

6th March 2025



St John's News

S8



In S8 we have been enjoying our new construction toys that we got for Christmas. We were learning to follow the steps in

the instruction book to build shapes of our choice. We are now using our own imagination to build our own ideas! **S***** built a castle for Elsa!

We have lots of new toys of which we are really enjoying Marble run. We are working together to build the course and then taking turns to release the marbles. Pupils have started racing each other to see whose marble can reach the end of the course first!

S**:** I made a castle for Elsa.

Another pupil comment: Look I made a heart. I used 18 squares.

Two new pupils joined the School Eco Council. They inspired us to make a class poster and shared some good ideas about how we can take care of the environment.



W**:** Always remember to switch off the light when you leave the room.

S**:** Don't forget to turn off the light.

Pupils planted some grape hyacinth bulbs in preparation for spring.

The bulbs have spouted and the saplings are now in the ground!



P4



For mental health awareness week, **P4** opened their own spa! Pupils and staff got to enjoy putting their feet in the foot spa, putting on a face mask with cucumbers on their eyes, and having their nails painted. **S**** even became a nail artist! We listened to some relaxing spa music on in the background.

Pupils waited for their turn at the foot spa and each had different reactions. **A** and **A** were mesmerised however **S** did not like the feel of the foot spa.

Not everyone was keen on the feel of the face mask. **A** used a communication board to say it was 'cold'. **J** liked helping herself to the cucumbers as a snack! **J** used the face mask to stick the cucumbers onto his cheek.

S loved painting everyone's nails! Every adult in the room left with pretty nails. When asked how much her nails cost, **S** said "200"

A said "cucumber mask" to request a face mask and cucumbers on his eyes.

J used a communication board to say that he enjoyed the foot spa, and the spa afternoon was 'fun'. While getting his nails painted, he called the light blue 'ferusha'.



P3



Pupils in **P3** have been working on their cutting skills in food technology sessions. Our theme has been fruit and we have been trying lots of healthy fruits including mango, pears, melon, blueberries, raspberries, apples, bananas and many more! We have been discussing if we like these or not, pupils have enjoyed trying different fruits and we have been

impressed with how many pupils have tried these. Pupils have been describing these and how they taste.

T said mango was his favourite, this tasted sweet and he ate lots of this!

J said I like apple.

E loved the pineapple and asked for more of this!

O was not keen and did not want to try any we said this was ok!

Ev really enjoyed the melon and likes to have this at home also.



S5



As part of P.E. S5 class take part in sensory circuit exercises using a variety of equipment. A sensory circuit involves a sequence of physical activities that are designed to alert, organise and calm the young person. The sensory circuit aims to facilitate sensory processing to help regulate and organise their senses to achieve the 'just right' or optimum level of alertness required for effective learning. The circuit should be an active, physical and fun activity that pupils enjoy doing.



Sensory circuits should ideally be completed first thing in the morning

(and after lunch too, where possible), but can be done at home too. Sensory circuits are a great way to both energise and settle pupils so they can focus and engage better in the classroom. Many pupils can benefit from attending a sensory circuit, even for a short period of time. The activities can also be utilised

at different times of the day as part of a sensory diet to help the young person regulate.

Pupils take part in an alerting activity to prepare the brain for learning such as bouncing on a trampoline, skipping, running or rolling. Then pupils take part in an organising activity that requires motor sensory processing, balance and timing such as balancing, climbing, log rolls or throwing to a target. These activities help improve focus and attention. Lastly pupils complete a calming exercise such as yoga ball squashes, lying under a weighted blanket, swinging or rocking. This helps to calm and centre the pupil for returning to the classroom.



One pupil said, 'I like the tent' another pupil said, 'I love basketball!'

FE



Before half term we were very busy getting the classrooms set up for the FE unit to start at RiverTree. After 6 years at Kempston Academy it was time for FE to move to the 6th form unit at RiverTree school.

