

31st January 2025



St John's News

FE1 and FE2



FE1 joined FE2 for a Chinese New Year Party.

All the pupils had great fun with snake balloons, dancing and food. Pupils blew up the long balloons and drew eyes on to them. Pupils had great fun playing with them. FE2 made some fabulous snake biscuits which everyone enjoyed. We all tried some noodles, egg fried rice and other party food. After our food we all had a fortune cookie and shred the message with the group.



L: I tried the noodles, and the egg fried rice, it was delicious. My fortune cookie said, 'someone's thinking about you.'

La: I had noodles, snake cookie and chocolate cake. My fortune cookie said, 'Someone is thinking of you.'

K: I liked dancing and the fortune cookie, mine said 'A smile is the same in all languages.'

A enjoyed eating the food she particularly enjoyed eating the noodles.

Before the party we listened to the story of how the years got their name. The years were named after the first twelve animals to cross the river. In our class we have people born in the year of the dragon, pig, rabbit, ox, rat, and the rooster. Happy New Year

新年好



S6 are very excited about their enterprise project. Pupils used total

communication to come up with ideas on how to raise money for new class resources.

During our careers lesson pupils have been choosing resources they would like in their classroom and with adult support working out how much money we would need to raise. Some of us have been creating posters for the event.

S6

S6 voted on how they would like to raise money and voted to complete a sponsored swim. As a class we aim to swim at least 100 lengths in 45 minutes!

Please help us to raise money by sponsoring us. Payments can be made via School Coms.

T said "I like swimming"

R pointed to the swimming symbol on her ALD and smiled.

K would like to raise money for some new vehicles.



S10 have settled into the new year and have all come back in high spirits and ready to learn more exciting things! This term pupils have been working extremely hard to reach their targets. Our new topic is "The Great Adventure" where we are currently exploring the Ocean. Pupils have been working towards matching and identifying different animals and items that they may find in the Ocean, this has been shown through matching pictures together or matching the

words to the correct animal or item. We have also been exploring the Ocean through sensory play and dance/movement and will also be looking at different sensory stories.

In Art pupils have been exploring varied materials, including papier mache, foil and pipe cleaners to make their own fish for our "Great Adventure" display.

Pupils have also been working on their turn taking skills, whether this has been through playing games with their peers or turn taking on the whiteboard during choose time.

We are working hard with our personal hygiene routines during life skills. We are developing our skills of brushing our teeth and washing our hands/faces. We are also building up our skills around preparing for adulthood by doing things such as making beds, washing up and sorting clothes.



S2



S2 have been having such a fun time this half term working on their independent living skills. In Maths pupils have been roleplaying shopping as both the customer and shop keeper and learning transactional exchange.



For food tech pupils have taken the opportunity to be a chef for the week and organising and cooking a menu for their class.

S2 have also been roleplaying other Job scenarios such as a cinema worker and partially enjoy the job of the popcorn maker.

T says "Popcorn is my favourite"



S9



Pupils in S9 have been delighted to be back in the pool for Hydrotherapy! It was beautifully warm which enabled pupils' muscles to relax and for them to work hard on rebuilding skills through their Hydrotherapy/physiotherapy programmes.



Pupils respond so well in the pool developing their communication and interaction skills and everyone joined in and enjoyed a celebratory hokey cokey song in the water.

Li was engaged and giggled as she felt the jets tickle her side.

Lo was 'super splashy' working hard to kick her legs and move her arms to splash her friend Li.

H requested more for the watering can. **B** was very happy to float and move in the water again.

Pupils are beginning to engage well with our new Topic of Under the sea. The light up Jelly fish are a firm favourite!



S4



In our history topic 'Great Adventures' S4 have been learning about Neil Armstrong. Pupils have learnt about who Neil Armstrong was, where he went and why he was important as an adventurer.

Pupils made a poster of his key information. Pupils used collage to make our own space picture, labelling and naming planets, rockets and stars. Pupils made their own space helmets too, learning to follow instructions, using tools such as scissors, naming colours and shapes, and then used this to role play!

A pupil remembered the famous words Neil Armstrong said 'That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind'. Pupils also answered questions, replying 'moon' 'rocket' when asked where he went and what he travelled in. Some pupils showed enjoyment of the activity by smiling and pointing, as adult's modelled symbols and PODD books.

Rebound Therapy



Some pupils at St John's have started to attend Rebound Therapy Sessions. Rebound Therapy uses a trampoline and is used to facilitate movement, promote balance, promote an increase or decrease in muscle tone, promote relaxation, promote sensory integration, improve fitness and exercise tolerance, and to improve communication skills. Pupils have made some great progress already.



