



NEWSLETTER No. 11

March 2024

Dear Saint John's families,

We come to the end of Term 4 with the final week full of fun activities. The Spring Term is hard with the dark mornings and cold or rain; there can often be a large amount of illness too.

Thank you to families for making wise decisions about when it is right for a child to be at home and when they have to "take a deep breath" and come into school even if not feeling particularly bright. I find it amazing how often children arrive on the gate feeling and looking less than 100% - and yet, within twenty minutes of being in class - they are bright and breezy!

It has been brilliant seeing so many families arriving in really good time in the morning. The gate opens at 8.45am and the children are able to have a "soft start", settling into class over the next few minutes. At 8.55am, the gate closes and the register is taken. We find that almost all children prefer to be in school in good time, rather than coming in at the last moment!

This week, we have had visitors on site as the Year 6 pupils have been enjoying Bikeability. Although not all the children chose to join, those who did have had a wonderful time learning the rules and regulations for cycling on the road. They have been out in Cheltenham experiencing cycling in the town and the volunteers who have run this activity, along with those who helped with the Bike Maintenance last Friday, have all commented on our polite, calm and attentive children. We are very proud to have such a lovely group representing our school: being compared favourably to other schools is particularly pleasing! Well done, Year 6s for your hard work on your bikes. We also want to say "Well Done!" for your work towards your SATs in May; it has been a productive term and we hope you are well prepared for next term.

Alongside Bikeability, the Reception children have continued to enjoy Balanceability. We also have a Move More practitioner with us on a Tuesday to do some physical activities with some of our younger children. Learning the skills of following instructions and controlling our bodies is a fundamental part of primary education.

On Thursday, we enjoyed our DT Day. Mrs Roper organised for all the classes to make a marble run! Thank you to the many families who brought in different cardboard items to help. The youngest children enjoyed making extra large constructions together. It was a fun way to end a term of DT focus and ensured that the children had the chance to use lots of practical skills during the day.

Throughout this term, we have had regular visitors: sixth-form students from Cheltenham College and Cheltenham Ladies' College and volunteer readers from an organisation called "SchoolReaders" and from St Luke's Church. We are very appreciative of those who come and spend time at Saint John's, supporting the learning of our children. It makes a huge difference.

In the Summer Term, I would like to organise a Careers Carousel, when family members come in and talk about their job/career. I hope that this will provide an opportunity for our children to see the wide variety of options they will have in the future, so we need the widest variety of jobs! Please do get in touch with me if you would be happy to speak for about 15 minutes about your job; pictures or props are often good to use too!

SCHOOL FINISHES: FRIDAY at 2pm for two weeks.

SCHOOL STARTS: TUESDAY 9th April at 8.45am.

Have a lovely Easter holiday. Take care, Mrs Beevers



Written by Sharon Morrow TA



This year seems to be whizzing by, and the weather is finally getting warmer and drier! The **Reception** children have been making the most of this by enjoying playing and learning outside in the sunshine. They love their messy play morning - building water channels with drainpipes, making mud pies and swinging on the tree! After what has seemed to be a very wet few months, it is lovely to be making use of all of the outdoor space.



In their final Geography lesson, **Year 1** made a fact sheet answering their big question, 'What is special about England?' and showing all of the knowledge that they have learnt. The children used their working wall, which shows all of their enquiry questions and answers to help them. Their challenge was to use as much geographical vocabulary as they could. The children all set their work out in their own way, which makes the fact sheets so individual and lovely to read.

