



St James' RC Primary Weekly Newsletter

Friday 13th January 2023

Twitter: @stjamesrc

Issue 15

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents,

As you can imagine it is wonderful to have our gas supply back up and running and to have a warm school again. We are also thrilled that Nourish Catering can return to providing hot lunches for the children once more. The children are certainly enjoying them.

We have all returned to school with renewed energy ready to start the new term. Lots of exciting things are planned and the children have already settled down to their learning which is a joy to see.

Staff began the term by all attending an Autism Awareness Course on our INSET day. This was delivered by an external provider and we all found it extremely informative and very useful.

I have already held a Student Council meeting this term and we discussed items that children had been talking to the class representatives about. The minutes can be found on the website in the Pupil Voice section of School Life.

This term our Character Education 'Life Skill' that we are focusing on is **PATIENCE**. This is also a Catholic Virtue to live by and children will be nominating one another in assemblies when they see this in others.

The KS2 children should have already brought home their Reading Passports. Please encourage the children to take part and to read a range of genres so that they can aim for a Bronze, Silver or Gold Certificate at the end of term Reading Passport Assembly.

We started the new term by attending Mass for the Feast of the Epiphany. The children listened

carefully when Father David spoke to them about who in their lives has been a star. They thought about a person in their lives who has stirred in them a sense of curiosity and started them on their journey of Faith. Thank you to Father David for celebrating Mass for us.

KS2 children were visited this week by Lolly Bell, the Youth Minister for the Bromley Deanery, to hear about the Faith in Action initiative for children in Year 5 and Year 6. Faith in Action is a national award scheme which challenges young people aged 9-18yrs to make a difference in the world through service and spiritual reflection. There are four levels of the award - Pin, Bronze, Silver, Gold and each one recognises and celebrates the good work and positive contribution made by young people in their parishes, schools and communities. If your child wishes to take part, the Faith in Action Award will launch on **Saturday 4th February at 11.00am-12.30pm at Holy Innocents Church in Orpington**. You are invited to go along with your child to meet the team and find out more about the programme and register if you would like to. If you have any questions please email Lolly Bell at: lollybell@rcaos.org.uk

Year 1 took part in a National Gallery Take One Picture online workshop this week.



Hopefully you will have seen the letters that class teachers have sent home explaining the topics that your children will be studying this term and suggesting ways in which you can help. Please remember to contact class teachers if you have any questions as they are always happy to help. You are very welcome to catch staff at the end of the day or via the office.

We were really pleased to welcome our extra-curricular clubs back this term. Please see the club letter that was sent out earlier this week about what clubs are available and how they can be booked. If you have any questions please do contact the school office.

Please remember that as the weather continues to be cold and children are coming to school with hats and gloves we ask that you ensure that all items of clothing are clearly labelled with your child's name. We already seem to have lots of hats and gloves that we do not know who they belong to.

I wanted to share some information regarding our adverse weather and school closure policy. I will always endeavour to keep our school open and operating as normal. However, my first priority will always be to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of pupils, families and staff. Therefore, in the event of severe adverse weather such as snow it may be necessary for me to decide to close the school for reasons of safety. The school will only be closed if one or more of the following conditions apply:

- There are insufficient staff to keep the school running safely;
- Conditions on site are dangerous;
- Conditions are considered to be too hazardous to travel.

If I am unable to open the school on a morning I will issue a message to be communicated to parents via twitter and email as early as possible. Hopefully, we will not have the extreme weather that we had before Christmas and that we can remain fully open for the remainder of this winter.

We hope that you enjoy reading this term's RE Newsletter that Mrs Wilson has attached. It explains what we will be doing this term to deepen the children's faith.

Can I please remind everyone to park considerately – we have had a few complaints from neighbours and parents this week. Please also try to park a little further away from school as the roads close to the school get particularly busy at drop off and pick up. I know that some parents and neighbours are sadly having to make a note of licence plates and are contacting the local police.

On a more positive note we were delighted this week to hear that Mrs Deasy had entered our school into a competition highlighting our Forest School and that we have won some wooden mini beast identification disks. The children will be able to use these in Forest School.

We also found out this week that we have been awarded Gold Level Accreditation in recognition of our achievements in active travel initiatives. This links beautifully with the Year 6 children who successfully took part in Bike Ability this week. It was great to see so many of the children developing their road sense and being safe on the roads!

Please remember that if you are applying for your child to start in Reception Class in September 2023 that the closing date for applications is Sunday 15th January.

As you know, it is sadly Mrs Howie's last day with us on Thursday. I cannot thank her enough for all that she has done for the school. We will all miss her greatly but of course wish her the very best of luck in her new full-time role in London. I am sure that she will return to see us and we will certainly stay in touch.

