

24th February 2023



St John's News

Our Fortnightly Newsletter

Welcome back to school after the half term break. I am very proud to be St John's new head teacher, and I am delighted to be part of such a vibrant and caring community. We are extremely proud of all our pupils' achievements and I have been visiting classes around school as much as possible this week to get to know all pupils.

Please do look at the fantastic things that we have been learning this week, we have particularly enjoyed making plenty of pancakes and eating them together! Our staff have been working hard as always to provide pupils with many exciting and engaging learning experiences to keep them safe, happy, respectful, and motivated. We aim to develop the multitude of skills our pupils have, enable them to explore their talents and to prepare them for lifelong learning and their future lives.

I hope to have many opportunities to meet you over the new spring term.

Charlotte Wood (Headteacher)

P1

During Maths we have been learning about full, empty, big and small. In Bear group we have been filling and pouring oats, pasta and various sensory materials during our maths sessions. Oats was a favourite as we spent the most time on this activity!

Rose: 'Full' Rose pointed to full on the communication board.

Logan: Big jug, small jug!

Gorvin: 'Ee' Gorvin vocalised a happy vocalisation at the ball pool.

Monkey room group has been learning to complete posting and matching tasks with less support. We have focused really well for these sessions and developing our attention for longer!

Teddy: Yeah, yeah.

Shirin vocalised: 'Eee' and smiled during the activities, a happy vocalisation.



S4

In S4 we have been learning about opposites, in Science we found different objects around the classroom and predicted whether we thought they would float or sink in the water using our PODD books. We then got to see if our prediction was right by dropping the objects in a tub of water!

Josh thought the counting teddy bears would sink, he was correct.

Marcus enjoyed watching and playing with the objects.



FE1

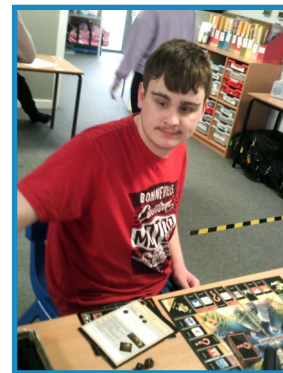
The class of FE1 have hobbies and leisure every Friday as part of their pathway to adulthood. Students learn important life skills such as self-occupying, taking turns, losing (graciously!) and socialising with their friends. Being able to self-occupy is an essential skill in becoming independent as everyone has times when they may feel bored. Taking turns is a skill that many of our students find difficult to grasp and during a game is a safe environment to practice this. Nobody likes to lose so students can explore how to lose with grace and humour during this time, improving social skills.

In Hobbies students are introduced to new hobbies and board games. In Leisure students choose a hobby or game of their preference. It's very satisfying to see students choose to play a game that they have been introduced to. Some of our more sensory students play with sensory toys and manipulatives.

Students who have learnt a new game often invite their classmates to play the new game involving peer to peer learning. Some games such as Uno and Monopoly have become very popular and competitive. Being able to take a game to a social setting and explain how the game is played is an excellent skill to have.

The staff aim to continually expand the repertoire of hobbies and games we can expose our students to. New hobbies and games on the immediate horizon include, clay modelling, Hama beads, Pictionary and photography.

One of our students have said they, 'enjoyed playing with the cushions' in our Pod room.
Another one of our students said they, 'like the sensory toys and kinetic sand'
Another said, 'I've enjoyed getting better at games'

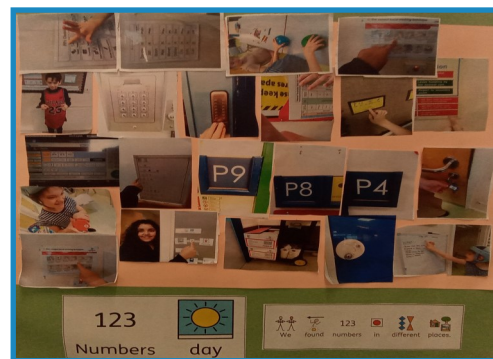


P9

P9 went on a numbers hunt around some areas of the school as part of NSPCC Numbers Day.

They were surprised at how many we found!

Here are a few examples: Lockers, clothes, checklists, instructions, dates, timers, dice, tally charts, boxes, printer menus, door locks, timetables and classroom names.



S9

Yesterday we had lots of fun in S9 celebrating pancake day! We made pancakes, practiced flipping and then finished with a big pancake race!

