

29th September 2023



St John's News

A very warm welcome back to the new school year to all our pupils, families, new staff and colleagues. We have had a really good start back to school, with all pupils enjoying their learning around our new theme 'All About Me'. Look out for our curriculum newsletters which will hopefully be useful to give you some ideas for communication, activities to complete at home, and community visits. It was lovely to see so many parents and carers at our 'Settling In' parents evening on Wednesday this week, to have a chance to discuss how your children have settled in to the new term.

We really enjoyed starting the term as we mean to go on with some lovely activities that you will see in our newsletter. This week we had great fun with visits to Forest School, among other things and many of our pupils have been out and about in the community. We have been enjoying music and arts lessons from our new specialist teachers, doing plenty of lovely singing in lessons and assembly!

We also had a visit from Ofsted in the first week back! We will let you know the outcome as soon as we have our report. Thank you so much for all your support and to many of you who spoke to inspectors and who answered the parent and carer Ofsted survey. We were delighted to read so many lovely comments, and appreciate your feed back, as always.

Thank you for all your support,

Charlotte Wood, Head Teacher

P5



P5 have been enjoying our music lessons led by our specialist music teacher. We have been listening to the violin and ukulele.

We smiled, reached our hands out and listened carefully to the sounds and rhythms.

We have been using our voices, bodies and instruments to make our own rhythms and songs too.

We are now able to sing some of the songs from memory and can recall the rhythms.

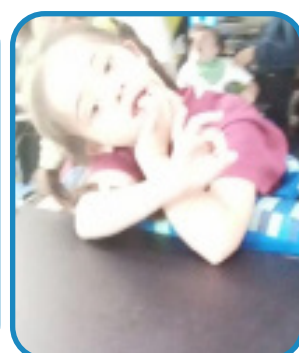
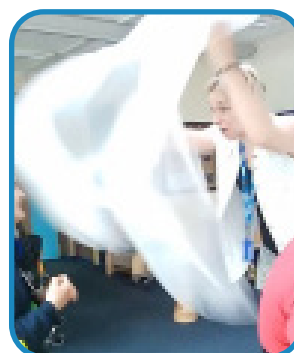
S9



The Pupils in S9 have been getting to know each other by sharing in lots of laughter!

L pupil has been particularly enjoying joining in our 'floating cloud' activity. He laughs as the cloud is placed over his head and has been signing 'more' to repeat the activity!

S9 have been exploring using the Soundbeam to make beautiful music using switches and the Soundbeam. **S pupil** moves her body to activate the music.



P7



P7 have been accessing Forest School at Grange Academy and have absolutely loved this!

We have explored the area, enjoyed the swing, hammock and a range of activities including water and sand play. This week we watched Jade make a fire for the first time! The pupils were very excited about this **A pupil** response was 'Wow look fire'. **T pupil** said his favourite area was the sand table and **J pupil's** favourite has been the swing which he patiently waited for.



FE1



FE1 meal preparation starts with the class looking through cookbooks and choosing a main meal and a dessert to make. The students' choices are then put to a class vote.

The ingredients for the winning meal and dessert are noted down by staff. The ingredients are then checked against the kitchens

stock and whether items in stock are in date by the students.

Ingredients that need to be purchased are divided between the students on individual shopping lists. The students are taken to the supermarket along with an amount of money to cover what they need to purchase. Students search for their ingredients and

take their items to the till, check their change and ask for a receipt independently or with light verbal support. Once back at school, one group makes the main meal, and one group makes the dessert which are eaten instead of going to the canteen that day. Main meal and dessert choices are vetted by staff for healthy eating and budget.



Students said of their cooking and baking this week:

"I took my flapjacks home for Nanny"

"The pizza was good"

"My mum ate most of my flapjacks"

"Pepperoni!"

P6



This term P6 have loved having Nicola the music teacher in class on Mondays. The pupils tuned in to the singing and different instruments, showing different vocal and physical responses which communicated likes and dislikes, anticipation, and realisation.

When E Pupil's PODD book was modelled to her she confirmed that she liked listening to the violin by bringing her head up, vocalising and smiling.



S4

We have been learning about the life of Mary Anning in history in S4. We discovered she found lots of dinosaur fossils and had a go at making our own salt dough fossils.

Pupil comments:

"rrraaaaaa"

"dinosaur fossils!"

"dinosaur foot prints."



S6



S6 have settled back into the school year well with their new teacher, Zoey. They have been thinking about what they like to eat and their preferences. Last week, they tried pesto with their pasta and 7 out of 9 class members gave it a thumbs up, despite some not liking the look of the pesto initially!

The pupils all had jobs in the kitchen and showed excellent independence skills. Next lesson they're trying pasta with a tomato sauce and we will compare our

preferences. **AS** said: "This is my favourite."



Diary Dates

Half Term - 23rd - 27th October 2023

Pupils return to school - Tuesday 31st October 2023