

# St John's Primary School Newsletter

## 6th October 2023

Dear Parents,

We have had some exciting visitors to school over the past week. Last Friday we were joined by Megan Rix, the author. Megan is partially deaf and she brought her assistance dogs to school with her which was very exciting! She talked to the children about her writing, her love of animals and taught them some sign language. Foundation Stage were visited on Tuesday by the Fire Service and learnt about all the fire-fighting equipment that firefighters use and wear—as well as having a go with the hose.

Last week Year 6 took part in some 'Citizen Science' taking measurements of the river with a group from Drinkable Rivers and next week, they have an outing as evacuees to the STEAM Museum in Swindon as part of their WWII topic—look out for photos of their trip in the next newsletter.

You will hopefully have received a letter inviting nominations for the position of parent governor. We are keen to recruit to our governing body so do please read the letter and get in touch if you might be interested. Myself or Sally Pearmain, our Chair of Governors, would be happy to talk to anyone who would like to find out more about the role.

Next week we are running Phonics Workshops for our Foundation Stage and Year 1 parents. These will be on Wednesday, at 2.30pm and at 6pm. Mrs Ball will send out some more information but do please try and get along to one of the workshops to learn more about how Phonics is taught and how you can help your child to learn to read.

Our Harvest Assembly takes place next Friday morning and we invite our Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 parents to join us for that. It will be in the school hall from 9.30am. We will once again be collecting food donations to take to the Wallingford Food Bank. You can send in donations of dry, packet and tin food from Monday of next week. Thank you in advance.

Your child had their school photograph taken this week and will have come home with a slip containing the information you need to order. Don't forget to order by 14th October for free delivery.

Please note the change to the parent teacher interview week. These meetings will now take place in the week after half term and further information will be sent out before the half term holiday.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind Regards,

Nicky Hughes

### Upcoming dates :

**Wednesday 11th October—2.30pm and 6pm—Phonics Workshops for Foundation Stage and Year 1 parents**

**Friday 13th October—9.30am—Harvest Festival (KS1 parents welcome)**

**Thursday 19th October—2.15pm—Open Afternoon for parents**

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

**Monday 30th October—INSET Day**

**Friday 3rd November—PTFA Halloween Disco**

**Week beginning 30th October—Parent Teacher Interviews (\*change of week\*)**

**Friday 8th December—PTFA Film Night**

**Wednesday 20th December—end of term**

### Polite Reminder



A reminder that the school car park is for staff parking only and we politely request that parents do not use the car park when dropping off or picking up. The gates are now automated and can only be opened by school staff.

### Year 2 Forest School

**Year 2 made modes of transport at Forest School and also found a rather tame grasshopper!**





Foundation Stage had a visit from some firefighters and their fire engine!

They looked at the fire fighting equipment and all had a go with the hose.



## Author Visit

The author Megan Rix came to visit with her assistance dogs last Friday. She talked to the children about her books, her love of animals and taught them some sign language.

Megan told the children that she had started writing stories when she was at primary school!





Year 6 took a trip to the river to meet with Lin An Phoa who is founder of 'Drinkable Rivers' and is campaigning to make our rivers drinkable again. She is walking the length of the Thames taking measurements as part of a Citizen Science project. The children helped by making observations and taking measurements, which will be sent to us to see. It was great to be part of some real life data collection and an outdoor Science lesson!

[Home - Drinkable Rivers](#)