All the pupils have helped with packing and been involved in the move. After an initial delay in starting pupils have now moved in and settled really well. The pupils were asked how they feel and what they like about being at RiverTree.

L: I feel brave because the school is beautiful. The class is good.

L: I feel really happy going to a new school its the best option. At first I was unsure but now I'm OK!

K: Happy, new furniture. Its a new chapter.

R: Feel OK. Brand new school.

S: I was nervous at first but now got used to it. Its bigger than our other school.

K: RiverTree, really good. Its big, I like using my lap top.

S: Happy, good common room.

W: I feel, fine, I like playing the police game in the playground

A: I like my new classroom, I like being with my friends

N: Pointed to likes when asked what he thinks about the new site.

J: I like it, I like playing with my friends outside (On the new multi use games area)



S1



S1 have been very busy over the last month making pizzas. We started by making pizzas on pita breads, tortilla wraps, naan breads, and premade bases. Pupils were able to choose their toppings each week and have worked on spreading their sauces, sprinkling the cheese, and placing the toppings. We have had chicken and sweetcorn, ham and mushroom, pepperoni and pineapple, and plain cheese.



The pupils have really enjoyed making their pizzas and are prepping for our schoolwide pizza competition in careers this half term. We have identified the toppings we want to use and the theme for our pizza. We had a practice run using tortilla wraps this week and all of the pupils did a great job.

S said that his pizza was good and he liked the ham the best.

P said he liked the pizza and wanted more cheese.

R used a choice board to use identify that he liked the cheese.

P1



Wow, what a month it was in P1, we started by celebrating the lunar new year. We had lots of fun and games by watching some traditional Dragon and Lion dances from all over the World, from London to Beijing. A lot of the pupils gave big claps for the acrobat dancers! Some of the adults in the room couldn't help but gasp at the way the performers would leap about the stage.



We also had some fresh noodles to play with and explore as part of our sensory tray. Our pupils had a little bit of trouble trying to use the chopsticks, but they all had a very good go at it. We showed the

pupils a happy face that said 'easy' and a grumpy face that said 'difficult' and everyone said that the chopsticks were difficult!

As part of our Great Adventure, we had a look at some fruits from all around the world. We practiced our fine motor control by making fruit kebab, it was quite a job for us to get the fruit on the skewers without breaking some of the pieces, so we had to make sure that we were really gentle with how we put our kebabs together. They tasted amazing! Our friend T pointed to a symbol for the word 'delicious' after tasting his.



We have also had some great fun with our directions, we have been using videos of roller coasters to talk about left, right, up and down. We have had some pupils sit right up close to the screen to get the 'maximum effect' of the rides. Our favourite so far has been one called 'Leviathan' which is in a theme park in America. Some of our pupils have liked the roller coaster videos so much that they have asked for them every day since we first looked at them!

S3



Maths

In maths we have been learning about money, we are all great at recognising different coins, in different ways. We have also started getting coins to display a certain amount of money.

Play and social skills

We have had lots of fun with different sensory material.

K asked for a beard with the sensory foam and said that he looked like 'Despicable me'. We have also enjoyed some new toys in our classroom.

H enjoyed knocking on the front door of the dolls house.

K had fun putting cars down the car ramp and **J** enjoyed mixing up the Oobleck!

Life skills

In life skills pupils planted up some flowerpots with lavender and heather. We enjoyed scooping the soil into the pots and digging small holes to plant the plants.

M: The flowerpots look beautiful.

J: "Worm" when he found a worm in the soil.



Sporting Success

At the beginning of February, St. Johns Took two teams to take part in a Kurling competition at the John Bunyan Centre. This is the

fourth sporting event that the school has been able to attend this year thanks to the School Sports Partnership that exists here in Bedford.

Kurling is very similar to it's namesake sport that is played on ice, only when we're in a sports hall, we use stones that have rollers on the bottom rather than sliding actual stones across ice. We didn't have any sweepers in our version either.

