



St James' RC Primary Weekly Newsletter

Friday 8th December 2023

Twitter: @stjamesrc

Issue 12

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents,

I hope that you are pleased with your PTA Christmas Tree. I collected mine and I am delighted with it. Thank you to the PTA for organising this.

We started the week by reflecting on Advent. The candles of the Advent Wreath remind us that Christ is the light sent into the world to show us the way out of darkness. The children have all written their Advent promises and these are displayed in the classrooms.

We have had a busy and exciting week. We were treated to a performance during Monday's whole school assembly by LAMDA. The children really did so well. They remembered all of their lines, spoke clearly and with confidence and expression and obviously enjoyed taking part. We were all very proud of them.



The children also held a very successful performance for their parents on Thursday. They work so hard and are very committed to and enthusiastic about what they do each week. Please contact the office for details if your child would like to join LAMDA in the spring term.

Year 5 visited Bishop Challoner and took part in a retreat with Year 5 pupils from Bishop Challoner to reflect on the meaning of Advent. We thank Lolly Bell, the School Chaplain at Bishop Challoner, for organising the event and preparing the Mass celebrated by Father Francis. We look forward to coming together for other events in the future.

Year 2 have been looking at the story of the Polar Express this week. On Tuesday they dressed as characters from the story and wore their PJs and dressing gowns to school. They read the story, wrote a story and learnt about similes. They also enjoyed hot chocolate and biscuits whilst watching part of the film. They clearly had a great day!





Year 3 joined the Petts Wood District Residents Association Litter Picking group and carried out an environmental litter pick on Tuesday. The children were provided with litter pickers and gloves and enthusiastically took to the task in hand. Unfortunately, lots of litter was collected however the children were happy to act as stewards for the planet to ensure that all are able to enjoy God's beautiful world.'



Year 4 represented St James' at the Archdiocese of Southwark Advent Service. It was a very festive event with lots of carols and the children were wonderfully behaved. The Student Rep and the RE Ambassador took the Advent Promises to the altar and all the children received a blessing from Bishop Paul Hendricks.





Thank you to Year 6 this week for preparing their class mass on the theme of Advent. It was lovely to welcome parents and parishioners into school. After mass, Father David kindly stayed at school all morning to enable all the children throughout the school to participate in Adoration. This involved the children sitting and praying in the presence of Jesus in front of a consecrated host in the monstrance. It was a beautiful morning full of the hope of Advent. Thank you to Mrs Wilson for leading this and for Father David who gave up his time.

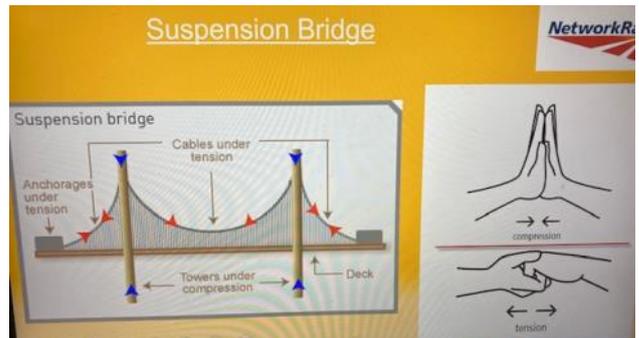


Some children made Christmas Cards for the Bromley Loneliness Project this week. Loneliness can strike at anytime during a person's life, but during this festive period these feelings and emotions can be heightened. The cards will be for people of all ages who may be lonely or isolated during the Christmas period. The cards will be given to care homes, the PRUH hospital, St. Christopher's Hospice and children who are looked after.

Thank you to Year 6 who went Carol singing at Southmore Court this week. They certainly

brought joy to the residents.

Year 5 completed a Bridge Workshop led by Mrs Callaghan. They learnt about the role of a civil engineer and all the roles that are required for undertaking a building project. The children designed and built their bridges and learnt they had to work as a team. Thank you to Mrs Callaghan.



Thank you to everyone who supported the Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day. We raised £160.20. I never realised there were so many different varieties.



The KS2 Reading Passports came back into school and the children will be awarded their appropriate Bronze, Silver or Gold certificate next week.

We announced on Friday that Reception Class have had the best attendance over the term and are therefore able to have an own clothes day on Monday 18th December. They would like to wear their Pyjamas or onesies. Well done!

This week I met with each class teacher to discuss the attainment and the progress of each child. We discussed their targets and how we can support them to achieve their very best.

