



St James' RC Primary Weekly Newsletter

Friday 24th November 2023

Twitter: @stjamesrc

Issue 10

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents,

What an amazing start to the week we had with the Year 5 and Year 6 Cross Country runners at Crystal Palace. 62 schools competed and our Y5 boys came 1st and our Year 5 Girls came 3rd. With the results also from Year 6 we won the Small School Competition! A huge congratulations to all the children taking part and representing St James' so well. Thank you to Mrs Wilson, Mrs Martin, Mrs Bromfield and of course Mrs Connolly for helping to make this a success. I would also like to thank Mr and Mrs Kelly for volunteering to prepare the children for the event over many wet and cold afterschool sessions! A huge well done to everyone involved. There are many proud parents and staff.

This week children have been taking part in money workshops provided by HSBC bank. Thank you to Mrs Richards for arranging this. Reception class had a story time session based on making choices about what to do with their money. Year 1 talked about how money has evolved through the ages and looked at recognising the value of coins. Year 2 were introduced to the idea of a bank account and how we get paid. Year 3 considered how to save for something they really want. Year 4 looked at the the difference between debit and credit cards and how to keep them secure. Year 5 looked at how spending decisions can impact communities. Finally, Year 6 looked at the world of work, banking, borrowing and saving and why having a bank account is important. It was good to see that the children are very aware of how many bills there are to pay each month!



Thank you to everyone who supported the PTA 'Break the Rules Day'. The children certainly had lots of fun!

Year 4 led KS2 Prayer and Liturgy this week and the theme focused on how we can all follow Jesus.



Year 4 had a fantastic Hindu Workshop on Friday with Nabhi, our Hindu visitor. He gave a great talk in class all about the fundamental beliefs of Hindus. Some children then took part in telling the story of Diwali in our whole school assembly. The children asked lots of fantastic questions and really engaged with Nabhi.



There has been lots of preparation this week for the PTA Christmas Fair on Saturday. Thank you to everyone that is helping to make this event a success and is helping to raise money for the school whilst having a good time. I know that the PTA appreciate everyone's help at this busy time of year and even if you are unable to attend the Fair I know that people are busy working behind the scenes in whatever way they can. Your support is very much appreciated. Thank you for all of the donations. We were very pleased in the week to announce that Year 6 won the PTA Bring a Bottle Competition. Thank you, Year 6. On Friday we had an assembly to share all the fabulous Christmas Crackers. Wow! It was obvious that the children had worked so hard to make them. Thank you. We look forward to having lots of fun tomorrow.



God Bless

Mrs Weeks

Word on Wednesday

The Wednesday Word is KINDNESS. This Sunday we celebrate the feast of Christ the King. In the Gospel, Jesus describes what will happen when he comes again at the end of time. Like a shepherd who calls his sheep to follow him, Jesus invites people to be with him forever. The only requirement is that we should have looked after our neighbour in need. We talked to the children about how every act of kindness done to someone else is also done to Jesus.

Safeguarding

Children may compare the number of friends or followers that they have online with others. This can lead to 'friend envy' as they can see this as a sign of popularity. This could lead to children showing signs of jealousy and resorting to sending friend requests to people they do not know that well in a desperate bid to increase their own status online. Another way that children can increase their following is by leaving their accounts open so that they can be easily found, and anybody can view their posts. This is in the hope that other users will like their posts and decide to follow them, therefore increasing their numbers. Once again, this can leave children vulnerable to being followed by people who have dishonest intentions. Children who feel under pressure to increase their friend count or want to increase their following as quickly as possible can be vulnerable to collecting 'fake' friends. Just like increasing followers can bring a sense of happiness and satisfaction, so the loss of followers can cause children to suffer feelings of sadness and rejection. Depending on how invested children are in their social media activities, this could influence their attitude and behaviour online and potentially have a negative impact on their mental health and wellbeing. The best way to know who your child is friends with online or who follows them is to be their friend or follower yourself. This will allow you to see who your child is engaging with most online or open up discussions about how they know certain people they have added to their network. Your child's behaviour online should always be treated as an extension of their behaviour offline. Discuss with your child the pitfalls of trying to be somebody they are not and that trying to please everybody will only make them unhappy. Tell them that they should be proud of who they are and that they should always behave in an appropriate and responsible way when posting content online.

