

The February half term break marks the half way point of the academic year, it hardly seems possible to be here already! It has been good to see the lighter evenings start to return and we are looking forward to some warmer playtimes.

We have had a busy few weeks since Christmas; everyone has been working very hard and I think we are all ready for a good rest! I would especially like to acknowledge the resilience and adaptability of the staff and children as we have navigated this first phase of our roof works. Classes 1 and 2 have coped amazingly well in the hall, but I know they are excited about being back in their own classrooms after half term. We have had to adapt how we serve lunches, how we deliver Collective Worship, class assemblies, after school clubs and have PE at the village hall to name a few. Thank you so much to everyone for your patience and understanding.

**The spring term resumes on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February, have a lovely week!**

## EXPERIENCE LENT



## Our Lent Journey

Today all the classes have taken part in 'Experience Lent'. This is a hands-on journey through reflection stations to learn about the significance of Lent, Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday and preparing for Easter in the Christian faith.

Keep an eye on the school website for photos of the children taking part in all the activities.

Usually on Shrove Tuesday, we hold our traditional pancake race. This week we were unable to do this because of a combination of wet weather, sports events etc, so we are hoping to try again tomorrow!



# Whole school theatre trip information

## Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Our exciting theatre trip is fast approaching and takes place in the first week back after half term. Please take note of the following so you know what will be happening:

- Children come to school at normal time in uniform.
- We will be having an early lunch break.
- Coaches will be departing at approximately 12.30pm.
- Children do not need to bring any pocket money, snacks or drinks.
- Children should NOT have mobile phones or smart watches with them.
- We anticipate returning to school by around 5.30pm; we will send text updates.
- When the coaches arrive back at school, children will be taken back to their classrooms and you can collect them at their usual hometime spot.

- **IMPORTANT: PARKING THERE WILL BE NO PARKING AT ALL ON THE VILLAGE GREEN THAT DAY. Please do not park in a way that obstructs coach access at the top of the hill – we will have four full size coaches to manoeuvre. If you can walk or car share with other families to help ease congestion, that would be very helpful.**



## IMPORTANT: DINNERS

A reminder that children need to stick to a set pattern for school dinners or packed lunches. We cannot accommodate swapping and changing on a daily or ad-hoc basis. If you would like to discuss or change your child's lunch pattern, please speak to Mrs Joyce or Mrs Islam in the school office. Thank you!

# SPRING ASSESSMENT WEEK & PARENT CONSULTATIONS

This term's assessment week will take place in the week commencing **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March**.

**Please try to avoid absence and appointments in that week.**

Parent consultations will then take place in the week commencing 18<sup>th</sup> March. We will be offering some face-to-face appointments on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March, or you may choose to have a phone call or video meetings with your child's teacher on other days that week.

We will let you know when bookings will open on Arbor so that you can make your appointment. *If you need a particular day or time, we recommend that you go online as soon as bookings open to avoid disappointment.*

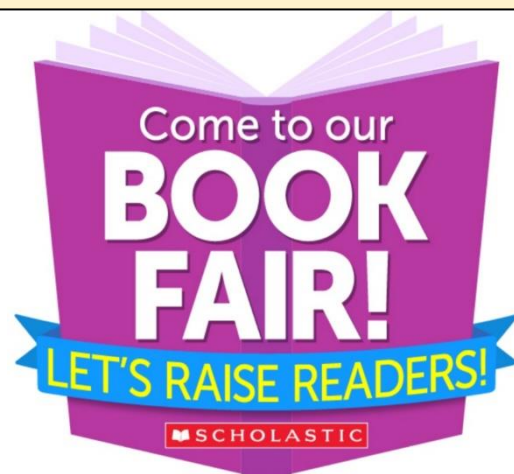
## REMINDERS: watches, jewellery & hair

A polite reminder of the following:

- Children can wear a simple analogue or digital watch for school. **Smart watches, Fitbits etc are not permitted.**
- If your child has pierced ears they may wear simple stud earrings which need to be removed for swimming or PE. If they cannot be removed, please supply your child with a roll of micropore tape in their PE bag so that they can cover them for sports. **Hooped earrings of any kind are not permitted.**
- To avoid the spread of head lice, please ensure that hair beyond shoulder length is tied back for school; plaits are particularly effective for this.
- Nail varnish and make up are not allowed.

