

Summer Term is here and there have been huge leaps in learning across the Nursery and Reception Classes!

Early Years Newsletter



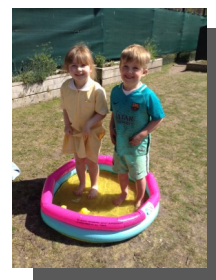
This half term we have been very busy developing our language and communication skills whilst having lots of fun taking part in exciting activities!

Our main event has been the Wonderful World of Water Week which took place during the week beginning 8th May. This was held as part of the Chatterbox Challenge 2017 by the I Can charity. I Can has provided lots of interactive resources, and has been utilized in many ways for our language development here at St Johns so for the last 2 years we have supported the challenge, which has also resulted in our children benefitting greatly from events which they have enjoyed, and which have boosted their language skills.

As part of the Chatterbox Challenge we held a competition for children, parents, carers and even extended families in some cases!! Entrants had to come up with as many words as possible related to water. We were very impressed with the hard work that so many families put into thinking of words, and even learnt lots of new water words ourselves! Details of the prizewinners can be found on the back page of this newsletter!

We have also been very busy learning new skills in maths, such as doubling and halving, and measuring weight and capacity.

Our favourite teddies even got an outing during the week beginning 15th May, as we took them to a Teddy Bears Sleepover at Hugh Baird College, where we left them overnight wondering what antics they would have got up to!



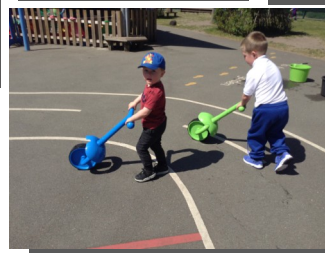
Wonderful World of Water!

Children (and staff!) had a fantastic time on our special activity days, when we had a variety of super water activities taking place in our Foundation Stage playground! Our 'Splash Zone' proved to be popular with children being much braver than adults at paddling in the cold water!! The 'Hydration Station' became a big attraction for children wanting to serve water to help others hydrate, as well as drinking it themselves! The sharing, helping and social skills that took place were great to see! One activity that proved to be especially exciting and provoked so much conversation and interaction was the impromptu wheeled toy wash!

A huge amount of learning took place in all areas of the curriculum, but there was a particularly high amount of exploration taking place that resulted in scientific skills and understanding such as floating and sinking and waterproof and non waterproof. Children were learning a wide range of new vocabulary and how to put it into practice!

Children also showed their caring side in the baby bathing area and cooperated well with their friends to make sure the dolls were well looked after!

We would like to say a massive thank you for your support and participation during this event! All the items you sent in were extremely useful and helped enormously with the event, and the participation in our Word Hunt was fantastic!



Teddy Bears Sleepover!

Our two Reception classes took part in an exciting literacy event where they took their Teddies on an outing to the nearby Hugh Baird college, where staff there led them in a session in their community library, with the children even getting the privilege of touring the Art Exhibition, which provided lots of language opportunities and discussion about different things that they could see.

Whilst they were there the children explored the children's library with their teddies and read some new and interesting stories. They met Snowy Tony who was a giant teddy who was going to be looking after their teddies during the sleepover, and they used their imaginations and had great fun trying the different masks and dressing up accessories! After a big hug and squeeze to the teddies we headed back to school to await their arrival the next day! Lots of fun was had by all and luckily all teddies arrived back safely, present and correct!



Water Word Hunt Competition!!
Prizewinners Gallery!

Thank you to all our entrants!

A big well done to our **First Prize** winner - a family ticket to the **Blue Planet Aquarium** with a total of 475 words— went to a girl in the *Gruffalos* class!

Second Prize with 243 words went to a boy in *Funnybones*.

Third Prize with a total of 201 words went to a boy in *Gruffalos*.

We also had a special Nursery prizewinner, and we had a total of 48 entries, all of whom won a prize for participating!

