



# St James' RC Primary Weekly Newsletter

Friday 8th March 2024

Twitter: @stjamesrc

Issue 21

## Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents,

We were delighted this week to hear about the secondary schools that our Year 6 children will be going to in September. All of the children were allocated a school on their list and these secondary schools will be very lucky to have our children.

I hope that you found the recent Parent Evenings informative and that you were able to discuss your children's learning and their targets.

On Monday, Year 1 visited The National Gallery. They completed a workshop about paintings telling a story. They saw lots of different paintings and even saw one come to life! Their favourite part was finding familiar paintings by artists they have studied already in Reception and Year 1.



As we continue our journey through Lent, the children are reflecting on The Stations of The Cross that we have around the hall where they are reminded of Jesus' Passion. The Stations of The Cross are more than the retelling of a story. They are a prayerful participation in the event that lies at the heart of Christianity – Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection.

Father David kindly gave up his time this week to lead Taizé sessions for our KS2 children.

The Taizé Community is an ecumenical Christian monastic fraternity in Taizé, France. It is composed of more than one hundred brothers, who originate from about thirty countries around the world. It was founded in 1940 by Brother Roger Schütz. Taizé has become one of the world's most important sites of Christian pilgrimage, with a focus on youth. Over 100,000 young people from around the world make pilgrimages to Taizé each year for prayer, Bible study, sharing, and communal work. The music emphasizes simple phrases, usually lines from Psalms or other pieces of Scripture, repeated and sometimes also sung in canon.



I was delighted to attend the Bromley Deanery Mass at Our Lady of the Crays Parish Church with Father David on Wednesday. This mass was celebrated by Canon Victor Darlington, the Episcopal Vicar for the South-East Area of the Archdiocese of Southwark. Canon Victor has worked to tackle knife crime in London. He has championed a range of community initiatives to support victims and to prevent young people being involved in gangs and violence. He has also worked on different parish-based and community projects aimed at de-escalating racism tensions and supporting diversity and equality through the lens of the gospel.

I met with a representative from Bromley Y this week to talk about how they can continue to support our children. Please see the link to upcoming parent webinars on offer.  
[Bromley Y Events - 10 Upcoming Activities and Tickets | Eventbrite](#)

The Mini Vinnies at St James' led a KS2 assembly to reflect on the first three Stations of the Cross. Their reflections enabled the children to pray and pause for a moment to think about the journey that Jesus took to the cross on Good Friday. Thank you to Mrs Grist for supporting the children in planning and leading this assembly.



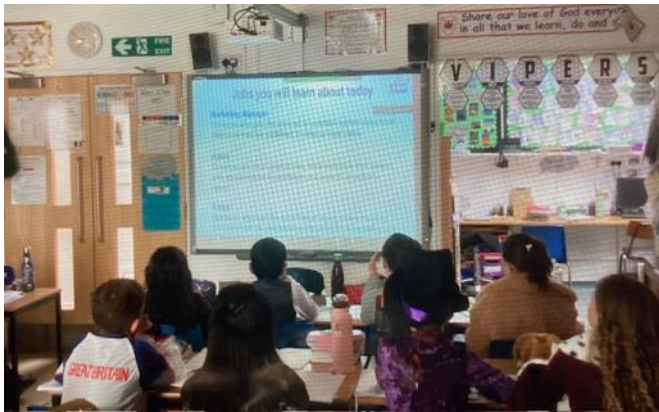
Year 3 lead KS2 Prayer and Liturgy this week on the theme of kindness; thinking about ways that Jesus showed us how to be kind and how we can be kind to others.



This week Year 4 attended a virtual talk entitled Redrawing the Balance. This was led by 'Inspiring the Future'. It talked about the need for diversifying work roles. We spoke to Jennie, an AI coder from Google and listened to Jude, an EYFS practitioner. The children asked some fantastic questions and thought about their own career goals for the future.



This week Year 5 and Year 6 were able to join online STEM Career workshops to tie in with World Book Day and International Women's Day. On Thursday they joined a session called "Jobs Behind the Books" where the children learned the role of the publishers and editors. On Friday they joined a session about STEM careers where women were talking about their jobs in the Army, Law, Cyber Security and in Aerospace Technology.



We had a wonderful day on Thursday when we celebrated World Book Day. The children all looked fabulous in their costumes. Thank you to all the parents that helped the children to dress up. What wonderful costumes! Staff also dressed as book characters to celebrate their love of reading. Please look out for the book vouchers that children are bringing home with them. This voucher is worth £1, to be redeemed against a book of their choice. These tokens are valid for a few weeks so please remember to take your child to choose a book.

Reception created imaginary worlds through the doorway.



Year 1 and Year 2 collected sticks and leaves and created their own tree man based on the story of 'Our Tower'





In Assembly on Friday we talked about International Women's Day. This is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. In class, children found out about great women who changed the world such as Marie Curie, Mary Anning, Mary Seacole, Amelia Earhart, Emmeline Pankhurst, Rosa Parks and Anne Frank. We talked about how we need to make sure that everyone is treated equally and that we must challenge stereotypes when we come across them. Marie Curie famously said, "Life is not easy for any of us. But what of that? We must have perseverance and confidence in ourselves". We also talked about how we do not just celebrate the famous women that we read about but that we celebrate all the women in our lives.