Finally, as promised I am delighted to announce that the postponed Staff Pantomime will be on **Friday 10th February**. If you know that your child can no longer attend please do contact the office for a refund. Miss McCarty is attempting to rearrange the Art Club on that evening.

I hope you all have a good weekend.

God bless

Mrs Weeks

Dates for your diary

January

Thursday 19th 9:05 Year 4 Class Mass in school (Christian Unity)

Thursday 19th pm Y3 Art Workshop

Thursday 19th Year 5 and Year 6 Young Voices Concert at the O2

Thursday 19th School Census Day and change of school lunch menu

Thursday 19th Y3 Art online workshop

Thursday 19th Mrs Howie's last day

Friday 20th Y5 Stem Challenge

Wednesday 25th PTA Own Clothes Day

Friday 27th: 9:05 Y4 Class Assembly

Monday 30th 3:30 Open Classroom to look at trays in classrooms

February

Thursday 2nd Drama Workshops Rec, Y1, Y2, Y3, Y6

Friday 3rd Year 5 Sleepover at Natural History Museum

Monday 6th - Friday 10th Children's Mental Health Week

Tuesday 7th Safer Internet Day

Wednesday 8th Year 1 visiting Pizza Express
 Wednesday 8th Year 5 Art online workshop
 Thursday 9th 9am Open classrooms for parents to see learning
 Friday 10th 9:05 Y2 Class Assembly (Parents are welcome)
 Friday 10th Philosophy for Children (P4C) afternoon
 Friday 10th Staff Panto
 Monday 13th –Friday 17th Half term
 Monday 20th Start of Fair-Trade Fortnight
 Monday 20th -Friday 24th Science Week in school
 Tuesday 21st Year 5 and Year 6 Choir Rehearsal for Bromley Proms
 Wednesday 22nd Ash Wednesday Mass
 Thursday 23rd Year 3 visiting The National Gallery
March
 Tuesday 1st Year 6 National Offer Day for secondary schools
 Thursday 2nd World Book Day (Children may dress up as a book character)
 Friday 3rd CAFOD Lent Family Fast Day
 Friday 3rd: 9:05 Y3 Class assembly (Parents are welcome)
 Monday 6th Open evening 3:30-6:30 (Parents only -not children)
 Tuesday 7th Open evening 3:30-6:30 (Parents only -not children)
 Tuesday 8th International Women's Day
 Thursday 9th 9:15 Spring walk (All welcome)
 Monday 13th Start of British Science Week
 Tuesday 14th 5:30 EEDI Committee
 Thursday 16th 9:05 Year 3 Class Mass in school (Peace and Reconciliation)
 Friday 17th Red Nose Day (Children may wear red noses)
 Saturday 18th Year 3 and Year 4 Cross Country
 Tuesday 21st World Poetry Day
 Wednesday Y4 visiting Dulwich Picture Gallery
 Friday 24th Oscar Romero Feast Day
 Tuesday 21st World Poetry Day
 Tuesday 21st Reception Class HSBC Money Workshop
 Wednesday 22nd Y3 HSBC Money Workshop
 Thursday 23rd Y2 HSBC Money Workshop
 Friday 24th Y6 HSBC Money Workshop
 Friday 24th KS2 Reading Passports in
 Tuesday 28th Reading Passport Assembly KS2
 Tuesday 28th Y5 HSBC Money Workshop
 Wednesday 29th Y4 HSBC Money Workshop
 Wednesday 29th Rec and Y6 NHS Health Screening
 Thursday 30th 9:15 Year 5 Passion Play (Parents

welcome)
 Thursday 30th Y1 HSBC Money Workshop
 Friday 31st PTA KS1 Easter Egg Hunt
 Friday 31st End of spring term at normal time
April
 Monday 17th Children return for summer term

Word on Wednesday

This Week's Word is WITNESS. John the Baptist gave witness to what Jesus did and who Jesus really was. We talked to the children this week about how through our words and especially through our actions, we can be God's witnesses, through living our lives the way Jesus shows us. We spoke about how everywhere we go we can give witness to God's love – spreading joy and peace.

Safeguarding

Christmas has now come to a close and a new year has begun. As children return to school they often discuss presents that they have received. For many, the answer will be about new devices. All devices which allow both access to the internet and expose children to voice chat, text chat and photo sharing with complete strangers pose a risk. This year presents an acceleration of vulnerability as VR headsets, connected to Facebook's Metaverse have been released. The Metaverse seeks to link users to the internet as a Virtual Entity through the use of Virtual Reality Headsets. This amplifies the danger children are exposed to online. To help you understand this new, fast changing issue the NSPCC has published a guide to both the Metaverse and VR headsets. To find out more please follow the link:

