

St John's Primary School Newsletter

7th October 2022

Dear Parents,

We enjoyed a lovely Harvest Assembly yesterday and were really pleased that so many parents could join us to see their children take part. Foundation Stage re-told the story of the Little Red Hen, complete with actions, Year 1 shared the fruits and vegetables they were thankful for, as well as some lovely art work, Year 2 shared a poem and the Choir sang their Harvest song. The whole school also joined in with our favourite Harvest songs which they have been learning in Singing Assembly. Well done to all of the children in Key Stage 1—they did really well speaking in front of a packed hall! Thank you for your Harvest donations which we have taken to Wallingford Food Bank today. As always, we collected lots of food to donate which I know will be very much appreciated.

Over the next couple of weeks we will be sharing the NSPCC 'Speak Out, Stay Safe' assemblies with the children. Please find a letter attached to this email with more information about these assemblies. You can also find more information on the NSPCC website. Do get in touch if you have any questions.

Our Internet Safety Talk for parents is taking place on 10th November. We have a CEOP ambassador coming to deliver the talk which will start at 7pm and last for an hour. With more children having regular access to the internet through devices and phones, and new apps coming online all the time, it is really important that parents stay well informed about how to keep their children safe online. We hope to see lots of you there.

The first parent teacher interviews of the year will take place in November. Due to COVID restrictions, these have been held virtually over the past two years. For some parents, this has suited them due to the ability to stick to appointment times and to join the meeting from work or home. Others have expressed a desire to once again hold meetings in person. In November, we propose to run a 'hybrid' system with some in person and some virtual meetings. To help us plan for the appointments, please indicate your preference by completing the survey; the link is in the email with this newsletter. We will then let you know how to sign up before half term.

A reminder that our Open Afternoon for parents is on Friday 21st October at 2pm which is an opportunity to see work from the term. Year 2 will be performing their Circus Show for their parents at this time too!

Kind regards,

Nicky Hughes

Upcoming dates :

Monday 10th Oct—Foundation Stage parents coffee drop in from 2.45pm

Wednesday 12th Oct—Phonics Workshops—Foundation Stage and Year 1 parents (2pm and 6pm)

Monday 17th October—7pm—PTFA Meeting (Zoom)

Friday 21st Oct—Open Afternoon for parents—2-3pm—all classes

w/b 24th October—half term

Monday 31st Oct—INSET Day

Monday 31st Oct—3.30—4.30pm—Prospective Parents Tour

Saturday 12th November - 10.30—11.30—Prospective Parents Tour

Friday 4th November—PTFA Halloween Disco

w/b 7th November—Parent Teacher Interviews

Thursday 10th November—7pm—Internet Safety Talk for parents

Wednesday 23rd November—Maths Workshops—Foundation Stage and Year 1 (2pm and 6pm)

Governor News

We are welcoming three new governors to our governing body this term. Jonathon Speed and Paul Nash will join us as parent governors and we also welcome a new community governor—David Pearmain.

Many thanks to all three for volunteering to become school governors. We look forward to working with you.

Our Co-Chairs, Chris Shipway and Nick Oliver, have now stood down. I would like to thank them both for all of their hard work and support over the past three years.

Sally Pearmain takes over as Chair of Governors, with Chris Shipway as Vice Chair.

We also have a new staff governor this year, our Year 4 teacher, Megan Thickpenny.

Attendance Reminder

Following over two years of disrupted learning due to COVID and COVID related absences, we are working hard to ensure we fill any gaps in children's learning and that they continue to make the best progress possible.

This means that good attendance at school is more important than ever. Time missed can add to children's gaps or slow their progress.

In accordance with our policy, we do not authorise absences for holidays and will only authorise absences, other than for illness or medical appointments, in exceptional circumstances.

We will be monitoring attendance each term throughout the year.

School and Eco Councillor Elections

Friday 14th October

The children will be electing our new School and Eco Councillors on Friday 14th October. Children from Years 2 to 6 can stand for election and both Councils will meet fortnightly after school.

School Council

We are looking for School Councillors to represent their classes, gather ideas to share at meetings and report back to their classmates on a range of issues. This might include improvements to the playground or school building, learning, charity fund raising, behaviour—as well as other campaigns such as road safety, anti-bullying or special events. They should be good listeners, able to work independently, enthusiastic and reliable.

Eco Council

We are looking for Eco Councillors to encourage our school community to become more environmentally conscious, to reduce energy consumption as well as reduce, recycle and reuse resources. They also help to develop our outdoor areas. They may need to carry out jobs at lunchtimes and do surveys around the school

Children who wish to stand for either Council should prepare a short speech to deliver to their classes during next week ahead of the elections.

Value of the fortnight:

Thoughtfulness

Calling all musicians....please contact us if you sing or play an instrument and would be willing to come into a school assembly to play and talk about your instrument.



Lunchtime supervisionwe occasionally need an additional playground supervisor at lunchtime, please let us know if you would be willing to come and help on an ad hoc basis and we can send you an application form. Thank you.

PTFA News

Thank you to everyone who attended our PTFA AGM on 26th September. We reviewed the fundraising and social activities from last year and looked ahead to plans for the coming year. Despite restrictions, we raised an impressive £5000 last year and the committee are planning a range of activities for the year ahead - do look out for their newsletters.

Thank you to our outgoing committee— Penny, Katie, Jess who have worked hard to organise events both in person and remotely or online during COVID. We really appreciate all of your time and hard work over the past few years.

It was lovely to see some new faces at the meeting and elect a new committee; the roles of Chair and Secretary will be shared by Charlotte Lloyd and Frankie Hiscock and Paul Nash will take over as Treasurer.

The first cake sale of the year will be after school on Tuesday 18th October and the first Disco for some time will be held on Friday 4th November—Halloween themed!

PTFA funds go towards supporting school activities such as trips and buying much needed resources. Our main focus is still on raising funds for a new adventure playground so do please support our events over the year.



Milestone Infrastructure Visit

Year 6 had a visit from Milestone Infrastructure today and learnt about the maintenance of roads and pathways in Oxfordshire, as well as having tours of some very large vehicles including a Gritter and Dragon Patcher!

Our visitors talked about keeping safe and risk assessing situations, on the roads in particular.

The children enjoyed sitting inside the Gully Tanker and operating the lights at the rear and beeping the horn!

They are also being given the chance to enter a competition to design a road sign, the winning design will be made and displayed near school.

