

19 May 2023

Our School Christian Vision - 'Working together to build a firm foundation for learning and caring.'

Rooted in Matthew 7 24 – 25 'Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.'

Message from the Headteacher

How lovely is it that the sun has finally made an appearance and just in time for our Year 6 camp. From the updates received from the staff and the facebook photos it looks like the children have been busy and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. I'm sure our Year 6 parents are looking forward to hearing the stories from camp over the weekend.

Back here at school, the school council has continued to work hard to promote our energy saving efforts. They met with 'Bath and West Community Energy' company to discuss the installation of our solar panels in the Easter holidays and the part they are playing in helping our school to save energy. This week we have introduced a 'switch off afternoon' every Friday whereby all non essential electronics are turned off. The school council will monitor our weekly usage using the energy sparks website to see the impact this has on our energy usage.

On Wednesday Rowan class had their turn in completing their geography fieldwork on the Hlgh Street, finding out the local residents' views on Fair Trade. And on Thursday Mr Cracknell took a group of Year 4 children to an inclusive multi skills festival at the cricket club. He was impressed with their engagement and perseverance across a range of activity stations.

A huge thank you to Natalie Stevens and Gemma Hand for giving up their time to dig over our vegetable beds. The children are looking forward to getting them planted up ready for the summer. If you have any seeds that you would like to donate they would be gratefully received.

If you haven't already, do take a read of our Ofsted report which was sent out yesterday. We are extremely proud of the report and all of the strengths that have been highlighted by the inspector.

Don't forget it is class photos on Monday so please ensure school uniform is worn into school and any other kit (PE or forest school clothing) that is needed is brought in with the children (see earlier ParentMail).

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs West-Gaul

CHRISTIAN VALUE OF THE TERM: FRIENDSHIP



The writer of Ecclesiastes puts it very simply: 'if one falls down, a friend can lift him up'. Ecclesiastes 4:10

Dates for Your Diary

22 May	School Photographs
24 May	Mini Police Trip
26 May	PTA Non-Uniform Day & Cake Sale
29 May	Bank Holiday
30 May - 2 June	May Half term break
5 June	Start of term 6
5 June	Year 4 multiplication check

PTA Non-Uniform / Cake Sale Day Friday 26 May

For next Friday's non-uniform day, instead of £1's, please could we have donations of bottles (of any sort!) for the summer fete tombola.

The cake sale will take place during break time, please ensure your children have their 25ps ready—and please could cakes be donated by years 4 and 2 (and anyone else who wants to donate!)



Thank you!

Awards of the Week

Well done to all of our pupils who have achieved an award this week!



Top Doodling Class

Doodle Maths: Hazel Class

Doodle Tables: Oak Class

Congratulations to all the pupils in the green zone!

	Star of the Week	Star Readers
Acorns	Remy Dylan	Eric Mila
Ash class	George	Sam
Birch class	Aurelia	Sophie
Chestnut class	Freya	Jesse
Elm class	Kobe	Soraya
Hazel class	Finley	Jack S
Holly class	Amber	Reggie
Maple class	Seth & Nola	Corben
Oak class	Albie	Reggie
Pine class	Jayden-Lee	Josh G
Rowan class	Beau	Sophia
Sycamore class	All of Year 6!	All of Year 6!
Willow class	All of Year 6!	All of Year 6!

Beat the Street!

We have an exciting opportunity for the children and their families to opt in to greener modes of transport, whilst increasing their physical activity levels. Beat the Street is a free, fun initiative that will see Somer Valley transformed into a giant game! See how far you can walk, cycle, run, scoot and roll in just 6 weeks. There are great challenges to enjoy and prizes up for grabs. The game will start on Wednesday 17th May 2023 and end on Wednesday 28th June 2023.

Here is a short video that will explain everything you need to know, a video on how to sign up along with the website address:

<https://youtu.be/KJbOghMQ5ZM>

<https://youtu.be/XhMU57vSDIw>

<https://www.beatthestreet.me/somervalley/>



The children will have been sent home a family pack containing 2 cards, one for the children and one for the parents and a map of the local area with the locations of the Beat Boxes. The first Beat Box is directly outside of the school gates.

When you create a new account, the game you select is Somer Valley and the Team is St John's CofE Primary School.

As a school, we would love to get involved with this and hopefully be the most active school in the local community, so good luck and happy scanning!



