



St John's Primary School

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Headteacher: Miss Nicky Hughes

Friday 10th February 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Where has this term gone? I cannot believe that we are half way through the year – what a busy time we have had this term. We have learnt about the story of Ernest Shackleton and his expeditions to Antarctica, and also studied other Antarctic explorers, focusing on their successes, failures and the lessons they learnt. We have researched Shackleton's crew members and the type of men that he chose to be part of his crew. We have also started to create some beautiful pieces of Art work linked to the Antarctic landscape using a range of media.

We are continuing with the 'I Will Survive' topic next term. We will be changing our focus to learn about other explorers such as those who have travelled to space, including Tim Peake. Our Science work will be launched with Science Week after half term and will include studying materials and their properties, thermal insulators and conductors, space and our body systems. Please see the attached sheet to see what else we will be learning about! We will also be learning about Anne Frank's story through an R.E immersion day.

Cycling Proficiency:

As the warmer weather approaches (hopefully!) our lovely band of ladies will be continuing to run cycling proficiency lessons on a Friday afternoon, starting after half term. Unfortunately these sessions will not be able to run unless we have TWO parent helpers at each session, so please do come forward if you can! I will be giving a sign up sheet to Mrs Graham in the office, so if are able to offer a Friday (or more than one!), please call, email the office account or drop in so that she can sign you up. Please look out for the letters which will be coming out soon.

P.E:

It is best if the children bring their P.E. kit in on a Monday and take it home on a Friday as we may have to change P.E. days due to other events in some weeks. While the weather is cold, please ensure they have jogging bottoms (blue, black or grey) and a sweatshirt (blue, black or grey). Children with earrings will need to remove them independently for all PE sessions – a little container to keep them in would be useful on PE days!

Homework:

Lots of parents have asked me how they can support their child in maths. Miss Hughes has kindly arranged for the children to be given useful guides to the Year 6 Maths curriculum, which they will be bringing home this week. I will be setting the children a half term task to read through one section of the book, and then answer the associated practice questions. After half term, this type of task will be set each week, alongside the usual reading journal entry, spelling practice and grammar task. I will also be setting weekly speed times tables tests after half term, so if your child is looking bored (!) please fire some table questions at them, or encourage them to use one of the many useful times tables apps or online games to keep their tables skills sharp. In addition to the above books, we have also added a useful 'Homework Helper' resource to our website <http://www.stjohnswallingford.org.uk/>. It is located on the Year 6 class page, and takes the form of a PDF document which has hyperlinks embedded in it. Each hyperlink leads to sample questions and short Youtube videos which explain how to tackle the questions. The document is organised into sections based on the Year 6 maths curriculum.



Term 4 dates:

20th February 2017 – INSET day
21st February – 24th February Science Week
28th February and 2nd March – Parent Teacher Interviews
4th March Manor School Netball and Football Tournaments
7th March - Junior Citizen in Oxford

Dates to be confirmed:

Open Evening for Parents - Maths Mastery and Mindset
SATs information evening
More information to follow!

Please do not hesitate to come and talk to us if you have any questions or concerns or send us an email via the 'office' email account – office.2567@st-johns.oxon.sch.uk

Yours sincerely,

Ms Beckett and Mrs Brotherton