



# St James' RC Primary

## Weekly Newsletter

Friday 20th January 2023

Twitter: @stjamesrc

Issue 16

### Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents,

We were delighted this week to hear from HSBC that we had been awarded the 2023 HSBC UK Smart Money Award. HSBC have been visiting the school termly for the last year and the teachers believe that the children have really benefited from these visits. Thank you to Mrs Richards who continues to organise this.

This week staff attended allergy training delivered by Bromley Health Care. Please remember to keep the school updated on any allergies that the children have and ensure that any Epi Pens or Jext pens are in date. Can you also ensure that your child has asthma that we have a spacer in school for them to use with their inhaler.

This week I was invited to assist Greenwich University in interviewing prospective PGCE students for the University. It was a privilege to be involved in helping to select the next generation of student teachers and there was a wealth of energised graduates ready to embark on their future careers. I look forward to continuing to be involved in this work with the University.

The PTA held their first meeting of 2023 on Wednesday and I would like to take this opportunity to thank those that attended the meeting for their continued service to the school. Without the support that the PTA provides we would not be able to provide the resources that we do and I know that the staff appreciate all their hard work.

Father David visited us on Thursday to celebrate Year 4's Class Mass on the theme of Christian Unity. He reminded the children that as Catholics we are all Christians. The children had prepared

the Mass so well. Thank you, Year 4.

This week Year 3 took part in an Art Workshop where they participated in a zoom call with The National Gallery. Mr Dickinson virtually showed them around the gallery and pointed out important paintings. They then concentrated on the painting 'The Coronation of the Virgin' by Jacopo di Cione. They discussed how this beautiful painting was a massive task for that period and how expensive it was to be commissioned, as it used real gold. They then tried recreating this artwork but without the real gold! Thank you to Miss Spencer-Boyce for arranging this.



The KS2 Choir travelled to the O2 on Thursday night to perform with The Young Voices. I hope the children enjoyed this amazing opportunity. They travelled up to the O2 during the day and spent the day rehearsing before performing with approximately 8500 children and Heather Small of M People. The children had a fantastic night and behaved wonderfully. Thank you to all parents who came to watch us and those that accompanied us too. A huge thank you to Miss Atkinson for all her hard work in organising this and to Miss McCarthy for coming too. Thank you to the KS2 Choir for taking part so enthusiastically. Well done! What an experience for the children!



Year 5 took part in a Space Challenge Workshop on Friday which was organised by The Small Piece Trust. They aim to give young people everything they need to fuel their passion for engineering and are supported by the Royal Air Force Charitable Trust. In part one of the workshop, the children followed instructions to build a rocket from card and launched it using a straw. They had to evaluate the effect of fins and investigate how the launch angle and the payload can affect the range of the rocket. In part two, the children had to design a sustainable aircraft of the future. One of the designs will be entered into the national competition. Thank you to Mrs Wilson for organising this.





As you know, we are committed to making sure that each of our children gets the best possible start to life and one way that we can do this is through ensuring good school attendance. Evidence shows that children who attend school regularly are more successful and it is therefore vital that children attend school, on time, every day in order to gain the greatest benefit from their education.

10 whole days of school have been missed if a child's attendance is 95%.  
20 whole days of school have been missed if a pupil's attendance is 90%.  
Attendance below 90% is seen as persistent absenteeism by the DfE and we are asked to report any to the local authority. As a school we track attendance that falls below 95%. **Please remember that there are two sessions each school day, a morning and an afternoon, and that if a child is absent for the day they have missed two sessions. If children wake up feeling unwell but feel better by the afternoon please do bring them in for the afternoon session that starts at 1:15.** For every day of school missed by a child it will reduce their attendance by 0.5%. Please also remember that holidays in term time will not be

authorised. Children only attend school for 190 days out of 365 which leaves 175 days for holidays.

This week we sadly said good bye to Mrs Howie and the children presented her with themed cards in a whole school assembly. We wish her lots of luck as she starts her new full-time job. We are very pleased to announce that Mrs Patel, who many of you know from St James' preschool, will be working in the school office alongside Mrs Lams after half term.



Mrs Howie has written: *I want to say a big THANK YOU for all the messages and gifts this week. You have all been so kind. St James' really is a very special school and it has been a privilege to work here. All the children will forever have a place in my heart. I will be back to visit very soon! Mrs Howie x*

Some parents have asked me about the upcoming strikes involving teachers that are planned for 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 15<sup>th</sup> March and 16<sup>th</sup> March. At the moment I do not know fully how this will impact St James' but in the event of a strike, I will take all reasonable steps to keep the school open. As soon as I know further details I will of course let you know.

Have a good weekend and I wish you a Happy Chinese New Year!

