

St John's Primary School Newsletter

6th January 2023

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a lovely restful Christmas break with your families. The children all certainly seem refreshed after the holiday and it has been lovely to see them all again, enthusiastic and ready to start the new term. Teachers have launched their new topics and have a lot to pack into this short term of just over 5 weeks. Class letters with more details about the term's learning will be shared with you soon and there will be an opportunity to see the children's work at our Open Afternoon later in the term.

You may be aware that Emma Graham, our Office Administrator, has now left St John's. Emma was a hugely valued member of staff and will be missed by staff and parents alike. We wish her luck with her new job! We have a new member of staff joining us in the office in two weeks time. Until then, our office will be under-staffed and we would ask for your help in making sure we can still run as efficiently as possible. Please make sure that lunch choices are ordered in advance on parentpay, trips paid for promptly and you inform us by email or phone by the start of the school day if your child is going to absent. This will reduce the need for reminder phone calls from the office. As we currently have less staff in the office, the phone may not be answered at all times but emails and voicemails will be checked regularly. Do also keep an eye on Dojo for any class messages and reminders e.g. about Forest School days so that your child has what they need in school each day. Thank you very much for your help!

Next week we have four classes visiting Science Oxford so will report on those visits in the next newsletter. Clubs will resume next week.

Thank you again to everyone who contributed to the Crowdfunding launched by the PTFA to raise funds to replace the Adventure Playground. Over £11,000 has been raised, which is a fantastic total, and we will move forward with getting quotes and looking at designs for the new playground this term.

Kind Regards,

Nicky Hughes

Upcoming dates :

Friday 20th January—Year 1 Cake Sale

Tuesday 7th February—Governor Day—governors visit school for the day

Wednesday 8th February—Open Afternoon for parents

Friday 10th February—Foundation Stage and Year 6 weighing and measuring—School Nurse Team

Friday 10th February—last day of Term 3

Monday 13th—Friday 17th February—Half Term

Week beginning 27th February—Parent Teacher Interviews

Volunteers needed

We are fortunate to have a pool of fantastic sporting talent at St John's and are eager to give all children the opportunity to experience different sports at a competitive level. If you're a keen sports person yourself or have a particular area of expertise, we would love to hear from you if you are willing to run a sports' club for a short period of time.



Musical parents

We are looking for any musical parents or family members who would be willing to come and play for the children in assembly—just as a one off! Please let us know if you might be able to come in and help us extend our children's knowledge and understanding of different instruments and musical styles.

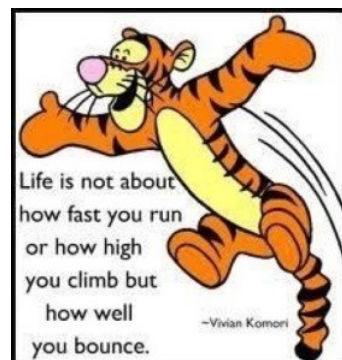


Wallingford Food Bank

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

Resilience



Year 4 Greek Day

At the end of last term, Year 4 celebrated the end of their Ancient Greek topic with a Greek day. The children dressed up for the event with an array of spectacular costumes, including Greek gods and goddesses, Greek warriors and even a few mythical creatures! The day began with a mini Olympic Games. The children took part in an opening ceremony, set up in their house groups and took part in a long jump competition, before finishing with a closing ceremony. All children enjoyed being presented with a leaf crown.

Our Greek day coincided with open morning for parents, and it was fantastic to have spectators during the mini Olympics, before the children could invite their parents back to the classroom to celebrate their hard work this term. Afterwards, we continued the day with fantastic Greek temple art-work. Then, children enjoyed the story of 'Leo and the Gorgon's Curse' before using that as inspiration to create their own mythical beast and to turn themselves into the hero protagonist of the story.

The afternoon was perhaps the highlight of the day. The children all enjoyed a selection of Greek foods including pitta breads, olives, feta cheese and Greek yoghurt to name just a few! They enjoyed the Greek feast with a special showing of 'Hercules' as an end of term treat.

Overall, our Greek topic has been a huge success and the children have all immersed themselves into our History lessons. We launched the topic by investigating Greek artefacts such as Greek pots, coins and plates. Then, we began to analyse the question 'Can we thank the Ancient Greeks for anything in our lives today?' by studying Alexander the Great, the ancient Olympics and Greek education.

Within our English lessons, we have all become experts in different Greek myths and legends. Studying the book 'Athena: The Story of a Goddess', has been a great source of enjoyment for all, resulting in excellent pieces of writing about Perseus and Medusa, Odysseus' Journey and The Trojan War.

