



St James' RC Primary Weekly Newsletter

Friday 24th March 2023

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Issue 24

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents,

We were very eager to hear about the Year 3 and Year 4 Crystal Palace Cross Country Competition that took place on Saturday.

It was a very wet and muddy race but the children all did so well and should be very proud of themselves. We are certainly extremely proud of all the children who took part. There were lots of individual successes but also team successes. Thank you to Mrs Connolly for everything that she did to make this such a successful event for the children and to Mrs Wilson, Miss Atkinson and Miss McCarthy for coming along to support the children on a Saturday morning. Thank you to all the parents who made sure that the children were there on time and a particular thank you to Mr Kelly for organising Cross-Country Training sessions this term. All the hard work certainly paid off!

38 of our children took part out of 1500 children from 55 schools across Bromley.

Our results are as follows:

Year 3 Girls - 17th

Year 3 Boys - 3rd

Year 4 Girls - 14th

Year 4 Boys - a most amazing 1st place!!!

This was a fantastic team effort but we would also like to mention Harrison who medalled in 5th place from 415 finishers.

Detailed race results can be found at <https://www.bpscca.co.uk/>





We also had a fantastic start to the week on Monday as the Year 5 and Year 6 Choir performed their Matilda Medley for us in assembly.

Thank you to everyone who has been supporting Walk and Wheels Week where children have been encouraged to walk, scoot or cycle to school to inspire them to make active journeys and improve air quality.

As you will see in this week's newsletter we have had another busy week. On Tuesday we celebrated World Poetry Day. The children read the book 'Change Sings' and wrote their own poems. Below is the poem Year 3 created as a whole class for World Poetry Day.

As we pass each class,
We grow up fast.

As we get older,
We grow bolder.

As the changing world grows,
we take part in how it goes.

As the nights grow long,
Everyone will hear my song.

As we sing,
Our voices ring.

I will sing my song,
Even when my soul is gone.

Year 4 also created their own poems using abstract nouns inspired by Amanda Gorman's wonderful book *Change Sings*. They thought about what emotions look like in their minds.



To celebrate World Poetry Day Year 6 also read *Change Sings* where Amanda Gorman writes about how anything is possible when our voices join together in the world and in our communities.



Children have been attending the HSBC Money Workshops this week where the focus has been on Financial Skills for Life. Thank you to Mrs Richards for arranging these visits.

On Tuesday Reception class took part in a story based session entitled 'Ed and Bunny spend some money'. They had to decide whether the characters should buy one or two presents for their friend based on the cost of the items available.



On Wednesday Year 3 looked at how our spending choices impact our environment. From everyday living to choosing how and where to spend money in order to make eco savings.

On Thursday Year 2 looked at how money has evolved into what we use today and the role of money in society. They were recognising the value of money and how we pay for things.



Then on Thursday this week, Bank of America made their second visit to Year 6. They discussed tax and where our taxes are spent. We learnt some interesting facts about some strange things in the past that were taxed - like playing cards and windows! Thank you Mrs Connolly for inviting Bank of America to school.

On Wednesday Y4 visited Dulwich Picture Gallery. After a lovely morning looking at all of the paintings in the gallery they created their own art. Johnny, a local artist, helped them to use watercolours, collage and fine liners to create their own self portraits. They will be displaying them in their classroom soon. The children also had a great time exploring the gardens in the sunshine at lunchtime. Thank you to Miss Atkinson for organising this.



During Lent, Reception class have been learning about how to pray the Rosary. On Monday they were joined by Father David who was very impressed with how well they could talk about what they had been doing and why they had chosen to do this during Lent. Father David then joined in with their Lenten Reflection. They reflected on the things they had done wrong by casting mud over a cross on the floor. When the cross was removed and the clean cross was revealed on the paper underneath, they understood the importance of Jesus coming back to life and forgiving us.



This week, a group of Year 5 pupils attended a Maths Workshop at Bromley High. The theme was "Maths in Real Life." The children learnt about careers that require Maths such as carpenters and scientists. They also practised using a protractor and co-ordinates to direct a ship.

