

The St John's Journal



Issue No: 04

Friday 8th April 2022

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

THANK YOU!

For supporting Comic Relief and World Down Syndrome Day...

Thank you all for your generous donations for Comic Relief; we raised £306. The range of 'heroes' we had in school that day was phenomenal – thank you! Also, thank you for supporting World Down Syndrome Day, with many children wearing their jazziest, brightest socks.



THIS LAST HALF TERM: LOTS TO CELEBRATE

World Maths Day

On Wednesday 23rd March we took part in World Maths Day, which involved children competing online with children of similar ability from anywhere else in the world. I know lots of children really enjoyed playing the Maths games, but also locating other countries around the world when they were getting ready to play.

Y4 Residential

I am actually sat writing this issue of the St John's Journal at Kilve Court. Our Year 4 children are having a brilliant time! So far they have been Stand Up Paddle Boarding, Kayaking, and Grass Sledging, played 'Wide Games' and completed a Low Ropes Assault Course. I am super proud of all of them as they are showing great teamwork, communication skills, resilience and stamina. Here are a couple of photos, but more can be seen on the closed St John's Facebook Page and also here:

photos.app.goo.gl/s29mZbDxo91NYJpN9

photos.app.goo.gl/dE9zYasxFYe7p2aN6



Y4 Tag Rugby Competition

Congratulations to the Year 4 team who represented St John's in the Clive Lewis Tag Rugby Competition at Frome RFC. The main goal was to have fun and enjoy themselves and they certainly did that! Over the course of the afternoon, they played 7 games against other local schools winning every one and being crowned Y3 & 4 champions.

Well done team!



Y3

We really enjoyed learning how to create our own animations using the iPads. We have also been writing diaries in the first person, imagining we were Mary in the Easter story, and using emotional descriptive words to show empathy.

As part of our learning about the Romans, we designed our own aqueducts and then spent a creative afternoon making them out of junk!



Y2 History Day

Children in Beech and Fir classes went back in time to 1930 to learn about what the school day would have been like. The smart board had been turned into a blackboard and they were expected to "sit up straight with no fidgeting" while they did their work on slates with chalk. They learned how children would bring potatoes to bake for lunch by the fireplace in the classroom; they had to stand up when teachers entered the room and they also had to write out their spellings 100 times.

"These spellings are like punishment. Can I go back to 2022 now?!"



Y1

Year 1 had a sports festival with IG Sports, practising different golf skills. We had to use a putter to get the ball into a hole, aim accurately to hit different cones, and chip to aim for different zones.

We enjoyed learning about our bodies and our senses, using our senses to explore, identify and classify different fruits and vegetables.



Reception

This term we have been learning about the story 'Handa's Surprise'. We made our own story maps, made and decorated clay pots and painted sunset savannah pictures. We have also been learning about tooth decay and how to keep our teeth clean. We carried out an egg experiment to help us see what happens to our teeth if we don't look after them. We really liked seeing how the egg became 'bouncy' when it was left in vinegar. Finally, we have enjoyed learning about Easter. We went into the school garden and made a cross out of flowers and leaves and have finished off the term making Easter nests.



Easter

I hope lots of you are joining in with our Easter competitions – Egg Hunt, Easter Hat, Decorate an Egg and Easter colouring. I am looking forward to seeing all of the fabulous entries during the first week back after the holidays.

The Easter Egg Hunt will happen immediately after school on different days for different Key Stages, so we can manage numbers. Entries for the Easter Hat, Decorate an Egg and Easter Colouring also need to be brought in for judging on the same day as their Egg Hunt.

Wednesday 27th April	Years 1 & 2
Thursday 28th April	Years 3 & 4
Friday 29th April	Reception

NEXT HALF TERM: LOTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO!

Share My Work and Curriculum Information Sessions

We are inviting parents into school during the first week of next term to again have the chance to look through your child's work, but also to hear about the curriculum for the term ahead. We anticipate more people attending these each day, as we are holding them across one week for year groups instead of two weeks for individual classes. You do not need to book the session with us, but may wish to make a note in your own diaries. All curriculum information will also be shared on Tapestry, Seesaw and the School Website, immediately after the curriculum session has been presented. So if you are unable to attend, you will still be able to discover what your children will be learning about. All sessions will run from 9 - 9.30am on the following days:

Mon 25th April - Year 4
Tues 26th April - Year 1
Weds 27th April - Reception
Thurs 28th April - Year 2
Fri 29th April - Year 3

Headteacher Awards

We will be returning to hosting these 'live', face to face on Friday mornings straight after Easter. As you will recall, we sent out a survey to ascertain what would work best for parents. Here are the results:

Should HT awards be virtual or in person?	Start or end of the day
172 responses	172 responses
141 prefer in person (82%)	77 at the end of the day (45%)
31 prefer virtual (18%)	95 at the start of the day (55%)

Clearly, the vast majority of parents who responded would like these to be in person, and that is why we are reinstating them. The timing of the Headteacher Awards, as you can see has a much smaller majority, but we are going to go with the majority vote, and hold Headteacher Awards first thing on a Friday morning. I understand that this may be a difficult time for some of you, but I hope you can appreciate that I have to go with a majority number.

Music

I think you are all aware of how passionate I am about music, and I am delighted that extra-curricular music lessons will be restarting after Easter. There was great demand for the lessons on offer, and we have been unable to meet that demand immediately, but are working on increasing that provision from September 2022.

Choir is also restarting on Mondays after school, initially for children in Years 3 and 4. Depending on the uptake, this might be opened up to Year 2. Year 3 and 4 children should have already received a ParentMail about choir and a link to sign up for it.

Friends of St John's

The Friends of St John's will be holding a May Fair on Friday 27th May, immediately after school. The theme of the May Fair will be the Platinum Jubilee, and they have come up with some fabulous ideas for stalls, games and competitions. They will of course be sending lots more information out about this event after the Easter holidays, and will appreciate any help anyone can offer.

In the meantime, make a note of an initial date to be aware of: On Friday 6th May, there will be a non-uniform day, and instead of bringing in a £1, the Friends of St John's would like children to donate a teddy towards the 'Teddy Tombola.' There will be a second non-uniform day, where we will be seeking donations of chocolates or sweets for another tombola.

We have a Maypole Dancing Squad, who will open the May Fair, and also the School Choir are aiming to perform a Number 1 Hit Song from each decade of the Queen's reign.

We also have some interesting learning ahead of us:

Reception	'Come Outside'
Year 1	'Amazing Animals'
Year 2	'Fire! Fire!'
Year 3	'Magic and Mystery'
Year 4	'Who Lives Here?'

Our Christian Value for next half term is a value shared with other faiths and non-faiths and is 'Friendship'.

As always, thank you for your continued patience, understanding and support. We all wish you a restful and enjoyable Easter break.

The Summer Term begins on Monday 25th April.