



# St James' RC Primary Weekly Newsletter

Friday 1st March 2024

Twitter: @stjamesrc

Issue 20

## Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents,

We continue our journey through Lent.

This week KS2 had an assembly about FairTrade and they hopefully now understand how buying Fairtrade products protects people and the planet.



Thank you to Mrs Connolly for accompanying the Junior Travel Ambassadors (JTAs) to their meeting at the Bromley Central Library this week. The role of a JTA is to explain to all the children at St James' the need to stay safe on the roads. They also try to help the environment by promoting public transport, cycling, scooting or walking. Thank you to Douglas and Renee.



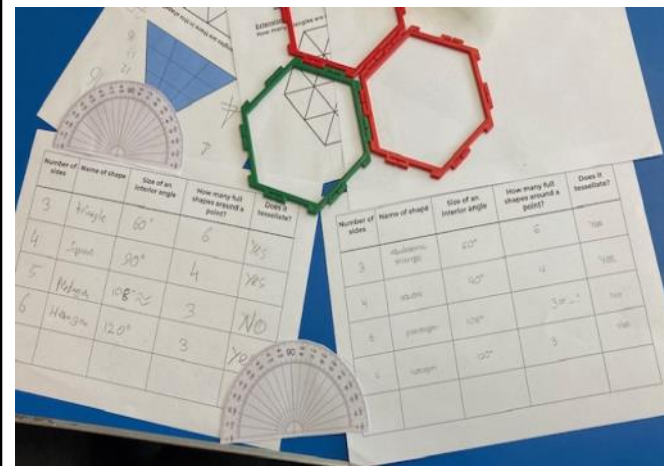
Thank you to all the children that attended the Lenten Reflection Sessions this week. The children enjoyed listening to God's word and discussed what it meant to them. The group reflected on how to treat others and to share God's love. They celebrated that Jesus is the light of the world who shines upon us. They discussed how they can be rays of sunshine to others throughout the day. It was a very special week.

Dr Jan Bajorek visited Year 5 to talk about his adventures in Peru. The children learnt that Peru is the third biggest country in South America with a population of 32million. The children thoroughly enjoyed the visit especially learning that oranges grown in Peru are green as they do not get enough sunlight. They did not enjoy learning that guinea pigs are a delicacy! We really appreciate Dr Bajorek giving up his time.

Year 5 are taking part in five interactive workshops organised by Climate Ed. Climate Ed is a charity offering free education so that children learn about carbon literacy and climate action. Some of the questions the children will answer and discuss are: What is a carbon footprint and how can we measure it? Which has more climate impact: a banana or an ice cream? Could London really go underwater?



This week some Year 5 pupils attended a Maths Masterclass at Bromley High School. The focus was on tessellations. Tessellations are everywhere. A tessellation is one or more shapes fitted together with no gaps. The pupils investigated what shapes tessellate. They studied periodic tessellations with regular and irregular shapes. A periodic irregular Tessellation is a repeated pattern made of an irregular shape. This then progressed to studying aperiodic shapes that tessellate. They enjoyed looking at the work of Maurice C Escher, a Dutch artist who created many artworks that included geometric techniques such as reflection symmetry and tessellations.



A representative from The Cardinal Hume Charity led a KS2 Assembly this week to thank the children for their donations to the charity. The children learnt about their work and how their donation from the KS1 Nativity plays and KS2 Advent Concert would support young people who found themselves homeless.



On Wednesday Y3 went on a trip to Chislehurst Caves for a guided tour of the network of tunnels that extends a vast distance underneath the roads of Chislehurst. The children learned about rocks and soils and Early Man and were very brave as much of the system is in total darkness with only lanterns lighting the way. The tunnels are an amazing resource for families to enjoy and are open Wednesday—Sunday with a fabulous café to visit.



On Wednesday the French Ambassadors had a great day at the Institut Francais in Kensington. The children had written letters applying for their role as ambassadors and this is the first event that we have planned for them. They spent the morning in a classroom doing some translation, speaking and completing vocabulary exercises about the French film Ernest et Celestine. Then they watched a film in the Cine Lumiere, a cinema in the Institut. They had a wonderful day and we look forward to planning more MFL events in the future. Thank you to Madame Batten and Miss Atkinson.



We were visited by our Governors on Tuesday. In the morning Mr Gribben carried out a Health and Safety Walk with Mr Jawed and me to ensure that we were keeping staff and children safe. Then in the afternoon Governors met with Mrs Richards to hear all about SEND. Governors also visited classes to see how we support children with SEND.

On Wednesday I met with a group of KS2 girls and then a group of KS2 boys to hear about their views on how we keep children safe in school and how we ensure everyone is treated fairly and with respect.