Dates for your Diary

Please see the dates below.

November

Tuesday 28th Y2 Visiting The Golden Hinde

Tuesday 28th Lunchtime Parents to watch Drama Kids Lunchtime Club

Thursday 30th Art Day

December

Tuesday 5th Y3 Litter Pick

Tuesday 5th Y4 to Advent Service at St George's Cathedral

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

Thursday 7th Y6 Carol Singing at Southmore Court

Thursday 7th 3:40 LAMDA Performance for parents

Friday 8th Christmas Jumper Day for Save the Children

Friday 8th KS2 Reading Passports returned

Saturday 9th Orpington Christmas Concert for Y5 and Y6 Choir

Monday 11th 6pm KS2 Carol Concert at church

Tuesday 12th KS2 Reading Passport Assembly

Tuesday 12th Y6 Carol Singing at Memory Cafe

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

Library News

Orpington Library are the first library in the UK to take part in a pilot project and have been given a pop-up Wendy House which will be filled with books for children to enjoy when they come to the library. They are having an unveiling of the Wendy House on Saturday 25th November from 10.30-11.30am with author and illustrator Steve Antony, best known for the Mr Panda books and The Queen's Hat.

Booking needs to be done via Eventbrite: <https://orpingtonlibrary.eventbrite.co.uk>

Sports News

The girls tag rugby team played in a tournament last Friday against nine other schools. For most of the girls it was their first time playing. They played four games in the qualifying stage and won all four of them, putting us through to the semi finals as group winners! We were drawn against Crofton in the semi final, who beat us 2-1 in a close fought battle. We finished 3rd overall and all the girls put in a fantastic performance! Congratulations!



Our netballers headed to Harris Beckenham to compete against the top five schools in Bromley. We played four games. We won the first, drew the second, won the third and it was all to play for in the final game. Unfortunately, we lost by 3 goals. However, we came 2nd overall in the whole of Bromley after only having a few training sessions. Our netballers were amazing, they fought for every ball and should be so proud of themselves! Thank you to Maia's mum and Mrs Connolly for helping transport the children.

Mrs Martin



On Saturday our Year 5 and Year 6 running team took part in the Cross Country race at Crystal Palace. There were four races in total: Year 5 Girls; Year 5 Boys; Year 6 Girls; Year 6 Boys with nearly 300 runners in each race representing 62 different schools in the borough. It was rainy and muddy but the children performed brilliantly under the training and guidance of Mr Kelly.

Results:

Year 5 Girls: 3rd

Year 5 Boys: 1st

Year 6 Girls: 23rd

Year 6 Boys: 9th

We were also strong enough as a whole school to bring home the Small Schools Trophy once our results were combined! Well done to everyone involved and for staff and parents for giving up their Saturday morning who came along to help and support.

Mrs Connolly



OAKIES

This week the children have had a lot of fun dressing up and dancing to songs on the big screen in the hall. As you can see, some of the adults enjoyed themselves too.

Have fun at the Christmas Fair.

The Oakies Team



OTHER NEWS

Please find below a list of our Bromley Youth Music Trust music teachers who teach at St James'. Please contact the office for an application form or more information.

Violin—Mr Feiring

Piano—Mr Albert

Voice—Mrs Anderson

Percussion—Ms Prescott

Woodwind—Mr O'Shea

Cello—Mrs Storey

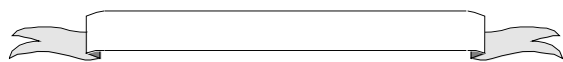


Mr Albert currently has a few spaces left for Piano lessons. Please contact the office if you would like an application form or more information.

