



Dear Parents and Carers

Once again, we have had another term under Covid restrictions as we moved into the Government's Plan B. We will continue to follow the guidance as we learn more about Omicron. School attendance remains mandatory and I can't stress the importance of ensuring that your child's attendance remains a priority.

Inset Day: We have been asked by the Trust to have an **urgent Inset Day** on Tuesday 4th January as a precautionary measure in case the Government make last minute changes to schools as they did last year due to Omicron. This will give us time to make the necessary changes. We find out the latest guidance and restrictions as soon as you do. Hopefully we will all start back as usual after the holidays. Children will start back on Wednesday 5th January.



Geese: On a lighter note, we have again been visited by a flock of Brent Geese who spend the days on our school field munching away in preparation for migration to somewhere warmer. We are very privileged that they have chosen SJS for their stop over.

Racism the red card Milo, Matilda, Iris and Kavin represented SJS at Portsmouth Football Club and showed racism the Red Card. Portsmouth's men and women's first team players Mahlon Romeo and Cherrelle Khassell teamed up with Show Racism the Red Card at Fratton Park to raise awareness of the topic. Mr Bond went along too to meet his heroes and also show racism the red card!



Uni students & SCITT: We hosted 8 first year university teaching students for a month so that they could immerse themselves in their first experience of the teaching world. I am pleased to say that we did not put any of them off and they were very complementary of the school.

Mr Massey is also completing his final teacher training with us, supported by Mr Schillemore in year 3. He is doing an amazing job and is on track to be a fantastic teacher next year.

Bikeability: Many year 5 children took part in this half term. The instructors commented on how brilliant the children were and were an absolute pleasure to teach. Well done year 5!

Remembrance: On the 11th day of the 11th month SJS remembered those who had lost their lives at war. We sold loads of merchandise to support the Royal British Legion with slap bands once again being the most popular item. We raised an amazing £214!



Open day & Year 2 fun morning: Our year 2 children joined for a morning of fun activities which included dance, art and a treasure hunt. I even attempted to dazzle them with my yoyo skills!

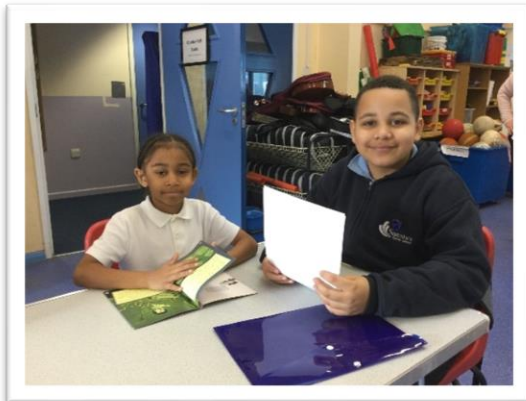
PTA Christmas shop:

Our PTA set up a 'pop up shop' selling some lovely, affordable Christmas gifts to the children. Each year group had the chance to buy gifts charged at

either 50p or a £1 that were then gift wrapped by our prefects. Look out in your Christmas stocking for these lovely gifts. Thank you to Alison, Tanya and Ian as well as Mr Schillemore, for all your hard work organising it all!



Prefects: Our prefects have been really busy this term upholding our school values, taking prospective year 2 parents around the school, listening to year 3 read as well as wrapping Christmas presents for the PTA. Well done guys!

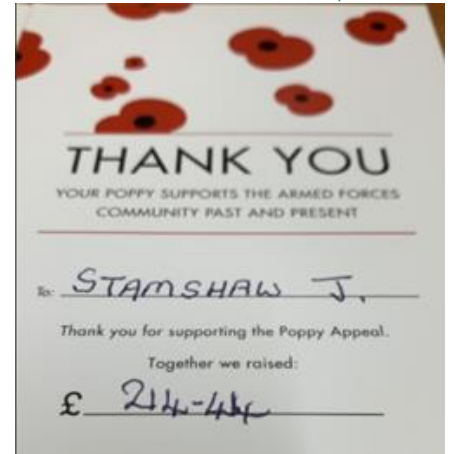


Inset days: We have another INSET day on Monday 28th February.

Puppet making: One of our 'pop up' clubs this half term was puppet making with Miss Williams. Check out these great little puppets!

Charity: We all dressed up in our pyjamas and best Pudsey outfits to support Children in Need to raise an incredible £265. Thank you to Mrs Eastman for also raffling off some of her famous cakes to help raise even more money. We also raised a further £127 for Christmas jumper day. That's a total, including the poppy appeal, of over £600!





