



# Autumn 2 2023

## Newsletter

### John Clifford School



It is with great sadness that **Simon Hogg** completes his long-standing position as Chair of Governors. Simon has supported the school through some very difficult times, and we are eternally grateful for all that he has done. Thank you, Simon, from all the staff and the children of JCS.

In January, **Katherine Calder** takes up position as Chair and we wish great success in this new role.

Join the Local Governing Body and help to shape the continued success of our school. Please contact [karen.jong@johnclifford.school](mailto:karen.jong@johnclifford.school) for more information.

#### The Friends of John Clifford

Thank you to the Friends of John Clifford for all of their fundraising efforts this year. The Christmas Fayre was very well attended and there was lots of fun things to do. Fundraising from this and other events has supported the Christmas party goodies for all children and a small wrapped gift.

The Christmas Cards were another great incentive from The Friends, and many parents and carers were able to purchase cards made by their special people.

Thank you to parents and carers for continuing to support and enjoy events organised by The Friends of John Clifford. If you would like to get involved, in any small way then please contact [friends@johnclifford.school](mailto:friends@johnclifford.school)



#### Year 2 Go Back in Time

Recently, Year 2 have visited Newstead Abbey to experience a Victorian Christmas. The children played with Victorian toys, made herb bags and enjoyed a silhouette show just as children in this era would have experienced. They were dressed for the occasion and had an amazing educational experience. Thank you to all parents and carers for supporting the uniform change. Thank you to all the parents and carers who accompanied the children on this trip and for dressing accordingly. It was a magical experience.



### Year 3 Visited Creswell Crags

Year 3 visited Creswell Crags, where the children were able to explore a cave, arrange real animal skeletons and test their survival skills for life in the Stone Age. One of our children even located a Pipistrelle bat, the smallest species of bat in the UK that somehow manages to eat around 3,000 insects each night. These bats usually hibernate on the other side of the gorge, so this was a really special find. All the children thoroughly enjoyed learning more about life in the Stone Age and did a great job of impressing the staff with their understanding. Well done Year 3 and thank you to the staff and parents that supported.



### Year 5 Visited the National Space Centre

Year 5 had a fantastic day developing their knowledge of the planets, the characters involved in space exploration and the entire universe too. To describe the children as enthusiastic upon arrival would be an understatement - they were so excited at the prospect of looking at real life space suits worn by Tim Peake and Helen Sharman (two of our main protagonists in their work on biographies) as well as seeing the real-life rockets, space capsules and satellites that had been launched into space and safely returned. Well done Year 5 and thank you to everyone who supported the trip.



## Safeguarding



During the winter break, it is likely that the children will spend a lot of time on various devices. Please be mindful of the permissions and content and familiarise yourselves with potential risks that technology unfortunately brings. Please see letter sent 15 Dec 2023.

## Phonics!

Thank you to parents and carers who attended the Phonics workshop this term. To refresh and then support children, please see

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/reading-schemes-oxford-levels/essential-letters-and-sounds/>



## Staffing News

This term we say goodbye to Heidi Lavelle, Karen Haywood and Paula Yarnall. They have been amazing assets to our school and will be sadly missed. We wish them well in all that they do and thank them for their dedication to the children and community. Thank you.

**Thank you to all parents, carers, children and staff for a lovely first term. You are amazing people and we are so blessed to be able to share this JCS community.**



**Merry Christmas  
and  
Happy Holidays  
to one and all.**



**The start of the Spring Term is Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024.**

## Dates for Spring Term

Start of Spring Term – Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024  
Half-Term Break – Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024  
Spring Term 2 starts – Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024  
Spring Break – Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> March 2024  
Start of Summer Term – Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024  
Bank Holiday - Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> May 2024

