



## Newsletter 2 2025

Dear Families,

I am delighted to start this newsletter by sharing with you the winning entries from our postcard competition – a huge well done and thank you to; Anamika, Cheska, Vinnie, Meredith, Hamza, Assiya, Lily, Daria and Aarna!!



I am also writing this newsletter after just having finished all our data drop meetings – it never ceases to amaze me just how much progress our children make as a result of our staff team knowing our children inside out and working tirelessly to plug any gaps – I do hope you enjoyed looking at their progress in our book look as much as I did!

And whilst we are on the subject of joyous what a fantastic last week of term we have had here at ASS!

Our Junior trip to the West End to see the Lion Kind was AMAZING!! A huge great big thank you to all the volunteers and staff who gave up their time to enable this to happen – and another thank you to our PTA for paying for the coaches to also enable this trip to happen. They say it takes a village to raise a child – it certainly takes a village to take a whole school up to the West End!! Watch this space for a VERY exciting trip coming up for our Infants in the New Year...

The Infant School Parliament and Junior Librarians had a glorious morning at Waterstones this week – eagerly spending the £200 (well and maybe a bit more – whoops!!) we raised from our book day – thanks to your huge generosity we have replaced some much-loved books and ordered some new ones - which we are super excited about reading!!



Our Nativity this week was once again a TRIUMPH - in fact I would go as far as to say West End worthy – seeing our youngest children on stage being confident, excited and enthusiastic really did make my heart sing and judging by all your faces it did the same to you!!

And then we had our wonderful pledge service – its not surprised we are all exhausted and ready for this break!!

And so – as always - your child's curriculum for next half term is on our website and I do hope you enjoy the learning round up! To those of you who are celebrating I wish you the merriest of Christmases, and to you all a happy happy holiday and love respect and forgiveness in the 2026!!

Best wishes,

Susannah

## Values Award

Sponsored by our AMAZING PTA!!

Each term the staff nominate a child who they believe has fully embraced and embodied our values of **LOVE, RESPECT & FORGIVENESS** – I then decide who should receive the award!

This term the award goes to...

**NICO HOUGHTON-SANCHEZ**

Congratulations **Nico** and thank you for living through our values of

**LOVE, RESPECT & FORGIVENESS!!**

## \*\*ATTENDANCE\*\*

The National Figure for 2024/25 was 94.8%

The current National Figure is: 94%

Our target for 2025/26 is 97%

**Infant Attendance 98%**

Junior Attendance 96.3% - this is largely due to a number of families taking holidays during term time – we have 9 families with children whose attendance is below 90%...

I saw these facts whilst out and about – even made me stop and think...

| If in a school year, your child is late every day by... | Your child would have lost approximately... | or they would have missed approximately... | If your child's attendance during the school year... | Your child would have lost approximately... | or they would have missed approximately... |
|---|---|--|--|---|--|
| 5 Minutes   | 3.5 Days from School                        | 20 Lessons                                 | was 95%  | 9 Days from School                          | 50 Lessons                                 |
| 10 Minutes  | 7 Days from School                          | 41 Lessons                                 | was 90%  | 19 Days from School                         | 100 Lessons                                |
| 15 Minutes  | 10 Days from School                         | 55 Lessons                                 | was 85%  | 29 Days from School                         | 150 Lessons                                |
| 20 Minutes  | 14.5 Days from School                       | 82 Lessons                                 | was 80%  | 38 Days from School                         | 200 Lessons                                |
| 30 Minutes  | 22 Days from School                         | 123 Lessons                                | was 75%  | 48 Days from School                         | 250 Lessons                                |

## **\*\*Learning Round Up\*\***

### **Ducklings**

It's been an extremely busy term but we've had lots of fun, particularly in the build up to Christmas in recent weeks. We all enjoyed a fabulous arts morning where the children rotated around different Christmas themed art and craft activities and it was lovely to see the children working so well in mixed year groups. For their pledge activities, the Year One children visited a local care home to sing Christmas carols and the Reception children have been enthusiastically getting ready for theirs, which was to perform in their first school nativity. And what a treat this was! We had so much fun learning songs, dressing up, rehearsing in the church and then finally performing for our whole school community. Well done to all the children for bringing their endless determination and energy right up to the end of term, and festive greetings to you all.



