

St John's Primary School Newsletter

12th December 2022

Dear Parents,

It's been another busy couple of weeks, with two football tournaments, a visit from a fire engine, a helicopter fly-past from Father Christmas, Year 3 visiting the Earth Trust in Little Wittenham – and lots of Nativity rehearsals! The children and staff in the Juniors loved watching the dress rehearsal on Friday, and I know you are in for a treat if you are coming to watch it this week. The performances of "Lights, Camel, Action" will be on Monday evening and Tuesday afternoon – Infant parents will have received more information last week so do check that for details of the arrangements. Thank you.

There's still time (just!) for you to buy raffle tickets for our beautiful themed hampers, which the PTFA have kindly created. They are very tempting! The raffle will be drawn at the evening Nativity performance tonight, so do bring your tickets and money to be in with a chance of winning.

We're looking forward to welcoming Key Stage 2 parents into school tomorrow (Tuesday) morning for our Open Morning from 9:00am – 10:00am. You will have a chance to see what the children have been learning in their topics this term, so do pop in if you are able to. Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 parents are welcome to visit for our Infant Open Morning on Thursday morning from 9:00am—10:00am.

Looking forward to seeing lots of you tomorrow!

Kind regards,

Sarah Burgess

Upcoming dates :

Monday 12th December—Infant Nativity—6pm

Tuesday 13th December—Infant Nativity—2pm

Tuesday 13th December—Open Morning for KS2 parents (9-10am)

Wednesday 14th December—Christmas Lunch

Thursday 15th December— Open morning for Foundation Stage and KS1 parents (9:00am—10:00am)

Thursday 15th December—Cake Sale after school

Tuesday 20th December—1pm—End of term

Wednesday 4th January 2023 – INSET day for staff only

Thursday 5th January – Term starts for pupils

Year 3 Stone Age trip

Year 3 braved the elements and battled their way around the Iron Age hill fort of Wittenham Clumps. As part of our Stone Age to Iron Age history topic, we explored the historic site and found out about the people who once inhabited the area – carving their way of life into the land and leaving traces behind for us to discover. We found out just how fierce some of the Celtic warriors could be, especially the 'Blue Man.' We also spent some time shelter building in the wooded area. Upon our return to school, we made clay coil pots ready to be fired in the kiln and taken home. All in all a very successful day!

Many thanks to Miss Curley for organising the trip – the children had a wonderful time! Check out the blog on the school website for lots more lovely photos.



Thank you to the PTFA!

A huge thank you to the PTFA for all their hard work in recent weeks. They laid on a very successful Film Night, organised the Christmas raffle, created the beautiful hamper prizes, and have arranged for the sale of Christmas cards, tea towels and mugs with the children's designs on. We are delighted to report that their wonderful fund-raising efforts, plus the generosity of parents, has enabled us to reach our Crowdfunding target of £10,000. When last checked, the grand total for our new playground project had reached £10,110 – brilliant! We have now set a new target of £15,000, so if you haven't yet donated and would like to, we would be so grateful. The link is here. Thank you!

[St. John's Primary - New Playground Equipment - a Sports crowdfunding project in Wallingford by Paul Nash \(crowdfunder.co.uk\)](https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/st-johns-primary-new-playground-equipment-a-sports-crowdfunding-project-in-wallingford-by-paul-nash)

Christmas Events in Wallingford

Please follow this link for a round up of Christmas events taking place in Wallingford :

<https://mailchi.mp/b97811794f61/christmas-in-wallingford-2022-round-up-of-events>

Wallingford Food Bank

Do please contact us if you would like to access support from the Food Bank. We can provide vouchers for our families who need them.

Value of the fortnight

Love

Sports Report - Football Tournaments

Last week saw boys from the Juniors competing in 2 football tournaments at Cholsey Primary School, taking on other schools from our OPEN Umbrella Trust. On Monday, Year 3 and Year 4 pupils had a great experience in their first opportunity to represent St. John's on the pitch, developing their skills and increasing in confidence as the tournament progressed. On Tuesday it was the turn of our Year 5 and Year 6 boys. They won 2 matches, drew 1 and only lost 1 match. Scoring 6 goals across their matches, they were delighted to return to St. John's as overall winners. They will now progress to the South Oxon finals.

Well done to all of the children who took part, and thank you very much to Miss Thickpeny for organising the boys' participation, and to all of the parents who helped by driving the children to and from Cholsey.



History Timeline

We are hoping to install a large, weather-proof timeline on the outside wall of the Year 3 classroom, in the Junior Playground. This will support the children in their understanding of chronology and the sequencing of key historical periods and events. We are able to add 8 events of local historical interest to our timeline. We were delighted to welcome Sue Wright, from Wallingford Museum, into school to work with a group of children to help decide which events from Wallingford's history we should add to the timeline. She kindly brought in some historical artefacts to show the children, and photos of the excavation of St. John's site when the school was built in 1910. Everyone was fascinated to hear that the school is built on the site of a Saxon burial ground. We are looking forward to unveiling the new timeline next term.



Visit from a fire engine - and a flypast from Father Christmas!

Foundation Stage were delighted to welcome a fire engine from Wallingford Fire Station last week. They loved talking to the fire fighters, learning all about the fire engine, investigating the fire hose—and even briefly hearing the siren! Thank you to Mrs Ball for organising the visit.

At the same time (!) all the children were treated to a fly-past from Father Christmas, which was very exciting!



Farewell to Mrs Powell

On Friday we were very sad to say goodbye to Mrs Powell, our Finance Manager in the school office, who has worked at St. John's for more than six years. As well as organising our finances with great efficiency, she has been a valued source of IT support for staff (she has hidden talents!) and a great member of the St. John's team, even helping out as a lunch-time supervisor when needed. Thank you, Mrs Powell, and we wish you lots of luck in your new role.

Books, Books and More Books!

Many thanks to our school librarian, Jennie Jennings, for putting together two wonderful Advent Calendars of Books for the children. The children have really enjoyed opening up new books during December, and they are a wonderful addition to our Library.

Thank you to the Wallingford Bookshop who have generously donated over 30 books to school; we are so grateful.

Thank you to a lovely anonymous benefactor who kindly celebrated a recent birthday by inviting her friends to contribute new books to our libraries. We were really touched and it was a wonderful way to stock up with a fabulous selection of new titles.



Our Advent Calendars of Books!



Helen from Wallingford Bookshop brought lots of new books into Assembly and the children voted for which ones they would like for school.

Vacancy for a Teaching Assistant

We have a vacancy for a Teaching Assistant - please see the school website for more information if you are interested.