



St James' RC Primary Weekly Newsletter

Friday 13th October 2023

Twitter: @stjamesrc

Issue 6

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents,

We started the week by saying good bye to Year 6 as they left to go on their school journey to PGL. I heard that they had a fabulous time trying things that they did not think they could do and achieving things that make them feel proud. I am glad that the weather was good for them and I am looking forward to hearing all their news. Thank you to Mrs Connolly, Miss Spencer-Boyce and Miss McCarthy for giving up their time this week to let Year 6 have this amazing experience.



A family recently kindly donated a Bluewater Voucher which we used to purchase two big outdoor bean bags for children to sit on in the Peace Garden. We are very grateful for this generosity and look forward to making the Peace Garden a place for children to go to when they would like to reflect or to pray.



Year 4 had a great trip to the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Neasden on Thursday. The children watched an aarti prayer in the Mandir, watch a mini movie about how the temple was made, explore some of the shrines and visit the Exploring Hinduism exhibit. It was wonderful to visit such a beautiful and peaceful place and the children really enjoyed their day.



Year 5 led KS2 Collective Worship this week on the theme of compassion.



On Friday, a volunteer from The Alzheimer's Society visited Year 5 to raise awareness of dementia. They helped the pupils understand the five important messages which are:
Dementia is not a natural part of ageing.
Dementia is caused by a disease of the brain.
Dementia is not just about losing your memory—it can affect thinking, communicating and doing everyday tasks.
It is possible to live well with dementia.
There is more to a person than the dementia.

Year 5 are now looking forward to visiting the Memory Cafe at St James' Church on Tuesday 7th November.



On Thursday, Reception Class held their Grandparent's Harvest Tea Party. The children asked questions about what it was like when their Grandparents were at school. They discovered that some did not have a uniform at their schools, they did not do cooking and they did not have Forest School. The children shared some of their harvest cooking and everyone tried some school garden chutney and everyone enjoyed some marrow cake made by Mrs Deasy! Thank you to everyone who was able to come and to Mrs Richards, Mrs Deasy and Mrs O'Neill for helping it all run smoothly.



Y5 visited Petts Wood Library to meet author Jane Grell.



We ended the week with a Philosophy for children (P4C) afternoon. Each term we have a whole school philosophy afternoon. Pupils watch a short film clip or listen to a story that encourages them to form questions around a moral dilemma. The themes are debated in their classrooms as an aid to formulating the questions. It is stipulated that there are no wrong or right answers but it is an opportunity for children to apply logic in order to produce reasoned viewpoints. P4C sessions enable us to provide a safe space to explore issues. The sessions also allow us time to focus on developing pupils' key thinking, communication and social skills. We used the book 'A Walk with Vanessa' as the stimulus for this term's P4C session and helped us to focus on the protected characteristic of race and the theme of belonging. This book is a story about a simple act of kindness and shows how the actions of one individual can inspire an entire community.

On Friday 3rd November we have a professional photographer spending the day with us to take photographs of the children for our new website. We are very excited about photographing all the wonderful things we do at St James' so that we can celebrate what we do as a community. The PTA have kindly agreed to fund this project and we are very grateful to them. I know that the children will have fun and we look forward to seeing the results.

If you would like to volunteer with KS1 cooking at any time this year Miss McCarthy would like to meet with you on Friday 3rd November at 2:45. If

you are able to attend this meeting could you please let Miss McCarthy know via the school office. Thank you.

I hope everyone has a lovely half term holiday.

Please remember that we ask children to return to school after half term in winter uniform. Please see the attached uniform policy.

God Bless.

Mrs Weeks

Word on Wednesday

The Wednesday Word is INVITATION. We asked the children about various invitations that they had received. We explained that the most important invitation is God's invitation to all of us. God's invitation is not just for certain people but for everyone. It invites us into His Kingdom and we accept God's invitation through loving him and all those around us.

Safeguarding

The following is advice from Brake, the road safety charity:

Children under eight should always be accompanied by and hold hands with an adult around roads, particularly when crossing. When your child reaches the age of eight, you should consider whether to allow them to walk independently. It can be a tough decision as you will need to consider their development and weigh up the benefits of them being active and healthy with traffic danger in your area. When you decide to let your child walk independently, remind them about the importance of crossing safely using the Green Cross Code, paying attention to the road, and help them to plan the safest possible route (along quiet, slow roads with pavements or traffic-free paths) to school, the park or their friends' houses.