Year 3: Year 3 were transported back to the Stone Age where they had to convince cave men to give up being hunters and become farmers! They used the outside classroom as a place to record TV advertisements persuading early man to build their own settlements and take up farming.



Year 4: Year 4 had lots of fun learning about the Anglo Saxons. The children made models of long boats, learned where the Saxon's made forts along coastlines and enjoyed an action packed trip to Butser Ancient Farm. They were surprised to learn that Portchester Castle, was once a Saxon shore fort - one of the few in England!

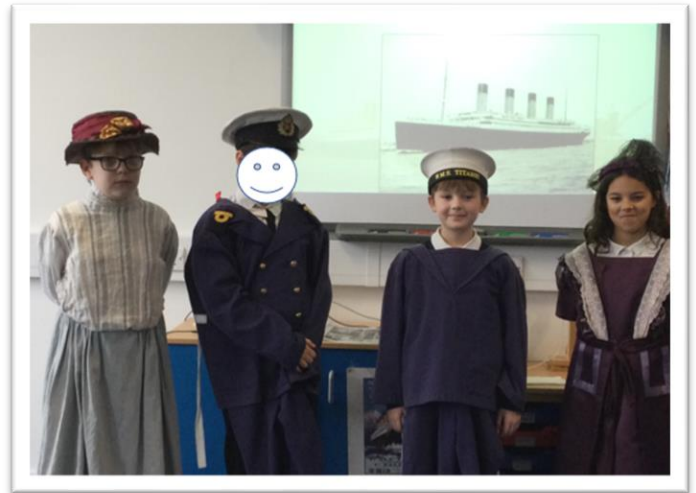




Year 5: The Year 5 children have been busy learning about Ancient Egypt in their Wider Curriculum this half term. Their engagement in this topic has been demonstrated in the fantastic and detailed projects they created for their home learning! Well done to everyone who took part! They also had an amazing trip to the Mayflower in Southampton to watch 'Fantastically Great Women who Changed the World!'.

Year 6: Year 6 have spent the whole of the Autumn Term studying their Topic: Frozen Kingdom. This was a Geography and History topic whereby the children learnt about the geographical features of Antarctica and The Arctic whilst also learning about the history of the Titanic and its tragic sinking.

The children made excellent homework projects about the sinking of the Titanic and also had a great fun visiting The Sea City Museum where they got to dress up as different class passengers.



Dictionaries for Year 6: Year 6 were very fortunate to each receive a personal dictionary from Portsmouth Rotary, which is traditionally done each year. Many thanks to David Jones for always remembering us!

Christmas: Once again, we had a slightly different Christmas experience this year for obvious reasons however we did try our best to bring Christmas to SJS with our Christmas dinner, Christmas Jumper Day, a Christmas music video and a number of in year group Christmas activities.

Attendance: Attendance has been a challenge this half term for obvious reasons. Hopefully this will improve in the Spring term if things begin to settle down again. I can't stress again the importance of ensuring that your child's attendance remains a priority.

| Attendance by year group for the Autumn term | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 3S | 3P | 4W | 4T | 4B | 5AW | 5KW | 6NB | 6AB |
| 94.2% | 96.2% | 94.7% | 95.4% | 94.7% | 94.6% | 95.2% | 92.7% | 94.1% |



Vouchers: Mrs Eastman, in the office, has sent out the links to the emails of parents who are in receipt of free school meals to receive your £30 shopping vouchers. Please look out for them in the next few days. Click on the [Edenred website](#) for information.

School Video: We made a [video](#) showcasing our school values which is on our website. Please take a look at our 5 simple values which underpin everything we do at SJS

- ❖ Be Respectful
- ❖ Be Reliable
- ❖ Be Resourceful
- ❖ Be Resilient
- ❖ Be Reflective



Marilyn: We said goodbye to Marilyn, our crossing patrol for many years, as she goes on a well deserved retirement.

She is really missed and we are still waiting for the council to find her replacement. If you know of anyone looking to work as a crossing patrol, please click on the [link](#) for the advert.

Please continue to follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and our [YouTube](#) channel where we keep you up to date with all the latest information at SJS.

We hope you enjoyed our [Christmas song](#). Here is the link again in case you missed.

On behalf of all of us at SJS, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a great New Year!

School reopens on Wednesday 5th January 2022

Yours sincerely,

Mr Rob Jones
Headteacher