

St John's Primary School Newsletter

9th February 2024

Dear Parents,

The children have really enjoyed their topics this term, ranging from becoming mapping experts in Year 2, going on Space journeys in Foundation Stage to exploring Shackleton's expedition to Antarctica in Year 5 and producing comics in Year 3! It has, as always, been a busy term and it has been lovely to see how engaged the children have been in their learning. As it was such a short term, we didn't have an Open Morning for parents but will make sure you have the opportunity to visit classrooms in Term 4, after half term.

Year 2 went on a school trip to Oxford, taking part in their own open-top bus tour with a guide just for them! They learnt lots of facts about Oxford and famous people who are linked with the city, as well as seeing the landmarks first hand so that they could transfer them onto a map.

Our sporting teams have been busy! We entered Year 5 and 6 teams into a Sportshall Athletics tournament and Hockey tournament and Year 3 and 4 teams in Tag Rugby and Football tournaments this term. Our Year 3 and 4 Tag Rugby team won the competition, so a huge well done to them! Well done to all of our other sports teams who played really well and showed great sportsmanship in all their matches. Thank you to Mrs Williams and Mr Wootton for organising the teams, and all the staff who gave up their time after school to accompany the children.

Other events have included Year 6 attending Wallingford School's production of 'The Adams' Family', Years 1,3,5 and 6 all having visits from police officers and a lizard visiting Year 6!

On Tuesday of this week, our governors spent a day in school. This is an annual event when governors spend time in lessons, as well as speaking to staff and children—and having a school dinner! Governors find it really useful to see the school in operation. Amongst the focus areas this year were Writing and Maths. As part of the day, governors met with staff to gather their views on the school values and long term aims. They would like to do the same with parents. Please fill in this short survey to share your views on the values which you feel are the most important at St John's and any priority areas you would like to highlight:

[St John's Primary School Parent Survey \(google.com\)](https://www.google.com)

Thank you to the team of parents who cleared the flower bed in the Foundation Stage garden, getting it ready to plant. Mrs Dann has topped up the compost and it now looks neat and tidy! We will turn our attentions to other areas which need tidying up and are always grateful for any gardening volunteers. The PTFA are planning a 'Love your School Day' at the beginning of March so look out for confirmation of that date.

We will be holding parent teacher interviews the week beginning 26th February (week beginning 19th February for Year 5) so look out for details of how to book onto those. As in previous years there will be some in person appointments and some online appointments. Parent teacher interviews for children on the SEN register will be held during the weeks beginning 11th and 18th March.

Our Year 5 teacher, Mrs Johnson, will be going on maternity leave on Friday 23rd February and we have appointed, Ms Stephens, an experienced teacher, to teach the class until the end of the summer terms. We look forward to welcoming Ms Stephens onto the St John's team.

I hope you all have a lovely half term.

Kind Regards,

Nicky Hughes

Thursday 28th March—1pm—break up for Easter Holiday

Year 3—Crocodiles of the World



Year 6 had a visit from a bearded dragon which links with their work on the book 'Holes' and helped them to create a leaflet about a yellow-spotted lizard.