

The St John's Journal



Issue No: 03

Friday 11th November 2022

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

BUSY! BUSY!

We have only been back two weeks after our half term break, but we have absolutely made the most of every moment!

PUMPKIN HUNT

We started this half term with this fun-filled event organised by the Friends of St John's. I would like to say a huge thank you to Nick Fraser for organising the sweet treats and hiding the pumpkins with help from Betty. I really do appreciate it, as do the children who took part; despite being a bit wet, they had lots of fun!

INDOOR ATHLETICS COMPETITION

Hot on the heels of the Pumpkin Hunt, our Year 4 children took part in an interschool indoor athletics competition, competing against other Year 4 children from four other Frome schools. Well done to all of the children, and a special congratulations to Rubus who came joint third overall and Otilie who was the highest scoring girl.

OUTDOOR LEARNING

I am delighted to announce that we now have our Outdoor Learning up and running. Our Year 4 children have enjoyed their sessions with Mrs Scruby and Mrs Brooks. Each year group will have the opportunity to experience weekly sessions for half a term.

SWORD IN THE STONE

The children enjoyed a superb performance of The Sword in the Stone, by Image Musical Theatre Company. We enjoyed learning the choruses to some of the songs before the show and 10 children volunteered to dress up and take on small roles. It was an excellent show; the children were enthralled!



FIREWORKS!

Year 1 and Year 2 children have been learning about Guy Fawkes, created some super firework pictures and Year 2 have also written firework poems.

MR EGYPT

On Monday morning this week, we had a host of ancient Egyptians, mummies, explorers and archaeologists arrive at school! Our Year 4 children enjoyed furthering their historical knowledge about the ancient Egyptians with Mr Egypt.



COOKING

Our Year 3 children have been making very tasty apple and cinnamon cakes in their cookery lessons with Mrs Fear. All year groups now experience a cookery session at some point during the year as part of their Design and Technology curriculum.

LOTS OF PROSPECTIVE PARENT TOURS

Our Year 4 House Captains have been doing a fantastic job, leading tours of our school to numerous prospective parents. They have shown great maturity and confidence, and are truly fantastic ambassadors for our school; I could not be prouder!

INDIVIDUAL PHOTOS

This week, the school photographer was in school taking individual and family photographs. The children looked extremely smart and happy; I am sure you will be delighted with the results when they come through.

LANTERN MAKING WORKSHOP

On Wednesday, this week, our Year 4 children enjoyed a lantern-making workshop and have constructed their own lanterns ready for the Frome Lantern Parade on Friday 25th November.



LEARNING ABOUT ROCK CYCLES!

Would you believe it? Our Year 2 children have used Starbursts (sweets) to demonstrate the rock cycle, learning about the properties of sedimentary, metamorphic and igneous rocks and the changes that happen to the rocks under heat and pressure!

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Thank you to everyone who has donated to the British Legion through purchasing poppies and wristbands. An extra special thank you to Chase, Honey-May, Astrid, Logan, Beatrice, Mila and Rubus from Year 4 who have helped me at the end of each day selling these.

In Headteacher Awards this morning, we observed the two minutes silence by watching the beautiful BBC animation. We do usually observe the two minutes silence together at 11.00am, but to reduce interruption to learning, we decided today to observe it earlier. Some classes chose to observe the silence again at 11.00 in their classrooms,

THE STAGE IS UP... CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

Thanks to Marc, our stage is now erected in the hall. Rehearsals for three Christmas nativities are in full swing and the singing of Christmas carols can be heard around the school.

SEESAW

Teachers are working hard to upload information and pictures about the children's learning each week, celebrating what they have learned that week and looking forward to what is coming next. Please do take a look. You can also upload your own photographs and messages for teachers and the rest of the class to see.

We have become aware that some of you have had difficulties with the Seesaw App, and we are working hard to resolve this, so that using it will become much easier. We will send a separate communication out as soon as we have it sorted.

STAFFING UPDATE

It has been a difficult time for some of our staff, with a few being unwell and others suffering family bereavements. We have sent separate communications to those classes who have been affected by staff absence, letting them know how we are covering the absence. In all cases we are doing our very best to provide cover in a way that gives as much consistency to children as possible. As always, our thoughts are with those staff who are unwell or bereaved.

I am delighted to announce that Mrs Scruby has formally been appointed as the SENCO at St John's. She has been supporting me with all of the SEND work so far this term, and I know she has already had meetings with some of you. If you wish to speak to Mrs Scruby about your child's individual special needs, you can contact her at senco@stjohnsfrome.co.uk or call school.

