

Newsletter



5

Friday 9th October 2020



On Monday, Willow Class had a visit from an Ancient Greek! See inside for more photos.



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www.st-petersoxon.co.uk



THANKS FOR REMEMBERING
THIS IS A



PEANUT/NUT FREE
SCHOOL

We currently have two children who have serious nut allergies. Please remember that we don't allow any nuts or nut products in school. **This includes Nutella.** Thank you for helping us to keep St Peter's School a safe place.

RIP Cyril the Squirrel

As you may or may not know, along with our St Peter's fish, we also had a resident squirrel, Cyril, living in the tree in the car-park. He was with us for at least three years as Emily and Mr Jeffries have always known him to be there.

Unfortunately last week he was hit by a car on the busy road and after being cared for for a week and looking to be making good progress, he sadly died.

We said a prayer for him and may he rest in peace.



School Admissions

Admissions for Secondary School close at the end of October. Please make sure you have your application in.

Primary school admissions will then open at the beginning of November.

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/apply-school-place>

Primary

3 November 2020 Applications open.

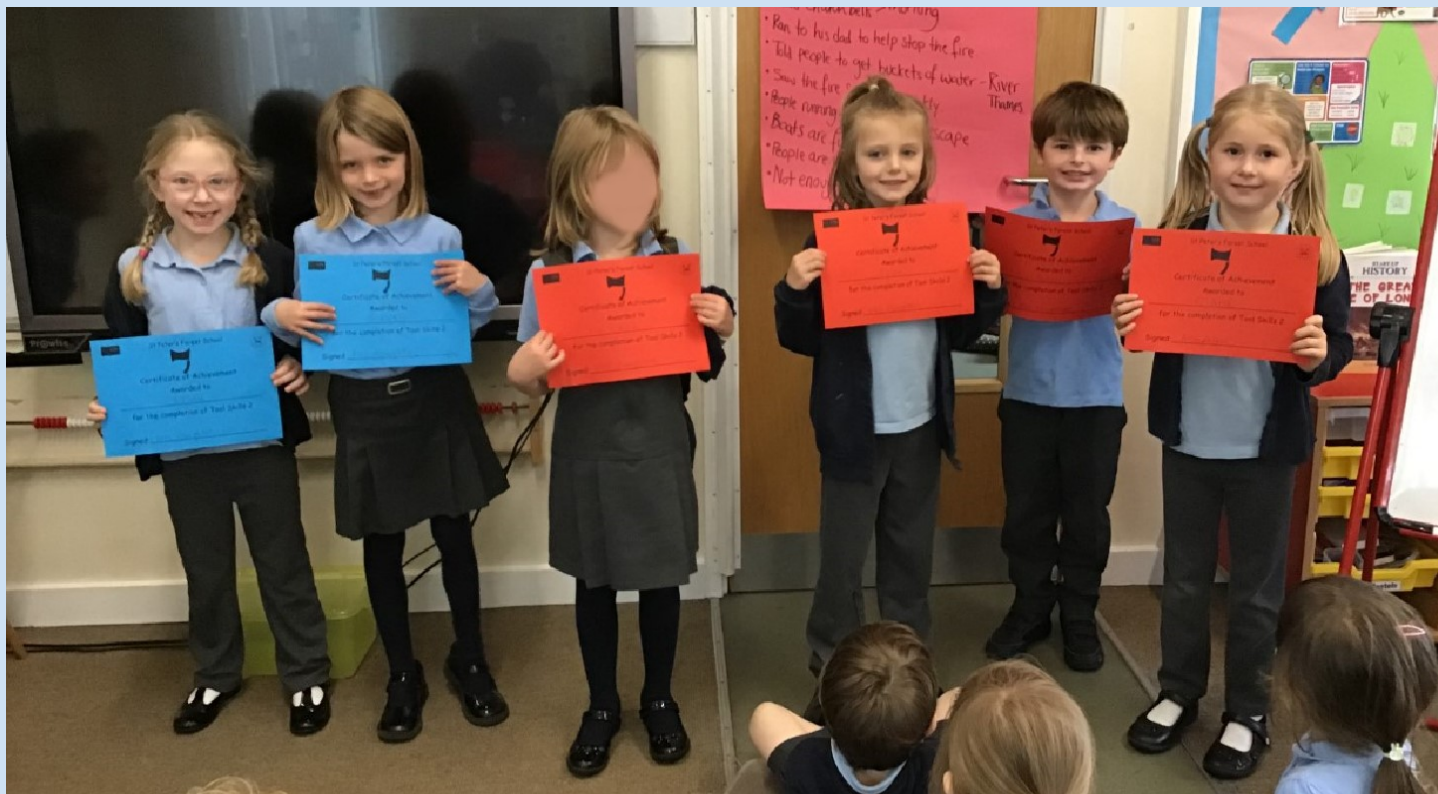
15 January 2021 Closing date for applications.

