

St John's Primary School Newsletter

19th January 2024

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the new term and a belated Happy New Year! I hope everyone had lovely, restful holidays and a good break from the normal routine.

This term is short but teachers have hit the ground running with their new topics and lots of exciting learning has been taking place across the school. Some of the highlights include Year 2 learning all about maps in their 'Marvellous Maps' topic, Year 5 researching Earnest Shackleton and learning about Antarctica as part of their 'I will survive' topic and Year 3 reflecting on real life and fictional heroes in their 'We can be heroes' topic. Year 2 have already been out and about on a walking tour of Wallingford and will be extending their mapping skills on a trip to Oxford; Year 3 have been visited by a cartoonist to inspire them in writing their own comic books and other trips and visitors are planned to enrich the topics in other year groups later in the term.

Year 3 and 4 are thinking ahead to their production which will take place before Easter and Mrs Long is busy rehearsing a group to take part in the Dance Festival at the New Theatre in Oxford. We also have some sports fixtures coming up against other Wallingford partnership schools.

We are still looking for someone, or more than one person, who might be willing to tackle digging out some stubborn roots in the Foundation Stage garden. Do get in touch if you might be able to help so that we can get the bed ready for planting in the Spring. We would love to get a gardening club up and running in the second half of the year so do let us know if you would be interested in helping with that.

Thank you to our lovely kitchen team for running a 'Superhero' lunch day this week—you can see photos of them in action in this newsletter.

The children have done really well carrying on with their usual activities such as Forest School and outdoor PE, despite the freezing temperatures. Hopefully we can look forward to some warmer weather in the coming weeks!

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards,

Nicky Hughes

Upcoming dates :

Tuesday 6th February—Governor Day—governors visiting school for the day

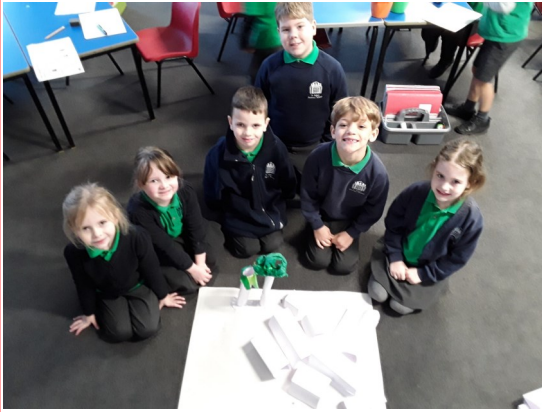
Monday 12th—Friday 16th February—Half Term

Week beginning 26th February—Parent Teacher Interviews

Thursday 28th March—end of Term 4

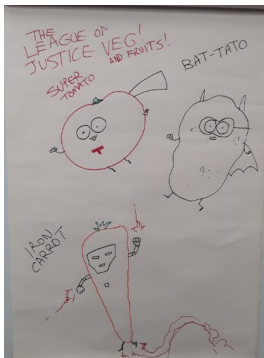
Friday 29th March—Friday 12th April—Easter holidays

Year 2 and their Marvellous Maps



Year 2 have been learning about everything to do with maps! They created a map of their classroom, a 3D map of their school and went on a walk to identify key landmarks around Wallingford. They also created symbols of their own for a key to go with the map of Wallingford. Next stop for Year 2Oxford!

Year 3—Cartoonist Visit



Year 3 have started their 'We could be heroes' topic and were visited by a cartoonist, Neil Cameron, who helped them create some interesting characters! The children are now working on their own cartoons.

Year 5—I will survive



Year 5 have started their 'I will survive' topic with an ice anagram and investigating materials for different purposes. We had lots of leaky teapots and some clothes that lack any warmth at all! We're looking forward to learning more about the types of clothes that Ernest Shackleton and his contemporaries would have worn.

Teaching Post Vacancy

We have a vacancy for a maternity cover from February half term until July 2024. Please see our website for more details and an application form. We are looking for full time cover but may consider applications from those looking for a part time role.

Year 3 posting their letters to the Residential Home



PTFA Funds

The PTFA raised almost £2000 last term from the Film Night, Hampers and Santa's Sleigh in Wallingford. Thank you to everyone who contributed or helped with events. This money will go towards subsidizing the cost of trips and building up a fund for some new iPads. Look out for the next PTFA events over the next couple of terms.

Thank you PTFA!

Superhero day in the kitchen!