### **Cygnets**

Cygnets have had such a fantastic, fiery and fabulous term. We have learnt all about the Great Fire of London and who we think was to blame! We even acted out our very own fire-defusing methods in table groups. Our nativity took place on Tuesday which was a fantastic success - a great big shout out to all of Cygnets for learning their actions, song lyrics and lines in the space of less than a month. We had our fantastic Christmas Arts Morning where we were able to get creative: making winter pictures, angels and wreaths. We also sang at our local care home which the residents contacted us to say they absolutely loved...

After this term, all of Cygnets deserve a great big rest. Come back in January ready to learn and all refreshed from your break! See you then!



### Year 3

As we approach the end of an exciting and bustling term, I would like to take a moment to express my gratitude for the incredible energy, enthusiasm and curiosity your children bring to our Y3 classroom each day. The past few weeks have been filled with engaging learning experiences, exploration, and plenty of fun activities!

I am delighted to share some of the wonderful learning opportunities the children have enjoyed. In Science and DT, we explored the fascinating topics of nutrition, diet, food waste and rocks, with a strong emphasis on healthy eating and sustainability. In Geography, the children learned about the differences between villages, towns, and cities, helping them broaden their understanding of settlements and communities.

Our English lessons sparked creativity as the children wrote fantastic pieces of writing that showcased both their imagination and their growing confidence as writers. A true highlight of the term was spreading festive cheer by performing Christmas carols for our local community at Reading train station, which was a memorable experience for all involved – this three day event raised an incredible £2851.87 – which is amazing so thank you for your continued support in helping make these moments so meaningful.

As we prepare for the holidays, your child's pencil case will be sent home so that it can be checked and refilled, ready for the new term in January.

I want to wish you a truly magical and joyous holiday season. May this time be filled with love and cherished moments with your family and friends.

I can't wait to see you all in 2026!



## Year 4

It has been another incredibly busy half term for Year 4! It has been lots of fun, and the children have continued to impress me with their incredible attitudes to learning.

A highlight was our performance at the Hexagon. What an achievement for every single child in Year 4! Mrs Brettell and I were absolutely blown away by the incredible singing, and we know you agree that the performance was exceptional. The children worked so hard in school with Mrs Golding and we were so pleased with the practice that they put in at home too – thank you for supporting them with this.

Again, I have been so pleased with the children's writing, especially their diary entries inspired by the story 'FARTHER'. The children have been so enthusiastic about taking on the role of this character and their writing has really captured the essence of the story. In maths, children have worked hard on time, fractions and formal methods of multiplication. In Geography, children have enjoyed learning about rivers and why we need to protect them from pollution, which has sparked some fantastic and thoughtful conversation. They have particularly enjoyed Oracy lessons, which have been introduced this term, and so far have been learning about 'body talk' and 'asking questions'. It's been fabulous to see them having such mature discussions in bigger groups and trying hard to ensure all of their peers are included.

The children should be so proud of themselves. Have a wonderful break and I look forward to seeing you in January.



## Year 5

Year five have had yet another fantastic term, filled with brilliant learning! From studying the great playwright Shakespeare, calculating and comparing fractions, and discovering space! Geography has taken all over the world as we've learnt about slums and the challenges people face there, and our art has explored different parts of the beautiful celebration Diwali. Year 5 had a wonderful visit from the local firefighters, and we learnt a lot about how we can keep ourselves and homes safe if something happens. We have had a brilliant term and I have been amazed at how hard everyone has worked, and we're all looking forward to keeping that going next term. I hope you all have a relaxing, wonderful holiday, see you in January!



## Year 6

Year 6 have had another brilliant term! Lots of festive fun and hard work!

In English we studied *The Last Bear* and wrote some brilliant newspaper articles to show off our writing skills. We then looked at the beautiful book *'The Promise'* and wrote poems based around the story as well as getting super passionate about the environment. In Reading we dove into the world of Charles Darwin and his voyage on HMS Beagle which was really interesting. We continued with the Effective Maths scheme and although found some things challenging managed to knuckle down and really start to see the benefit in our understandings! Science this term has been all about electricity which has been interesting and occasionally shocking! We've been looking at field work in Geography and completed some of our own, (and decided bar graphs were hard work!) to find out how green our local area is. We also completed another set of mock SATs and got some really brilliant results! Truly impressive. In Art we focused on the changing seasons and made lovely solstice cards and orange pomanders. We then finished the term off with an epic trip to London to see the Lion King! This term has been great; I am very proud of Year 6 for their hard work and amazing attitudes. We have worked hard and exemplified great determination but also had a lot of fun! Rest up over the break and have a lovely festive time. Looking forward to seeing everyone back and fresh faced in January ready to hit the ground running once again!



