



St James' RC Primary Weekly Newsletter

Friday 6th October 2023

Twitter: @stjamesrc

Issue 5

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents,

We started the week by asking children what they would do if they could not find anyone to play with at breaktimes. They were able to explain how they use the Friendship Stop in the playgrounds if they are looking for friends to play with.

We also reminded the children that we have 'Feelings Boxes' in all classrooms if they would like to add notes in the box for an adult to read about how they are feeling.

We were delighted to welcome some of our Governors to school on Tuesday. They visited classrooms, observed KS1 Collective Worship, stood at the school gate at the end of the day and visited After School Club.

A highlight of our week was our whole school Harvest Mass. Year 4 led the Mass and we were very proud of them. It was the first time Reception Class had attended a whole school Mass and they were a joy to be with. Thank you to Mrs Anderson for playing the piano for us. All children were asked to bring in a donation for the Bromley Foodbank. We were assigned as a 'Shampoo and Long-Life Fruit Juice School' and everyone was very generous. Thank you for supporting this. We would like to thank Mary O' Mahony and Linda Samuels from the Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation Group at St James' Church for kindly transporting the goods to the Foodbank. Thank you also to the Mini Vinnies who helped to load the donations into the car.



Thank you to the children who have been attending Rosary Club this week. They have shown real dedication each morning by arriving at school early. Thank you also to Mrs Wilson for arranging this.

I held a Student Council Meeting this week. It was lovely to meet our new class representatives and hear their suggestions. These children are voted for by their peers as children who can represent them. There is one representative from each class and two in Year 6. We meet once every half term. The minutes from each meeting can be found on the website under the School Day and Pupil Voice section.

Thank you to the KS2 parents who attended the Reading Comprehension talk on Wednesday night that Mrs Connolly and Mrs Wilson gave. I hope that you found it informative. Please see the attached PowerPoint slides from the evening.

This week, Father David came to meet Reception Class. He told us all about the things that he does. We shared the work we have done about God's world with him and he taught us one of the responses to use in Mass. We asked him lots of questions. We found out that his favourite colour is blue and he likes to eat pasta and pizza!



Year 5 planned and led the KS2 Collective Worship this week. The theme was forgiveness.



This week, Year 3 created Stonehenge using biscuits. They used different shaped biscuits to highlight the different type of stones– the Bluestones, Sarsens stones and Lintel stones - that arrived at Stonehenge throughout the Bronze Age



Year 3 also has two special visitors this week to celebrate Black History Month. They explored the story of a greedy spider who stole all the fruit at a picnic. Year 3 discovered the moral of this story was that we are all equal and should share what we have. They even got to taste Plantain Chips! Thank you to our visitors.



I met a representative from Bromley Y this week to see how we can continue to use their services. Bromley Y is a Mental Health and Emotional Well-being Service in Bromley that provides support to schools, parents and children.

In November you and your child will be invited to a 'Goal Sharing Appointment' with the class teacher for a 10-minute meeting to discuss your child's targets for the year. Obviously, if you have child care issues because of siblings only one parent needs to attend. The After-School Club will also be open as usual until 6pm if you already use this and book your children in. The Goal Sharing appointments will be available to book online from 7:30pm on Thursday 2nd November. Further details will follow about this.

Teachers have asked me to thank all the families who are celebrating their children's birthdays by donating a book to the class library. These books are stamped with the child's name and added to the class libraries. If parents and children would like to do this you are asked to look at the class Amazon Wish List on the PTA section of the website.

Thank you to the parents who have donated office chairs to the school. They are very much appreciated. If anyone does have any more office chairs that they no longer require please let the office know as we would very much like them.

We hope that Year 6 have a wonderful time next week on their residential trip and we look forward to hearing all about it on their return.

God Bless.
Mrs Weeks

Word on Wednesday

The Wednesday Word is MESSENGER. In this Sunday's Gospel, the servants represent God's messengers (the Prophets) and the tenants of the vineyard represent the leaders of Israel at that time. Jesus told this story because some of the leaders were not listening to God's messengers. We explained to the children that through our words and especially through our actions we can be God's messengers, sharing God's love.

Safeguarding

Please see this link about whatsapp:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/2023-01-12-is-whatsapp-safe-for-my-child/>

Applications for Reception 2024

Please let the school office know if you have a sibling applying for a place in Reception Class for September.

Admissions Online applications for Bromley residents for places in September 2024, are available at <http://www.eadmissions.org.uk/>.

- Applications can be made from 1 September 2023.
- The closing date for applications for places in September 2024 is Monday 15 January 2024.
- National offer day is Tuesday 16 April 2024.

Children will be admitted to our Reception Class in line with our Admissions Policy. Up to 30 pupils are admitted each year via the London Borough of Bromley Co-ordinated Admissions Process. This process ensures that all children have equal and fair access to a school place without reference to ability, aptitude, or additional educational need (including SEND).

A Supplementary Information Form should be completed and returned to the school with the appropriate documentation at the same time as an application is made to Bromley.

Dates for your Diary

Please see the dates below.

October

Monday 9th-Friday 13th Y6 to PGL
Tuesday 10th: World Mental Health Day
Wednesday 11th Y4 to Hindu Temple
Wednesday 11th KS1 Gymnastic Club Competition
Thursday 12th Y5 Lacrosse Competition
Thursday 12th Dementia Friend Training for Y5 children
Thursday 12th 2pm Reception Class Grandparent Tea Party

Friday 13th P4C afternoon

Friday 13th Y5 Storytelling Session at Petts Wood Library

Monday 16th -Friday 27th Half Term Holiday

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

Wednesday 1st /Thursday 2nd Bike Ability Group 2 Y6

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

Wednesday 1st Prayer Day

Friday 3rd Y1 Library Trip

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

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)

Tuesday 21st PTA Break the Rules Day

Friday 24th Hindu Assembly and Workshop

Friday 24th Christmas PTA Cracker Assembly

Saturday 25th 12-3 PTA Christmas Fair

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

Governor Elections

As a result of the recent Staff and Parent Governor elections, the Governing Body is pleased to welcome Miss McCarthy as Staff Governor and Mr. Geoff Harrington as Parent Governor.