Pupils used PODD communication books to tell us what they thought. "I think it was funny!", "I think it was silly!"



P7

P7 have been very busy! We visited the school library for the first time. There was lots to take in, with all the new books and seating areas. We particularly enjoyed the new cushion stools.

Casey showed us he loved the story telling chair, by running over to it straight away and smiling whilst sitting on it.

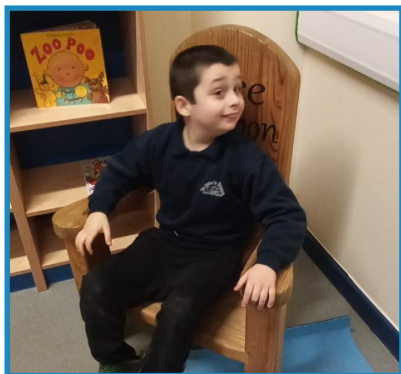
Shiloh spontaneously verbalised "library" the next day, to request going back there!

We have been celebrating Number Day! We explored lots of different number activities, we particularly liked the Numberblocks songs!

Evan and **Phoebe** represented P7 and attended the school council meeting. It was nice to get together with peers from different classes and we discussed what photos we would like in the school hall.

Evan used his PODD book, to tell us he would like photos of someone resting.

Phoebe used her PODD book to tell us she would like 'more', but did not specify what she wanted more of.



S2

In S2 we had a great half term holiday and were excited to carry on with our Topic of Festivals. Especially as Tuesday was Shrove Tuesday and that meant cooking pancakes! Not only that we used our numeracy skills to write a shopping list and work out how much the ingredients for making pancakes would cost. In Literacy, we have been continuing to write sentences. Our favourite assembly so far has been on Internet Safety. In Science we have been separating the different materials in Muesli. That was hard work, but we got to eat it at the end!

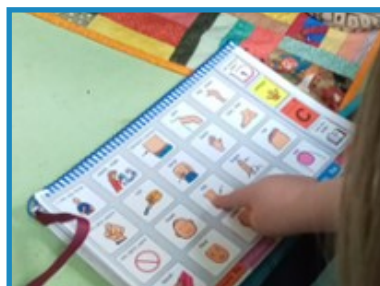


P8

P8 have been working on developing their communication throughout the day using their PODD books. Pupils have been using their PODD books to communicate their preferences during weekly Handypac sessions. They have been working really hard and are now confidently able to identify their body parts!

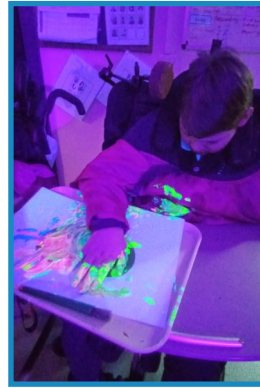
Tapiwa responded "no" when asked "do you want squashes?"

Harrison indicated where he wanted squashes by pointing to the "back" symbol in his PODD book. Amazing progress, well done P8!



P5

This term P5 are learning about opposites, and in art, we have been learning about light and dark. We have created artwork using neon paint with a UV light. Pupils created different effects using their hands and other resources to independently apply the paint onto smooth and embossed surfaces.

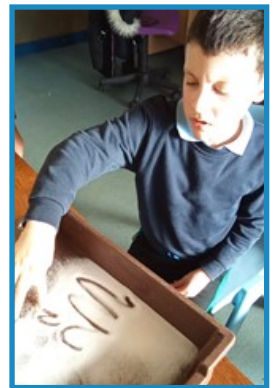


P6

P6 pupils have been exploring mark making in art using a variety of tools such as chalks, crayons, pastels. Pupils have been using different techniques to create different effects e.g. dots/lines/zigzags.

Jamil always takes his time when taking part in mark making, taking great care to copy patterns.

Ryan engages well during this session commenting that "the sand feels like a holiday!"



Buggy for Sale

Joolz Buggy for sale, comes with a rain cover.

This is free to a good home. If you are interested please email

gemma.whitlock@bilft.org



Fundraising

Thank you to all the families and staff who donated and supported for Jo's family. Your bright colours and football shirts looked so cheerful on a difficult day. We raised £216.49 for the charity Reach which was close to Jo's heart.



Diary Dates

World Book Day	Thursday 2nd March 2023
Parent/Carer Coffee Morning	Friday 3rd March (9.30 am—11.00 am)
Easter Holidays	3rd April—17th April 2022
Pupils return to school	Tuesday 18th April 2022