I was lucky enough to watch the Helen O'Grady Drama Show for parents this week and it was clear that all the children who attend this lunchtime club thoroughly enjoy themselves. They are all performed so confidently so well done to all the children involved. Please contact the office for details if your child would like to join this club after Easter.

On Wednesday a group of children from across the school went to Bromley Pavilion to take part in a Ten Pin Bowling Competition. It was a great event and the children were wonderful ambassadors for our school. There was lots of excitement with strikes and spares and an annoying single skittle that seemed to be stuck to the floor! Despite this, the team came second overall and Aiyla won highest score with 118 points! Thank you to Mrs Richards for taking the children and to Mrs Charlesworth who was able to accompany them.



The Year 6 Junior Travel Ambassadors visited Bromley Library on Wednesday for the JTA Mid-Year Meeting. They delivered a very polished presentation to explain all of the JTA activities they have completed so far this year. The Bromley Travel Plan Team and other schools complimented them on their confident presentation. Thank you to Maddie and Aleks and thank you to Mrs Pearce for taking them to this event.



I am pleased to say that we have partnered with the Bromley Local Authority Loneliness Initiative. This is a project that is trying to support people of all ages who face loneliness in Bromley. They work alongside AGE UK, Hope Churches and Local Foodbanks. We have started by taking part in the Festival of Cards Project and Year 4 have made Easter Cards that will be distributed around the borough. Thank you, Year 4 and Miss Atkinson.

On Wednesday this week, Andrey from Bromley Y led an assembly on healthy sleep and how children can ensure that they get enough quality sleep each night. Our Year 6 Well-being Ambassadors also presented some posters that they had made to display around the school to remind children about good sleep habits.



I held a very productive and informative Student Council meeting this week. Please see the attached minutes.

This week we had an unannounced visit from the Food Standards Agency and we are pleased to announce that we were awarded Level 5 which is the highest award given. Well done to Lisa, Carolina and Tracy who work so hard to ensure that food is handled, stored and prepared correctly.

As promised I would like to share the results of our KS2 Anti bullying Questionnaire that the children took part in recently. 100% of the children were able to say who they would tell if they were being bullied in school and 100% knew what to do if they saw someone being bullied. 94% said that they felt that the adults in school dealt very well with bullying incidents. The seven children who did not agree with this were all spoken to and they were asked what could be done differently. They felt that staff did listen but that sometimes things did not always get resolved. This is something that staff will address. 96% said that they had not seen any other children being bullied. The five children that said that they had seen bullying taking place were all spoken to individually to discuss the incidents. Four children said that they were being bullied. These children have all been spoken to individually and are being closely monitored. They all have told me this week that the bullying has stopped.

Our neighbour, Southborough Lane Baptist Church, has been in touch to ask that we remind parents that their our car park is a private one and that parents should not park there. Thank you for your support in this. On this note, we have been told that the St James Church car park will be closed next week from Tuesday night until Thursday afternoon.

Next week is World Autism Week. Autism is a lifelong, developmental disability that affects how a person communicates with and relates to other people, and how they experience the world around them. Being autistic is a fundamental aspect of a person's identity. Autistic people see, hear and feel the world differently to other people. The world can often feel overwhelming for an autistic child and this can fill them with anxiety. Autism is a spectrum condition and although autistic people share certain difficulties, being autistic will affect people in different ways. We have children at St James' with autism and we always explain to all the children in our community that we are all different and have different needs and we are all important and unique.

God bless.

Mrs Weeks

Dates for your diary

March

Tuesday 28th Reading Passport Assembly KS2

Tuesday 28th Year 5 HSBC Money Workshop

Wednesday 29th Year 4 HSBC Money Workshop

Wednesday 29th Rec and Y6 NHS Health Screening

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

Thursday 30th Year 1 HSBC Money Workshop

Thursday 30th Year 5 and Year 6 Bromley y 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 COMPASSION. We talked to the children about how in this Sunday's Gospel Jesus knew that Martha and Mary were sad and he did what he could to help them. We explained that people saw this and started to believe in Jesus. This teaches us that we can show people how good Jesus is and help others to believe in him by us showing compassion to others. We know that Jesus is compassionate. He came to take away fear, sadness and loneliness – to help us feel loved, accepted and supported. He asks us to

notice when other people need us and to show compassion by doing what we can to help and support them.

