



March 2023

Dear Parents,

We are fast approaching the end of another busy and eventful term at SMAS. Before we reach the end of term there are a number of events which we hope to see you at; the PTA Easter Fair, Science Open Afternoon and the Easter church service to name a few.

Our focus value this week has been Friendship and it has been wonderful to see so many examples of this value around the school. We have been particularly considering how as a friend you can 'build someone up' and the difference positive interactions can have on people. Please do discuss this with your child at home, they have shared lots of excellent ideas around Friendship.

Many thanks to those of you who supported the recent Scholastic book fair and our sponsored read. We have raised a fantastic amount and have £1389.60 to continue to spend on new books for our library.

I would also like to thank you for your support through the recent strike days. We realise how difficult these days can be to manage and thank you for supporting your child by completing the on-line learning.

A reminder that after Easter, children should wear their summer uniform.

Best wishes,

Headteacher
Mrs J Barnett

Science Week Monday 20th March - Friday 24th March 2023

Each year we celebrate British Science Week in school. This is a celebration of science, technology,



BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK

engineering and maths (STEM). The theme for this year's British Science Week is "Connections", encouraging children to think about the importance of connecting with others to solve problems - two heads are better than one! It is also an opportunity to discover some of the many connections involved in science.

As the culmination to the week we host an open afternoon for parents to visit their child/children's class to see Science in action. Parents are invited to come to school from 2.45pm to 3.15pm. Each class focuses on an area of science to develop their knowledge and understanding through research and investigations. Please see the separate letter sent previously for further information.



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An Oxford Diocesan
School

PTA Sponsored Read



A huge well done to everyone who took part in the PTA sponsored read. Once again, we look to have raised an amazing amount (final total to be confirmed asap) which will go towards continuing to develop our school library and replenishing books across the school.



Curriculum Days

Year 1

On Tuesday 7th February we had our curriculum day for Science 'All about our Senses'. The children brought in blindfolds



and wore them for most of the day to complete different activities. In English we learnt about Guide Dogs and spoke about the use of Braille - the children then made their names in Braille using gems. In Maths the children completed different addition and subtraction questions blindfolded using manipulatives such as cubes, dienes and bead strings. Then in the



afternoon the children completed obstacle courses in pairs (one child giving instructions and the other wearing a blindfold), going through hoops, catching bean bags and walking along benches. We also played games such as Chinese Whispers and finding the keys. The children absolutely loved it!

World Book Day, 2nd March



World Book Day was on Thursday, 2nd March. I am a l w a y s impressed with the amazing costumes the children have. Our morning assembly was tailored to the occasion with

an emphasis on developing a love a reading and promoting the wide range of texts available to children. Everyone looked amazing. Many thanks to everyone for taking part.



Comic Relief

We are once again taking part in Comic Relief today. Children (and staff!) came to school wearing red in return for £1 donation to Comic Relief. Everyone looked fantastic in this mornings assembly! Thank you for supporting this charity.



National Testing Dates 2023

The National Curriculum tests for Key Stage 1 (Y2) will take place throughout the month of May 2023.

The Key Stage 2 National Curriculum tests will take place during the week commencing 8th May 2023.

The Year 1 Phonics test will take place the week commencing 12th June 2023

The Year 4 Multiplication Check will take place week commencing 19th June 2023.

Please ensure that you avoid absences during school time, particularly during May and the weeks leading up to these important assessments.

Our Values

Our focus values this half term are;

Healthy Me

Respect

Wisdom

Friendship

Truthfulness

Justice

These are discussed through Collective Worship and within classrooms. Children have been using our School Reflection Area in the Turret. Please have a look at their thoughts, prayers and reflections hung on the tree next time you are in school.



Events

Spring 2023

Easter Service - Wednesday 29th March

The Easter Service will be held on Wednesday 29th March at 10.15 am at St Michael & All Angels Church in Warwick Road. The Year 5 children will present the service, retelling the Easter Story through drama and readings. We are very much looking forward to being able to hold our Services in person again. Children in all year groups will walk to the church to attend the service and parents and families are warmly invited to join us at this celebration. We look forward to seeing many of you there.



Car Parking

We do realise that parking is difficult outside the school and we ask that parents park considerately both in the morning and after school to ensure the safety of our children and out of respect to our local residents.

Please avoid parking on the corner of Maxwell Road and Garvin Avenue as this makes it difficult for our children to see to cross the road safely, and across the drives of our local residents' houses.

