



St James' RC Primary Newsletter

Friday 7th June 2019

Twitter: @stjamesrc

Issue 31

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents,

I hope that you all had a good and restful half term break.

I started the week by meeting with the contractors involved in the work that is due to start soon using money that we successfully bid for. The Condition Improvement Fund is a bid that academies can apply for to obtain capital funding. This money can be used to address significant condition need, keeping academy buildings safe and in good working order. This includes funding projects to address health and safety issues, building compliance and poor building condition. We are having work carried out on the electrics, fire safety equipment and roof. The work will start at the end of June and finish at the end of December. I am confident that the construction work will not disturb the running of the school and I will of course keep you updated on the progress.

I also held a meeting this week with a representative from The Bromley Mental Health Trailblazer Team. The Government have launched 25 new trailblazer regions across the country and Bromley has been selected as one of the regions. In the last few years there have been improvements in mental health services and a reduction in the stigma surrounding mental illness. The new Trailblazer regions will see schools and the NHS working together to pilot proposals from the Government's children and young people's mental health green paper. The plans are a joint project between the Departments of Health and Social Care and Department for Education and include each school having a designated mental health lead and training new mental health support teams. Education Secretary Damian Hinds said: "Children today experience pressures that we as adults often find hard to appreciate, or possibly

even understand". It is hoped that the new support teams working with schools will develop models of early intervention on mild to moderate mental health issues as well as providing help to staff within a school setting. The teams will act as a link with local children and young people's mental health services and be supervised by NHS staff. We have been chosen to be one of the Bromley schools involved in this project and we are already making plans about how this intervention can help us.

On Wednesday two speakers from The Society of St Vincent de Paul spoke to KS2 about the 'Mini Vinnies'. The Society of St Vincent de Paul has developed the 'Mini Vinnies' programme - a Primary School initiative. 'Mini Vinnies' are children aged between 7 to 11 who, with the permission of their parents and the support of their schools, are encouraged to embark on their first steps as possible 'Vincentians for life'. As Mini Vinnies, the youngsters have their own 'treasured' Prayer, Pledge and Badge, a dedicated website and a range of resources. Many of the children showed a great interest in joining this group and we are very excited about starting this at St James'.



This week we welcomed The St James the Great Preschool to school so that they could use our field for their sports day. We hope that they had a good morning. They were certainly lucky with the weather.

On Thursday KS2 took part in an assembly commemorating the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings. The children understand how the veterans showed heroism, courage and sacrifice and that this should never be forgotten.

On Friday we held an amazing International Day. Huge thanks must go to Mrs Martin and Miss McCarthy for organising such a fantastic event. The day was a celebration of different cultures. Thank you to parents for providing costumes and food. We finished the day with Bollywood dancing led by Mrs Chittilappily.



This week I had a lovely email from the CWL who wanted to thank the Gardening Club for growing and donating plants to their plant sale at the church in aid of the Anti-Human Trafficking Project. In total the CWL raised £700. Thank you and well done to Mrs Deasy and the Gardening Club.



Unfortunately we did not win the RHS Garden Council team of the Year but we received this lovely message explaining that we still won some

wonderful prizes...

"Thank you so much for sending in St James' RC Primary School's nomination video for our School Gardeners of the Year competition. We spent two whole days watching all our finalist's videos and we were blown away by everyone's sheer passion and dedication to gardening. Unfortunately, your Garden Council did not win Team of the Year this time around, but they remain one of only four finalists selected from the many entries we received. So they still have plenty to be proud about! In recognition of your team making it to the final of our competition, they will receive a certificate, an engraved trowel, thirty pairs of gardening gloves, a set of gardening tools and £250 in National Garden Gift vouchers to spend on the school garden. Thank you again for entering the competition and bringing our attention to your fantastic team. We really hope that being finalists helps to encourage them even more in the garden!"

Please see the attached 'Activity Passport' which we are introducing. 'The Activity Passport' has been launched to encourage more family time and help build children's character and resilience. Endorsed by organisations including the Scouts, Girl Guiding and the National Trust – as well as the children's charity Action for Children - the list of activities is intended to support parents and schools in introducing children to a wide variety of experiences. Every child is encouraged to take part in the tasks that will hopefully help them to build their personal skills and qualities during the school day and at home. The vision for every child is for them to have the opportunity to enjoy new and varied experiences, no matter their background - comprising of key areas: drive and tenacity; sticking at the task at hand; understanding how to work towards long term goals when reward might be a long way off in the future; and being able to pick yourself up and bounce back from life's challenges. These activities will hopefully inspire children to problem-solve, provide opportunities to see or visit new places and develop wide interests in new subjects. The activities are designed to be accessible so that every child and family can get involved. Alongside this, children are asked to take part in 30 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity a day outside of

school. 'The Activity Passport' will be kept in school and the activities for the year will be shared with families. The children have all been given a passport in school and will tick the 15 activities off as they are completed. There are also 5 activities to be done at home. Class teachers will be contacting you in September to ask which ones have been completed. We hope that the children enjoy taking part.