Secondary

Applications already open.

31 October 2020 Closing date for applications.





A few of the children in Oak Class were the first to receive a Forest School Skills certificate this week for their tool skills. Well done!

Request from Apple Tree Class

Do you have any unwanted toys that are still in good condition? If you do, Apple Tree Class would welcome donations!



Thank you





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office.3651@st-peters.oxon.sch.uk
www.st-peters.oxon.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr Jon Jeffries
Chair: Garry Peasley
Treasurer: Naghza Khokhar
Minutes Secretary: Kathryn Claridge

Chairs report 2019-20

Welcome to the 2020 SPSA AGM – the first to be held online – thank you all for coming.

Since our last AGM its been a tale of two halves – with all the usual activity from last October through to March and then lockdown – something none of us could foresee. I'll touch a bit more on how that has effected the SPSA in a bit.

I'd again like to thank Mr Jeffries for his continuing support in everything we do – as we try and raise much needed extra funds for the school – it's really helpful to have a supportive head on our side.

And thanks again to the committee members – each and every one doing their bit as and when they can to attend meetings and make our events run smoothly. It really is a team effort. In particular, I'd like to thank Nags for being our treasurer – not an easy job when the bank are being as unhelpful as they have been – thank you Nags for your perseverance with them; and Kathryn for continuing to take and write up the minutes.

I'd also like to thank the people that can't attend meetings but do offer help when needed at events – and to the teachers and governors that also support us when they can.

As mentioned, the year started with the usual autumn events with a successful disco and Christmas Fayre both bringing in the normal amount of funds – the latter returning to a Friday evening which always feels a bit more festive and 'cosy'. For the February disco, we decided to change the format and hire in a professional DJ/entertainer – and it worked really well – giving the children a new experience with fun games and dance-offs! We were all set for a return of the very successful and enjoyable Comedy Night in March only for it to be cancelled a week beforehand due the pandemic. We will rearrange this when we are able to – thank you to Suzi Lewis who agreed to help organize again. It was a shame that our biggest fundraiser – Bike Night – was also cancelled, although I do think there were a few people who enjoyed a year off!

Another area effected by lockdown was the pool – after all the effort to retrain people as Emergency Responders last year the cover has stayed on this year. Let's hope we can reopen next year as I know it is loved by the children and so beneficial to their confidence in the water.

Alongside the shutdown of our events, our funds were also not needed by the school from March to September – but before that, we had subsidised the school trips and paid for the Christmas Panto. I know that some trips are now being planned and some classes have already had workshops in school – something we are keen to continue to support. We have also been asked by the school to buy some more Chromebooks – a resource many parents found vital through lockdown and we feel it is very important for the school to have the ability to assist the children in this way.

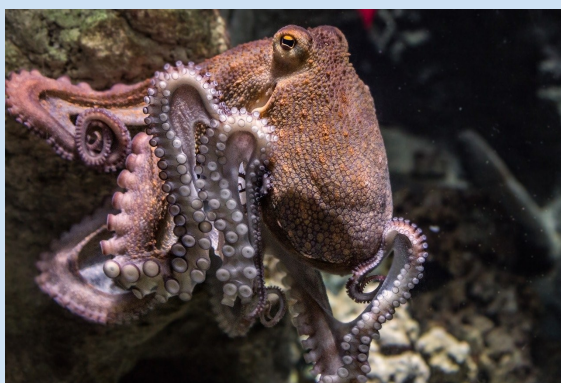
So to a new school year – a very different year – and we need to adapt our fundraising to suit this new socially distanced, 'zoomed' world. If anyone has any ideas to keep our fundraising going, please stay for the following short meeting.

