



NEWSLETTER No. 6

December 2023

Dear Saint John's families,

There have been many excitements during this Autumn Term and I hope you have enjoyed keeping an eye on Dojo to find out about the children's learning and development. Please do remember that the school story and the class story are regularly updated and I know that class teachers are using messages to communicate with parents and carers. I try not to check how many views posts have achieved, but it is encouraging to see the number rising as families become increasingly familiar with this way of communication.

I do want to mention how well our Reception pupils have settled into Saint John's. School is not the same as home nor nursery/pre-school and it is hard to understand new routines and expectations. A huge thank you to the many supportive families who are responding to the ways that home and school can work together to support a child's development during their primary school education. There are also a number of new pupils who have arrived in the school into other year groups, many of them from countries far away. Arriving in the UK and starting school with little or no English is a challenge and we want to say how impressed we are with how well they have engaged with this new school life!

During this term, we have had to say goodbye to a few children moving away and some are missing due to being unwell. We think of them and wish them all the best.

We have said goodbye to Mrs Fox and welcome Mrs Burns back into the class, returning to children she left when they were in Year 1. It is lovely to have her back and she seems to have coped with being "thrown" straight into Nativity rehearsals and performances!

Other staff have also settled in well, with Mrs Keys, Mrs Brydon and Mrs Asenova in our younger year groups and Mrs March in Year 2. We are hopeful that Miss Walsh will return in January and are grateful to those who have worked in Year 1 during this term.

You will be able to see lots of photographs of the children's lessons this term. Our focus continues for subjects such as Reading, Writing, Maths, but some subjects have a particular focus. This term has been Geography and DT: some of the DT projects and the Geography research about countries around the world, as well as key geographic skills learnt, has been astonishing!

Our Christmas Fair was a great success with most of our community joining us on a Saturday afternoon, bringing along past students as well as grandparents and other extended family members. We raised a really good sum of money and we are very, very grateful to those who helped plan, organise, set up, manage stalls and clear up.

The Wiggly Nativity was another wonderful event, with all the Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children up on the stage at Highbury Church, singing, speaking and clearly loving every moment. Thank you to the dedicated staff team who put this together.

We had a pantomime and then the Carol Service at St Luke's in this final week and this certainly helped bring a real sense of Christmas. We will finish with our final assembly/collective worship on Friday morning, celebrating the efforts and achievements of the children, including announcing the end of term house cups.

And so, we find ourselves at the end of the term, with Christmas just around the corner. This has been one of the longest Autumn Terms that I can remember and I have no doubt that the children will finish the term exhausted! However, it has been wonderful to see everyone, adults and children together, enjoying preparing for Christmas activities and events, presenting and producing some amazing work and generally managing their excitement and tiredness surprisingly well over these last few weeks. Well done, everyone!

A very happy Christmas to you all, Mrs Beevers

Spring Term: Tuesday 9th January 8.45am



Written by Sharon Morrow TA



The children have loved their first term in **Reception** class. They have learnt so much and had so much fun along the way! It was so special to see how much they have grown in confidence as they performed the Nativity Play with Years 1 and 2 last week. It was a wonderful performance and they made everyone proud of their behaviour, singing and big smiles! Christmas craft activities are now in full flow with lots of cutting, painting, sticking and glitter! They have also been learning about celebrations within our families at this time of year, plus how Christmas is celebrated over the world. It has been fantastic to hear about everyone's traditions at this special time. Have a lovely Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Year 1 really enjoyed making watercolour Christmas trees. The children's art was based on the artist Paul Klee and they used different sized circles and different colours to create these amazing Christmas trees.



During Maths, the **Year 2** children were given 15 pieces of art straw, all the same size, and were challenged to make and name as many different 2D shapes as they could.



Year 3 have really enjoyed learning how to play netball during PE, and put all their skills together during their netball tournament. Congratulations to blue, who won two of their matches and the tournament overall! They worked really well as a team and also showed good sportsmanship throughout. The children have also been exploring electrical circuits and will be using these to construct their electrical posters.



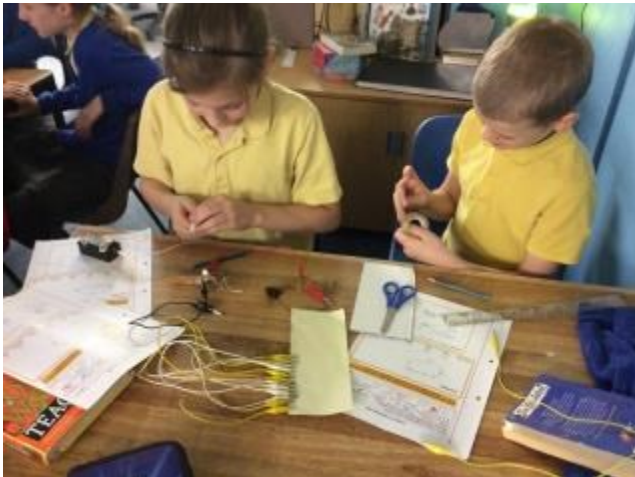
During Computing, Year 4 have been learning to programme Microbits, which are pocket-sized computers. They programmed them so that the LED light showed an activity, which the children then had to copy. They were very pleased to demonstrate their skills to the Year 5 children. During DT, the children have been designing and making sling-shot cars, which they tested on Friday afternoon with varying degrees of success.



Year 5 had a great time showing their end of term Geography projects about the physical and human features of the Forest of Dean to the Year 6 children. They used PowerPoints, posters and 3D models to present their chosen area of learning, such as the wildlife, tourism and deforestation in the Forest of Dean. The audience were very impressed by the quality and standard of the projects.



Year 6 have been using their knowledge of electricity and circuit skills to create an electronic device. In groups, they planned and created a burglar alarm that would sound a buzzer and set off a light. There was some great team work and problem solving on display during this activity. Also this term, the children have been working on their fitness - developing their stamina, core strength, balance and determination. To bring this all together, they took part in a Joe Wicks full body workout. This 20 minute, high-intensity session was hard work, but the children stuck at it until the end.



The Year 3 and Year 4 children enjoyed a music workshop with Musicate, exploring pitch and rhythm with a Christmas theme.



Saint John's Football Team competed in the Annual District Tournament for Small Schools and won! This meant that they qualified for the county finals, in which the team did incredibly well and, out of 9 schools at the finals from Gloucestershire, came 4th!



Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children performed and sang fantastically in their Nativity play at Highbury Church.





The Junior children enjoyed a morning at St Luke's Church, watching the pantomime, 'The Herald of Herod', which was enacted by 4Front Theatre



The KS1 and KS2 children were treated to fantastic performances by both the Infant and Junior Drama Adventures groups. Thanks to Gemma Bolwell for her hard work with both drama groups.



The whole school enjoyed a lovely carol service at St Luke's Church. Thank you to everyone who attended and thank you to everyone who helped walk us there and back. The children also enjoyed their Christmas dinners and loved wearing their Christmas jumpers!