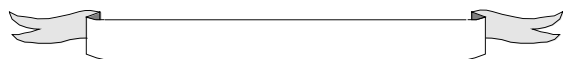


AWARDS

Headteachers Awards



Year	Good Manners
Rec	Mia
Year 1	Chloe
Year 2	Eli
Year 3	Allegra
Year 4	Emmanuel
Year 5	Orla
Year 6	Noah



KS1 AWARDS

Year	Gold Sticker Award		Golden Promises
Rec	Francesca	Lorenzo	Max
Year 1	Federico	Emily	Varden
Year 2	Beatrice	Sebastian	Maiya

KS2 AWARDS

Year	Respect in class	Pride in work
Year 3	Theo	Allegra
Year 4	Chimbusonma	Symeon
Year 5	Finn	Eliana
Year 6	Jacob	Rosie

ATTENDANCE

	Attendance (%)	Occasions Late
R	98.33	0
1	97.0	0
2	97.33	0
3	97.5	0
4	98.44	0
5	94.69	0
6	94.19	0

Congratulations to Y4 who had the best attendance last week. Reception are still in the lead and could be winning an own clothes day before the end of term.

Weekly Winners

Year	Number of wins
Rec	6
Y1	3
Y2	0
Y3	0
Y4	1
Y5	0
Y6	1

PTA NEWS

UPDATE ON HOW PTA FUNDS ARE USED

With all the 'asking' we have been doing lately, this seems an opportune time to mention that the PTA has made the following payments to the school:

- £4.4K for this school year's classroom allowances
- £6K for this school year's sports coaching
- £500 for school trips

Yes, all of this has been funded by your generosity and support, showing just how important the money raised at PTA events such as the Christmas fair is to the school. And these events aren't purely about fundraising, they're also a wonderful opportunity for everyone to come together and have fun!

Speaking of which...

CHRISTMAS FAIR

It's been a busy week with all your kind donations coming in, the reps finalising their stall goodies and rotas, and Father Christmas preparing for his visit to St James'. Just one more sleep to go!

We would like to say a massive THANK YOU for all your support so far. You have been incredible. Well done to Year 6 for bringing in the most bottle donations – we hope the class enjoyed its little prizes.

A few final reminders before the big day:

Cake donations can be brought into the school hall tomorrow morning - all nut-free, homemade or shop brought contributions, big or small will be gratefully received

- Raffle tickets will be on sale at the fair (in case you missed out or want to increase your chances of winning and buy more!) – we have some fabulous prizes on offer, including:

- Main raffle: a £200 John Lewis voucher, luxury hampers and much much more.
- Children's raffle: an exciting selection of hampers, toys, games, a sweet bundle and Smiley rucksacks full of goodies
- There will be a delicious menu of food and drink so come hungry and thirsty! We'll have turkey

sandwiches, brie sandwiches, chilli, sweet potato curry, macaroni cheese and Jolof rice, along with mulled wine, Irish hot chocolate, regular hot chocolate, tea and coffee, and a selection of cold soft drinks

- Bring plenty of cash! We'll have a card machine at the food and drink stall, but cash will be preferred here and needed everywhere else
- We look forward to seeing you there and hope you have a fantastic time.

CHRISTMAS CRACKER COMPETITION

Congratulations to this year's winners and well done to all the children for their super efforts. Everyone has been given a small thank you gift for taking part.

CHRISTMAS TREES

Keep those orders coming! Remember, every penny of profit goes to the school. The deadline for orders is Monday 27th November. Collection morning is on Saturday 2nd December.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

PTA Christmas Fair in the school hall - Saturday 25th November 12pm - 3pm
Christmas Tree last order/collection - 27th Nov/ Dec
Christmas wreath evening - 4th Dec
Cinderella at the Churchill Theatre - Tuesday 12th December at 5.30pm

Best wishes
The PTA Committee