

St John's Primary School Newsletter

1st March 2024

Dear Parents,

Thank you to all of you who attended parent teacher interviews this week. I hope you found them useful. We will be holding parent teacher interviews for pupils on the SEN register towards the end of this term. If you missed the opportunity to meet your child's teacher, do please get in touch to make an appointment.

We are looking forward to seeing those of you who can make it on Sunday between 10am and 12, for the PTFA Love Your School Day. For those who haven't been to a Love Your School Day before, it is an opportunity to do some tidying, litter picking, gardening, tip runs and a few repair or cleaning jobs around school. If you can spare an hour or two, come along with your gardening tools or a car ready to take a load to the tip! We would also be grateful if anyone with a power washer could bring it so that we can clean some of our picnic benches. The weather looks fine so hopefully we can tick off lots of jobs. The PTFA are also organising a Family Bingo Night on Saturday 23rd March, from 4.30—7pm. This is a new event which parents and children can come along to together and should be fun so do book your place for that.

We have had some exciting trips taking place this week. As part of their Castles topic, Year 1 have been to Windsor Castle. They looked for the features of a castle such as the motte and the keep, as well as watching the changing of the guard. Thank you to Mrs Rudd for organising a lovely day out and a super learning experience for the children. Year 6 went to Oxford to the Pitt Rivers and Natural History Museums to find out more about their History and Science topics. The Pitt Rivers part of the day involved a workshop learning more about the Maya Civilisation through examining artefacts and in the Natural History Museum, children learnt about different types of organism and sketched animals in their sketch books.

World Book Day events started today with a visit to Years 4, 5 and 6 from the author Struan Murray who wrote the 'Orphans of the Tide' series and has just published his new book, 'The Secret of the Moonshard'. Struan talked to the children all about how he gets his ideas for books and how he started writing stories in comic form when he was at primary school. Some children bought books and had them signed. There will be another opportunity to buy Struan's books on World Book Day so do get in touch if your child would like to order a signed copy. We will be taking part in other World Book Day events next week including the children (and staff) coming to school in pyjamas, with a small favourite cuddly, on World Book Day—Thursday 7th March. The week will include some virtual author talks and other classroom based book activities too.

We will be supporting Comic Relief Day on Friday 15th March by 'Dressing up funny for money'. Children can choose to wear red or mismatching clothes or something they find funny! Parents can make a donation via ParentPay. On World Down Syndrome Day on Thursday 21st March, we will be raising awareness by wearing odd socks but not asking for donations. Do put those dates in your diary.

Thank you to those of you who completed our survey on the school values. The Governing Body have fed the views of parents into their work on reviewing the values and setting new long term strategic aims for the school. They will be reporting back to you on this during the summer term.

We have a packed diary this term so do keep an eye on the school dates. Our next open morning for parents will be on Thursday 28th March at 9am which is the last day of term. We hope to see lots of you there finding out more about your child's learning this term.

Kind Regards,

Nicky Hughes

Upcoming dates :

Sunday 3rd March—PTFA Love your School Day—10am-12 noon

Thursday 7th March—World Book Day—children can come to school in pyjamas

Friday 15th March—Comic Relief Day

Wednesday 20th March—Crocodiles of the World Trip

Thursday 21st March—World Down Syndrome Day

Friday 22nd March—Science Oxford Trip

Saturday 23rd March—4.30—7pm—PTFA BINGO Night

Tuesday 26th March—2.15pm—Year 3 and 4 Performance

Wednesday 27th March—6pm—Year 3 and 4 Performance

Wednesday 27th March— Story Museum Oxford Trip

Thursday 28th March—9am—10am—Open Morning for Parents

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

Weeks beginning 10th and 18th March—SEN parent teacher interviews



Dance Club Team outside the New Theatre, Oxford before performing at the Oxfordshire Schools Dance Festival.

The children were absolutely brilliant performing to 'Singing in the Rain'. Well done, Dance Club!



Year 2—British Isles Day



Year 2 took a trip around the British Isles tasting food from the four nations!



Year 2 Map Makers Trip

Year 2 had their own dedicated open-topped bus trip to Oxford as part of their 'Marvellous Map Makers' Topic last term. The guide pointed out lots of landmarks and talked about books with links to Oxford. When the children came back to school, they completed maps of Oxford.