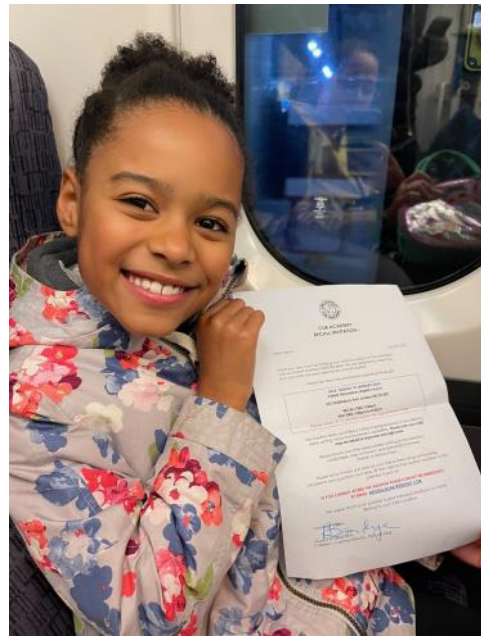
<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/about-us/news-opinion/2022/christmas-vr-safety-advice-for-parents-metaverse/>

Garden News

Towards the end of last year, you may recall that Ed from Y6 made a bird box with his grandfather for our school grounds. Last Friday Ed's family came in, equipped with a multitude of DIY accoutrements and erected it in the ornamental cherry tree facing the school garden. We look forward to welcoming our feathered friends under the watchful gaze of Ed.



CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to Delphine who has won a place at Cub Academy which is a training programme for the London Lion King Production. Delphine is very excited that she has been given this chance.



Congratulations also to Cameron who won the golf 2022 Junior par 3 club championship at Chelsfield Lakes.

Pupil Premium and Free School Meals

If your child is eligible for 'free school meals' and you register them for this, the school will receive extra funding called 'pupil premium'. We use this extra money to improve the educational provision and resources at the school. Pupil premium funding from the government is given to schools to help pupils reach their full potential, regardless of their background or financial situation. It's provided for pupils who:

Are registered for free school meals
Have been registered for free school meals at any point in the past 6 years
Are, or have been, in care
Have parents in the armed forces

Your child might be eligible if you access:

Income Support
Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
Working Tax Credit run-on
Universal Credit, provided you have an annual net earned income not exceeding £7,400 (£616.67 per month)

Your child might also be eligible if you are in a household with no recourse to public funds (NRPF), subject to a maximum income threshold.

This is for children of:

Zambrano and Chen carers (non-EEA nationals caring for a British citizen residing in the UK)
British National (Overseas) passport holders
Spousal visa, work visa, or student visa holders
Those with no immigration status
Families with a right to remain in the UK under Article 8 of the European Convention of Human Rights
Families receiving support under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 who are subject to a no recourse to public funds restriction
Certain failed asylum seekers supported under Section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

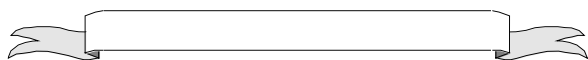
Currently, pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free school meal thanks to a different government funding scheme known as universal infant free school meals (UIFSM). You should not confuse UIFSM with free school meals and the pupil premium. If your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 and is eligible for free school meals according to the criteria above, you should still register because we will receive the extra pupil premium funding.

If you want to register please use the following link and if you are unable to access this link or have any questions please speak to Mrs Garlick via the school office.

<https://www.bromley.gov.uk/benefits/free-school-meals-1>

AWARDS

Headteachers Awards for ICT



Year	RE
Rec	Isabelle
Year 1	Eli
Year 2	Lucas
Year 3	Benedict
Year 4	Tadas
Year 5	Douglas
Year 6	Noah



KS1 AWARDS

Year	Gold Sticker Award		Golden Promises
Rec	Noah	Henry	Chloe
Year 1	Joseph	Jamie	Sebastian
Year 2	Chagi	James	Lottie

KS2 AWARDS

Year	Respect in class	Pride in work
Year 3	Sophie L	Mai –Linh
Year 4	Logan	Aadhanya
Year 5	Natalia	Douglas
Year 6	Hendrick	Alexander

Congratulations to Molly in Y3 who won the KS2 Courtesy Cup this week.

Attendance

Class	Attendance (%)	Occasions Late
Rec	94.92	0
Y1	95.56	0
Y2	100	0
Y3	100	0
Y4	96.88	2
Y5	98.44	0
Y6	95.31	0

Well done to Y2 and Y3 who had the best attendance last week.

Weekly Winners

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

PTA NEWS

Happy New Year- I think it's still not too late to say it!

Hope you all had a great Christmas.

We are putting the fun in fundraising with our plans for the spring term which will be finalised at our PTA meeting on Wednesday, I would encourage you to try and come along, but if you cannot make it please email the PTA and we will send you a zoom link.

Dates for the diary

Wednesday 18th January - PTA meeting
6:30pm

Wednesday 25th January - Own clothes day

Saturday 25th March - Family Disco