Dates for your Diary

Please see the dates below. We will send out more details over the course of the term.

October

Monday 16th -Friday 27th Half Term Holiday

Monday 30th/Tuesday 31st Bike Ability Group 1 Y 6

November

Thursday 2nd/Friday 3rd Bike Ability Group 2 Y6

Wednesday 1st: All Saints Day Holy Day of Obligation Whole School Mass

Wednesday 1st Prayer Day

Thursday 2nd 7:30pm Open Evening Appointments go live (More information to follow)

Friday 3rd Website photographer in school

Friday 3rd Y1 Library Trip

Friday 3rd 2:45 meeting for KS1 Parent Cooking Volunteers

Monday 6st -Friday 10th UK Parliament Week

Monday 6th Flu Vaccinations for all children

Monday 6th Primary Maths Challenge for Y5 and Y6

Monday 6th Collection for Bromley Hygiene Bank

Tuesday 7th Y5 visiting the Parish Memory Cafe

Thursday 9th Individual and sibling photos

Friday 10th 9:05 Y6 Class Assembly

Friday 10th Y6 Library visit

Sunday 12th Diwali

Monday 13th Anti bullying Odd sock day

Monday 13th Y5 to Houses of Parliament

Monday 13th 3:30-6:30 Goal Sharing Meetings for parents and children

Tuesday 14th 3:30-6:30 Goal Sharing Meetings for parents and children

Wednesday 15th Bromley Y Parent Consultations (To be booked via Bromley Y)

Thursday 16th 9:15 Open Morning for 2024 Reception Intake

Thursday 16th pm Wind in the Willows Performance for all children

Friday 17th Children in Need (Wear own clothes and spots)

Friday 17th Rec Library visit

Saturday 18th Cross Country Competition for Y5 and Y6 at Crystal Palace (All welcome)

Monday 20th HSBC Money workshop with Y5

Monday 20th HSBC Money workshop with Y1

Tuesday 21st PTA Break the Rules Day

Wednesday 22nd HSBC Money workshop with Y3

Wednesday 22nd HSBC Money workshop with Y4

Thursday 23rd HSBC Money workshop with Rec

Thursday 23rd HSBC Money workshop with Y2

Friday 24th HSBC Money workshop with Y6

Friday 24th Hindu Assembly and Workshop

Friday 24th Christmas PTA Cracker Assembly

Saturday 25th 12-3 PTA Christmas Fair

Tuesday 28th Y2 Visiting The Golden Hinde

Wednesday 29th Y3 Visiting Chislehurst Caves

Thursday 30th Art Day

December

Wednesday 6th 9:05 Y6 Class Mass (Parents welcome)

Friday 8th Christmas Jumper Day for Save the Children

Friday 8th KS2 Reading Passports returned

Saturday 9th Orpington Christmas Concert for KS2 Choir

Monday 11th 6pm KS2 Carol Concert at church

Tuesday 12th KS2 Reading Passport Assembly

Wednesday 13th Christmas Lunch for all children

Wednesday 13th KS1 Nativity 9:15 (Babies and Toddlers are welcome)

Thursday 14th KS1 Nativity 9:15 (No Babies and Toddlers please)

Thursday 14th pm KS1 Party for children

Friday 15th pm KS2 Party for children

Tuesday 19th End of term for children at normal time

Sports News

Four children from Y2 went to Bromley Valley to compete in a Gymnastics Festival. Our children were the only children who knew all of the moves! They stood up in front of everyone and showed their routine to all the spectators. They all were amazing. Two of our children even got a medal for getting on with everything well and trying everything. We are so proud of all of them. A huge thank you to our fantastic gymnastic coaches Erin and Emily and the parents and grandparents who took the children.

Eight children from Y5 went to a Pop Lacrosse Tournament on Thursday. After only 5 lessons of Lacrosse they went with determination and excitement to do their best. They won 3 out of 4 games and the last game they drew. Well done Y5 and thank you so much to our parents who moved things around to transport them.