Thank you to all the parents who have attended the virtual online safety talk. If you have not watched this invaluable session please see the joining information in the safeguarding section below. **This is the last weekend that you will have access to it as this ends on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March.** Please do take an hour to watch it.

Next week, on Red Nose Day, we are very happy for children to wear their red noses and make a suggested donation of £1.

On Friday we will be going for a walk through Jubilee Park so please ensure that children have wellington boots or walking boots for that day. It is very muddy at the moment in the park and children must have boots to be able to come on the walk. You are of course very welcome to join us.

Also, on Friday we have the free Moon Watch event at 6:15pm led by the Orpington Astronomical Society. They will give a short 30-minute talk in the hall first and then allow plenty of time afterwards for families to look through the five powerful telescopes that they will set up on the KS2 playground. Please just turn up on the night. They will inform us by 10am on Friday morning if they have to cancel because the skies are not good.

We will be at Crystal Palace tomorrow morning cheering on the cross-country runners in Year 3 and Year 4. Good luck to them all and hopefully it will be perfect running conditions. If there are any children that now find that they are able to run they are welcome to just turn up.

Have a good weekend and 'Happy Mothers' Day' for Sunday.

God bless,

Mrs Weeks

### Word on Wednesday

The Wednesday Word is SELF-GIVING. To be 'self-giving' is to be aware of others' needs or interests, and to put their needs before our own. Let's bring peace and joy into our community by sharing God's love, through our self-giving. We all have gifts that we can give. This Sunday's Gospel reminds us that our daily lives are full of choices between good and bad – between light and dark (to be selfish or to be self-giving). As Easter approaches, we are encouraging the children to choose to do 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

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

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> KS1 Taize with Father David**

**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**

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> Bank of America visiting Y6**

**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**

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> HSBC Y1 Money Workshop**

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> HSBC Y5 Money Workshop**

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

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> HSBC Y3 Money Workshop**

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> HSBC Y4 Money Workshop**

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

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> Bank of America visiting Y6**

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> HSBC Rec Class Money Workshop**

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> HSBC Y2 Money Workshop**

**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 (Parents welcome)**

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

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> Bank of America visiting Y6**

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

## 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.

## OAKIES

This week the children have been making Mothers Day gifts. As you can see, we also had fun yesterday at World Book Day.



## LIBRARY NEWS

Please see the attached information about the Pictures Alive monthly event where they focus on a specific author or illustrator. This month it is Ken Wilson-Max. Booking is via Eventbrite and the link is: To book contact <https://orpingtonlibrary.eventbrite.co.uk>

### Parish Quiz Night

Please support the Quiz Night tomorrow organised by the Confirmation cohort who want to raise as much money as possible for Bromley Lewisham and Greenwich Mind and The Make A Wish Foundation. Get your 6-8 strong team together and let's quiz! Just scan the QR Code on the attached flyer or click the link to register <https://forms.office.com/e/6xuamFQPth> to pay cash on the door. A Ploughman's Platter is included and the bar will be open and there are raffle prizes to be won! This is a cash only event. Thanks for your support!

### Other News

Congratulations to Amélie and her pony Dave who took part in a show at Bedgebury Equestrian Centre last weekend and they won every class. They got first place for - Lead rein pony, lead rein rider and novice assisted classes. They also qualified for the championship and then went on to win reserve show champion. They have now qualified for the sunshine tour in September as well. Well done Amélie.



### PTA NEWS

Happy World Book Day Week and International Woman's Day!

We hope your children enjoyed World Book Day and getting a costume ready wasn't too stressful for you!

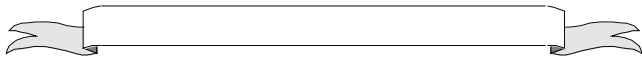
In addition to the kitchen supplies that the PTA help to fund, your donations will also fund new flooring in KS1.

Thank you to those of you who donated costumes for World Book Day and branded school uniform.

Many thanks  
The PTA Committee

## AWARDS

### Headteacher Awards



Year	PEACEMAKER
Rec	Natalia
Year 1	Lyndon
Year 2	Mateo
Year 3	Precious
Year 4	James
Year 5	Percy
Year 6	Ashley



### KS2 AWARDS

Year	Respect in class	Pride in work
Year 3	Logan	Carlotta
Year 4	Ava	Perry
Year 5	Francesca	Nicola
Year 6	Agustin	Maddie

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

## ATTENDANCE

	Attendance (%)	Occasions Late
R	96.67	3
1	96.33	0
2	96.67	1
3	99.06	0
4	96.25	1
5	93.75	1
6	98.06	0

Congratulations to Y3 who had the best attendance last week.

### Weekly Winners

Year	Number of wins
Rec	1
Y1	1
Y2	1
Y3	2
Y4	1
Y5	0
Y6	1

The winners of the best attendance for the term will win 'An own clothes day'. It is very close!