Throughout the competition, St. John's pupils were praised by staff of other schools for their efforts and endeavours to do their best, both our teams played their hearts out and had an amazing experience. Two

of our pupils collected individual awards, selected by the organisers of the competition, for displaying "passion" and "self-belief" during the event.

Teams were asked to play a series of seven games against other schools in their category, the results of which would determine who they were to play in their final play off game for their final placing in the tournament. The St. John's B team finished ninth out of the twelve competing schools in the category, while the A team finished in the top two and were advanced to the final.

Unfortunately, our A team were beaten in the final by two points. However, they were not disheartened by the final result. Everyone returned to school feeling happy and proud of their contributions to the team. All our participants received a certificate to congratulate them on their performance and the school has a special certificate to commemorate our second place, that will sit alongside the trophy.

Fundraising



As you know from previous newsletters, the very generous team at Dunbia donated £500 towards cost of repairs to the swimming pool. Whilst they were visiting they came up with the fantastic idea of creating an Amazon Wish List for items the classes would love to receive and would enhance their learning further.



We have created this List and Dunbia were the first to purchase some of the items. Classes were very excited to receive sensory and cause and effect toys, extra balls for the ball pool, brilliant magnetic shapes to develop the

concept of 3D shapes in maths and aids to make physio sessions more comfortable.

We have now updated the Wish List with more items

that are so needed in classrooms and will make learning even more fun and interactive.

Please could you share the link to our Wish List far and wide around friends, families and businesses you may know to see if they would like to purchase anything off the list. They just need to click the link, select the item and add the school address for delivery.

FAO - Amanda Rizzo
St John's School
Austin Canons
Kempston
MK42 8AA

Many thanks

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/?ref=wl_lfu_nav_1



Allotment/Eco News

School allotment project

Last year we had a fundraising day to raise money so that we can begin building an allotment for our school. We have been continuing to work on this project and have flowerbeds ready for us to sand and paint. This project is being supported by the Royal Historical Palaces' Superbloom project who have also provided a grant and training to support staff with building a usable space to improve mental wellbeing, learning opportunities and improve the biodiversity of our school grounds. If you feel you would have any expertise in landscaping, laying patio/gravel flooring, carpentry or gardening then we'd love for you to get in touch with the school office.

The plan for the allotment:



Eco-school award and Eco-club



Alongside our allotment project we have started an Eco-club, of pupils who volunteered to help out. This takes place on Wednesday mornings, with secondary pupils. Primary classes are being invited to engage in the eco-club activities during class time. We have had a very positive and successful turnout each week. After carrying out our eco review on the school and scoring only 26/100 we have got to work straight away to improve things where we can. Using this review, we have chosen the following three areas to work on this school year: Biodiversity, School Grounds and Waste.

A: "Yes it's Eco-club tomorrow!"

O: "We need pick up litter otherwise the animals might eat it"

Bee-Friendly school award

The Superbloom project is also supporting us to achieve our 'Bumblebee friendly school award' from the Bumblebee conservation Trust. Wednesday 5th we will be hosting a 'Bee friendly afternoon' where pupils will complete a range of activities about Bumblebees. It would be lovely to see pupils in yellow and black or flowery outfits to help with our Bee celebrations. We will look forward to sharing the events with you in the next newsletter.



Other Notices

Click on images for further information

FUN 4 YOUNG PEOPLE

WHAT'S ON
FOR YP IN SCHOOL YEARS 1 - 11

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS
Monday - Thursday @ Multiple Venues

MULTI-SPORTS PARKOUR MULTI-ARTS
SWIMMING PADDLE TAEKWONDO GYM

HOLIDAY CLUBS
February Half-term, Easter & Summer
Spring/Summer Residential Trips

FIND OUT MORE

BOOK A TASTER SESSION
POP IN & TO SPEAK OUR TEAM
FUNDING AVAILABLE

WWW.F4YP.ORG 0300 162 4541 INFO@F4YP.ORG

OUR SERVICE
Child Support
Face to Face Delivery
Therapeutic Support
Family Support
Partnership Working

