



Phil & Jim

SS Philip and James' Church of England
VA Primary School
With love we flourish

Friday, 20th October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

The children have had a busy and exciting start to the school year. It is lovely to see the display boards and books filling up with their hard work. We hope you enjoyed looking at your child's work during the open classrooms this week. As a reminder, Parents Evening appointments are taking place in the first week of next half-term which will be an opportunity for you to talk to your child's teacher about how they have settled into the new school year.

Key Dates

Whole School Notices

INSET reminder

Monday 30th October is an INSET day. Term 2 begins on Tuesday 31st October.

Job Vacancy: Full-time Teaching Assistant

We are looking to appoint a full-time teaching Assistant (TA) who is fully committed to doing the very best for the pupils in their care. If you or anyone you know is interested in applying, please click [here](#) for details.

Greek Myths & Legends English Project - new

Next half-term will see the launch of our exciting new English project: *Greek Myths & Legends*. For 4 weeks, the children will explore the fascinating and wonderful world of Greek mythology, as well as the history of the Ancient Greeks. As part of the project, we will also have quizzes, assemblies and a drama competition running throughout the four weeks.

Greek Myths:

EYFS: Greek Myths for Little Children

Y1 & 2: The Wooden Horse

Y3 & 4: The Journey of Odysseus

Y5 & 6: Jason and the Argonauts



On *Thursday 2nd November*, the project will be launched through a whole-school *Ancient Greece day*. On Thursday, the children will take part in fun activities throughout the day, beginning with a special assembly and culminating in a quiz. Everyone is hugely encouraged to dress-up for the day as a Greek hero or heroine, or any character from mythology, and prizes will be awarded for best-dressed!

Miss Pape, Deputy Head

Harvest Festival

This week, we enjoyed visiting St Margaret's church for the Harvest Festival. Thank you to everyone who showed our school value of compassion by donating food which will be given to those in need through The Gatehouse.

Mrs Callard, RE Lead



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MCAS

Dinner menus – we have added Christmas Lunch to the menu for December 7th and amended the meal options for December 6th. If you have already booked for these two dates you will need to reselect from the new menu options. You can view the Christmas menu [here](#).

Parent Evenings

These are taking place **online** on Tuesday 31st October and Wednesday 1st November. You will have received an email containing a link for the Teams meeting with your child's teacher for the appointment slot you booked.

Parking

We encourage everyone to use sustainable travel e.g. walking, cycling, public transport when travelling to and from school, however we appreciate this may not be possible for everyone. If you do need to travel to school by car, in the interests of safety, please can we ask you to be mindful of local parking restrictions and show courtesy to local residents.

Children eating in school

You may have seen the media coverage of the tragic cases where children have choked at school. We talk to children about staying safe in and out of school and eating is one of the areas we cover. At lunchtime we ask children to sit at their table, use a knife and fork to cut their food to appropriate sizing (we do help our younger children) and ask them not to talk or walk around with food in their mouths.

If you prepare a packed lunch or playtime snack for your child, you might find the attached [guidance](#) useful. The content is aimed at younger children, nevertheless, choking risks apply to all, so you may find the information useful given there are increased variables when children eat in a school setting.

Currently our older children can take their snack outside to eat it and so we are reviewing how we manage the children eating at playtime. We will update you in due course. In the meantime, could I ask you to consider the food you are sending in for your child so it is suitable to eat in a short period of time.

Monster Phonics Workshop – EYFS & Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2)

On Tuesday 7th November 4.30pm-5.00pm, we will be running a Monster Phonics workshop for all parents of children in EYFS & KS1. In the workshop, we will cover how we teach children to read using Monster Phonics, and how you can support your child at home.

Miss Goosen, Early Reading & Phonics Lead



SWIFT Course

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend the SWIFT training run by our Communication & Interaction team. The resources for this course can be found on our [website](#).



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House Logo Competition

We are excited to announce a competition (open to all pupils and year groups) for new logos for the Phil & Jim houses: foxes, herons, kingfishers and badgers.

Click here for [further details](#) and tips.

Mrs Ponsonby, Art Lead

This Week's Attendance:

Year group	Attendance for Week 4: 16.10.23 – 20.10.23
EYFS	94%
Year 1	96%
Year 2	93%
Year 3	94%
Year 4	94%
Year 5	93%
Year 6	94%

Whole School Celebrations

Year 6 Football match

It was drenched in drama at St Mary & St John School, where the Yr6 boys [won 8 nil](#).



Hérons

Kingfishers

Badgers

Foxes

House Cup Winners:

Congratulations to this week's house cup winners: **Kingfishers**

Writers of the Week:

Congratulations to this week's writers of the week:

Y1- Cody

Y4- Ryaan

Y2- Grace

Y5- Oscar

Y3- Sam

Y6- Melody



We wish you all a restful half-term break, and we looking forward to seeing you on Tuesday, 31st October.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Awuye, Headteacher



PTA News

The Christmas Bazaar will be back on Thursday 7th December! It is a Christmas shop that takes place during the school day, and is where the children can buy presents for their friends and family.

In order to stock the shop we need donations from each child, such as toiletries, sweets, stationery, books, bags and jewellery. Everything in the shop will be priced between 10p and £2. All donations should be in good quality and new or nearly-new, all toiletries unopened and all food nut-free. Donations will be collected in school at the end of November, so now is the time to start clearing out and putting aside potential donations.

Easyfundraising - Support the PTA as you buy groceries and buy gifts! Phil & Jim's PTA is registered with easyfundraising. As the name suggests, it's an easy way to raise funds for our school, at no cost to yourself, when you shop online. Visit our cause page (<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/philjimpta>) for more information and to sign up! Currently we have 137 supporters and have raised over £5,300 for our school. Over 8,000 brands partner with easyfundraising - including Tesco groceries, Tu clothing, John Lewis, Asda, Waterstones, Bloom & Wild and so many more. Most pay a % of what you spend with them as a donation e.g. if you spend £150 at Booking.com they will donate 3% (£4.50). Some insurance and mobile brands pay a one-off donation of up to £50! So please remember P&J's PTA when you switch.

Key Dates

Autumn Term dates	
New English Project: Greek Myths & Legends	Tuesday 31 st October
Parents' evening	Tuesday 31 st October
Parents' evening	Wednesday 1 st November
Ancient Greece day (Myths & Legends project)	Thursday 2 nd November
Year 6 visit to Kilvrough	Monday 6 th - Friday 10 th November
Monster Phonics workshop	Tuesday 7 th November
Anti-bullying week begins	Monday 13 th November
EYFS walk to Port Meadow	Wednesday 15 th November
Children in Need day	Friday 17 th November
Greek Myths and Legends drama competition	Tuesday 21 st November
Year 2 trip to see <i>Matilda</i>	Wednesday 22 nd November
Parent Forum with SLT	Thursday 23 rd November
Carol concert in church	Tuesday 12 th December
Nativity Play	Wednesday 13 th December
Nativity play	Thursday 14 th December
Whole school pantomime (in school)	Friday 15 th December
Last day of Autumn term	Wednesday 20 th December 1.30pm finish



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Community News



LIGHT PARTY

 St Margaret's Church

3:30-5pm on Tuesday 31st October for party games, party food and fun.
All 0-7 year olds & their families are welcome but booking is essential.
Contact eva@stmargaretsoxford.org for more info or to book a place.