So, thanks to everyone again for their support and we always welcome any new members to join us for the coming year or any fresh ideas for events.

Garry Peasley
Chair, SPSA



Octopuses are truly amazing! To mark World Octopus Day 2020, here are 5 things you might not know about these remarkable creatures.




© Photo © Rachel Wyatt

Visit www.mcsuk.org to donate today



Every year, through our Beachwatch programme MCS takes to our beaches with the help of thousands of volunteers to clear them of litter. Your donation could help us clean even more beaches.

1. They can be bigger than a bus!

The biggest giant Pacific octopus ever recorded reached a whopping 600 pounds. That's nearly 4 times the weight of the average human being. This ridiculously big octopus was also 30 feet across, that's longer than a London bus!

The smallest type of octopus is called an octopus wolffi. They only weigh a gram and they are pretty adorable.

2. They can walk on land!

That's right, octopuses can use their tentacles to walk along the beach if they are trapped in a low tide or hunting for prey amongst the rock pools. After eating all the prey in one pool, they just pull themselves out of the water and go find the next place to hunt.

If you do see an octopus walking on land, make sure you give it plenty of space so that you don't frighten it. If you think that something may be wrong; it's best to contact [The British Divers Marine Life Rescue](#).

Never attempt to put any marine animal back in the ocean without help or advice from the experts as it may be sick or injured.

3. They are seriously smart!

Octopuses are so clever. They can open jars (both from the inside and the outside). They also build a fortress of stones around them as they sleep to protect them from predators.

Did we mention they are masters of camouflage?! The mimic octopus purposely impersonates a deadly sea snake to scare off predators and other species even hide and protect themselves by carrying around their favourite shell or coconut.

4. It's not octopi

Did you notice the word octopuses in the title and cringe at our spelling error? Actually, octopi is not the plural of octopus, that is a total myth! Sorry to disappoint you, we love how the word octopus rolls off the tongue too.

5. Octopuses are in trouble

They are over 300 different species of octopus (that we know of!) Just like all other marine life; they are seriously threatened by pollution, loss of habitat and over-fishing. The decline of octopuses also threatens the sharks, birds, whales, dolphins and other fish that eat them.

The marine food web is deeply interconnected, so protecting every species counts!

If you would like to help protect octopuses, here are some ideas:

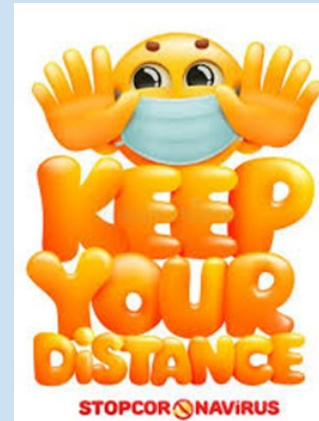
- Use non toxic cleaning products in your home and office.
- Reduce your consumption of fish. Only buy fish recommended via our [Good Fish Guide](#).
- Introduce more organic food into your diet, which are not sprayed with pesticides that run off into rivers and the sea.
- Reduce how much single-use plastic you use.
- Wash synthetic clothes in a protective washing bag to prevent microfibres accumulating in the sea.
- Purchase goods in local shops to reduce the disturbing noise and climate change associated with international shipping.
- Support the work of charities like us by [donating](#) or volunteering at a [beach clean](#).

What you can do

Keep 2 metres distance



Give other parents plenty of space when dropping off / picking up



Wherever possible, don't allow children from different class bubbles to mix



What School is doing

Staggered start/finish times



Washing Hands



Social Bubbles (in class and outside play areas)



Raise FREE donations for

St Peter's School Cassington PTA

every time you **shop online**

Find us on [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stpeterscassington/>

4,300 online sites will give us a free donation
when you shop with them - at no extra cost to you!