Year 1 Trip to Windsor Castle

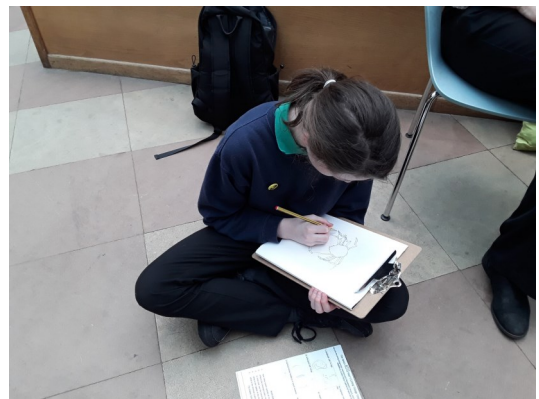


Despite the rain, Year 1 enjoyed an exciting trip to Windsor Castle as part of their Castles topic.

They were brilliant and coped well with the journey too.

Thank you to Mrs Rudd and the Year 1 team and to our parent volunteers for taking the children.

Year 6 Trip to Pitt Rivers and Natural History Museums



Pupil Voice

Young Climate Warriors

Over 20 St John's children have completed Young Climate Warriors challenges and will soon be receiving certificates. Do keep an eye on our website where we will be posting the weekly challenges for the children. It is easy to sign up and easy to email in when they have completed a challenge! [Young Climate Warriors | Climate Change for Children | Cut Carbon |](#)



Smart School Council

We have changed our School Council this year and joined an exciting project called Smart School Councils where the key ethos is that **every child has a voice** and any idea is worth sharing.

- School council meetings are held in every classroom which means every child's voice is heard
- Some children have applied and been adopted onto the Communication Team to help run the Smart School Council.
- Even if children aren't on the Communication Team, they still have the opportunity to make a difference by joining an Action Team enabling them to lead change.
- Action teams explore the feasibility of introducing change, giving ownership of projects to the children.

To find out more, you can visit Smart School Councils here: <https://home.smartschoolcouncils.org.uk/>

We look forward to sharing with you the exciting ideas the children wish to explore to make our school even better.



Comms Team



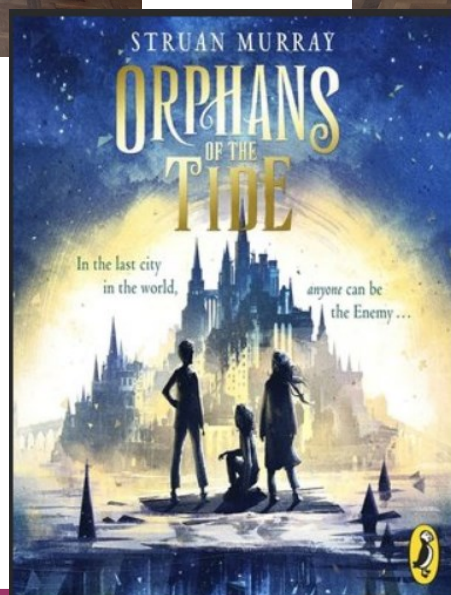
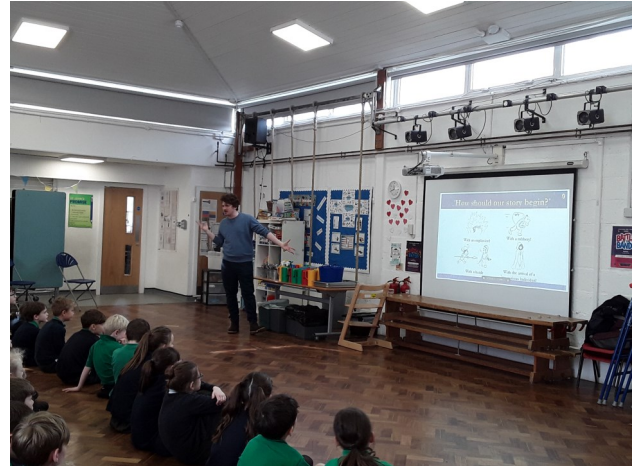
Class Meetings

