

St John's Primary School Newsletter

3rd March 2023

Dear Parents,

Thank you to everyone who attended parent teacher interviews this week. I hope you found them useful and a good chance to find out how your child is progressing with their learning this year. If your child is on the SEN Register, you will be given the opportunity to attend a parent teacher interview later this term and we will be in touch with you regarding that shortly. Thank you to all of the teachers for preparing for and holding all of the meetings.

We have had a lovely Book Week this week, with a range of activities taking place each day, culminating in a pyjama and bed time stories day today. A published author, Jo Clarke, visited school to talk to Key Stage 2 on Tuesday about her book, 'Libby and the Highland Heist'. She explained the structure of a heist story and told the children how her books had been rejected by publishers over 80 times! Years 4, 5 and 6 also watched a live online event with Frank Cottrell Boyce this afternoon which was really entertaining. Frank read from his book 'Noah's Gold' and answered questions about how he writes, some of his favourite authors and how he gets his ideas—it was really inspirational! Key Stage 1 watched an online event with Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler which they really enjoyed. Classes have also buddied up to share books, spent time on a 'book blanket', written their own stories and heard about some of our staff's favourite stories. Next week, the author, James Catchpole, is visiting school to do assemblies for both Key Stages. Thank you to Mrs Burgess for organising all of the sessions with the authors and putting together all of the Book Week ideas. It has all been a lot of fun and a real celebration of books. Hopefully, you will be able to take your children to the bookshop to use their World Book Day vouchers, either to buy one of the special World Book Day books or use it towards a book of their choice.

Year 6 spent Wednesday this week at a fully immersive World War II experience run by the STEAM Museum in Swindon. The children (and the Year 6 team!) dressed up in 1940s clothes for the day, experienced a steam train, being evacuated, a mock air raid and learnt about wartime life. They all looked brilliant in their costumes and had a fantastic day learning more about their History topic.

You may know that we monitor children's attendance each term and notify parents if their child's attendance falls below 95%. We do appreciate that there has been a lot of illness over the winter and that many of these absences are unavoidable. As there will be times when children need to stay at home due to illness, we would therefore encourage parents not to request time out of school for holidays in addition to these days. Each day in school is important and children's progress is impacted when their attendance is low. Lessons are planned as sequences and children can be at a disadvantage if they miss some of this learning. Letters regarding attendance have been sent home today with a comparison of average attendance for your child's class. If there is anything impacting on your child's attendance that you wish to talk to us about, or we can support in any way, please do get in touch.

Our choir have been attending rehearsals at St Mary's Church so that they can take part in a choral performance of 'Captain Noah and his Floating Zoo' alongside other Wallingford choirs next weekend. We look forward to hearing all about it! Many thanks to Mrs Ball, Mrs Hudson, Ms Beckett and Mrs Worth for supporting the children to be part of this. In school, Year 3 and 4 will shortly be rehearsing their own special performance for later in the term and more information and dates will be shared about this soon.

I can also report that our Netball team, coached by Miss Thickpenny, won a friendly match against Fir Tree School this week. Well done, netballers!

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind Regards,

Nicky Hughes

Keep Calm and Carry On!

Year 6 at the STEAM Museum



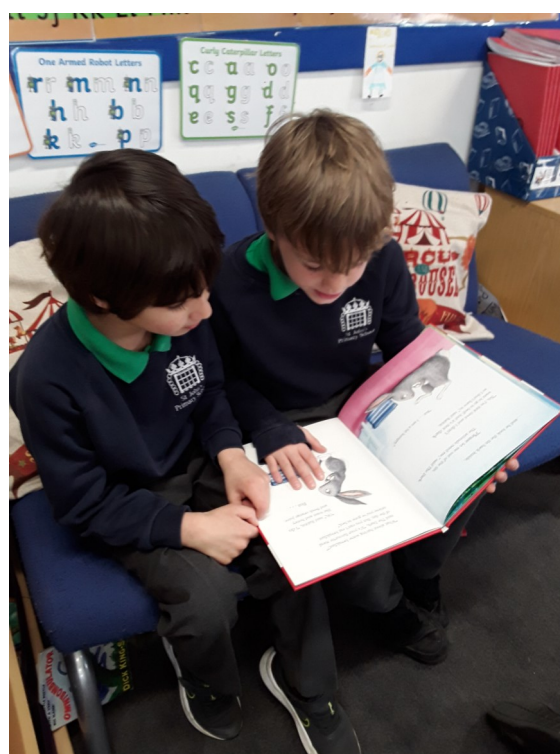
Year 6 looking very authentic in their 1940s evacuee costumes, learning all about World War II!

