



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

Friday, 23rd February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you all had a wonderful break over half-term.

Thank you to all of you who attended the Parents' Consultations this week. It was great to see so many of you, and to be able to share your children's learning. We were really pleased that so many of you spoke with the Governors who attended, and hope that they were really useful sessions for you.

Our *Exploration and Adventure* project has started this week, and I hope that you've been hearing about some of the exciting things that have been happening. It's been great to see the writing Year 2 have been producing following their Pirate Day, and Year 3 are really enjoying learning about persuasive writing in the Land of Oz.

However, a special mention has to go to the Year 5 children who took part in Bikeability this week. They had an unexpected adventure, cycling through some very stormy weather. We were so impressed with their attitudes and application in the sessions. Well done, Year 5!

Thank you to those of you who have contacted me regarding the problem I set in the last newsletter. As you have pointed out to me, the real number of squares on a chess board is 204. Well done, those of you who reached this answer! More maths problems will follow...

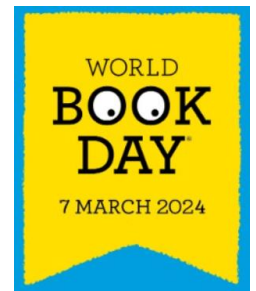
I hope that you all have a lovely weekend.

Key Dates

Whole School:

English Events (Dates for your diaries):

World Book Day: everyone is invited to dress-up for World Book Day on Thursday, 7th March. Awards for best-dressed!

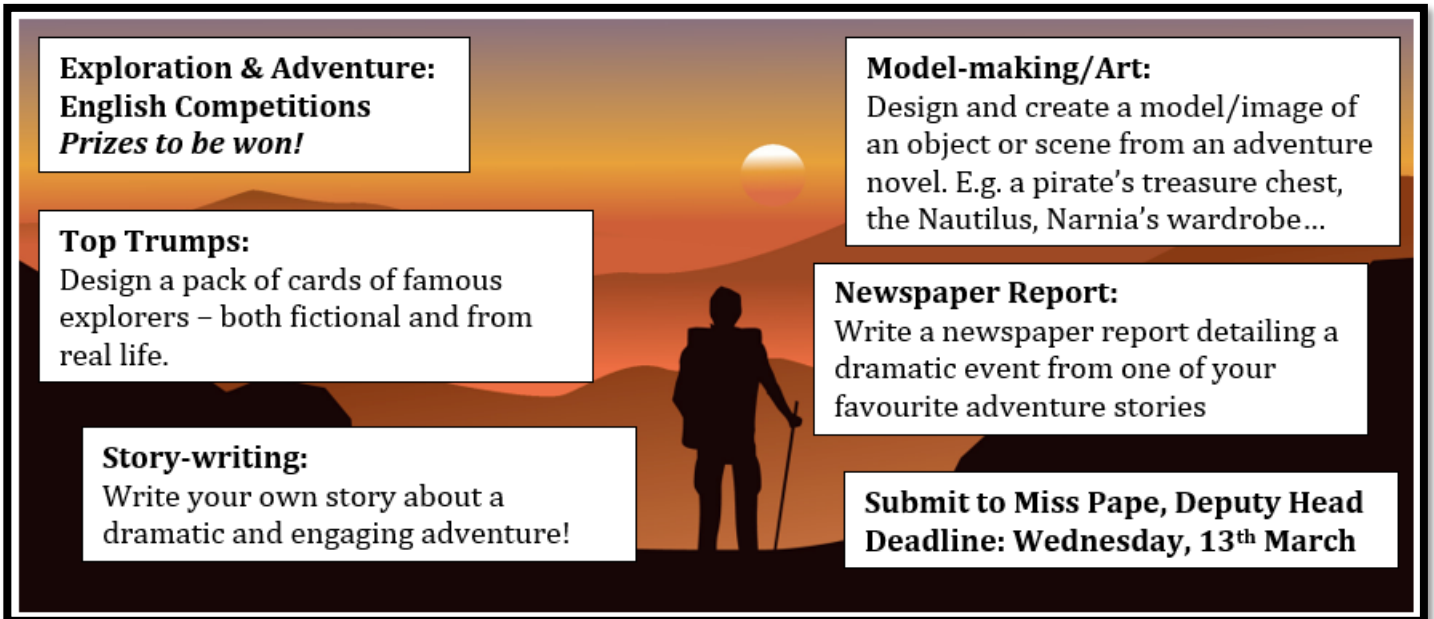


Drama Competition: On Tuesday, 12th March 2024, Y1 –Y6 are warmly invited to take part in our *new* 'Exploration and Adventure' drama competition. There will be a variety of scenes to choose from (ranging from *Treasure Island* to *The Hobbit*), with group sizes between 2 – 6 actors. Booklets will be available from Tuesday, 27th February. The deadline to sign up will be Friday, 1st March.



Explorer's Day: as part of our current Exploration & Adventure project, we will hold a special 'Explorer's Day' on Thursday, 14th March 2024. It will launch with a themed assembly, and then everyone will enjoy a day filled with map-making, adventure stories and various explorer-themed activities. (Everyone is, of course, invited to dress up as an explorer, but due to World Book Day only being the week before, there is no expectation!)

Miss Pape, Deputy Headteacher



**Exploration & Adventure:
English Competitions**
Prizes to be won!

Top Trumps:
Design a pack of cards of famous explorers – both fictional and from real life.

Story-writing:
Write your own story about a dramatic and engaging adventure!