Download the easyfundraising App



St. Peter's School Year Book 2019



Now only

£5

We still have a few of our lovely 2018/2019 yearbooks left - now only £5! If you'd like one, please pay on Parentmail and then email Emily and she'll pass one on to you.

Please note:

If you'd like anything put into the newsletter, I need it by Friday, **1pm at the latest.** Thank you



If your child has an award below, you will be sent a link next week to join in with our virtual celebration assembly:

Class	Special Award Term Focus - Reflection	Star Award
	Arthur Prior	Otilie Jones Phoebe Knight
	Julia Dixon	Wolfie Lee Layla Black
	Oliver Rees	George Hatwell Tom Morton
	Harry Lewis	Amelie Johnson Izzy Butler
	Ciara Boyne-Ryan	



A Message From Mr Jeffries



Dear Parents/Carers,

This week was the turn of Maple class for an inspirational visit with a man from Ancient Greece paying us a visit. The children had a thoroughly enjoyable day which built upon what they have been learning this term. The artefacts and stories brought the Greeks to life; these visits really are an important part of the experience for children so a big thank you to the teachers for organising them. Next week it is Oak class' turn with the Great Fire of London!

Covid has put a dampener on a lot of things but at St Peter's, we like to find solutions! With us not being able to hold a Christmas fair this year, we are very keen to explore different avenues of raising money for the school (through the SPSA) and also making the festive season as fun and enjoyable as possible. The Events Pupil Leadership Group have made and sent home a leaflet for each KS1 and KS2 child asking them to think of ideas. Please have a look at this with them and share your thoughts. Each entry returned to school will receive a raffle ticket and three lucky winners will be able to choose a book each in next week's celebration assembly. There is a short video on the website of the team explaining what you need to do – have a look!

<https://www.st-petersoxon.co.uk/events/>

The children continue to work incredibly hard and I was proud to report to governors this week of their achievements. The hunger and thirst for learning in each class is clearly evident and we have already seen huge progress in these first six weeks of the year. Let's keep it up over the next two weeks before a very well deserved break.

Warmest wishes,

Jon Jeffries

Wash Your Hands!



Wet Hands
under warm running water



Add Soap
to help kill germs



Scrub
for at least 15 seconds



Rinse
well under warm
running water



Dry
hands with a clean towel



Wellbeing Guide

Issue #19

Welcome to the Wellbeing Guide - practical activities to boost children's wellbeing.

INSIDE OUT is an innovative education charity created to improve the wellbeing of primary school children through our [5 Keys to Happiness](#). Our purpose is to inspire children to be happy, inside and out. You can find our 5 Keys poster to print out on the next page.

Have fun. Stay safe. Stay well.



KEY 1 / LOOK INSIDE

Tune in to Churchie the dog's adventures in [Little Chapters of Chill](#), free 12-minute mindful stories to bring some chill to your day.

Simply sit back, relax and listen!

KEY 2 / MOVE OUTSIDE

Try this fun [physical activity bingo](#) with your family or your classmates and see who can be the first to complete a line or get a full house!

If you finish it, why not try making your own?



KEY 3 / SHARE MORE

Share your favourite summer memories with your friends and classmates and practice your listening skills with a simple sharing circle and a ball.

Whoever is holding the ball shares their stories, then pass it around the room!



KEY 4 / BE CURIOUS

Did you know you can build your own [birds' nest](#) using just a few twigs and fallen leaves? Make sure to only use what you can find on the ground.

Don't forget to snap a picture of your visitors and share it with us on [Facebook](#)!



KEY 5 / BE KIND

Compliment cards are a wonderful act of kindness that can spread joy and brighten someone's day. Write your own or print [these](#) and spread the love.

You could hand them out to friends or leave them for a stranger to find!



5 KEYS TO HAPPINESS

An evidence-based framework to improve wellbeing.



1 / LOOK INSIDE

Inspire self reflection,
focusing, being quiet, self calming



2 / MOVE OUTSIDE

Promote non-competitive
outdoor exercise



3 / SHARE MORE

Encourage connection,
teamwork and communication



4 / BE CURIOUS

Stimulate growth mindsets,
exploration, experimentation
and making



5 / BE KIND

Support an attitude of
caring for oneself, others
and the environment