



Dear Parents and Carers,

Apologies for the late update, I've been busy processing this term's photos, of which there were many, and the links are below. It's also been a VERY busy week all round.

### **Preschool Press**

In Preschool the children have been learning about Chinese New Year. By looking at information books and listening to stories they have found out how Chinese New Year is celebrated by cleaning homes, hanging red and gold decorations, eating delicious food and gifting lucky envelopes filled with money. The children discovered that each year is named after a different animal and that 2024 is the Year of the Dragon. They blew bubbles in paint to decorate Dragon masks, covered their hands with paint to print pictures of Dragons and used their scissor skills to make Dragon puppets. During music the children performed a Dragon dance with their masks and a large red Dragon (who might once have been Santa's sleigh!) And in Outdoor learning the children waded through lots and lots of mud in search of Nian the Chinese Monster before chasing him away with loud noises. Noodles and rice were on the menu in our Chinese Restaurant and everyone enjoyed the challenge of eating with chopsticks. It has been a fabulous week for developing the children's understanding that there are different countries in the world with many traditions and celebrations. Kung Hei Fat Choi!

### **PTA News**

Hopefully the children enjoyed the sponsored Sing-Along yesterday. If you haven't managed to submit your sponsor money yet then don't worry there is still time. If you could bring the sponsor form and the money into school during the first week back after half term it would be appreciated. We will then be able to update you on the amount raised for our wonderful music department. The children sang for an incredible 7.5 hours and 114 songs, with no silence, all day. Check Google Classrooms for a lovely activity for the children to complete over the half term to celebrate the Chinese New Year. All details are on Google Classroom and all entries will receive a small treat. We have some lovely events to look forward to after half term including the Wonka Bar Pop Up Stall on World Book Day and a lovely treat for Mother's Day. Further details on both events will be communicated after half term. We also have some exciting news regarding Holi, the Hindu Festival of Colour. On Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March the PTA have paid for 'The Indian Experience' to come into school for the day. This is a wonderful chance for the children to learn more about this beautiful festival through stories, dressing up in traditional Indian clothing and participating in Indian folk and Bollywood style dancing. It will be a lovely day to remember! We truly appreciate every penny we receive. Without the wonderful support from all of the parents with everything that is donated we wouldn't be able to provide the children with some of the lovely things they get to experience. Did you know the PTA paid for 50% of the cost towards the Oundle Literature Festival? We are also currently looking into getting the four-square lines repainted on the playground! If anyone has any suggestions about something they would like the PTA to consider funding then please do speak to any member of the committee.

### **This Term in Photos**

Year 4 London Trip - <https://www.st-peters.org.uk/year4explorers>

Year 5 Space Centre Trip - <https://www.st-peters.org.uk/spacecentre>

Year 6 Science Trip - <https://www.st-peters.org.uk/bosworthscience>

PTA Singalong - <https://www.st-peters.org.uk/pta-singalong>

Lent Term 1 part I - <https://www.st-peters.org.uk/lent124part1>

Lent Term 1 part II - <https://www.st-peters.org.uk/lent124part2>

Big Garden Birdwatch - <https://www.st-peters.org.uk/birdwatch24>

Preschool - <https://www.st-peters.org.uk/preschoollent124>

## **Staff News**

This week, we bid a fond farewell to Mrs Hannah, who has been an exceptional part of our Year 3 team during her year of maternity cover. Her dedication, warmth, and skillful teaching have significantly enriched our community, and while we are sad to see her go, we wish her all the best in her future endeavours. We are hopeful and look forward to the opportunity to welcome Mrs Hannah back in some capacity in the future. As we close one chapter, we are thrilled to reopen another. Mrs Graves returns to us, bringing her vibrant energy and passion for teaching back into the classroom. With Baby Graves celebrating their first birthday, Mrs Graves is now ready to dive back into her role, having visited several times this week to ensure a smooth transition. In other joyous news, we extend our heartfelt best wishes to the Day family. Mrs Day is expecting, and with the arrival of their new bundle of joy anticipated this half term, we share in their excitement. Mr Day is embracing the wonderful journey of becoming a first-time father, and the entire community is eagerly awaiting updates and hopefully some delightful baby news.

## **Reception Class Assembly**

On Monday, our Reception class took us on a thrilling journey back in time with their first class assembly on dinosaurs, inspired by the exciting escapades of Andy's Dinosaur Adventures. Our young explorers showcased their incredible knowledge and enthusiasm for these prehistoric creatures, captivating us all with their vivid creations and imaginative reenactments. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all the parents who came to support their little ones, making the event even more special with your presence. The highlight of the assembly was undoubtedly the children's amazing singing performance. Reception class truly made history come alive for us all.

## **What a Week!**

This past week has been one of remarkable exploration, full of adventure and discovery across various year groups. Our Year 6 students embarked on an extraordinary scientific journey, visiting Bosworth Independent School's laboratories. There, they delved into the fascinating world of science, conducting experiments that included launching rockets into space and learning with Bunsen burners, and chemical molecules kits. This hands-on experience not only enriched their understanding of scientific principles but also ignited their imaginations. Year 4 students ventured into the heart of London, embracing a day full of adventure that complemented their explorers topic. Their itinerary included visits to the Maritime Museum and the iconic ships Cutty Sark and the Golden Hinde. They immersed themselves in the rich history and exploration heritage of the city, culminating their journey with a ride on the DLR. This outing provided a perfect blend of education and exploration, leaving lasting memories. Adding to the week's highlights, three talented performers participated in the prestigious Prep School Orchestra Day at Uppingham School Memorial Hall, joining 300 other performers. Their dedication and hard work culminated in a stunning performance that was both inspiring and memorable. It was a testament to the power of music in bringing communities together and showcasing the incredible talents of our students. Year 3 students concluded their exploration of Roman history with a captivating Roman Day, marking the end of their topic on Romans. This immersive experience allowed them to live out the history they've learned, deepening their understanding and appreciation of Roman culture and achievements.

## **Peri Update**

- Starting week commencing 19th February: Piano, Violin, Cello, Lamda and Ballet
- Starting week commencing 26th February: Drums, Woodwind and Vocal

## **Children's Mental Health Week**

This week has been Children's Mental Health Week in the UK. We make children's mental health a priority all year round at St P's. The school nursing team have asked me to share the following approved contacts:

- School Nurse (Mon-Fri) - Text 07507329600
- Shout (24/7) - Text SHOUT to 85258
- Childline (24/7) - Call 0800 1111
- CAMHS Connect (9am-7pm) - Call 0300 1111022
- Samaritans (24/7) - Call 116123, email [jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org)

The half term break comes at a good time as we're all getting tired. I hope you all have a restful break and have an opportunity to prioritise your time together and family wellbeing. Fingers crossed for England later today (sorry Mrs hannah!) and don't forget it's Valentine's Day on Wednesday. Our House pancake flipping competition will have to wait until the first week back, so get practising!

Regards,

**Mr Thomas**

Headteacher