



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

Together we shine

Friday 25 January 2019

Dear parents and carers,

As a school we have decided to invest in Times Table Rock Stars to support the children in learning their mental division and multiplication facts. It is a fun way of developing their recall of the times tables pertinent to their year group and has proven very effective in other schools. All children in Years 2-6 have been introduced to it and issued with usernames and passwords which they can use to access the website at <https://trockstars.com/> at any time. Year 1 will begin working with the website later this academic year.

Children begin by typing in their school name then user name and password. Upon logging in for the first time they can begin creating their rock star by choosing from a list of suggested names, these can be regenerated until they find one which they are happy with. Once they have selected a name they will not be able to change it. They can then design their rock star. The design can be altered as they earn coins to buy new items to add, dependent on the successes they have playing the game. Children can access the play menu and will need to play ten games in the 'garage' to set their baseline speed. They can then play in 'studio' to begin to develop their average speed. There are other play options available which teachers have explained to the children.

The children will be able to access this product both in school and at home as we would like them to maximise the impact. If your child requires any help or a new copy of their password and username, then please ask them to speak to their class teacher. We hope they enjoy the game and find it beneficial.

Mr Miles, Maths Lead

Lockdown practise

This week the whole school practised what we would do if we needed to secure the school and keep the children and staff safe inside the building.

We used the scenario of a frightened, wild animal being in our grounds and in order to keep ourselves safe, we needed to be inside, calm and quiet. The children were incredibly sensible throughout. We put the 'lockdown' into context for them, explaining that this would be a very unlikely event, but that we must practise as we do with our fire drills.

Visit your child's class 8.45am-9.30am Tuesday 5 March

We would like to invite you to join your child in their classroom between 8.45am and 9.30am Tuesday 5 March. We will be taking this opportunity to share with you some of the language that we use with the children to support them to engage with challenge. We are supporting the children to approach each day with a growth mindset and so develop resilience to challenge. We hope that you will be able to come along and enjoy a challenge with your child.

ParentPay

I am sure that many of you will be aware of the financial pressures being put on school budgets. In school we are all working hard to ensure that we use resources wisely and that school obtains best value for money in all that we do.

As of yesterday parents and carers are in excess of £10,500 in arrears on Parentpay, this puts a strain on school finance and also takes up a great deal of administration time. Parents and Carers can help by ensuring that they pay all residential trips, lunch money, after school club and clubs fees as soon as these are due. We ask for voluntary donations for school trips and visits, and we ask that anyone able to pay does so. We don't exclude anyone due to inability to pay but trips may not be able to go ahead if we can't cover the cost.

Thank you for your support.

Karen May

Business Manager



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Place to Be

We have opened Place to Be every lunchtime for any child who would like some time out of the business of lunchtime. I will be available between 12.00 noon and 1.00pm Monday - Thursday. This will give children the opportunity to come and have some quiet space or to talk.

If you have visited Place to Be, you will know that we have various resources that can help children when they are experiencing different emotions. Some children find that worries can be consuming and in addition to offering an opportunity for children to talk about them, we also give practical strategies. We have recently found a resource called "The Unworry Book", I think it is wonderful, it's an activity book to calm the mind. We have one in Place to Be and each Year 5 and 6 class has two copies. If over the coming weeks you would like to look at this to use at home, I can source one for you at a discounted rate. Please contact me for further details.

Sarah Hiner

Clubs

We do still have some spaces on the below after school clubs. Please contact clubs@philandjim.org.uk for more information.

Tuesdays- Orchestra- Years 3-6. 3.05-4.15pm

Thursdays- Fitness and Circuits- Years 4-6. 3.05-4.15pm

Thursdays- Tag Rugby- Years 3-6. 3.05-4.15pm

Holiday Course

We are running a holiday course this February Half Term. Further details are below, and to secure a place please email clubs@philandjim.org.uk. I will reply to your email confirming whether or not spaces are available. If allocated a space then this will be added to your parent pay account. Spaces are limited to 30 per day and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. (We only allow for a maximum of 15 Early Years / Year 1 pupils per day). Please note this course is only open to current pupils of the school.

Monday 18 - Friday 22 February, 8.30am-5pm, £25 per day.

The course will include arts and crafts, sports, ICT, board games, cooking and much much more!

Many thanks,

Mr Sadler

Free Cupboard Doors

We have the following cupboard doors available. If anyone is interested, please speak to Mr Matthews.

2: 24 x 78.5

2: 33 x 78.5

3: 30 x 78.5



Sports News.