## **\*\*UPDATE FROM OUR INFANT GB\*\***

It's that time of year when many of us find ourselves saying, *"I can't believe it's Christmas already!"* We're ticking off lists and doing our best to make sure our children are ready to enjoy all the festive activities. This year, I've felt time passing more keenly than ever: I joined the Governing Body when my eldest son was in Foundation and he left school for good this summer. 14 years as a governor at All Saints Infants - where did they go?

It's time for me to step down, but before I do, I'd like to explain why being a governor has been such an important part of my life. All Saints is a remarkable school, rooted in a beautifully diverse community and led by an immensely talented staff team. What sets it apart is a spark of real magic that seems to shine especially brightly at this time of year. I saw it in my children - the pride they took in their learning, the way they were known and loved at school, and the confidence and sense of belonging they carried with them. That magic - which I would call joy - made me want to be part of it.

A school like All Saints doesn't come about by accident. It requires a clear vision, a strategy to make that vision a reality, and policies which keep it on track. And none of these things are effective without the endless dedication of staff, governors, parents and volunteers. What I have learned is that we're building something that lasts: the magic doesn't fade away once our children leave the school. The foundation of joy that is created at All Saints will be with them their whole lives - what an incredible privilege to be part of that!

Governors work consistently to make All Saints even better. We review data and policies, monitor progress, and act as a "critical friend", asking questions that challenge and support the school. We take the long view: *"Where do we want the school to be in five years?"* as well as keeping an eye on the day-to-day: *"What progress are we making in Maths this term?"* But we also visit the classrooms and see the learning in progress, share lunch with the children, have the opportunity to get to know the incredible staff and take part in every aspect of school life. At the centre of everything is the children and that's why it's worthwhile. We know as parents that creating magic takes time and effort, but keeping the joy at the heart of the work is the All Saints way.

Now, we have seats to fill on the Governing Body—not least mine. You don't need to sign up for 14 years (I promise!), but if you've seen that same spark in your own children, I wholeheartedly recommend that you look into becoming a governor. We all bring different experiences and skills,

and all of them are needed to make the magic happen; you are definitely the right person to support, encourage and protect the joy.

I love this school, and I am so proud of it. It's been a hard decision to step down, even though it's the right time. I have been lucky enough to play a small part in hundreds of children – your children, and mine – growing and learning and becoming amazing All Saints citizens, ready for their next step, taking that spark of All Saints magic with them wherever they go.

Wishing you a joyful Christmas break, enough time to slow down and enjoy it and all good things for the New Year.

**Emma Tytel**

Outgoing Governor, All Saints Infants

## **\*\*UPDATE FROM OUR JUNIOR ACC\*\***

We are saying goodbye to one of our ACC members, the wonderful - Mischa Tytel.

Since 2019 Mischa has been a constant, committed, and deeply valued presence at All Saints Junior School, as a member of the Anthem Community Council. But in truth, his connection to All Saints Junior School began long before that. He was one of the people who helped found this school in the first place. All Saints Junior School exists as it does today in no small part because of his vision, belief, and willingness to give his time and energy when it mattered most.

Over the years, Mischa has supported the school in countless ways, always generously, and always with the best interests of the children and the wider community at heart. His support has never been about recognition, but about doing what was right and necessary to help All Saints Junior School thrive.

Perhaps one of the most lasting gifts Mischa has given our children is his passion for the outdoors. Through his brilliant bushcraft sessions, he has helped nurture a genuine love of nature, adventure, and resilience in so many young people. He showed them how to be curious, confident, and respectful of the natural world — lessons that reach far beyond the classroom and will stay with them for years to come.

It is with genuine sadness that we share the news that Mischa is leaving the Anthem Community Council. While I will personally miss his wisdom, his energy, and his steady commitment, his legacy is firmly woven into the fabric of All Saints Junior School and most importantly, in the lives of the children he has inspired.

Mischa, thank you. Thank you for helping to build this school, for believing in it, for nurturing it, and for giving so much of yourself to this community. You leave knowing that your impact here is lasting and deeply appreciated. You will always be part of the All Saints Junior School story.

**All the best for your future endeavours Mischa!**

**Happy Christmas everyone!**