

The St John's Journal



Issue No: 05

Friday 6th May 2022

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

I am not quite sure where this year is going; it is absolutely flying by! We have only been back in school two weeks, but have already been extremely busy.

It was lovely to welcome you into school again for 'Share My Work' and 'Curriculum Information' sessions, and for us to be able to meet you as whole year groups instead of individual classes.

We received some fabulous entries for our Easter competitions; I am so glad I didn't have to judge them! I think the children also enjoyed their egg hunt.



Music lessons have restarted; we currently have piano, guitar and Rocksteady. I know there was high demand for these music lessons, and will be aiming to increase capacity for September. Our School Choir are busy learning a major hit from each decade from 1950 – 2020. I think parents will recognise some of the songs. I am going to teach the whole school some of the songs, so that everyone can join in at our Jubilee May Fair.

Our Maypole Dancing Squad are also busy practising, and becoming quite skilled at weaving.



Perhaps the most exciting event has been our Headteacher Awards being 'back in the room'. We had our first Headteacher Awards in the hall last Friday - all together, and with parents. It is lovely to have these back in place.

Staffing Update

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Moss back in school in Ash Class. To aid her return she is currently working one day a week – Fridays, and Mrs Budd is continuing to cover Thursdays for us. As already shared with Year 3 parents, I will continue to teach Willow Class, with some cover from Mrs Willis when she is available. While Mr Bowman has Bath Spa teacher Miss Birkett on her final placement, he has some capacity to work also with Willow Class, which will provide them with extra special transition opportunities with their next teacher.

In the last few months, in line with best practice, the Governors have reviewed our Senior Leadership Structure for next academic year. A review such as this has not been carried out at St John's since September 2017. The new Senior Leadership Team from September 2022 will be Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher, Assistant Headteacher, SENCO and Business Manager. The role of Assistant Headteacher is a new role; I am delighted to announce that Mr Bowman was successful with his application, and governors have appointed him to the role. The Governors would like to express their sincere thanks to Mrs Simenton, Mrs Llewellyn and Mrs Scruby, who have been highly valued members of the Senior Leadership Team as Key Stage Leaders for a significant number of years. Their roles as Key Stage Leaders and members of the Senior Leadership Team were integral to the successful management and leadership of the school, especially from September 2017 – January 2021 when the school did not have a Deputy Headteacher.

In addition to our Bath Spa teacher, Miss Birkett, who joined us in Sycamore last term, we will be welcoming SCITT teacher Ms McBryde to Poplar class for her final teaching placement from this week.

Sadly I have some departures to let you know about. Ms Priddle, our Special Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) will be retiring at the end of this academic year after 13 years at St John's, and Mrs Rylatt has also let us know that she has decided not to return to work following her recent maternity leave. Miss Broderick, who currently works within the Reception team will also be leaving at the end of the summer term. We wish them all the very best with their future plans.

We will be advertising the SENCO post shortly, and will update you as recruitment for this vital post progresses.

Staffing structure and classes in September

I had hoped to be able to share with you our plans for which classes were going where, and who would be teaching them. We are nearly there with the structure, but not quite, and it would not be helpful for me to send a structure out this week and possibly need to change it next week. We will endeavour to share the structure with you before the half term holiday, but most certainly during the first week back at the latest.

As explained to Reception parents when their children started - although the children have been separated for registration and daily phonics lessons, they have very much been mixing together as one whole group for the vast majority of the time. This was to help us to try and ensure that we knew the children really well, and they had the opportunity to establish friendships across the year group. Reception teachers are already working on grouping the children into two Year 1 classes, which we hope will be balanced in terms of gender and ability. We will inform parents of the class groupings as soon as they are finalised.

We have decided not to mix the classes in any other year group this year as we feel that children have had enough significant disruption to their school life over the last two years. We feel that any benefits gained from correcting any slight imbalances in gender / ability etc would be outweighed by the transition of settling into a new class grouping.

Outdoor Learning Leading to Forest School

I am really excited to inform you that we will be developing a new Outdoor Learning provision from September. In time, we hope to offer Forest School across the school. We are in the process of planning this provision and will give you further details before September.

Jubilee May Fair

Plans for the Jubilee May Fair are continuing and the Friends need your help!

Friday 13th May – children can wear their own clothes to school in return for a donation of £1 or some chocolate / sweets for the chocolate / sweets tombola.

Week beginning 23rd May – buy your scavenger hunt map for 50p from the front desk at school.

Friday 27th May – enter the St John's great bake off competition by creating a Jubilee inspired cake (nut free please!) Bring your cake to school on the day and please include a full list of ingredients. Entries will be judged by the school Governors.

Friday 27th May – children can come to school dressed in their own clothes, Jubilee inspired! Children will be dismissed as usual and then parents / carers can bring them round to the fair.

A reminder of our learning for this half term:

Reception	'Come Outside'
Year 1	'Amazing Animals'
Year 2	'Fire! Fire!'
Year 3	'The Dark Ages: The Anglo Saxons'
Year 4	'Who Lives Here?'

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