



St John's Primary School

30th September 2024

Perseverance, Ambition, Curiosity, Kindness

Dates for your diary:

- 2nd October School Photos
- 3rd October Year 6 visit to Steam
- **7th October INSET Day – School closed for children**
- **9th October at 2pm and 6pm – Maths Workshop for Foundation Stage and Year 1 parents/carers**
- 14th October PC Michael Dix visiting Years 5 & 6
- **16th October at 9am Harvest Festival for Foundation and KS1 parents**
- **24th October at 2pm & 2.30pm – Stay and Learn for parents / carers across all classes.**
- 6th November Flu Vaccinations
- 8th November PTFA Spooky Disco
- **12th November 3.30 – 5.30pm Parents' Evening**
- **14th November 3:30 – 7.00pm Parents' Evening**
- **21st November 5.30 - 6.30pm Parents' Forum**
- **25th November INSET Day - School closed for children**
- 26th November Year 6 visit to Cineworld Didcot.
- 29th November Mufti Day for PTFA Christmas Hampers
- **9th December pm (Times to be finalised) Carol Service at St Mary's**
- 11th December Years 3 & 4 visit to Watermill Theatre
- 12th December Years 5 & 6 visit to Watermill Theatre
- 16th – 20th December Year 6 Residential to Yenworthy
- 20th December at 1pm End of Term
- **6th January 2025 INSET Day - School closed for children**
- 7th January 2025 Start of Spring Term
- **2nd April 2025 pm Easter Service at St Mary's**
- 4th April 2025 at 1:00pm End of Term
- **2nd June 2025 INSET - School closed for children**

Welcome to Week Five!

It has been a busy fortnight in school and I have been visited by lots of children to share their learning. It is always wonderful to see the children's pride in their work and newly acquired skills or knowledge. I have learnt an enormous amount about bees from Year 1 in the last week and Year 6 have been impressing with their detailed knowledge of Judaism. All of the children are bringing the St John's Promise into life with their polite responses and cheery Good Mornings!

Communication: As a staff, we recognise that how we communicate with you is really important. Therefore, we have undertaken to make this consistent across all year groups. Teachers will communicate with you via Dojo for reminders for PE kits or particular equipment, etc. Every two weeks, teachers will send out more detailed accounts of the learning that is happening in the classes. Across the next few weeks, we will be beginning to make changes to the website and eventually, the newsletter will move to the blog, so that you can access it easily at your own convenience.

If you wish to communicate with us, you can call or email the office with general queries or to book an appointment with a particular member of staff. If you need to email in and do not want the office to read your message, please attach it and mark the email private and "for the attention of." It will be forwarded without opening.

Please remember that Dojo inboxes are not monitored.

Walk Home Passes:

We will start using our walk home passes for Years 5 & 6 tomorrow. The passes will build the children's independence, responsibility and ensure that only those children who have been given permission to do so, walk home. Thank you for filling in the permissions.

Pupil Roles:

I have received some excellent applications for the role of Head Boy and Head Girl from Year 6. This decision will be exceedingly difficult and will be taken in consultation with the teaching staff. All of the children who have applied should be exceptionally proud of the effort and thought they have put into their letters.

On Wednesday 9th October, we will be holding hustings and votes for our House Captains. There will be two House Captains per House and children from Years 4, 5 and 6 may apply. These posts will be voted for by the children's peers.

There will be other opportunities for children across the school to be part of wider roles as the school year progresses.

Parent Forum:

Parent Forums are a partnership between parents and school. It is a valuable way to share ideas, views, concerns and make suggestions for improvements.

The aim of our Parent Forum will be to:

- Work together to improve the education provided for our children
- Share information, knowledge and skills
- Meet in a mutually supportive environment
- Further improve communications between parents/ carers and staff / Governors.

All Parent Forum meetings will be held in the school main hall. Everyone is welcome to attend. Our first meeting will be on **Thursday 21st at 5.30pm.**

Playground Equipment after school:

On the rare occasions that it is not raining when you pick up your child, please do not allow them or younger siblings to play on the playground wooden trails. This is to maintain the "Rules of Play" we have in school and to keep them safe.

Governor Vacancies

We are once again recruiting for a parent governor. If anyone would like to put themselves forward or would like to find out more about what is involved, do get in touch. As well as a parent governor, we would also be interested in hearing from anyone who is not a parent but would be interested in being a community governor. Please let your local contacts know!

Oxford Diocesan Schools Trust is carrying out a consultation on extending the age range of St Nicholas CE Infant School and Fir Tree Junior School in Wallingford, and we would welcome stakeholder feedback.

Both schools are planned to become primary-phase for ages 3-11, including nursery provision, beginning in September 2026.

Have your say

We are committed to ensuring that the next steps in this exciting project are taken with the needs of our school communities at the forefront of decision making. Parents and carers of both schools have been invited to contribute to this consultation, and we are also seeking feedback from community stakeholders. Please share with others that may wish to contribute.

The consultation runs until 11 October 2024.

View the consultation documents and respond via our website

www.odst.org.uk/consultation

PLEASE BE AWARE that homeowners in Trenchard Close will reverse out of their drives in the mornings as you are arriving to school. Please do not let your children run ahead!