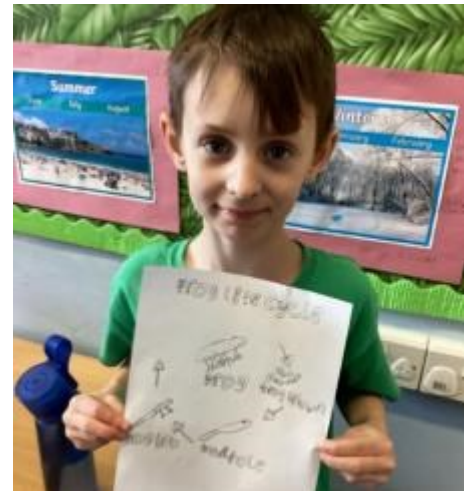
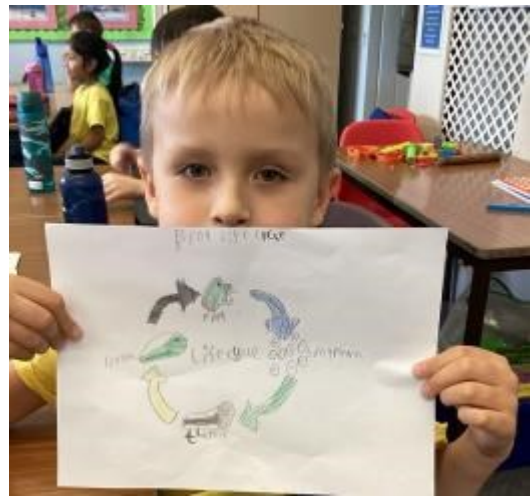


Year 2 had a fun packed Science day. The children had a visit from (one of our parents and Chair of the PTFA) Sarah Baylis, finding out about her job as a radiographer. They also enjoyed finding out about the life of Steve Irwin and creating posters based on the life cycle of a frog.

"Steve Irwin held a crocodile for the first time at the age of 9."

"I enjoyed listening to the parent visitor; her job sounds very interesting."

In Maths, the children have been measuring in centimetres and metres. They had fun measuring the classroom and the hall. The classroom measured 7m and the hall



Year 3 have been developing their teamwork skills this week through OAA (Outdoor Adventurous Activity) and our 'Roots for a Wilder Future' project. In OAA, the children had to work together to complete different team challenges and learnt the importance of communication. They also spent time in the front garden and around the school to identify the different plants that grow in our school environment. They took turns to lead their group and worked very well together.



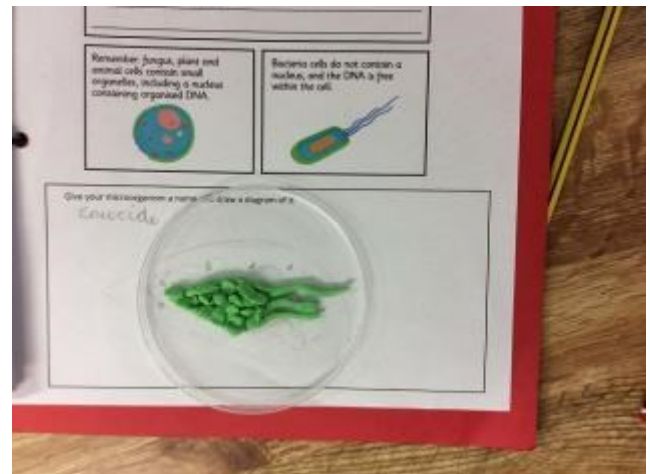
As part for their current RE topic learning about event leading up to Easter, **Year 4** made Palm Sunday crosses. They also enjoyed a fun final swimming session as a reward for all their hard work over the last 10 weeks. It has been great to see the development of both their skills and confidence in the water.



Year 5 have had a lovely time showcasing their amazing projects about 'Earth and Space' to Year 4. For these projects, the children chose an area of their interest such as constellations, galaxies, black holes, quasars and planets within the solar system, then carried out independent research and finally presented their findings in a variety of formats. These included 3D models, posters, PowerPoint presentations and fact files about astronauts. Year 4 were very impressed by the standard and quality of the projects.



In Science, **Year 6** have been investigating living organisms and, in particular, microorganisms. The children discovered that there are a variety of microorganisms, some of which are living creatures (such as dust mites), fungi and bacteria. They found out that there are helpful and harmful microorganisms and that their structure changes depending upon what kind of organisms they are. Not only did the children have a go at creating their own microorganisms, but they have also been observing them and seeing what conditions help them to grow.



The girls' football team thoroughly enjoyed a tournament at St Gregory's on 8th March. To coincide with International Women's Day, a record-breaking 465,000 girls from 5000 schools across England took part in the FA's third Biggest Ever Football Session, as part of the Let Girls Play campaign. As well as the hosts, Bishop's Cleeve and Holy Trinity also took part and Saint John's won one game and drew another before losing their final match.



Thank you to everyone who wore red and donated money for Red Nose Day - we raised £155.35



The children enjoyed making marble runs during DT day.