Mrs Weeks

## Dates for your diary

### January

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> PTA Own Clothes Day**

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup>: 9:05 Y4 Class Assembly (Parents welcome)**

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

### February

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

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> Year 5 Sleepover at Natural History Museum

Monday 6<sup>th</sup>- Friday 10<sup>th</sup> Children's Mental Health Week

Tuesday 7th Safer Internet Day

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> Year 1 visiting Pizza Express

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> Year 5 Art online workshop

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> 9am Open classrooms for parents to see learning

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> 9:05 Y2 Class Assembly (Parents are welcome)

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> Philosophy for Children (P4C) afternoon

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> Staff Panto

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> –Friday 17th Half term

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> Start of Fair-Trade Fortnight

Monday 20th -Friday 24<sup>th</sup> Science Week in school

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> Year 5 and Year 6 Choir Rehearsal for Bromley Proms

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> Ash Wednesday Mass

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> International Women's Day

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> 9:15 Spring walk (All welcome)

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> Start of British Science Week

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> 5:30 EEDI Committee

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> 9:05 Year 3 Class Mass in school (Peace and Reconciliation)

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> Red Nose Day (Children may wear red noses)

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> World Poetry Day

Wednesday Y4 visiting Dulwich Picture Gallery

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> Oscar Romero Feast Day

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> World Poetry Day

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> Reception Class HSBC Money Workshop

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> Y3 HSBC Money Workshop

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> Y2 HSBC Money Workshop

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> Y6 HSBC Money Workshop

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> KS2 Reading Passports in

Tuesday 28th Reading Passport Assembly KS2

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> Y5 HSBC Money Workshop

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> Y4 HSBC Money Workshop

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> Rec and Y6 NHS Health Screening

Thursday 30th 9:15 Year 5 Passion Play (Parents welcome)

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> Y1 HSBC Money Workshop

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> PTA KS1 Easter Egg Hunt

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> End of spring term at normal time

### April

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> Children return for summer term

## Word on Wednesday

This Week's Word is COMMUNITY. In this Sunday's Gospel, we hear about Jesus starting to gather together the first Christian community. Our school community strives to be a place of love, friendship, security and inclusiveness. We reminded the children that they all make a unique contribution to our school and that they can use their gifts for the good of our community at St James'.

## Safeguarding

The chat app HiPal is among the App Store's top 20 trending downloads in the social media category. Effectively turning someone's phone into a walkie-talkie for instant audio communication, it offers the possibility of quick contact with new friends – which will ring alarm bells for most parents but is clearly having considerable appeal for younger users. With features including photo sharing and private conversations HiPal has attracted concerns. Please see the attached leaflet.

## Awards

### Headteachers Award for ICT

Year	ICT
Rec	Luke
Year 1	Mia
Year 2	Olivia M
Year 3	Dylan
Year 4	James
Year 5	Chetty
Year 6	Hendrick

## Attendance

Class	Attendance (%)	Occasions Late
Rec	95.25	0
Y1	99.33	0
Y2	96.67	0
Y3	96.88	0
Y4	98.13	0
Y5	95.63	0
Y6	95.94	0

**Well done to Y1 who had the best attendance last week.**

## KS2 Awards

Year	Respect in class	Pride in work
Year 3	Ava	Perry
Year 4	Daniel	Logan
Year 5	Joshua	Noah
Year 6	Alexandos	Jayden C

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

## LIBRARY NEWS

There is an exciting children's Book Festival taking place at Herne Hill. There will be some great authors appearing and getting to Herne Hill is relatively easy via train from Orpington Station. Please see the below:

<https://www.steppingintostories.org/public-programme>

**Congratulations to Eliana in Y4 who won the Courtesy Cup this week.**

## **PTA NEWS**

Dear Parents,

We held our Spring PTA meeting on Wednesday and the minutes and treasurer's report will be circulated shortly.

The highlights of the meeting are we were able to share that through your kind donations and effort, the PTA were able to raise over £10,000 from events last term.

In addition over £3,000 was raised through Donations and Matched funding. For those of you who are not aware here is an explanation of what Match Funding is, and how a little bit of your time could raise double the funds for the PTA.

### **Match Funding (or Match Giving)**

If you work for an organisation that has a match funding policy, any money you raise could be matched by your employer. Companies may match the fundraising total for an event, or for the stall that their employee is working on. Usually, the employee will need to supply them with a letter from the PTA detailing the date and nature of the event, together with the total raised. We understand that the high street banks, building societies, supermarkets and large corporations are likely to do match funding, but these schemes are not exclusive to the major corporate giants. If you work for an independent company, they may be interested in charitable giving through match funding too. We would be grateful if you could see if your employer has a match funding scheme, or if they are willing to match fund any of our events. If you can't help out this time, but you know the company you work for has a match funding policy, please let us know.

This could be a really large source of income for the PTA and help us raise money through fundraising and volunteering, which can really help out when putting volunteers on certain stalls at PTA events.

If you are able to help us this way, please let the PTA know and we can discuss your company's requirements.

Thank you for your support.

### **Dates for your diary**

Own Clothes day (£2 donation) on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January

Family Disco 80s Theme - Please note the previously publicised date is no longer possible so this will move to the 4<sup>th</sup> March.