Mrs Martin

Garden News

Today saw the culmination of our annual Pumpkin Growing Competition. During a brief window of good weather, the children gathered under the school oak tree to observe the great 'weigh-in'. I am pleased to announce that Maria in KS1 and Isla in KS2 guessed the correct weight of 21.9 pounds (just under 10kg). Both girls have been awarded with a pumpkin to enjoy!

Thank you to everyone who contributed £1 to the competition - you raised an amazing £66, all of which will go towards plants and compost for the school garden in the months ahead.

Mrs Deasy



OTHER NEWS

Hugo and Maria have had a special guest with them: The Virgin Mary under the Advocation of Our Lady of Guadalupe. This representation of Mary appeared in México to a man called Juan Diego and Mary promised him that he would never be alone and that she would always protect him. The original image is in The Shrine of Guadalupe in Mexico and there are only 200 authorised replicas of the image. Hugo and Maria were very lucky to have this image in their house because this copy is entrusted to the Spanish community in London for the Emmaus Spiritual Retreats. These retreats are for Catholic men and women who wish to have an encounter with the Lord and they take place twice yearly. Hugo and Maria enjoyed this experience and they prayed, prepared some special food and drew some pictures. They prayed for the school and parish communities and are sure that Mary will be guiding us all as she did with Juan Diego.



SECONDARY SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

This is a reminder that the Secondary Admissions 2024 application deadline is **midnight Monday 31st October 2023**. Please remember to submit applications online by this deadline. Applications submitted after this date will be classed as late and may not receive an offer on National Offer Day.

Parents/carers must access the online eAdmissions application portal via their home Local Authority website (www.bromley.gov.uk for Bromley residents).

PTA NEWS

We hope you all have a great weekend and half term.

Thank you again to all of the ice cream Friday volunteers, we definitely did not think we would be lucky enough with the weather to still be selling ice creams into October.

We will start our donations for the Christmas Fair after half term, so keep a look out for donation information.

CHRISTMAS WREATH EVENING

Correction. We will be holding a Christmas Wreath making course on the evening of 4th December not the 3rd and will send further information out soon.

CHRISTMAS CARDS FUNDRAISING

The children have designed their Christmas cards and the designs will be distributed back to parents in the coming week. If you would like to order cards, gift tags and more based on your child's artwork please do so by the 10th November using your unique artwork code. Orders will be delivered to you in the first week of December.

For every item ordered about £1-£1.50 is raised for the school. Last year we raised almost £400.

Many thanks

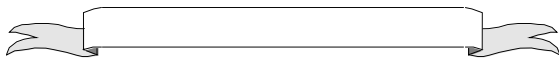
PTA Committee

Dates for your diary

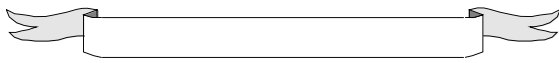
Ice Cream Friday – Last one today
Christmas Card Ordering deadline - 10th November
Break the Rules Day – 21st November
Christmas Fair – 25th November
Christmas Wreath Evening - 4th December
Panto - 12th December

AWARDS

Headteacher Awards



Year	For showing kindness
Rec	Tommy
Year 1	George
Year 2	Rebecca
Year 3	Jenna
Year 4	Emily
Year 5	Joey



KS1 AWARDS

Year	Gold Sticker Award		Golden Promises
Rec	Sophia	Allegra	Arabella
Year 1	Aedan	Chloe	Isabellea
Year 2	Patrick C	Maria	Abraham

KS2 AWARDS

Year	Respect in class	Pride in work
Year 3	Aaron	Chimamanda
Year 4	James	Emilia
Year 5	Lauren	Lukas

Congratulations to Aidan who was the winner of the Courtesy Cup this week.

ATTENDANCE

Class	Attendance (%)	Occasions Late
R	100	1
1	98.67	0
2	99.33	0
3	96.56	1
4	98.44	1
5	94.06	1
6	92.19	1

Weekly Winners

Year	Number of wins
Rec	4
Y1	2
Y2	0
Y3	0
Y4	0
Y5	0
Y6	0

Congratulations to Reception who had the best attendance last week. They are in the lead and could be winning an own clothes day before the end of term.