Safeguarding

Designated Safeguarding Lead:

Mrs L Weeks, Head Teacher

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead:

Mrs M Wilson, Deputy Head Teacher

Mrs J Richards, SENCO

Oakies

This week the children have been having great fun playing outside in both the KS1 and KS2 playgrounds. They had a fun game of Twister, as you can see. The weather is obviously improving, so we will be outside more often.

The eggciting crafts have began, keep your eyes peeled next week.



Other News

We were delighted to hear about Lana in Year 6 who entered the Bromley Festival of Music and Speech on Saturday and won the Gold Medal in her group and the overall Ann-Louise Straker Trophy across all three groups for Year 6 Verse/ Speaking Category. There were 10 children in her group and 32 across all three groups. She had to learn and recite from memory a Poem from Michael Rosen's "The Best Children's Poetry from Agard to Zephariah" and delivered a brilliant recital of "Spider Swallowing" by Brian Moses in front of three adjudicators and the other children and their parents. We are so proud of her! Well done, Lana.



Sharing Stories

Year 3 and Year 1 came together to share the stories that the whole school made on World Book Day. They read about the different journeys that the children wrote about.



Holy Club

Holy Club this week read a passage from John 8: 31-42. The children discussed how we can all show kindness to others. Members of the group explained how our actions can have a ripple affect on others. Herkus finished the session by leading the group into spontaneous prayer.

Garden News

Phil Webb, a judge with the London Children's Flower Society visited the school this morning. Phil was judging a display of tete a tetes presented by our Reception children. He also judged daffodils and hyacinths plated and grown by Year 2 as part of their science long term enquiry. All were awarded a Gold certificate. Congratulations to all the children involved and to Mrs Deasy for all her hard work.



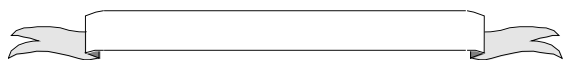
Keep Britain Tidy – Eco Quiz

Y2 joined a live webstream quiz this morning by Keep Britain Tidy in conjunction with children's author and naturalist Sarah Roberts. Sarah wrote "Somebody Swallowed Stanley" – a book about the issues of plastic in our oceans.

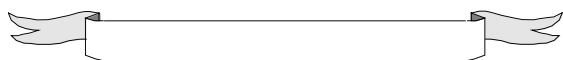


AWARDS

Headteacher Awards



Year	GOOD MANNERS
Rec	Louie
Year 1	Abraham
Year 2	Isla
Year 3	Sophie
Year 4	Fletcher
Year 5	Maddie
Year 6	Alessandra



KS1 Awards

Year	Gold Sticker Award		Golden Promises
Rec	Alice H	Alana	Alice M
Year 1	Patrick C	Huxley	Teddy
Year 2	Oliva B	Sophia	Claudia

KS2 Awards

Year	Respect in class	Pride in work
Year 3	Rory	Camille
Year 4	Edith	Harrison
Year 5	Maia	Agustin
Year 6	Hannah	George

Congratulations to **Mauro** who won the Courtesy Cup this week.

ATTENDANCE

Class	Attendance (%)	Occasions Late
Rec	98.98	0
Y1	97.33	0
Y2	99.0	0
Y3	98.13	0
Y4	96.56	0
Y5	96.25	1
Y6	92.50	0

Congratulations to Y2 who are the winners this term of the best attendance. They get to wear their own clothes on Wednesday.

Year	Number of wins
Rec	
Y1	2
Y2	4
Y3	3
Y4	1
Y5	
Y6	1

PTA NEWS

A big thank you to all of you who attended (or made donations towards) the 80s family disco.

The event was a lot of fun and made almost £700.

We also made £99.50 from the school uniform sale. Thank you again for the donations and to the volunteers.

An update on the Irish Music Night, this will now be on Saturday 13th May, not the 20th May as previously publicised.

It would be really helpful to get an idea on numbers to make sure we do not sell out of Guinness (and Prosecco) so please purchase your tickets as soon as possible.

Dates for your diary

Easter Egg Hunt - Friday March 31st

Irish Music Night – Saturday 13th May