PARENT/CARER SUPPORT GROUP
As part of our family support, we have developed a 10-week programme supporting parents/ carers of YP with SEND and/or mental health needs.
This group is a safe space for parent/carers to share similar experiences and gain insight into their own processing and how impacts their child guided by our Child Psychotherapist Sophie Abbott.
Tuesdays Online / Restarts Termly
7:00pm - 8:30pm

fun 4 all

A specialist activity provision for unique children & young people with SEND

We are delighted to work in partnership with Bedford Borough Council to offer a free provision for eligible participants. Funding is only available in line with the funding criteria. There is a charge for families of £5.00 per session per child.

How to Book
Request an application form
Subject to eligibility we will book you in for a visit
Your child can then access regular sessions subject to availability
Sessions include a weekly theme, inflatable fun, energy play, sensory play and more!

For more information email us at info@ssgservices.co.uk or call us on 01234 340782

SSG CELESTIALS FOOTBALL CLUB

WHO'S IT FOR?
CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS, DISABILITIES, OR BARRIERS TO INCLUSION

WHAT'S INVOLVED?
PLAYERS WILL GET AN AMOUNT OF INCLUSIVE COACHES FROM A TEAM OF FRIENDLY, EXPERIENCED AND QUALIFIED COACHES. PLUS WE'LL BE ELIGIBLE TO TAKE PART IN COUNTY FA ABILITY COUNTS FESTIVAL TOURNAMENTS.

WHAT AGES?
4-11 YR OLD - SSG CELESTIALS ROCKETS
12-15 YR OLD - SSG CELESTIALS ALL STARS

FREE SSG CELESTIALS FC FOOTBALL KITS FOR PLAYERS WHO SIGN ON IN SEPTEMBER 2022

WHEN IS IT?
WEDNESDAYS
4.30PM TO 6.30PM
6.30PM TO 7.30PM

WHERE IS IT?
GREAT BARRONS PRIMARY SCHOOL, SILVER STREET 1, GREAT BARRONS, MK42 2JZ

WHAT'S THE COST?
£2.00 REGISTRATION FEE
£2.50 PER SESSION

FIRST TWO SESSIONS FREE!
ABILITY COUNTS FOOTBALL!

For more information please email: CelestialsFootballClub@ssgservices.co.uk or call 01234 340782

NEW!

'Off The Ball' Inclusion Youth Club
+ PARENT/CARER POP UP CAFE

When
The club runs on Friday evenings during term time from 5.30pm - 7.30pm

Who
The club is open to children & young people aged 8-14 years

Where
The Borough Centre, Acquired Road, Bedford MK42 1BE

Club details
An inclusive safe space for children & young people to come along and develop their social skills, interact with others and take part in a wide range of fun games and activities in a welcoming, relaxed environment. Participants will enjoy a mixture of different activities each week set up in our various rooms such as the games room, project room, challenge room and kitchen room. Parents/carers are invited to stay close by throughout the sessions in our pop up cafe, siblings are welcome and soft play, toys and games will be available to keep little ones occupied. The club is part funded by Bedford Borough Council and the cafe is run by SSG Celestials FC volunteers.

For more information please email: info@ssgservices.co.uk or call 01234 340782

Diary Dates

Thursday 6th March 2025 – Bedfordshire Festival of Music, Speech and Drama

Tuesday 4th March – WBD Costume Swop 9-10 am

Wednesday 5th March 2025 – Bee Friendly Day

Thursday 6th March – World Book Day

Friday 21st March 2025 – Red Nose Day

Wednesday 26th March 2025 – Parents Evening

Friday 4th April 2025 - Last Day of Term

Monday 7th April 2025 – Wednesday 23rd April 2025 - Easter Holidays

Thursday 24th April - Pupils Return to School