## BOOK FAIR

The Book Fair will be in school after half term on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February and Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March.



## BOOK FAIR COMPETITION: win a £5 book token

Mrs Thain has set another fun competition to celebrate the upcoming Book Fair – a perfect half term activity!

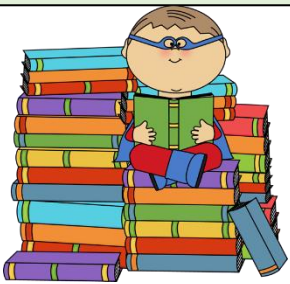
The instructions are coming home today in book bags, entries close on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February.

# PTA meeting – TONIGHT!

7.30pm at The Bird in Hand, Gosmore

Please join us for the first PTA meeting 2024, all are welcome!

We will be sharing fundraising ideas and making plans for the year ahead; we would love to have some new faces. It's a lovely way to get to know other parents and a great way to support the school too.



## WORLD BOOK DAY

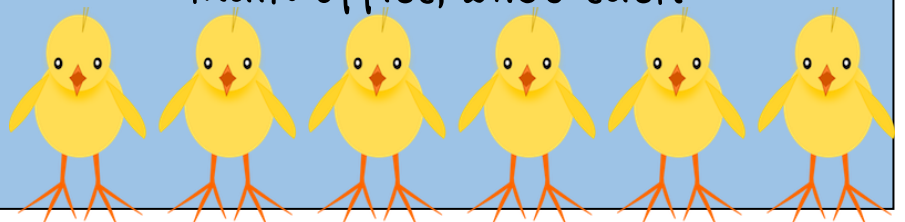
World Book Day is one of the highlights of the school year at St Ippolyts and this year takes place on **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March**.

Everyone in school dresses up as a story character and the children take part in a fancy dress parade in the morning with prizes for the most inventive or original costumes. We spend the whole day on book-related activities, and it is always lots of fun.



### Charlie Chicks are back!

In aid of the Garden House Hospice, Charlie Chicks are now on sale at the main office, £1.50 each





## Term time holidays & unauthorised absence

We strongly discourage parents from taking children out of school for term time breaks. **However, we very much appreciate and value your honesty when you intend to do this.**

When a child is absent from school, the decision as to whether the absence is authorised or unauthorised is at the discretion of the headteacher, regardless of the reason given by parents. Where we have reason to believe that a family was on holiday rather than unwell, the absence will not be authorised and may still result in a penalty notice.

We have had several instances where children have been reported as unwell, but upon their return to school, children tell us about all the lovely things they did on their holiday that week. It puts us in a very difficult position when we have reason to believe that parents are not being truthful with us.

So, whilst we would very much prefer it if families did not have holidays in term time at all, if you intend to do so, telling us the truth about your child's absence would be very much appreciated.

## Class 3 Cake Day Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March

Dear Class 3 parents,

The PTA are holding a cake sale on 8<sup>th</sup> March to raise funds for school. This time it is the turn of Class 3 to each supply small cakes or biscuits to sell on the day. Please make sure that any tins, plates or containers are clearly named.

We would be very grateful if you could **donate 15 cakes for cake day**, to ensure that we have enough to go around & the children are not left disappointed. These cakes /biscuits can be either homemade or bought. You may want to plan some kitchen time to make or decorate the cakes with your child! **PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL CAKES MUST BE NUT-FREE.**

The cakes will be sold during the morning break to the whole of the school, any remaining cakes will be sold outside school at home time. We hope that you will be able to support us with this event, and we thank you in anticipation.

