



Dear Parents and Carers



This has been a particularly busy half term especially with our visit from Ofsted on the 15th and 16th of November. The report is due to come out to us within 30 working days from when they were here and we look forward to sharing the report with you once we receive it.

Inset Days: Just a reminder of the Inset Days left for this academic year. The link can be found on our [website](#). The first day back is an Inset

Day.

- Tuesday 2nd January 2024
- Monday 15th April 2024
- Wednesday 12th June 2024
- Monday 8th July 2024 (Whole Trust INSET Day)



SCITT: We had two SCITT Trainee teachers being mentored by Mrs Piper (4P) and Mr West (5AW) this half term. They have been great, and they will be back after the Easter holidays.

Year 4 Zoolab: Year 4 took part in a Zoolab workshop and engaged with some exciting, exotic animals to promote their 'Rainforest Calling' topic. The children came face to face with a snake, a cockroach, a stick insect, a frog and a snail. They were very brave and were able to hold and feel the animals, under the supervision of Jack, the Zoolab expert. The children will use what they have learnt to write reports on the animals they interacted with and will share some of them with Zoolab!



Superbloom Project: We have been successful in being part of the Superbloom Schools, a project run by the Historic Royal Palaces to transform an unloved patch of the school grounds into a wildlife haven. As part of the project, we have received funding to create a thriving garden to help boost children's well-being, behaviour and attainment. If anyone has any spare bulbs and would like to donate them to our project, please bring them into the school office. If anyone wants to find out more or get involved, please contact Mrs Piper or Miss Stanley.

Junior Author's 2nd Story Lands on the Shelves of SJS Library: We are proud to announce that Lydia from Year 5 now has a second story on the shelves of the SJS Library. Lydia's new story is called 'Smokeland' and is full of mystery and adventure. Well done Lydia, another fantastic addition to our library.





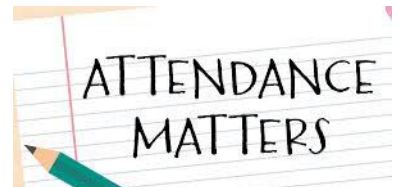
Staffing: We will be welcoming Miss Shairpe, who is Mr Schillemore's replacement to teach in 3S. Miss Shairpe is a very experienced teacher and will be on our Senior Leadership Team leading on English across the school from January 2024. We thank Mrs Rogers and Mrs Daley for teaching 3S until Miss Shairpe starts. They will both be back to their original roles after Christmas.

We also welcome Mrs Baker, who will be an additional teaching assistant across years 3 and 4. Mrs Eastman will be returning to the office following her supporting in year 4 until we appointed. Thank you Mrs Eastman. Mrs Simmonds, who has been covering teachers for release time, will be staying on next term as an additional teacher in year 6 to help prepare the children for their SATS. Miss Witt will remain in 3T until Mrs Tankard is well enough to return.

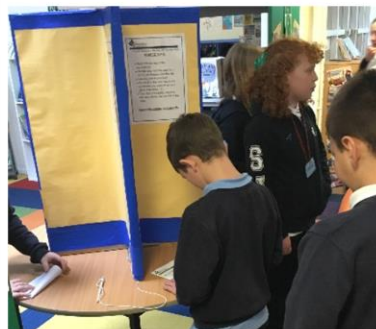
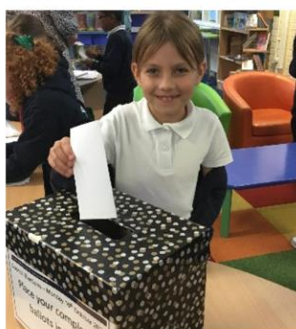
Year 5 Ancient Egypt Day: In Year 5, they have been learning about the Ancient Egyptian civilization. To deepen their learning, they enjoyed an Egyptian Day where everyone got to dance like an Egyptian, strut their stuff on the Nile catwalk and even created their own clay children's toy from that era. Later in the day, the children decoded Egyptian hieroglyphic messages and created their own modern day alphabet. We have had a super day and a big thank you to all who dressed up for the occasion.



Attendance: Each week we celebrate the best classes attendance with a cup and a few treats. The winning class is always published on our website. Currently our whole school attendance is 95.5% (out target is 96%)



School Council Elections: Miss Bushell once again organised a very well planned and memorable school council election where our pupils got to experience almost the real thing when voting. Well done to our school council winners.





Year 6 Titanic Museum: Year 6 visited the Sea City Museum in Southampton where they learnt why the Titanic sank; what life was like aboard the 'unsinkable' ship; the propaganda surrounding her maiden voyage; and why so many people did not survive.

They handled artefacts, dressed in replica clothes and even sat in a law court where the disaster was discussed. It was a fun day and they now all have a better understanding of the tragic event.

Christmas with PATCH: PATCH have once again been busy over the festive period. They ran the ever-growing Elfridges where children were able to buy affordable gifts. They also organised a school disco and a BRILLIANT Christmas Fayre held at our Infant school. Finally, they supported our year 3 Winter Warmer reading afternoon with parents and children, funding the hot chocolate and marshmallows. They raised an incredible £7710 profit for both schools, just in the Autumn term. Thank you!





Thank You

Thank you to everyone who popped their blue tokens into the Tesco Stronger Starts Appeal Blue Token Scheme. We are thrilled to say that our project came third and we have received £500 towards the continued development of Warren's memorial pond area.



London Marathon: In memory of Warren, Mr West will be running the London Marathon 2024.

He has started his training over the past few weeks, with 5, 8, 10 and 12k runs so far, but still has a long way to go and a lot of distance to cover.

Over the coming months, he will be asking for songs to add to his playlist to get him through those long 26.2 miles.

Any donations towards asthma and lung research, no matter how big or small, will be much appreciated at the link below:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/andywest24>

Art Day: All the children across the school had a fantastic Art Day where they focused on an artist in each year group. The children had to research the artists, learn about their styles and then recreate their own pieces of work in that style. It was a great day.



Circus: Please support PATCH when the circus comes to our school field in April. This is a very exciting event which we are very fortunate to be able to host as there is a waiting list of schools. PATCH booked this nearly 18 months in advance. Only 600 tickets are available. See you there!

Finally, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

See you on **Wednesday 3rd January 2024**

Rob Jones
Headteacher