



SS PHILIP & JAMES' CHURCH OF ENGLAND
VOLUNTARY AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOL

Together we shine

Friday 28th September 2018

Dear parents and carers,

Harvest Celebration at St Margaret's church

Phil and Jim school squeezed into St Margaret's Church to give thanks for the harvest, with singing of 'Harvest for the World' and 'Cauliflowers Fluffy' as part of the service. In the talk, I reminded the school of the harvest of teaching and learning of the academic subjects and also the values of the school: Love, Compassion and Community. Living out these values are the greatest gift we can share with the world around us.

Thank-you for your generous donations. They will go to Oxford Food Bank.

Tom Albinson

Meet the head

We are introducing a termly informal meeting for parents, carers and members of the senior leadership team. Each meeting will have a focus, with an opportunity for you to share your thoughts and ideas in an open and constructive forum. The first meeting will take place on 10th October straight after morning drop off in the school hall with a focus on the school improvement plan for academic year.

Parents evening

Parents evening will take place on Tuesday 30 October 5:00pm - 7:30pm and Thursday 1 November 3:20pm-5:30pm. This is an opportunity for you to find out how your child has settled in to their new class, and their learning targets for the term ahead.

You are able to book a 10 minute slot through your Parentmail account. If you are unable to book through Parentmail, please call the office and they will be able to do this for you.

Forest School:

This week the children had a fantastic time at Forest School and you can see some pictures on the school website.

We would greatly accept donations of any of the following if parents at home have spare, old, not needed:

- *sizes 11-13 wellies,
- *fleeces, jumpers, leggings, jogging bottoms, gloves, thick socks for wellies for ages 4-7
- *picnic blankets (ideally ones with a waterproof side)
- *old pots, pans, metal colanders, wooden spoons
- *tubtrugs/ flexi tubs (14-20L)



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World record walk

We are incredibly proud of Alexandra in Year 3 who, over the summer holiday, not only walked 170km around the Mont Blanc (possibly the youngest English girl ever to do so), but also submitted a piece about her achievement over the summer to The Week Junior. This publication has a section entitled *What's going on at your school* for any budding writers out there.

PTA calendar

We have received feedback from a number of parents with regard to the lack of diversity in the selection of inspirational people for the PTA calendar. I have to say, looking at the list in its entirety, I agree. I want to assure you that this was not the intention. Staff spent a long time trying to ensure that not only did each person selected have a birthday in that month, but that the person allowed for a certain amount of variety for costume selection. Unfortunately, the spirit of the task was lost.

We are proud of the diversity in our school community and always want to reflect that in our work with the children so we have revised the list, adding themes to help with costumes and props.

	Inspirational person	Theme
January	Stephen Hawking	science
February	Nina Simone	singers
March	Mo Farah	athletics / sport
April	Leonardo da Vinci	art/ maths
May	Mary Seacole	medicine / love/ kindness
June	Rafael Nadal	tennis
July	Nelson Mandela	South Africa
August	Maria Mitchell	astronomy / stars
September	JK Rowling	Harry Potter
October	Thor Heyerdahl	explorers
November	CS Lewis	book characters
December	Walt Disney	characters

Christmas Cards

One of the great ways our PTA raises money for the school is by selling "Design Your Own Christmas Cards." Your child, you, a sibling, friends or anyone you know can create their own design which will then be reproduced as a card and can be used for Christmas, Hanukkah, birthdays, thank you cards...the possibilities are endless!



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You can also order gift tags, wrapping paper and larger size luxury cards. Sales from this fundraiser raise nearly £500 for the school each year.

Letters explaining the process will be in book bags early next week, you then will have until Thursday 4th October to design your cards. Any queries, please email cid@dixonyoung.co.uk

Sports News

Girls on the Ball

On Wednesday, 9 Year 3/4 girls and 9 Year 5/6 girls represented the school at the Girls on the Ball football tournament at Oxford High. They all played fantastically well and showed great teamwork. We are very proud of them all - well done.



To keep up-to-date with all things Sport related, please visit the sport section on the [website](#).

Notice board

Lost Property

Please check the lost property tub outside 6B for any items that your child may have lost.



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Yours sincerely,

Sarah Awuye
Headteacher

September 2018 dates for your diary	
Calendar Photos	Wednesday 3 rd October
Prayer Meeting – 8:50am	Friday 5 th October
Meet the Head Session – 8:45am	Wednesday 10 th October
INSET day - school closed for pupils	Friday 19th October
Half term week	Monday 22nd - Friday 26th October
Prayer Meeting – 8:50am all parents and staff welcome	Friday 2 nd November
PTA Swishing Evening	Saturday 3 rd November
Eye test for Early Years pupils	Wednesday 14 th November
Christingle service in Church	Tuesday 20 th November
Prayer Meeting – 8:50am all parents and staff welcome	Friday 7 th December
China Celebration Day – 2.00pm all parents welcome	Friday 7 th December
Early Years Nativity – 2.15pm	Wednesday 12 th December
Early Years Nativity – 9.30am	Thursday 13 th December
Christmas Fayre	Friday 14 th December
Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas Celebration in Church - 2.00pm	Tuesday 18 th December
Year 3 - Year 6 carol concert in Church 6.30pm	Tuesday 18 th December
School Christmas lunch	Wednesday 19 th December
Touring Panto visit to school -whole school events- details to follow	Thursday 20 th December
End of Autumn Term	Friday 21st December 1.30pm