We also celebrated Maths Day this week. Please see the attached newsletter for information about this. Thank you to Mrs Richards for organising this.

We ended our week by watching Year 3's class assembly. This was a fantastic celebration of all their hard work. Well done to Year 3 and thank you to Miss Spencer - Boyce, Mrs Bromfiels and Mrs Wakefield for organising this.

**On Thursday 7th March it is World Book Day. To help celebrate this, it would be lovely for children to come into school dressed as something to do with books, words or characters. This can be as simple or as complicated as you would like and there is no expectation to buy new dressing up clothes for this. We would also like your child to bring into school their favourite book from home to share with children from other classes. (It can also be a book from the classroom!) Please make sure the book is labelled in some way with your child's name if they are bringing it in from home. In class, we will be sharing the same book throughout the school and getting together to discuss our ideas with other classes. At the end of the day, children will be bringing home their World Book Day tokens that will allow them to receive a free book from participating stockists or it can act as a discount voucher towards other books. We look forward to seeing the children dressed ready to celebrate all things books!**

This week we were sent the new official portrait of His Majesty the King. The portrait, taken at Windsor Castle last year by photographer Hugo Burnand shows His Majesty wearing a Royal Navy uniform of an Admiral of the Fleet and official medals and decorations. The large framed portrait has been sent to public buildings across the United Kingdom as part of a scheme to celebrate the new reign.



Thank you to the parents who have already attended the virtual online safety talk delivered by ECP. If you have not watched this invaluable session please see the joining information in the safeguarding section below. The company have extended the availability of the course until Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March.

On another note, attached to this newsletter is a copy of our Lock Down Policy. Schools are asked to ensure that they are able to secure their site, with pupils, staff and volunteers safely inside should the need arise. Please read our policy. We need to practise this annually in order to ensure that everyone knows what to do in a Lock Down. We will be holding a practice before Easter. We will tell the children on the day that we do this and that it is a practice. We will do everything we can not to frighten the children and will use our

sensitivity to this end. We have carried this out for the last few years and no children have ever been upset or worried.

KS2 have been completing a questionnaire this week about any incidents of bullying that they have witnessed or have experienced in and out of school. We are in the process of talking to any children individually who are concerned about this. I will share the results of this questionnaire with parents when I have collated the data.

We were delighted to receive a letter from Damian Hinds, the Minister for Schools to congratulate us on our KS2 results last year and to explain that this put us in the top 1% of primary schools in the country. Please see the attached letter. Congratulations to the staff of St James' and to the children who were in Y6 in the last academic year!

Please remember that I hold a surgery every Wednesday morning when I will be available without you needing to make an appointment.

Have a good weekend and happy St David's day!

God bless,

Mrs Weeks

### Word on Wednesday

The Wednesday Word is ENTHUSIASM. Life is joyful when we are enthusiastic about the right things. In this Sunday's Gospel, we read how the people had actually lost sight of God by getting caught up in their buying and selling. Jesus' enthusiastic action was a protest that things had gone seriously wrong and that something needed to change. Lent is a time to renew our own relationship with God and to be filled with a new enthusiasm for God and for life in all its fullness. As we become more aware of God's presence in our daily lives, we become happier and more filled with energy and enthusiasm. We asked the children to think about people who they know who are enthusiastic and full of energy for doing the right thing.

## Safeguarding

Please ensure that you have watched the virtual one-hour session on online safety.

This is only available until Sunday 10th March.

### Joining instructions:

Please find below the links to provide immediate access to the sessions.

Once the attendee's details are entered, the session will start immediately:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4250770663591523933>

### Important information:

The session is 1 hour in duration, without breaks.

### Post session information:

Following the training session, the school will be provided with a SharePoint link to access an attendance and feedback summary which will include a summary of attendees. This will let us know how many parents were able to watch the session.

## Dates for your Diary

### March

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> Y1 Visiting National Gallery**

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> Open evening 3:30-6:30 (Parents only)**

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> Open evening 3:30-6:30 (Parents only)**

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> Y4 online talk on 'Redraw the balance'**

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> World Book Day (Dress up as a character)**

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> KS2 Talk on 'Jobs behind the books'**

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> International Women's Day**

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> Start of British Science Week**

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> am Y5 and Y6 STEM jobs talk**

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> Y3 and Y4 Cross Country**

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> 1:15 Drama Kids Assembly for parents**

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> 9am Year 4 Class Mass in school (Peace)**

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> 1:15 Y2 Trip to Southborough Park**

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> Red Nose Day (Children may wear a Red Nose and make a £1 donation)**

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> 9:15am Spring Walk (Parents are welcome to join us)**

