



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

Friday, 3rd November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week saw the launch of our new and exciting *Greek Myths and Legends* project, and I have been delighted with the children's enthusiastic response to it so far. I was also hugely impressed by the array of costumes for [Ancient Greece Day](#), and it was impressive that the children could tell me who they were and what their character was famous for! A huge well done to everyone for all your efforts – particularly to our best-dressed winners.

Over the coming weeks the pupils will be learning all about Greek history and mythology, so if any parents specialise in the Greek Classics or Ancient Greek history and would like to offer a workshop to the pupils, please do feel free to contact me.

Next week, our Y6s are embarking on their annual trip to Kilvrough, Wales. We wish them all a very exciting time and look forward to hearing all about it.

[Key Dates](#)

Whole School Notices

EYFS Open Days

We are holding two EYFS Open Days for parents and carers of children due to start school in September 2024. Please see the [website](#) for further details and please do share this information with anyone you know who may be interested.

After School Club

From Monday 6th November, there will be a new timetable for after school club featuring new daily activities for the children. The timetable, along with all ASC information, can now be found under the [Parents Information](#) section on the school website.

Better Housing Better Health

A service supporting residents to keep warm, stay safe and live well in their homes. See [here](#) for details.

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. All EYFS/KS1 parents and carers are welcome. Entrance will be via the Hall door.



Monster Dress-Up Day: Unleash Your Inner Reader!

Thursday 23rd November 2023

We are thrilled to announce "Monster Dress-Up Day" on Thursday 23rd November 2023, as a unique and enjoyable way to support our school's mission in promoting phonics and reading for pleasure, whilst raising funds to enhance our educational and reading resources. On this day, children in **EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2** are





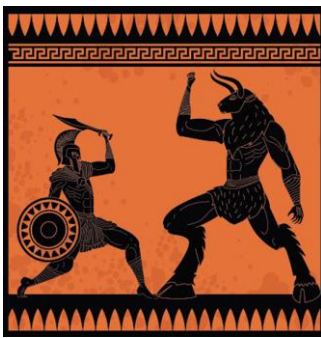
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encouraged to transform into their favourite Monster Phonics book character or literary monster. Further details will be shared in a follow-up letter.

Miss Goosen, Early Reading & Phonics Lead

KS2 Carol Concert

The KS2 Carol Concert will be held on Tuesday 12th December in St Margaret's church. This involves all children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6. Due to the limited space in St Margaret's church we will hold two carol concert performances this year - one at 9:30am and one at 6pm, and parents/carers are warmly invited to attend either event. Please note, parents/carers will need to register for tickets in advance (limited to two per family) to ensure everyone has the opportunity to attend the carol concert. Further details to follow.



Greek Myths & Legends English Project - competitions

(Deadline: 23rd November 2023)

Drama (Y2 & KS2)

The ever-popular drama competition is back! Open to Y2 & KS2, our first drama competition of the year will be based on famous stories from Greek Mythology. The deadline for entering the competition will be 14th November, with the performances taking place on Tuesday 21st November. Booklets can be collected from the library/Miss Pape, and will be available from Wednesday next week.

Story Writing (including comic strips):

Have you ever wondered what else might have befallen Theseus after his adventures with the minotaur? What adventures Hercules had other than his 12 labours? What happened to the Golden Fleece? Be inspired by the imaginative world of Greek mythology, and write your own myth or legend, continuing the adventures of your favourite heroes, heroines and creatures of Greek mythology.

Art:

Can you build a model of the mighty Talos, or a replica of the Argo? Or perhaps paint the terrifying encounter between Perseus and Medusa? Let your imagination and artistic skills flow and build a model or draw/paint a picture based on a mythical setting/character.

Games:

Do you love board games? Do you love Greek mythology? Then combine the two and design Top-Trumps or a board game based on the array of characters from Greek myths and legends.

Miss Pape, Deputy Head

Maps:

Share your Geography skills and create an amazing map depicting ancient Greece! This could be exploring the journey of Odysseus during his travels back from Troy, Perseus as he travels to defeat the horrifying Medusa or even charting the dark labyrinth of the Minotaur.

Remember to include all the elements that make a great map – features such as a key, clear labels, and skilfully drawn landmarks. Top Tip: the more monsters the better!