Next week we have lots to look forward to including the Year 2 Class Assembly at 2:50 on Friday 14th.

This Saturday please keep the Year 3 children who are making their First Holy Communion in your prayers. We hope they have a day that they will always remember and that the sun shines.

Have a lovely weekend
Mrs Weeks

Dates

June

Monday 10th-Friday 14th Year 1 Phonic Check

Tuesday 11th Choir to visit Memory Café

Tuesday 11th Minni Vinnies to attend Mass at Westminster Cathedral

Thursday 13th PTA own clothes day

Friday 14th Year 2 Class Assembly at 2:50 (Parents are welcome)

Wednesday 19th Prayer Day: The Eucharist

Wednesday 19th Secondary Transfer Meeting at 7pm for Year 4 and Year 5 parents

Thursday 20th Year 3 Class Mass in school

Friday 21st Sports Day

Monday 24th Year 5 River Study

Monday 24th KS1 Hever Castle visit

Friday 28th Reserve Date for Sports Day

Saturday 29th PTA Summer Fair

July

Monday 1st Open classrooms for parents to look at trays at 3:20

Thursday 4th Meeting for New Reception Class (2019) parents at 7pm

Friday 5th Reports to parents

Tuesday 9th and Wednesday 10th Year 6 Production at 7pm

Wednesday 10th-Friday 12th Newstead Woods Year 5 Enrichment

Friday 12th Helen O'Grady Performance 1:15 (Parents welcome)

Friday 12th Walk Around Evening to look at trays and meet with teachers 4-6pm

Wednesday 17th Year 6 to visit Bank of America

Thursday 18th Summer Walk in Jubilee Park at 9:15

Tuesday 23rd Leaver's Mass at 10:00

Tuesday 23rd End of Term

Wednesday Word

This Week's Word is **PENTECOST**. We explained to the children that at Pentecost Jesus' disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit and the mission of the Church began. The children were also told that the Holy Spirit is alive and active today.

Safeguarding

LIKE (soon to be rebranded as Likee) is a free video creation and editing app that has a global community of over 200 million users who can create any type of video, add their own special effects and then upload and share them with the world. The app is largely used to create short music videos which users can star in and edit anyway they want using the "Magic Video Maker." Users share their videos on the platform as well as having the option to share across other social media outlets such as Facebook and Instagram. Due to the suggestive content that is available on the app, it has a recommended age of 16+, although the app store rate it as 17+.

Attendance

Class	Attendance (%)	Occasions Late
Rec	95.16	1
Y1	98.52	0
Y2	96.67	3
Y3	93.13	0
Y4	98.44	1
Y5	90.61	0
Y6	93.87	0

Year	Number of wins
Rec	1
Y1	5
Y2	1
Y3	0
Y4	0
Y5	0
Y6	2

Sports News

Our cricket teams competed in day-long tournaments this week in sun and rain.

Our girls played in the development league and after a tense wait and much counting, they came out winners ahead of Hayes and Balgowan. Well done girls!

The boys competed in the main tournament against 24 other schools. In their group they managed two wins and two loses. The highlight of their day, however, was meeting two Kent first team players and one of the England cricketers!

A great day was had by all!

Mrs Connolly



Other Messages...

Dear Parents

At St James' we want to celebrate the abilities and talents of **all** our children. We would like to be informed if your child is doing something outside of school that we may be unaware of. Please let us know what activities your child participates in, especially if they are performing at a higher level than expected for their age range. If you would like to share this information, please complete the attached form and return it to me via the school

office.

Please remember that every child's achievements and talents are celebrated during Friday's Award Assembly.

Many thanks Mrs Wilson

PTA News

The St James' Summer Fair is on Saturday 29th June so please put the date in your diaries! It is always a lovely, fun day for school families and friends to get together. The Class Reps will be in touch with you all to ask for volunteers on the day so please do offer your time either on the day or setting up on the Friday afternoon. We have a lot of stalls and all aspects of the day are made easier by your help! Thank you in advance for your support and generosity.

Doors open, as usual, at midday. We've got a couple of new additions to the line-up this year: water zorbing and golf chipping and we're looking forward to demonstrations by some St James' children including gymnastics and Harlequins dance. We'll be collecting donations during the week leading up to the fair, from Monday 24th June. Thank you!

Thursday, 13th June is an opportunity to let the children come to school in their own clothes to help fund raffle prizes for the Summer Fair. There is a suggested £2 per child donation, maximum of £5 per family. Please bring your donation in an envelope and hand into your class teacher.

DIARY DATES

Thursday, 13th June Own Clothes Day

Saturday 29th June Summer Fair, School Field

Thursday, 18th July PTA Golf Day Chislehurst Golf Club

Contact us: pta.stjamesprimary@gmail.com or via our Facebook page.