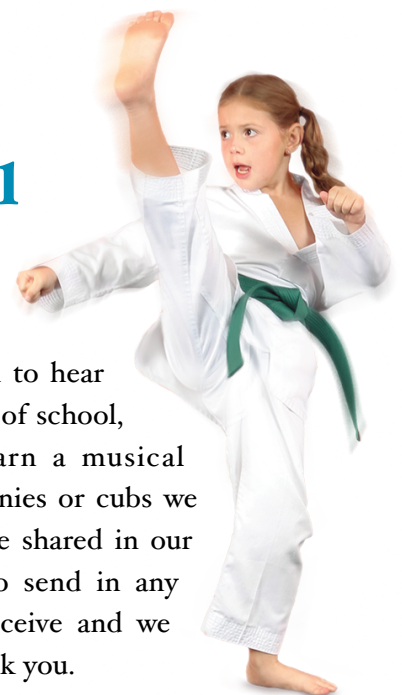
Also we ask that you do not park in front of the school gates at any time during the school day to drop children off. This poses several problems ranging from a danger to children who have to walk behind a car that may be reversing, to deliveries and visitors being unable to enter the school's car park, which in turn blocks Maxwell Road. This access point must be kept clear in case of a emergency. Cars should not be parked on the zigzags outside the school as this obstructs the view of children trying to cross the road.

As part of the school's travel plan we would encourage parents and children to walk to school when ever possible. On the occasions when you must use a car we suggest you park away from the school. (along Caledon Road and One Tree Lane and walk across the footbridge to school or park in the Sainsbury's Car Park on the top level.) Sainsbury's have kindly agreed to allow our parents to park from 8.30 - 9.15 am and 3.00 - 3.45 pm on the top level of the Sainsbury Car Park.

We ask that you please support these important safety guidelines.

Celebrating Successes from Outside of School

It has been wonderful in recent assemblies to be able to celebrate some children's achievements from outside of school. We are always keen to hear about what the children enjoy outside of school, if they play a particular sport, learn a musical instrument or achieve badges at brownies or cubs we would love to hear about it. These are shared in our Friday award assemblies so please do send in any certificates or awards the children receive and we will present them to the children. Thank you.



Book Look -

Monday 27th March 3.30-4pm

Our next book look will be held on Monday 27th March. Parents are invited to come into classrooms and view their child's work from this term. Resources from our teaching of PSHE will also be available to view as outlined in the letter sent from Miss Olive.

PTA Easter Fair -

Friday 24th March 3.30-5.30pm

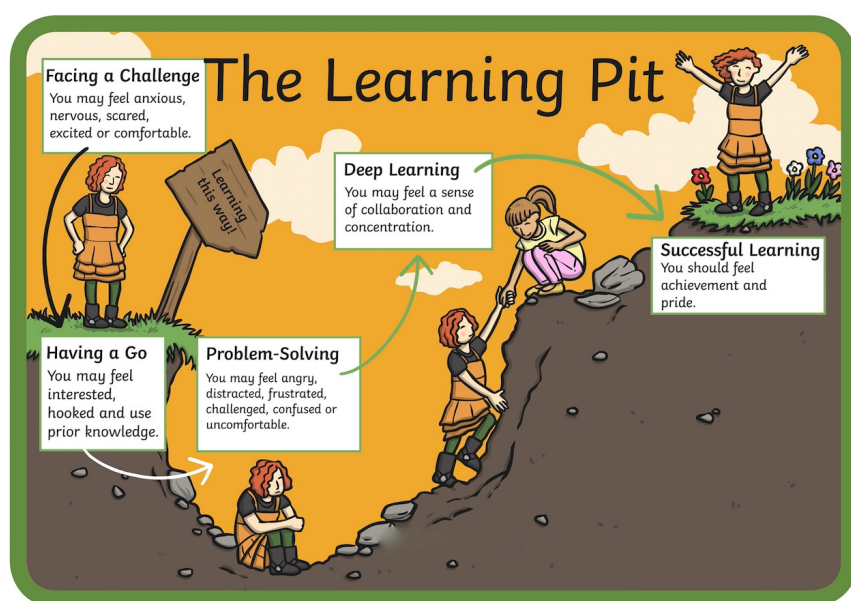
In preparation for the Easter Fair, we will be holding a Mufti Day on Monday 20th March.

Children can wear their own clothes to school in exchange for a donation for the Tombola stall. The Fair will also include a toy stall, book stall, tuck shop and an art competition.



Learning Pit

All children at St Mary's are encouraged to use the Learning Pit when learning something new. In fact, it can help us all to overcome feelings of anxiety when facing a challenge. Please do speak to your child about this as they will be familiar with it as it is displayed in our classrooms.



Staffing News

Earlier this term we said Goodbye to Mrs Gleeson as she moved on to a position working with children with SEN. Miss Gibson will also be leaving us at the end of this term to pursue other opportunities. We will also be saying Goodbye to Mrs Bayless at the end of this term as she moves onto a new role.

I would like to thank all members of staff for their work and commitment during their time at SMAS. They have been valuable members of the SMAS team and we wish them luck with their future ventures.

We have welcomed some new members of staff to SMAS; Miss S Huckle, Miss M Minter and Mrs M Lysenko have joined our LSA team and Ms A Nelson will be joining Year 1 after Easter teaching 1SB/CR on a Monday - Wednesday.

I am sure you will join us in welcoming them to SMAS...

Please click [**HERE**](#) to view school dates for