Model-making/Art:
Design and create a model/image of an object or scene from an adventure novel. E.g. a pirate's treasure chest, the Nautilus, Narnia's wardrobe...

Newspaper Report:
Write a newspaper report detailing a dramatic event from one of your favourite adventure stories

Submit to Miss Pape, Deputy Head
Deadline: Wednesday, 13th March

Geography Competition!

As part of the current Exploration & Adventure project, I want you to share your Geography skills and create an amazing map, based on the wonderful stories being studied across the school.

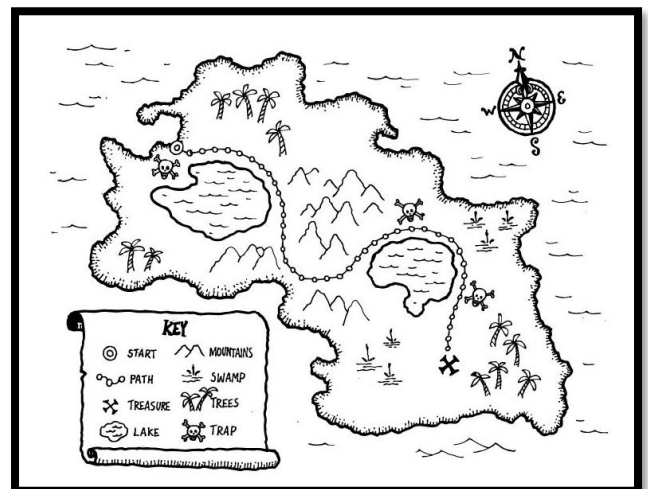
Maybe you could chart the terrifying coves and lush palm trees of Treasure Island, showing the journey Long John Silver took while hunting the gold? Or perhaps you could show the exciting adventures of Captain Nemo as he encountered giant squid while traversing the ocean floor? Remember to include all the elements that make a great map – features such as a key, clear labels, and skilfully drawn landmarks.

Submit to: Mr Shaw, 2P

Deadline: Wednesday, 13th March 2024

Prizes to be won!

Mr Shaw, Geography Lead



Science Competition!

Please see the [website](#) for an exciting competition, linked to our upcoming Science Week!

Miss Handley, Science Lead

Phil & Jim Easter holiday club

Holiday club is running on Tuesday 2nd - Friday 5th April, 9.00am-3.30pm and is open to all children who attend Phil & Jim. Bookings will go live on MCAS on Monday 26th February at 6.00pm and operate on a first come first served basis. Please note **bookings cannot be cancelled** so please ensure you need the sessions before booking. Bookings can be secured with payment in full using card. If you wish to pay using childcare vouchers, please



secure your booking with a £1 card payment and email office@philandjim.org.uk to request your childcare voucher payment be credited to your holiday club booking.

Reminders

Please can we remind you that valuable items should not be brought into school. We know how distressing it can be for both children and parents when valuable items go missing so please ensure these stay at home.

This Week's Attendance:

Year group	Attendance for Week 12: 19.02.24 – 23.02.24
EYFS	96%
Year 1	92%
Year 2	95%
Year 3	98%
Year 4	97%
Year 5	95%
Year 6	97%

Whole School Celebrations



House Cup Winners:

Congratulations to this week's house cup winners: Foxes

Writers of the Week:

Congratulations to this week's writers of the week:

EYFS- Ted, Sasha
Y1- Beatrix Y4- Nola
Y2- Bill Y5- Wyatt
Y3- Finlay Y6 – Chaniah



Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely,
Paul Atkins, Headteacher

Spring Term dates	
World Book Day	Thursday 7 th March
Exploration & Adventure Project – Drama Competition	Tuesday 12 th March
Exploration & Adventure Project – Explorer's Day	Thursday 14 th March
Science Week begins	Monday 18 th March
Parent Forum with SLT @ 9am	Thursday 21 st March
PTA family breakfast	Friday 22 nd March 8.00am



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End of Spring Term	Thursday 28 th March 1.30pm finish
Y3 Ashmolean Museum trip	Wednesday 17 th April
Parent Forum with SLT	Thursday 25 th April
Times Tables Rockstar day	Friday 26 th April
Bank Holiday	Monday 6 th May
Bike or Roll to school day	Wednesday 8 th May
KS2 SATS	Monday 13 th -Thursday 16 th May
Tempest class photos	Thursday 23 rd May
Parent Forum with SLT	Thursday 23 rd May 9.00am
Term 5 ends	Friday 24 th May at 3.20pm

PTA News

Summer Fete -Save the date!

Plans are afoot for our 2024 summer fête that will take place on Saturday 8th June (12-3 pm). Please save the date now! Could you sponsor the fête?

This fantastic event is our most significant fundraising opportunity of the year. We raise £1000s for the school.

Do you own or work for an organisation that could sponsor one of the many activities we are planning, for example, go-karts, bouncy castles or the penalty shoot-out? Sponsors will be advertised in the event's online programme, which will be available to all those who attend the event (approximately 600 people).

For more information, please contact: Katherine (07866770348) or Caroline (07540119240)

Community News

Come and See

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself." (Luke 10.27)

The way of love is a way of life.



Come and be curious.
Question, love, doubt & explore with us this lent.

Starts 20 Feb, 7.30pm
For more information email:
associate@stgilestsmargarets.org

LENT SAMS

Stay & Play for all the family

- ✓ Themed crafts & activities
- ✓ Story-time
- ✓ Brunch treats

Saturday 24th February
10-12noon
St Margaret's Church
OX2 6RX