Junior Active Leaders

Year 5 spent a week being trained as Junior Active Leaders last week. They learnt how to lead and invent small games and were great teachers to Year 1. The children also learnt some basic First Aid. They all put themselves outside their comfort zone and were real Purple Learners! Now they will start to lead games for younger children on the playground at break and lunchtimes.



Reading Buddies

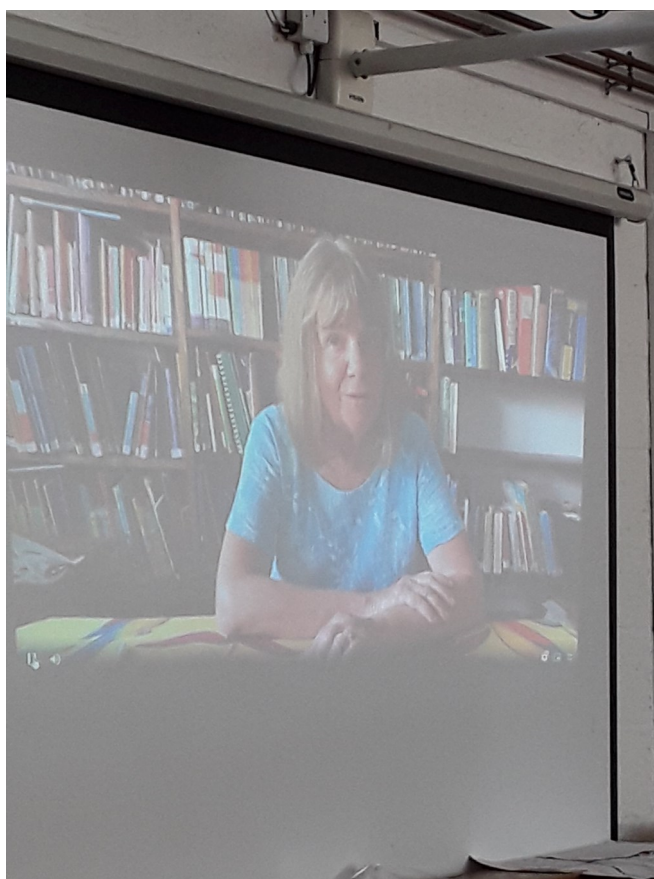




**Year 5's 'Book
Blanket'**



**Key Stage 1 watching the online event with
Julia Donaldson and Axel Sheffler**



Upcoming dates:

Monday 6th March—PTFA Meeting 7-8pm online

Saturday 11th March—Choir Performance at St Mary's Church

Monday 13th March—Year 3 Bring and Buy Sale—3.15pm

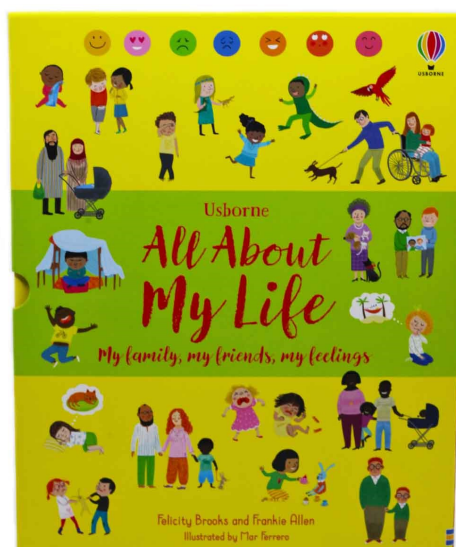
Friday 17th March—Comic Relief Day

Week beginning 26th March—Year 3 and 4 Performance

Friday 31st March—Open Morning for parents—9—10am

Friday 31st March—End of term at 1pm

Thank you to Kumon for donating the books 'All about my life' to school. The pack contains books on families, feelings, diversity and friends. The children will really love reading these lovely books!



Uniform

We have added a fleece to the items available to buy as part of St John's uniform. This might be useful in the colder months and can be used instead of base layers to keep warm. They are blue with the school logo on them.

You can order them from [Home - stjohsprimary \(makeitmine.co.uk\)](http://Home-stjohnsprimary(makeitmine.co.uk))