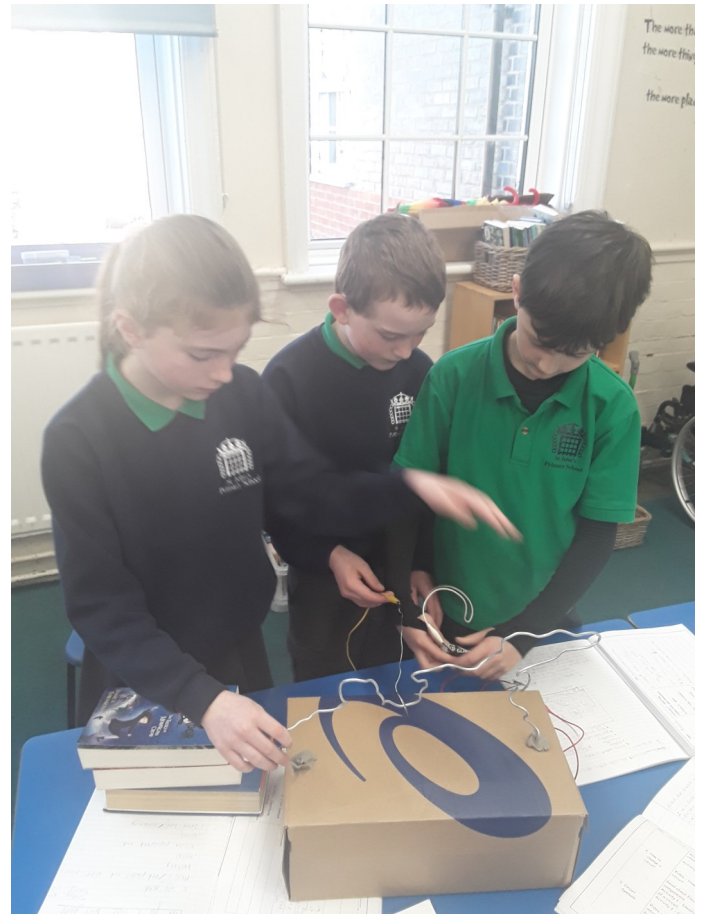
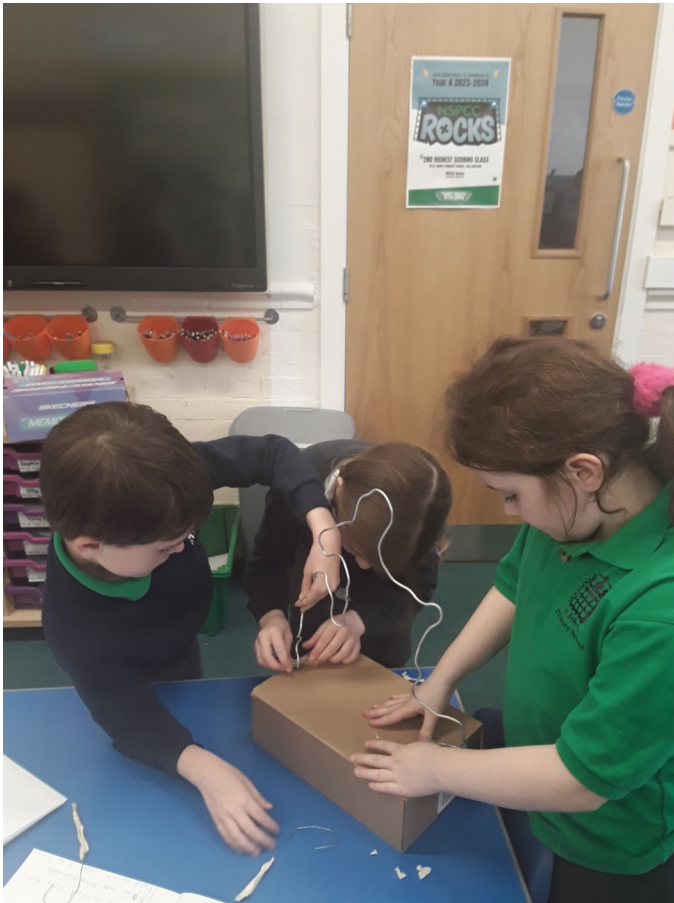


Action Teams

Author Visit

Author, Struan Murray, came to talk to Years 4, 5 and 6 today. He talked to the children about how he gets his ideas for stories, the drawings he does when developing his ideas and how he takes inspiration from other stories he has read—and video games! The children chose the setting, main character and some plot ideas for a new story maybe some of them might actually write the story. Struan signed books for anyone who wanted to buy them. If anyone missed the opportunity but would like a signed book, Wallingford Bookshop will bring some more along next Thursday.





Year 4 making buzz wire games as part of their Science topic— Electricity