FRIENDS OF ST JOHN'S

We held the Annual General Meeting (AGM) for the Friends of St John's before half term, and I am extremely grateful to Simon Kingston, Emma Vowell and Nick Fraser, who have taken on the roles of Chair, Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Without these roles filled, the Friends would not have been able to continue.

To ensure the Friends can be sustained into the future, we do need more people to volunteer to support events. At the AGM, we discussed how we could facilitate people being able to volunteer without having to make a significant time commitment. The committee plans to come up with a 'wish list' of events and activities, along with the minimum number of volunteers needed for each. We will then seek volunteers to help organise each activity, but only run the event if enough people come forward. Please keep an eye out on ParentMail for further information.

GOVERNOR UPDATE

As you are aware a recruitment process is under way to find a new headteacher for St John's. I am pleased to let you know that we have received a number of applications for the permanent headteacher role and we shall be interviewing candidates next week. Part of the interview process will take place in school with candidates undertaking a variety of tasks on Thursday next week. Candidates may visit classes and speak with children and staff as part of this process. Mrs Marsland will speak to children about the process so they know who the visitors are and why they are in school.

Once the recruitment process is complete we will send out a further update, but please be aware that we won't be in a position to make any announcements until all recruitment activities and suitability checks are complete. We anticipate being in a position to make an announcement towards the end of this month.

We are also recruiting an interim headteacher to lead and look after St John's in between Mrs Marsland's departure and the start of the new permanent headteacher. We will update you towards the end of this month on this process.

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 in the lead up to Christmas:

REMEMBRANCE PARADE

On Sunday 13th November, children are welcome to join in with the Frome Remembrance Parade. If you would like to join us, Mr Leak will be at the Cadet Hall on Keyford from 10.30am for any children who wish to parade down, or Mrs Marsland will be at the Memorial from 10.30am. Parents remain responsible for their own children at all times.

ODD SOCKS DAY AND ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

Next week, is National Anti-Bullying Week. Our definition of bullying is taken from the Anti-Bullying Alliance:

*'Bullying is the **repetitive, intentional hurting** of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an **imbalance of power**. It can happen face to face or online.'* (Anti-Bullying Alliance)

I have already talked to the children in Collective Worship about what bullying is, the impact of bullying, and how we can work together to stop bullying. This year's theme for Anti-Bullying Week is 'Reach Out'. Children are being encouraged to reach out to a trusted adult if they are being bullied, or if they know that someone else is being bullied and to reach out with kindness to children who are being bullied. We will continue to explore all of these themes on into next week and beyond.

Anti-Bullying Week kicks off with Odd Socks Day on Monday. We would like to encourage children to wear odd socks on Monday and all week if they would like to. Wearing odd socks symbolises a celebration of us all being unique.



I am in the process of updating our Anti-Bullying Policy, which I aim to share with you next week. The Senior Leadership Team have also made some small adjustments to our Behaviour and Relationships for Learning Policy, which can be found on the School Website under Key Information – Key Documents.

HOME / SCHOOL AGREEMENT

Now, that all children have been in school for half a term, and are very clear about our core values and school rules, we are sending home our Home / School Agreement, attached to this email. We ask that you take time reading this and also talking to your child about their section, which quite simply requires them to uphold the school values and the follow our 'Five Be Rules.' We then ask that you and your child sign the agreement electronically through ParentMail.

SPORTS FESTIVALS

Our Year 2 children will be attending an Archery Festival and our Year 3 children will be attending an Ultimate Frisbee Festival later this term. I am extremely grateful to Mr Bowman, who always ensures our St John's children benefit from any sporting opportunities taking place in the Frome Learning Partnership.

CHILDREN IN NEED

On Friday 18th November, we will join the rest of the country in thinking about Children in Need. The School Council are organising our fundraising event for this day:

"We, the School Council, would like to take part in Children in Need on November 18th 2022. We would like children to wear their own clothes if they would like. We would like children if possible to bring in any small change so that we can make a massive Pudsey out of the coins."

BOOK FAIR

We will be holding a book fair after school between 29th November and 5th December. Simply come to the front desk straight after school to browse the books on offer.



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 will send out the full details to each event in due course.

13.11.2022	Frome Remembrance Parade
14.11.2022	Odd Socks Day – Celebrating We Are All Unique
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 (10.30am)
	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
18.12.2022	School Choir singing at St John's Church Candlelit Carol Service
03.01.2022	School Closed to Children for Staff INSET Day
04.01.2023	First day of spring term