Please see the attached leaflet about the upcoming Winter Holiday Activities and Food Programme. This offers free holiday club places, including activities and healthy meals for families with children that are in receipt of benefit-related Free School Meals. The programme will run from 20th December 2023 to 3rd January 2024. Examples of the activities on offer include film-making, bush craft activities, creative fun, tennis, football, trips out to pantomime shows and much more! Eligible families can book their free spaces on the following link: [Holiday activities and food programme – London Borough of Bromley](#)

Can I please ask that parents do not park at the end of the driveway as this is proving quite dangerous when reversing out.

Please remember that this Christmas the children will be collecting for The Cardinal Hume Centre and The Passage. These worthy charities desperately need our support at this time of year. There will be retiring collections after the KS1 Nativity and the KS2 Carol Concert and the donations will be shared between the two charities.

We are looking forward to the Choir singing at All Saints Church, Orpington on Saturday and will see you there if you are coming to the performance.

God Bless.

Mrs Weeks

Word on Wednesday

The Wednesday Word is HOPE. Advent is the season of hope, culminating in the celebration of the birth of Jesus. This Sunday's Gospel is filled with hope when John the Baptist makes it clear that it is Jesus that the people should follow: the hope of the world. Hope is a virtue which can sustain us through life's greatest difficulties. When we spend time learning about and listening to Jesus, we are filled with hope and strengthened, and so are able to bring great hope and good news to others. We asked the children if they could remember a time when they faced a difficult situation and someone gave them hope? As part of our Advent preparations for Christmas, let's consider if there is anyone we know who is sad or troubled and needs hope. In what ways can we bring hope to that person? Perhaps we can: be a good friend and a patient listener, offer support and encouragement where needed and let them know we are praying for them.

Safeguarding

Being a parent can be challenging, and taking care of your mental health is important. If you are struggling, it is important to reach out for support from friends, families and organisations that are there to help. Changes to a parent's mental health can sometimes affect children and their well-being. They may pick up on your anxiety or low mood. This does not mean you should hide or minimise your feelings. You can try to explain them using phrases like, "It's ok to get big feelings, everyone gets big feelings but it's still the grown up's job to look after the children" or "If grown-up's get big feelings it's not your fault - we can ask other grown-ups for help with our feelings." It's important to give children reassurance and support. Looking after your own mental health is vital to their well-being. Please reach out if you need help.

Dates for your Diary

December

Monday 11th 8:30 Harlequins Dance Performance for parents

Monday 11th Create Club Assembly

Monday 11th KS2 Rehearsing at church

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

January

Thursday 4th Children return

Gardening News

London Children's Flower Society

We have been invited to submit artwork for a competition to design the cover for the LCFS Annual Report. If you think your child would be interested **entries must be sent directly to the LCFS by the 6th January.** All details are shown on the attached flyer. Please pay particular attention to the format required to avoid disappointment.

MINI-VINNIES

We would like to thank Y4 parents for their contributions to the Food Bank this week. We are now opening it up to the whole school, so if you would like to contribute non-perishable items you will find the wooden box outside the office.

PTA NEWS

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas, with lots of you now able to rock around the Christmas trees that you collected on Saturday.

With the weather taking a turn... baby it's cold outside... but could it be a white Christmas? If only... let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!

We had a wonderful Christmas Fair and I'm thrilled to let you know that the 2023 PTA Christmas Fair and Christmas Tree sale made...

£6,385!

This is AMAZING. Thank you all again.

This is an amazing achievement considering the increased costs, and that we kept the price of the stalls and the food the same as in previous years.

Again this would not have been possible without the kind donations and help from all the volunteers so thank you all!

With only 17 days until Christmas, we hope you all enjoy the run up to the most wonderful time of the year.

For those of you who have ordered Pantomime tickets, they were distributed on Friday afterschool or can be collected from the school office on Monday.

Dates for the diary

Tuesday 12th December 5:30pm Cinderella
Pantomime, Churchill Theatre

AWARDS

KS1 AWARDS

Year	Gold Sticker Award		Golden Promises
Rec	Grace	Oreofe	KeeKee
Year 1	Thaara	Max	Luca
Year 2	Clara	Tadhg	Jaimie

KS2 AWARDS

Year	Respect in class	Pride in work
Year 3	Precious	Chagi
Year 4	Nischa	Luke
Year 5	Anthony	Delphne
Year 6	Daniel	Lea

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

ATTENDANCE

	Attendance (%)	Occasions Late
R	100	1
1	98.67	0
2	97.0	1
3	96.88	0
4	96.25	0
5	97.50	0
6	97.74	0

Congratulations to Reception who have had the best attendance all term and now have their own clothes day on Monday 18th December. Well done!

Weekly Winners

Year	Number of wins
Rec	7
Y1	4
Y2	1
Y3	0
Y4	1
Y5	0
Y6	1