Thank you from The PTA



## This week's article from our talented Pupil Journalists Amelie and Barney

This week was fabulous with the Young Worship assembly, pancake day and indoor athletics. Well done to Class 4, who performed a fabulous class assembly about WW2.

### Children's Mental Health Week

As you may already know, last week was Children's Mental Health Week.

This is a week devoted to raising awareness and giving young people the tools and skills they need to help their mental health.

You can find some physical activities here on Stormbreak that will help you talk about how you are feeling at the same time; <https://www.stormbreak.org.uk/>

### Chinese New Year

You may also know that last Saturday was Chinese New Year. This year is the year of the dragon. If you were born in 2012 then you may be the year of the dragon too.

### Reminders:

- School disco on Friday the 1st March 5:30pm – 7pm, so remember to book your tickets if you would like to go.
- Parent consultations will be on the week starting with the 18th March

### Quote of the week:

The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step...

-anonymous      This is an ancient Chinese proverb.

**We hope you all have a fantastic half term and have lots of fun!**

# SPORTS



By our fab  
Sports Reporter,  
Libby in Year 5



## Year 5 Badminton Tournament

Yesterday afternoon, 8 of the year 5s went to Barnwell Upper School to take part in a badminton tournament. Including us, there were 8 schools who went and overall, St Ippolyts came home carrying bronze medals around their necks!

We spoke to the captain, Libby Lewis (myself!) and this is what she told us: "When the leaders called our names out for coming 3rd, I was super duper happy with what my team had achieved.

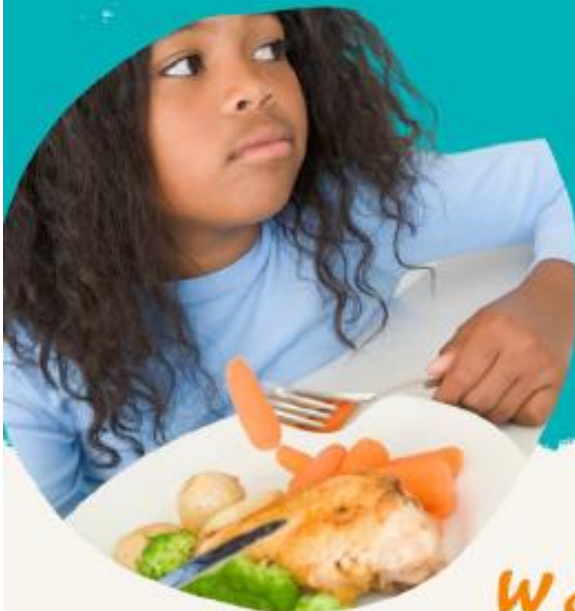
Although we just missed out on silver or gold, coming home with a medal made my day the perfect day!"

Well done team, great work!

## Y5/6 Athletics

A huge well done to the Y5/6 children who competed in the SSFT Indoor Athletics tournament yesterday. Both the girls and the boys teams won their heat - congratulations! We have to wait until later in the week to find out the overall results once all the heats have taken place. Well done everyone!





# GOT CONCERNS ABOUT FUSSY EATING?

*Won't eat their veggies?*

*Can't get them to try new foods?*

Join BeeZee Bodies and lots of other parents who struggle with fussy eating, on our special **FUSSY EATING MASTERCLASS**.

It will be led by our Nutritionists who can help you understand why they might be picky, how to manage it and practical tips you can implement today.

Whatever their age, if you are struggling with your child's fussiness around food, sign up for free!

**SIGN UP FOR YOUR FREE SESSION:**

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 6pm-7pm

Click below or scan QR to sign up:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/fussy-eating-masterclass-tickets-789050761067?aff=oddtcreator>



 BeeZee Families

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 [beezeebodies.com](http://beezeebodies.com)