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> 6:15pm Moon Watch Led by Orpington Astronomical Society**

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> pm Oscar Romero Mass at St George's Cathedral**

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> World Poetry Day**

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> KS2 Reading Passports in**

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> Catholic Children Society Boxes returned**

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> Reading Passport Assembly KS2**

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> Reception Class to Sea Life Centre**

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> 5pm EEDI Committee Meeting (All welcome)**

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> 9:15am Year 5 Passion Play**

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> KS1 PTA Easter Egg Hunt**

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> End of term at normal time**

## Sports News

A team from Year 5 and Year 6 played tag rugby at Beccehamian RC. They played so well, winning three out of the four games. They went into the next round and won two and lost two games. The team did so well and we are so proud of them. Thank you to the parents who helped transport back and forth and to Mrs Martin for organising this.



### Advert for MDS

Please let the school office know if you are interested in being a Mid-day Supervisor at St James'. We do have vacancies at present and if you would like to consider this please let us know. We would be happy to answer any questions that you may have about the role.

### Equity, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Hello, we are the EEDI committee. This stands for Equity, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. We thought that we would introduce one or two members of the committee each week so you can speak to us on the playground and find out about the group. Our next meeting is Tuesday 26th March and you are very welcome to join us.

My name is Mrs Martin and I am the Year 2 Class teacher. We started this committee 2 years ago as staff wanted to make sure that as a school we were doing everything we could to promote equity, equality, diversity and inclusion. You are very welcome to come and find me on the KS1 playground after school if you have any questions or would like to join the committee.

Hello! I am Gia and I'm Mum to Delphine in Year 5 and Theo in Year 3. I am part of the EEDI committee at St James'. We are a small but very welcoming group and are always open to new members and ideas. We meet up to discuss areas of the curriculum and aspects of school life and how we can improve them to become a better reflection of the wonderful diversity we have at our school. I am enjoying being involved and it would be great to have a few new faces/voices who could help us along. We need to hear and exchange many different viewpoints to help us achieve this as it is a huge but highly-rewarding undertaking. I am happy to feel that in a small way I am contributing to making a difference for the future generations. If you would like to know more or ask anything, please do! I am in the KS2 playground at pickup most days!

### OAKIES

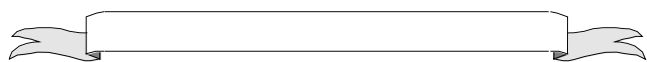
The children have had great fun at Oakies this week. They have been building dens in the playground and playing with our new outdoor tennis rackets and footballs. We are certainly looking forward to the warmer weather so that we can be outside longer.

Have a lovely weekend.  
Oakies Team

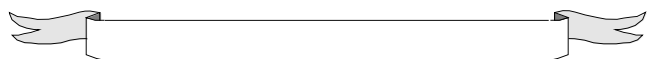


## AWARDS

### HEADTEACHERS AWARDS



Year	PEACEMAKER
Rec	Oliver
Year 1	Orlaith
Year 2	Ninoshka
Year 3	James
Year 4	Luis
Year 5	Emma
Year 6	Daniel



### KS1 AWARDS

Year	Gold Sticker Award		Golden Promises
Rec	Isobel	Camille	KeeKee
Year 1	Finley	Amelie	Aedan
Year 2	Felix	Teddy	Mia

### KS2 AWARDS

Year	Respect in class	Pride in work
Year 3	Sophia	Millie
Year 4	Emily	Callum
Year 5	Xanthe	Lauren
Year 6	Amelia	Dominic

Congratulations to **Chloe** in Y6 who was the winner of the Courtesy Cup this week.

## ATTENDANCE

	Attendance (%)	Occasions Late
R	99.0	4
1	97.67	0
2	97.0	0
3	99.38	0
4	97.5	1
5	95.92	0
6	96.44	1

Congratulations to Y3 who had the best attendance last week.

### WEEKLY WINNERS

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

The winners of the best attendance this term will win an 'Own Clothes Day' at the end of term. It is very close at the moment.

## **PTA NEWS**

Happy March everyone.

I thought I would let you know that your donations have helped to equip the KS1 kitchen this week with much needed supplies, so hopefully your children will cook you something for dinner this weekend!

Thank you to those of you who donated costumes for World Book Day.

Apologies for not having an early bird sale on Thursday but hopefully you managed to pick up a costume for your child in the sale on Friday.

If you have any branded St James' school uniform, we will be having our spring term Preloved school uniform sale on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March after school so please can you donate that next week.

Many thanks

The PTA Committee

## **Dates for your diary**

Preloved school uniform sale: Fri 8<sup>th</sup> March