L anticipates cause and effect and signs "more please" to be bounced.

E jumps with a big smile on her face. In the week she requests "PE bounce trampoline"

M follows instructions to hold positions and bounce when sitting and standing, smiling with anticipation and enjoyment

M signs 'more' wanting bounce to continue and learning to sit rather than laying only on the trampoline



What a great start to the term pupils have had! There were lots of smiles on the first day back, showing everybody was ready to begin our new theme Great Adventures! Pupils have taken part in class circle time where they have had

the opportunity to engage with their friends. With the encouragement and guidance from the adults, pupils have been learning to respond to and initiate interactions.

A range of cause and effect resources have encouraged us to interact with their environment and the things within it and make personal choices according to what we wish to explore. Some of us have been making our own requests using symbols to choose an activity and through this we can also communicate our needs.

Pupils have been able to explore all kinds of sensory items using this in a range of different ways to explore our new theme. We have been on a bear hunt through long wavy grass, a deep cold river, a big dark forest, a thick oozy mud, a swirling, whirling snowstorm, and a narrow gloomy cave! You'll never guess what was in the cave! What a great adventure we had. We are looking forward to exploring the story further...

Our floor projector has been a big hit, we love the one where we can pop the bubbles on the floor and the disco balls!



Pupils and staff at St John's School are celebrating after receiving a prestigious Silver Artsmark Award.

Artsmark is the only creative quality standard for schools, accredited by Arts Council England. It transforms teaching through creativity, empowering teachers with the skills they need to embed arts, culture and creativity across the whole curriculum, and is proven to support pupil outcomes and wellbeing.

To achieve their Artsmark Award, St John's School had to develop their arts and cultural provision to embed a broad and ambitious curriculum. This was achieved by creating an overall plan that was committed to and delivered across the whole school.

Over two years St John's received professional support through an immersive learning programme from Artsmark's delivery partner, Goldsmiths, University of

Artsmark Silver

London, who are world-renowned leaders in creative pedagogy and cultural placemaking.

On receiving the award, Shannon Poulter, Head teacher said: ***"We're extremely proud of achieving our Artsmark Silver Award. We are committed to delivering a high-quality arts and cultural education. Our Artsmark journey has transformed our school by ensuring pupil voice is at the heart of everything we do."***

Dr Darren Henley OBE, Chief Executive of Arts Council England, said: ***"I would like to congratulate St Johns on their Artsmark Award. Creative activities and cultural experiences enrich our lives, open our minds to new possibilities and help us make sense of the world around us. As an awarded Artsmark school, you're demonstrating that by offering a broad, ambitious and creative curriculum, your young people will develop character and resilience, increasing their knowledge, curiosity and skills that will remain with them through to adult life."***

Other Notices

SEN Support in Educational Settings
Thursday 6th February

Online Event
6.30pm - 8.30pm

This workshop will help you better understand the graduated approach of support, what is quality first teaching, what is special educational provision, understanding terms, jargon and processes.

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BEYOND LIMITS ABILITY BLUES
BLUES & BEYOND: SEND* PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND SOCIAL HUB SESSIONS...

Join us for fun, fitness, and socialising as you stay active and healthy with our team of experienced coaches and volunteers! Starting from 28th January 2025

TUESDAYS • 6.30PM - 7.30PM
Join us every Tuesday during term time at John Bunyan Sports and Fitness!
Register in the cafe and then choose from the following options:
• Table tennis
• Multi-sports
• Relax and chat
• Experience the sensory room

SATURDAYS • 10AM - 11AM
Join us every Saturday during term time at John Bunyan Sports and Fitness for Ability Blues Rugby Club!
Register in the cafe and then choose from the following options:
• Multi-sport sessions
• Social games
• Balance, coordination, and body movement activities

Session welcome all children and young people with learning difficulties and physical disabilities with a low to moderate support need. Participants needing more assistance in group settings are welcome, but a parent or carer must stay to help.

FOR MORE INFORMATION...
If you have any questions, please contact Olivia Fleming:
olivia.fleming@bedford.gov.uk
To keep up to date with all things Beyond Limits, scan the QR code or visit www.beyondlimits.org.uk

Family Fun
Tuesday 18th February
6.30pm - 9.00pm

The Riverside Hub, 7 Carousel Way, Northampton, NN3 9HG

What's included:

- SEND and Sensory Room
- Role Play Area & Carousel
- Mini Golf
- Go Karts
- Climbing Wall
- Giant Climbing Frame

communications@bbpcf.org.uk
www.bbpcf.co.uk

Diary Dates

Half Term - Monday 17th to Friday 21st February 2025
Pupils Return to School - Monday 24th February 2025