

The St John's Journal



Issue No: 02

Friday 21st October 2022

'Together we have the roots to grow and the wings to fly!'

LOTS TO CELEBRATE!

As we draw a close to the first half term, there really is so much to celebrate; we have been super busy these last seven weeks!

SEEDLING CHILDREN

We are all so impressed by our Seedling children, and how well they have done so far this term. They have been in full time since day 1, managed lunch in the hall, attended whole school Collective Worship since week 2 and enjoyed lunchtime playtimes with Year 1. In the classroom, they have been super busy with their learning; I have seen some super pictures of them on Seesaw. They walk into school so confidently and independently with beaming smiles; we are extremely proud of them all!

PHONICS AND EARLY READING

As you know, we have all been working hard on our phonics and early reading – grown-ups and children! All staff have received high quality training this term to ensure we can all deliver the very best phonics and early reading lessons. All reception, Key Stage 1, and some Key Stage 2 children have had daily phonics lessons. We can already see children making great progress with recognising their sounds, blending those sounds to read and segmenting them to support spelling. Thank you for your patience with regards to reading books, whilst we got this up and running; we do appreciate it. I would also like to say a massive thank you to Mrs Dayman-Johns, who has co-ordinated and led all of this work so brilliantly. Now we have started sending home reading books, please help your child to remember to bring in their book bag to school every day. We also ask that you don't put water bottles inside book bags just in case of any leaks.

HOUSE CAPTAINS, ECO WARRIORS, PLAYGROUND FRIENDS AND SCHOOL COUNCIL

We have elected our Year 4 House Captains, Year 3 and Year 4 Eco Warriors and Year 4 Playground Friends, who are already doing a fantastic job. I can honestly say, that this year was definitely the hardest year to select the children for these roles from the many high quality applications we received. We have 'rolled' the School Council over from last year into this, due to them only being elected part way through last year. Congratulations to everyone elected, and thank you for all that you are doing.

SHARE MY WORK

It was a pleasure to not only invite parents in for the Share My Work sessions, but to be able to welcome you back into classrooms has been a highlight this term. Thank you to all of you who were able to join your children; they really do enjoy showing their learning to you.

HARVEST SERVICE

We enjoyed our Harvest Service in the church. Our Seedling children had a separate visit and enjoyed singing their harvest songs too. Thank you all for your harvest gifts and for joining us in church.

PARENT CONSULTATION MEETINGS

We have held our first face to face parent consultation meetings just this week, and again it was lovely to see everyone. The second of these sessions is immediately after half term and online, as many parents told us that online meetings were more accessible for them. If you have not managed to make an appointment, and wish to do so, please contact us after half term through the school office email and class teachers will make contact with you to arrange a mutually convenient time.

HEADTEACHER AWARDS

Friday morning Headteacher Awards is the highlight of my week! I love to hear about the children's hard work, positive attitude and achievements. I have presented 70+ Headteacher Awards this last half term; well-done everyone! I know that teachers have really struggled this term to choose the child to receive the award, because everyone is working so hard and doing so well.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Many children have benefited from, and enjoyed some great after school activities including: construction club, Playpod, archery, multi-sports and art. We have changed some of the clubs on offer for next half term. Please check the letter sent out through ParentMail for the full programme and details of how to book. You can also see a copy of the letter on the letters page of our website: <https://www.stjohnsfrome.co.uk/letters>

SCHOOL CHOIR / PERFORMING ARTS

Key Stage 2 will be performing a Christmas nativity entitled 'Don't Be Afraid' in December. The script has been shared, auditions held and main characters have been cast. I was overwhelmed by the number of children who auditioned and the quality of those auditions; yet again giving me some difficult choices to make. Everyone who wanted a speaking part has one, and scripts have been given out today for them to bring home and start learning. It is important that the main characters do attend Choir after school on a Monday regularly, as we will be rehearsing our nativity and learning other carols to perform at other events.

Thank you to my super staff team, for again going above and beyond this last half term. Thank you to our Governors for their continued hard work and support. Thank you to all of you, for joining us at various events, and also for your continued support. Lastly, but most importantly, thank you to all of the children who continue to be awesome in all they do! Wishing everyone a well-deserved relaxing and enjoyable half term holiday!

LOTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO!

The next half term is also super busy, with lots of things for us to look forward to and enjoy:

FRIENDS OF ST JOHN'S PUMPKIN HUNT

On the first day of next half term, there will be a pumpkin hunt immediately after school. Your child will have brought a pumpkin template home with them. If they would like to take part, they should decorate their template, put their name and class on the back, then cut it out and bring it to school along with a £1 donation on Monday 31st October. Children will be able to hunt for their pumpkin in the school garden and come and get a sweet treat once they have found it. We're all keeping fingers crossed for dry weather but if it isn't dry, we may delay the event to another day.

THE SWORD IN THE STONE

On Friday 4th November, I have booked a visiting theatre company to perform to the whole school. They will hold a whole school singing session ahead of the performance, so that children can join in, and they will select some children to take on some small parts in the performance. Although I am not leaving until the end of term, this is my leaving gift to the children, to have a fabulous experience, which I hope they will enjoy and remember.

CHRISTMAS NATIVITIES

Please make note of all of the dates below, but particularly the Christmas Nativities. Our Seedlings children will perform their nativity to the school and once to parents in the afternoon. Our Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 performances will be shown four times each, once to the rest of the school and three times to parents. We have scheduled a morning, afternoon and evening performance of each show. We will guarantee at least two tickets per family across the three performances; there may be additional tickets, but we will confirm this nearer the time, when we have set the stage up and set out chairs to check our capacity. We are requesting that evening performances are 'baby and toddler free', so that all of the performers can have at least one performance with no distractions.

DIARY DATES

We are already able to share some dates for the coming term, and of course we will send out the full details to each event in due course.

31.10.2022	First day of second half of autumn term Friends of St John's Pumpkin Hunt
01.11.2022	Year 4 Indoor Athletics Festival
02.11.2022	Parent Consultation Evening (online)
04.11.2022	Theatre performance to whole school – The Sword in the Stone
07.11.2022	Year 4 Egyptian Day
09.11.2022	Individual School Photographs Year 4 Lantern Making Workshops
13.11.2022	Frome Remembrance Parade
w/c 14.11.2022	Anti-Bullying Week
15.11.2022	Flu vaccinations
16.11.2022	Year 2 Sports Festival – Archery
18.11.2022	Children in Need
23.11.2022	Year 3 Sports Festival – Ultimate Frisbee
05.12.2022	Key Stage 1 Nativity Performance to school (2pm)
06.12.2022	Key Stage 1 Nativity Performance to parents / carers (2pm)
07.12.2022	Key Stage 1 Nativity Performance to parents / carers (6pm)
08.12.2022	Key Stage 1 Nativity Performance to parents / carers (9.15am)
09.12.2022	Choir Carol Singing at Frome Assembly Rooms (2pm)
12.12.2022	Key Stage 2 Nativity Performance to school (9.30am) Key Stage 2 Nativity Performance to parents / carers (2pm)
13.12.2022	Key Stage 2 Nativity Performance to parents / carers (9.15am) Christmas Lunch – Reception, Year 1, Year 2 Key Stage 2 Nativity Performance to parents / carers (6pm)
14.12.2022	Christmas Lunch – Year 3, Year 4
15.12.2022	Reception Nativity Performance to school (9.30am) Reception Nativity Performance to parents / carers (2.15pm)
16.12.2022	End of term Carol Service in Church Last day of term
04.01.2023	First day of spring term

HIGHLIGHTS THIS HALF TERM

Don't forget, teachers post pictures and updates every week on Seesaw. Your child's log in details can be found in the front of their reading record. If you can't find it, get in touch with your child's teacher via the year group email account and they will send you a reminder.

Here are just a few highlights from the last half term!



Year 1 went on a wonderful walk to Rodden Meadow - Helen Viner showed us the oak tree and we talked about how long it would take to grow really big! Children also designed and made moving animals in D.T.



As part of their topic 'Out of This World' Year 2 have created beautiful space themed artwork.



Year 4 have been lighting up their classrooms learning about electrical circuits.