On Tuesday 22nd January, we competed in the Oxfordshire School Games Sports Hall Athletics. This was an athletics event for Years 5-6. The competition consisted of ten teams competing in a variety of track and field events. Our squad performed really well and finished in fourth position. Well done all!

Mr Sadler

PTA News

Quiz Tickets on Sale

Book your babysitter, get your tickets from the office and prepare yourself for an evening of great food, drinks and some brain-bending quiz questions at the PTA QUIZ NIGHT!



When: FRIDAY 1st FEBRUARY 7.30PM - 10.45PM

Where: School Hall

Cost: Tickets cost £12 per head and include entry, snacks and supper (meat lasagne, fish pie, or aubergine parmigiana & salad from The Jericho Cafe)

Bar: The Bar will sell drinks and desserts

Team Numbers: Teams should be no more than 10 people

Want to lend a hand? We'd love some helpers to set up from (6.30pm) and to clean up at the end.
Hope to see you there!

Volunteers needed to help

Nearly New Sale Coordinator

We are looking for a new coordinator for the ever popular Nearly New Sale on the 12th May. The sale has been running for the past 5 years. Last year it raised £4000 for the school and saved over 4400 items from landfill. It sounds daunting but there is a detailed handover, and the previous coordinator is around to help. There is a whole team of experienced volunteers with clearly defined roles ready to step into action, so you won't be alone! Planning the sale starts around March, and it is fairly busy after Easter until May. If we can't find a new coordinator then we will not be able to run the sale this year. We would also welcome any other volunteers to lend a hand with other roles.

PTA Communications

We need a volunteer to join the PTA to manage our email communications...if that might be you then please be in touch.

For either of these roles please email carriext@aol.com or speak to one of the PTA or Nearly New Sale Team in person.



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Yours sincerely,

Sarah Awuye
Headteacher

Spring Terms 2019 dates for your diary

Bike Ability Year 6	Monday 28 th January
Animal Visitor Year 2	Monday 28 th January
Bike Ability Year 6	Tuesday 29 th January
Bike Ability Year 6	Wednesday 30 th January
Bike Ability Year 6	Thursday 31 st January
Bike Ability Year 6	Friday 1 st February
Bike Ability Year 6	Monday 4 th February
Mental Health Week in school	Monday 4 th February
Mixed Football Tournament Year 3 and Year 4	Wednesday 6 th February
International Evening – More details to follow	Wednesday 13 th February
Story Telling Workshop Year 1	Friday 15 th February
HALF TERM	Monday 18 th –Friday 22 nd February
Visit to Ashmolean Year 4	Wednesday 27 th February
EYFS Coffee Morning 9.00am	Thursday 28 th February
Girls on the ball Year 5 and Year 6	Thursday 28 th February
Visit to Ashmolean Year 4	Friday 1 st March
Visit your child's class with a growth mindset	Tuesday 5 th March 8.45am-9.30am
High 5 Netball Year 5 and Year 6	Wednesday 6 th March
World Book Day	Thursday 7 th March
Coffee Morning Year 1 and Year 2 9.00am	Thursday 14 th March
Year 6 residential to PGL	Monday 18 th - Friday 22 nd March
Girls on the ball Year 3 and Year 4	Wednesday 20 th March
Coffee Morning Year 3 and Year 4- 9.00am	Thursday 21 st March
Netball Tournament Year 3 and Year 4	Thursday 21 st March
Life Bus – in school all week	Monday 25 th March
Cross Country Finals	Tuesday 2 nd April
Coffee Morning Year 5 and Year 6- 9.00am	Thursday 4 th April



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Community news

Please find information that might be of interest to members of the school community.

STREET CHOIR

A Choir for people affected by homelessness

Every Monday
St Giles Church 10 Woodstock Road OX2 5HT
3.30pm Doors open for tea & coffee
3.45pm-4.45pm Choir
5pm-7pm Gatehouse open

@ST GILES

Come along every week or drop in when you can. Sing in a choir provides companionship and improves self-esteem. Whatever you bring, or your voice, you can belong to Street Choir.

FREE ALL WELCOME

For more information contact info@music@outlook.co

Ox Clean SHAPING A CLEANER CITY
Oxford Civic Society

JOIN US FOR THE 2019 SPRING CLEAN

FRIDAY 1 to SUNDAY 3 MARCH 2019

JOIN YOUR LOCAL GROUP FOR A 2-HOUR LITTER PICK OR START A NEW GROUP

Find out more at www.oxclean.org.uk

OXFORD CIVIC SOCIETY
The Oxford Times
OXFORD CITY COUNCIL