School Council Eco Update

Yesterday, the school council were visited by two representatives of Bath & West Community Energy (BWCE), which is the company that installed our solar panels during the Easter holidays. The visitors travelled to our school by bus in the spirit of sustainability and spoke to our children about renewable energy and why it is important.

Our solar panels are difficult to spot because they are on a flat roof. Nevertheless, you can catch a glimpse of them from the reception playground. We have 93 in total and they will be able to meet 28.4% of our energy needs.



In other eco-news, a few members of our school council had a meeting this week with our caretaker, Natalie. They had many questions for her about energy efficiency in terms of our school's insulation, water, lighting and heating. These were the children's main findings:

- This year, we have had some new hot water tanks installed. These are much more efficient than the old ones and are therefore helping us to reduce the amount of gas that we use. We do still have some old water tanks, which waste energy, so we are hoping that we can eventually get these changed too.
- We have installed flush valves in many of the toilets to save water.
- Whenever a light is replaced, a more efficient LED light is installed. Natalie will be having a look around the older parts of the school (near the year 5 and 6 classrooms) to check where older lights could be replaced by more efficient LED lights.
- Our heating has been turned off since the Easter holidays.
- Our heating settings are now being reviewed more often and boilers are no longer being left on during the school holidays and weekends.



In terms of an area for improvement, the school council have suggested that we install motion sensors, which would switch lights off when an area is not in use.

The school council would also like to politely suggest that at home, you might have a review of your own energy efficiency. Is there something you could do to improve insulation? What could you do to reduce water consumption? What small changes could you make to reduce your electricity bill? Every small change can make a big difference!



RotaKids - Summer Fete Appeal

At this year's summer fete, the Rotakids will be holding a stall selling second-hand books and second-hand clothes. If you happen to be having a clear-out over the next few weeks, we would be very grateful if you wouldn't mind donating to us any clothes and/or books that you no longer need. We will be donating all of the money raised to our four house charities (Cancer Research UK, the RNLI, Young Minds and the RSPCA) and the Children's Air Ambulance.

Many thanks, the Rotakids of St. John's



Year 5 Geography Field Trip

This week, Rowan Class (year 5) have had their turn to embark upon some geography fieldwork. Just like Pine Class did last term, the children of Rowan have been out in Midsomer Norton to determine what local people think about Fair Trade. The children were well equipped for their investigation, having already collected data that compared Fair Trade products with their non-Fair Trade equivalents, and had this ready to share with the public.

The children discovered that local people recognise the value of Fair Trade and the important role it plays in spreading wealth more fairly around the world. At the same time, however, most of the people that the children spoke to stated that they are currently more likely to choose cheaper alternatives, rather than purchasing Fair Trade goods, due to the current 'cost of living crisis.'

In reflection, the children were all in agreement that our supermarkets should make it easier for us to make ethical shopping choices whilst also keeping to our tight budgets!



Out of School Achievement



Freya from Chestnut class took her rainbows (girl guides) promise this week and earned her first badge!



Midsomer Norton under 7's enjoyed their first presentation evening last weekend. Koby won managers player award and Jayden won players player award - well done both of you!



And Jess was voted Manager/Coaches player of the year for the new U11/U12s girls' team at Midsomer Norton FC and was top goal scorer. Well done Jess!

New Nursery has Arrived!

Everyone was very excited this week as our brand new nursery building arrived!

Watching the lorries, the crane and the workmen was great fun, and we can't wait to explore our new space when it is ready.

We are looking forward to seeing how the final pieces come together, and we are hoping to open the nursery very soon... watch this space!



Year 6 Camp at Mendip Activity Centre

We have just welcomed our year 6 pupils back into school after their residential trip to Mendip Activity Centre, and what an amazing week they have had!

They have all had a great big adventure, and have represented St John's brilliantly. We hope that the new-found independence and confidence in themselves will set them in good stead as they move on from St John's.

Many thanks to the staff who joined them on their big adventure - now everyone deserves a well earned, restful weekend!



Learning in Year 4

Year 4 have been learning about protected characteristics within different lessons this term. We have looked at different prominent figures within the civil rights movement in America and the work they have done to abolish discrimination. We have written our own poetry inspired by Maya Angelou's 'Still I Rise,' as well as looking at Barak Obama's poem 'Of Thee I Sing' in guided reading.

