



St John's Primary School

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Headteacher: Miss Nicky Hughes

Friday 23rd February 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Wow – what a really busy but exciting start to the term! We are continuing with our WW2 topic 'Peace in our time' which the children have been extremely enthusiastic about. Yesterday we were joined by the Oxfordshire Home Guard group from Bicester who were absolutely brilliant and told us all about how and why the Home Guard was formed, why it was formed, what they wore, what weapons they used as well as what life was like for the women and how they helped. Personally, I was particularly interested when the visitors spoke about the messenger pigeons. I knew they were used but I wasn't sure how, nor did I know that some of them were awarded a medal, the Dickin Medal, for their bravery and devotion to duty. So, it was an educational afternoon for all of us! We gave a donation to the Home Guard for their time from the money that some of the children raised from the Carol singing at Christmas.

The class have also been working extremely hard this week to make Anderson Shelters using Google Sketchup as part of our Computing curriculum. They had to research what they looked like, what they were made of and what they were used for before using the 3D computer modelling programme to make one. After a 'few' technical difficulties and Ben P teaching myself, Mrs Brotherton and the class a number of features of the programme, the children now have a print out of their Anderson Shelter for their topic books!

We are currently enjoying reading 'Rose Blanche' by Ian McEwan and Roberto Innocenti in our Guided Reading sessions. We have stopped at a cliffhanger and the children are desperate to find out what happens next, however, they will have to wait until Monday... no peeking or looking on Google over the weekend!

Thank you to those children who have already brought in homework – it has all been amazing! So far we have had model tanks, aeroplanes, battle fields, photo presentations, a tank which a child can sit in(!) as well as many other brilliant pieces. The children can bring in their homework anytime before Easter.

A quick reminder about the trip on Tuesday 6th March where the children will need to dress up! Please keep an eye out in charity shops etc for anything which you think the children could wear for the dress up day. We will be making the gas mask boxes at school.



P.E:

For PE, the children should have, in a named PE bag, the following items: a plain white t-shirt, a pair of blue or black shorts, a pair of blue, grey or black joggers, a blue, black or grey sweatshirt, and a pair of sports trainers (not Converse type shoes please!) 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. **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 some weeks.**

Forest School

Please remember that children will need full Forest School kit on a Friday.

Homework

The children are usually set spellings each week which are linked to our lesson objectives, a reading task each week from the sheet and a Maths task. There may be occasional other homework too, depending on what we are learning about in class.

Clarinets

Please encourage your child to practise the clarinet each week as they will then make greater progress within the sessions. They are doing well with their lessons, and should also complete the homework which Mrs Robertson (the clarinet teacher) sets most weeks. If your child is unable to get on a computer to complete the tasks, they can do it one lunchtime before the lesson.

Helping Out in Year 5

We really welcome any offers of help to support our learning in Year 5; specifically, we would really like any parent helpers who could come in and listen to the children read. Please do not feel you have to come in every week if you volunteer, just turn up as and when you can and we will allocate you children to listen to. We also need occasional help when we go out on local trips. Please come and speak to us if you can help – we really do appreciate it!

Term 4 Y5 dates:

Thursday 1 st March	World Book Day
Tuesday 6 th March	WW2 trip to STEAM
Tuesday 15 th March	Big Bang Science Fair
Thursday 22 nd March	Class photos

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 . Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Colbourne and Mrs Brotherton

(Year 5 Team)