Both candidates were elected unopposed. The Governing Body looks forward to working with Miss McCarthy and Mr. Harrington for the good of the whole school community at St. James' RC School.

Mary Hutchinson, Chair of Governors

Spotlight on a club

Our History and Geography themed lunchtime Create Club has started well this term. The children are enjoying exploring creative activities whilst learning about other countries and cultures and mapping skills. After half term we will become 'Time Travellers' and will visit a different period of History each week to create pieces based on the art and lifestyles of the people. If your child would like to join us each Friday from 12:25 - 1:10pm then please use the following link to make a booking directly with Alix at The Creation Station Sevenoaks, Biggin Hill, Hayes and Orpington : <https://portal.thecreationstation.franscape.io/class-overview/4849>

NATIONAL POETRY DAY

Year 2 have been looking at poems in their Computing lesson. They have been learning how to use the enter button to separate sections of poems and they have been writing their own Kenning poems.

Sports News

Our Year 6 netballers travelled to Newstead Secondary school this week to compete in a borough netball tournament. They played 3 matches and won them all without conceding a goal! This now means that they will play in the borough netball finals in November. A great start to the sporting year!

Library News

Please see the attached information about two exciting events coming up at Orpington Library. The first is to celebrate Libraries Week and is this Saturday at 10.30am and the other is the regular Pictures Alive session next Mon at 4pm which is going to be focusing on Janet and Allan Ahlberg's Funny Bones books. Both events are for 4-7s and parents. Please book via Eventbrite: <https://orpingtonlibrary.eventbrite.co.uk>

Mental Health

The autumn term is here and some young people will be finding it difficult to get back into the school environment after a summer of fun and relaxation. Others may be starting a new school for the first time and some are coming up to their important exam years which can be anxiety provoking. We just wanted to highlight our webinars which are there to support young people and parents through these difficult months. **Topics this term include the following** - clicking on the topic will take you to the poster with a QR code to the Eventbrite page where the webinar date can be chosen and booked:

For parents/carers:

[Helping children and young people with anxiety](#)
[Emotionally based school avoidance](#)
[Helping children with sleep](#)

For young people:

[Understanding and managing anxiety](#)
[Tackling low mood and depression](#)
[Managing Anxious Thoughts](#)
[Healthy study habits](#)

Bromley Y Webinars

Joining our webinars is easy – just click on the link below and look at the topics and dates that you are interested in, **scan the QR code in the posters above or visit our website calendar. They will take you to Eventbrite where you can book your place.** Bromley Y [Website](#) Calendar

Text Support for Young People, with a Bromley Y practitioner

Young people can text Bromley Y on the number in the poster, to ask for support from a practitioner at The Signpost.

[Click here](#) to see our poster with more information about The Signpost text support service. Watch our [Video](#) about The Signpost and how it works.

OAKIES NEWS

We have had a wonderful week at Breakfast and After School Club, making the most of the last of the sunny days. We would like to say a special thank you to the Year 6 children who have been organising games and play sessions with the younger members of the club. They have all thoroughly enjoyed themselves and it was lovely to see the different age groups playing together so happily.



GARDEN NEWS

This week Reception Class has been busy harvesting vegetables from the school garden. They found lots of beans, chard, squash and a very big pumpkin! They have also begun making chutney for the Christmas fair.



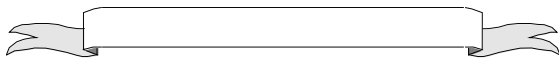
OTHER NEWS

Please take a look at the BBC website for their 500 Words Competition.

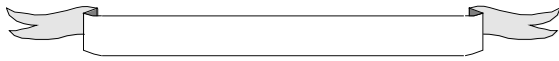


AWARDS

Headteacher Awards



Year	For showing kindness
Rec	Joshua
Year 1	Alice H
Year 2	Beatrice
Year 3	Olivia R
Year 4	Catherine
Year 5	Ivan
Year 6	Chloe



KS1 AWARDS

Year	Gold Sticker Award		Golden Promises
Rec	Celina	Oliver	Owen
Year 1	Orla	Elsie	Jaxton
Year 2	Charlie	Mia	Mateo

KS2 AWARDS

Year	Respect in class	Pride in work
Year 3	Matt	Logan
Year 4	Emilia	Symeon
Year 5	Joshua	Francesca
Year 6	Chetty	Oliver

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

ATTENDANCE

Class	Attendance (%)	Occasions Late
R	98.0	0
1	97.0	0
2	95.0	0
3	97.5	0
4	97.19	0
5	97.5	0
6	95.31	0

Weekly Winners

Year	Number of wins
Rec	3
Y1	2
Y2	0
Y3	0
Y4	0
Y5	0
Y6	0

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

PTA NEWS

Thank you to everyone who got their Panto Ticket requests in. This should be a fun filled evening for all the family in December.

Also another thank you to 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.

And from ice creams the logical next step is of course... Christmas!

CHRISTMAS WREATH EVENING

We will be holding a Christmas Wreath making course on the evening of 3rd December 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 – Every Friday up until Half Term
Christmas Card Ordering deadline - 10th
November

Break the Rules Day – 21st November

Christmas Fair – 25th November

Christmas Wreath Evening - 3rd December

Panto – 12th December