Mr Shaw, Geography Lead





This Week's Attendance:

Year group	Attendance for Week 4: 31.10.23 – 03.11.23
EYFS	99%
Year 1	98%
Year 2	99%
Year 3	97%
Year 4	99%
Year 5	96%
Year 6	97%

Whole School Celebrations



House Cup Winners:

Congratulations to this week's house cup winners: Herons

Writers of the Week:

Congratulations to this week's writers of the week:

EYFS – Ziah
Y1-Emilia Y4- Maria
Y2- Libby Y5- Aurelien
Y3- Jonah Y6- Artemis



I wish you all a very restful weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Kirsty Pape, Deputy Headteacher

PTA News

Further volunteering opportunities this year - The Fete team is looking for some support with **finding sponsors for next year's Summer Fete**, to help cut the cost of some of the brilliant attractions which we hire in! This will be a mostly administrative task, and we'd like to get started in the next few weeks. For more information on this role, or if you work for or run a business who may be interested in supporting us, please e-mail contact@philandjimspta.org

We are assessing the feasibility of running the **Aristotle Cup football tournament** (friendly, involving at least one other school) again this year. If you have a passion for football, or organisation, and would like to be involved, please e-mail contact@philandjimspta.org We need to build a team of people to lead it.



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Card & gift project - We were blown away by the children's beautiful designs for the card and gift project. Your artwork should now have been returned to your child, via their class teacher.

Please visit <https://www.apfsorders.co.uk/> to place your order, using your child's unique artwork code on the reverse of the artwork, before Friday 10th November, to benefit from free delivery back to school.

We hope to deliver cards, gifts etc to classrooms in the final few days of November.

We still have one piece of artwork which is unnamed and unclaimed! If you think this might be yours, please e-mail contact@philandjimspta.org

Key Dates

Autumn Term dates	
Year 6 visit to Kilvrough	Monday 6 th - Friday 10 th November
Monster Phonics workshop @4.30pm	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
Deadline for Myths & Legends competition entries	Thursday 23 rd November
Y4 Christ Church Christingle visit	Tuesday 28 th November
KS2 Carol concert in church (9.30am & 6pm)	Tuesday 12 th December
Nativity Play EYFS	Wednesday 13 th December
Nativity play KS1	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

Community News

St Margaret's Church
Christmas Fair
2 December 1-3pm
Cakes, Teas, Stalls, Crafts & Games

In aid of the
 THE GATEHOUSE
Counselling Service

St Margaret's Church

Little Fishes
@ St Margaret's Church

Term Time Fridays at 9am
Stay and Play for babies to pre-schoolers.
Crafts and refreshments with a songs and Bible stories at 10:30am.

For more info contact: evaestmargaretsoxford.org



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From Year2
to Year6

After school SPANISH club

What do we offer?

- 50 min per lesson
- Group 8-10 children
- Level beginner & intermediate
- All the materials provided in the class

When?

ON TUESDAYS (weekly).
*Starting as soon as possible
(with min 8 children)*

What time?

At 3:30pm or 4:30pm

Where?

ST MARGARET INSTITUTE
(30 Polstead Rd, OX2 6TN)

Price:

£12 per lesson

SPECIAL OFFER:
ABCplay is offering a
discounted rate to Phil &
Jim families of just
£11 per session!!




www.abcplay.co.uk

If you are interested

Leave us your contact in:

spanishlessonsinoxford@gmail.com


with subject: SpanishP&J



United for Nature

Acting for nature and climate in Oxfordshire

A meeting to discuss how we can have a real impact on the challenges facing our natural environment at this critical time.
Stimulating speakers and discussion – all welcome




Craig Bennett
Director,
The Wildlife Trusts



Prof. Nathalie Seddon
Nature-based
Solutions Initiative,
Oxford University

Prue Addison
Director of
Conservation Strategy,
BBOWT

Camilla Burrow
Chief Executive, Wild
Oxfordshire

Reserve
your place:
[bit.ly/
unitedfor
nature](https://bit.ly/unitedfornature)



Tuesday 28th November
7 – 9pm
Wesley Memorial Hall,
New Inn Hall St., Oxford