

St John's Primary School Newsletter

20th October 2023

Dear Parents,

It has been lovely to have parents join us for some of our end of term events. The hall was packed for our Harvest Assembly last Friday. We enjoyed Foundation Stage reciting the story of 'The Little Red Hen' complete with actions! Year 1 shared foods they were grateful for, Year 2 recited a Harvest poem and we also sang our favourite Harvest songs. All of the children did really well speaking in front of such a big audience. Thank you to everyone who donated food for Harvest; this has now been collected by the Wallingford Food Bank and we have received a grateful letter of thanks from them.

There have been lots of lovely enrichment activities taking place in school over the last two weeks. Year 3 have been out on a field trip to Castle Gardens as part of their Geography topic, carrying out a vegetation survey and mapping the gardens. Year 6 visited the STEAM Museum in Swindon as part of their WWII topic, dressed as evacuees. They experienced boarding a train and being 'billeted' as evacuees, ate a wartime lunch, visited an air raid shelter and learnt about life on the Homefront. And this week Year 1 had a visit from two beekeepers to round off their topic. They can now tell you all about bees and bee-keeping! You can see photographs of all of these activities in this newsletter.

Open Afternoon yesterday was well attended. Parents joined in with painting clay dragon eyes in Year 4 and making aeroplanes in Year 2; Year 3 showed off their learning through an interactive quiz and Foundation Stage shared their models and made Halloween lanterns out of milk cartons! It was a busy afternoon.

The 'Battle of the Bands' on TT Rock Stars has once again been launched for Key Stage 2! This is a battle between our school houses. Do encourage your child to practise their times tables on TT Rock Stars and help their house up the leaderboard!

We wrote to you a couple of weeks ago regarding a vacancy on our Governing Body and are still looking to recruit a new parent governor. If you would be interested in finding out more about the role, or would like to put yourself forward, do please get in touch.

Hopefully you have been able to log on to School Cloud to book a parent teacher appointment for the week after half term. If your child is on the SEN Register we will be in touch after half term to arrange an appointment during a different week for you to meet with your child's teacher.

Have a lovely half term break and we look forward to seeing the children back again on Tuesday 31st October.

Kind Regards,

Nicky Hughes

Upcoming dates :

Monday 23rd October—Friday 27th October—Half Term

Monday 30th October—INSET Day

Week beginning 30th October—Parent Teacher Interviews

Friday 3rd November—PTFA Halloween Disco

Saturday 4th November 10am—Prospective Parent Tour (contact the office to book)

Wednesday 8th November—Prospective Parent Tour (contact the office to book)

Friday 17th November—Children in Need Day

Friday 1st December—PTFA Non-uniform day for Hamper donations

Friday 8th December—PTFA Film Night

Wednesday 20th December—1pm—End of term

We have been taking part in fixtures against the other schools in the Wallingford Partnership. In addition to the Netball team and Year 5/6 Girls Football team, Year 3/4 Girls have also played this term. Well done to all of our teams!



Year 5/6 Netball Team



Year 5/6 Girls Football Team

Letter of thanks from Wallingford Food Bank

Dear Miss Hughes,

I write on behalf of the Wallingford food bank to thank your students, parents and staff for the harvest donations received recently.

We were so grateful to receive your gifts of food. In recent months food donations have unsurprisingly reduced as many people are affected by the increases in living costs. It is very reassuring to find the community at St John's school, still able to support us in this way.

We have already helped 35% more households this year than in the whole of last year, so the food you have donated is very welcome.

Yours sincerely

Alice Penney
Manager



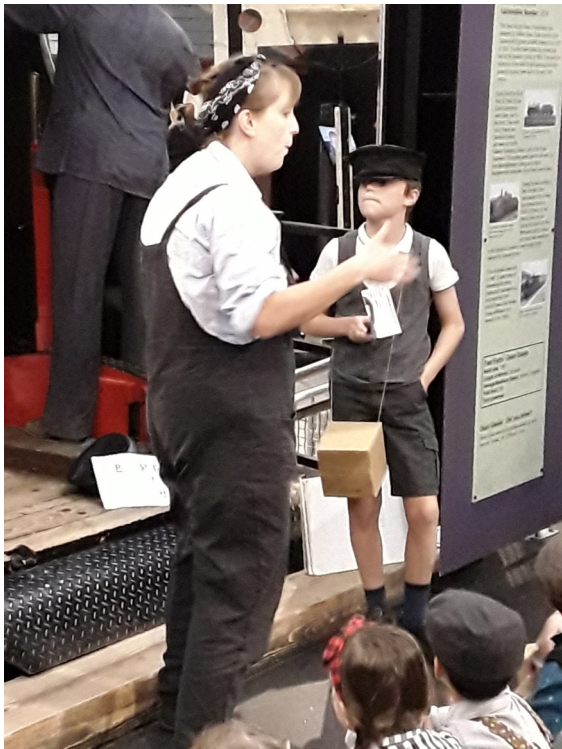


Year 3 Trip to Castle Gardens to carry out Geography Fieldwork



Year 3 Art inspired by Cezanne

Year 6 visited the STEAM Museum in Swindon. They were evacuated, experienced an air raid, learnt about the importance of the railway during WWII and found out more about what life was like on the Home Front.



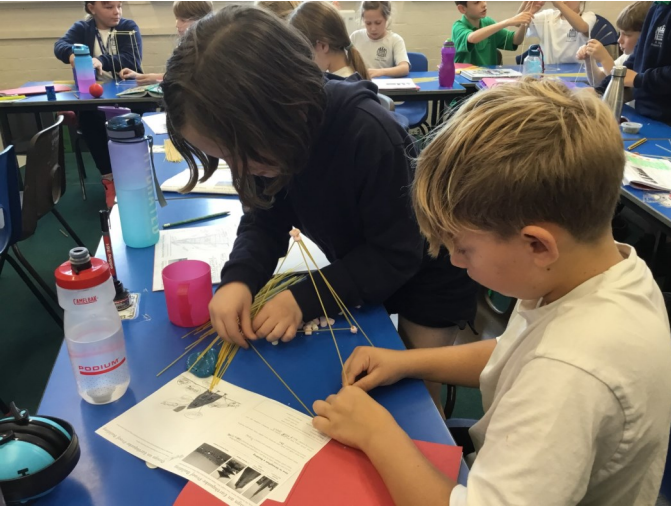


Two beekeepers called Penny and Jane came in to talk to Year 1 about their hobby. They showed the children a hive, the hive tools they use, a smoker and some honeycomb and wax. The children had an opportunity to try on real bee-suits and they learnt lots of interesting facts. Did you know that bees are born (emerge) with furry eyes?



Inspired by the Rugby World Cup, Year 6 have been learning the Haka in PE and have now choreographed and performed their own Hakas to each other!





Year 5 have been learning about Extreme Earth. After learning all about how people in Japan learn to live with earthquakes, we designed earthquake-proof buildings, and then attempted to make them with spaghetti and marshmallows!

