



## St John the Baptist C of E (Aided) Primary School

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Newsletter No. 20 – Friday 23rd February 2024

Dear Families

What a wet week we have had! Despite the weather, Holly Class and Rowan Class managed to complete their trips to Chichester and Fishbourne. Holly Class visited the Cathedral, Novium Museum and had a guided walk round Chichester, which links with their local history topic. Rowan visited the Roman Palace in Fishbourne and took part in a great workshop experiencing the different aspects of Roman life. This links with their history topic on the Romans.

It is always a great opportunity to get our children out for experiential learning and this helps to consolidate and support the learning in the classroom.

Best wishes

Jane Sharrock

### WORLD THINKING DAY

It was fantastic to see so many of our children coming to school yesterday in their Rainbow, Brownie, Guide, Beaver and Cub uniforms, showing their support for World Thinking Day.



## ATTENDANCE SPOTLIGHT

The Government has recently launched a national campaign to remind parents and carers of the importance of school attendance. The campaign strapline is “moments matter, attendance counts”.

One of the campaign aims is to reassure parents that the NHS and the Chief Medical Officer say it is usually appropriate for parents and carers to send their children to school with mild respiratory illnesses, including general cold symptoms like a minor cough, a runny nose or sore throat. We have included links with detailed guidance for your information.

[Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/major-national-drive-to-improve-school-attendance>

If your child misses a day of school, they miss five teaching inputs explaining up to five new pieces of knowledge or skills. We have a progressive curriculum and if lessons are missed children lose the deeper understanding.

“Regular school attendance can facilitate positive peer relationships, which is a protective factor for mental health and wellbeing.”

*Moments Matter, Attendance Counts (2024)*

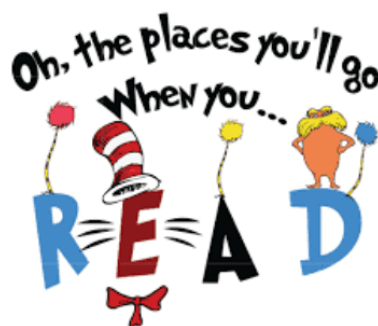
The Attendance Policy is on the school website and we would like to remind our families that authorised absences are given for exceptional and rare circumstances.

## REMINDER - WORLD BOOK DAY

We will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024 and as a school, we are planning a variety of exciting activities to promote and encourage children to see themselves as a reader.

**We are asking the children to come into school dressed as their favourite book character, sharing the books that they enjoy reading or having read to them.**

We will also be doing a ‘Teacher Read’, where members of staff will be reading their favourite books and children can choose which classroom they wish to visit and which books they wish to hear. Individual key stages will be planning their own activities for the day but all will involve the children seeing themselves as readers and enjoying books. World Book Day will be a fun-filled and productive day for the children celebrating the pleasure that is found in reading and promoting reading for all!



## BOOK OF THE MONTH BY MISS COVE

I chose 'Actual Size' by Steve Jenkins for my February book choice because I love how it captivates the interests of the children through great pictures and interesting facts. It sparks numerous investigations as children ponder questions like how many human eyes are equivalent to a giant squid's eye or how many Duplo bricks long is an anteater's tongue? The 'actual size' images allow children to visually comprehend the sizes of various creatures, allowing comparisons with their own hand, head, or feet.

**Miss Cove's Book of the Month**

My book for the month is 'Actual Size' by Steve Jenkins. This captivating book, along with Steve's other works, introduces children to both familiar and unusual creatures. The book is a treasure trove of interesting facts that engage readers of all ages. One of the most exciting aspects is the opportunity it provides to compare the sizes of our own hands, eyes, or tongue to those of the animals featured in the book. Steve Jenkins, an accomplished American author, has a remarkable collection of children's books, primarily centered around the intriguing world of animals.

**Giant Squid's Eye**  
A giant squid's eye is an impressive 25cm in diameter!

**Hercules Moth**  
The Hercules moth has a wingspan of up to 30cm in length, the average moth's wingspan is just 2.5cm!

**Human eye**  
The human eye is about 2.3cm in diameter. I wonder how many human eyes it would take to fill the giant squid's eye?

**African Land Snail**  
The African land snail can reach 20cm in length.

**Bee Hummingbird**  
The Bee Hummingbird, which is found only in Cuba, is 5.5cm in length.

**Giant Anteater's Tongue**  
A giant anteater's tongue is 60cm long and thin like a piece of spaghetti.

**Giant Armadillo**  
The giant armadillo's claw measures a scary 20cm in length!

**Cane Toad**  
The largest cane toad measured a 24cm in length - that is around the size of a Yorkshire Terrier!

**Gorilla**  
A gorilla's hand measures 30cm in length. Put your hand on his to see the size difference.

Books shown: 'Biggest, Strongest, Fastest', 'Eye to Eye', 'Creatures Features', 'Down Down Down', 'Actual Size'.

## NEWS FROM THE PTA

Hope everyone had a good half term, isn't the year flying by! We are already making plans for our Summer Revels, taking place on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June, which we hope will be another fantastic event. Next week we have our PTA meeting, it would be great to see some new faces...even if you can't commit to helping regularly but just want to find what is happening in the coming months then please do come along. We are meeting on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> Feb, 6pm at The Black Horse (skittle alley room).

Our yearly **Sponsored Bounce** event is also fast approaching and we really need a few more volunteers to help us with the running of this. If you would be able to help from 9-11.30am, please do come and speak to one of us or email [findonpta@gmail.com](mailto:findonpta@gmail.com). Please also keep an eye out in the coming days for the drawing competition for our Summer Revels, which will be sent home with the children to take part in!

**Upcoming events:** Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March: Sponsored Bounce, Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April: Bag2School, Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June: Summer Revels.

## DATES FOR SPRING AND SUMMER

Over the weeks, we will add **new dates/events in red**, so please make sure that you regularly check this list and update your diaries.

Tues 27 February	PTA meeting (6pm)
Sun 3 March	School Choir singing at morning service (St John's Church 10am)
Thurs 7 March	World Book Day
Fri 15 March	Comic Relief Day
<b>Tues 26 March</b>	<b>Easter Service, Rowan Class will be leading the service (9am at school)</b>
Wed 27 March	Oak Class assembly (2.45pm) – parents invited
Thurs 28 March	PTA Bouncy Castle fundraiser No Book Club/last day of term
Fri 29 March – Friday 12 April	Easter break
Mon 15 April	INSET Day
Thurs 18 April	PTA Bag2School collection (9am)
Mon 29 April – 2 May	Scholastic half price Book Fair
Wed 1 May	Ash and Willow trip to Amberley Museum
Mon 6 May	Bank Holiday, school closed
Mon 13 – Thurs 16 May	Y6 National Curriculum tests
Fri 17 May	PTA non-uniform day
Wed 22 May	Holly Class assembly (2.45pm) – parents invited
Mon 27 – Fri 31 May	Half-term break
Mon 3 June	INSET Day
Tues 4 June	Back to school
<b>Thurs 6 June</b>	<b>PTA Non-uniform day in aid of Revels</b>
<b>Fri 7 June</b>	<b>Class &amp; Year 6 leavers photos</b>
<b>Sat 8 June</b>	<b>SUMMER REVELS</b>
Mon 10 – Fri 14 June	Y5&Y6 Residential Trip
Wed 26 June	Y6 Leavers' Service at Chichester Cathedral
Wed 3 July	Y1& Y2 Class assembly (2.45pm) – parents invited