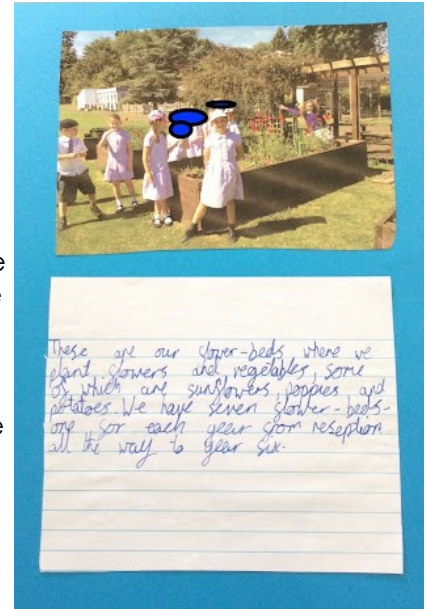
In our art lessons we have been learning about Barbara Jones-Hogu and created our own colourful positivity posters inspired by her piece entitled 'Unite.'



RotaKids Update - Penpal Link with School in Harare, Zimbabwe

This week, the Rotakids have sent their very first pack of letters to our partner Rotakids Club in Harare, Zimbabwe.

In these letters, our Rotakids told their penpals a little bit about themselves, such as what their favourite lessons are, what their hobbies are and the types of pets we like to have in our homes in the UK. They also sent over some pictures of the different areas in our lovely school and why these areas are important to us.



Citizenship and Character Award

As the weather begins to brighten (I hope I'm not speaking too soon!), here are some suggestions for those of you thinking of working towards your Citizenship and Character Award this weekend:

- Run or roll down a hill (Physical Me) - The weather is set to be quite nice and dry this weekend! If you happen to be out in the countryside with your grown-ups, why not try this timeless activity. I wonder if you can get your grown-up to take part too!
- Do something you love (Wellbeing Me) - I know that lots of children at St. John's love being outside. This weekend, take advantage of the sunshine by doing your favourite outdoor activity.
- Cook a meal with Fair Trade ingredients (Global Me) - This week, year 5 have discovered that people in our local area really recognise the importance of Fair Trade. If you are able to source some Fair Trade ingredients, why not use them to make a meal for your family!





Help Needed - PTA Summer Fete

Our Summer fete on the 7th July is fast approaching but we desperately need parent volunteers to help it run.

The fete runs from 3pm-6pm, so if you can help even just an hour please contact the PTA to make this the success it has always been: stjohnsmsnpta@outlook.com

Year 4 Football Tournament



Our year 4 footballers took part in an inter-school tournament on Monday 15th May at Norton Hill School.

They did themselves (and us!) proud, with brilliant teamwork, huge enthusiasm and determination - coming in 4th over all.

Well done boys - what a great result!



MIDSOMER NORTON MUSIC FESTIVAL

The Entitled Sons

Gavin Lazarus "Cool Britannia"

Gavin Osborn

Original Barn Finds

Norton Hill School bands

Bath City College bands

SATURDAY 3 JUNE

1.00-7.30PM

Town Park nr. SOMER CENTRE

MUSIC PERFORMANCE ART

Outfield bar

Art tent

Bouncy castles

Workshops Exhibitions

Food village

Spray paint demo

mnct.co.uk



EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

w/c 22 May



Bath Central Library

Storytime Session
Tuesday 10.30 - 11.00am 23 May

Baby Bounce & Rhyme, Family Fun
Wednesday 10.30 - 11.00am 24 May

Art in the Library - Immaterial by Alison Harper
Mon - Sat During opening hours 3 - 26 May

Lego Lab, Family Fun Drop In
Mon - Sat During opening hours

Sensory Space, for families with children and young adults with sensory needs
Mon - Sat, Book a Session via Eventbrite

Keynsham Library

Baby Bounce & Rhyme
Tuesday 9.30 - 10.00am 23 May
10.30 - 11.00am

Storytime & Craft
Thursday 11.00 - 11.30am 25 May

Midsomer Norton Library

Baby Bounce & Rhyme
Monday 11.00 - 11.30am 22 May

Storytime Sessions
Wednesday 10.30 - 11.00am 24 May

Recycle an Ex Library Book Competition

11 Feb - 22 July

Collect an entry form from Keynsham, Bath or Midsomer Norton library

Half Term Creativity Corner

27 May - 3 June

During Library Opening Hours

Keynsham, Bath & Midsomer Norton library

For any ticketed events, the link will be online via Social Media or via the blog.

