride, sugar and chocolate powder, while in DT, they learnt to use a pillar drilling machine. The children also enjoyed dressing up as their favourite historical figure for History Day. They researched and created fact files and created a timeline of the historical figures they had dressed up as. The day ended with the children attending an artefact workshop with Hannah Taylor from Wilson Museum to learn how people lived during different eras in the past.



During Science, **Year 6** have been revising their knowledge of light and how opaque objects create shadows. The children had fun creating hand shadow puppets to demonstrate this. During History Day, the children had an interesting workshop, where they used their inference skills to think about some mystery objects. After investigations, they guessed what they thought they were used for and how old they might be. The children loved being hands-on with some artefacts and showed super enthusiasm. Finally, they have made a great start to their Yoga unit in PE. Although certain parts were found to be challenging, many of them also found it relaxing.



The whole school enjoyed History Day, with many of the children dressing up as a person from history.



A small group of pupils had a brilliant time at All Saint's secondary school on Monday, enjoying different sporting activities in a team. They were very proud of their medals and I was very proud of their team work and engagement with the older pupils helping. Well done, everyone!

