



St James' RC Primary Weekly Newsletter

Friday 26th May 2023

Twitter: @stjamesrc

Issue 31

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents,

Last Friday Year 4 had a fantastic Sleepover in the school hall. The children were impeccably behaved and were a delight to be with. Thank you to Miss Atkinson, Mrs Brown and Mrs Bromfield for giving up their evening to provide such an amazing experience for the children. Thank you also to Mrs Deasy for organising a Forest School Session for them. All of the children arrived back at school at 6:30pm and played games on the field. They all headed down to Forest School for their first campfire of the night. They made s'mores by roasting marshmallows and squishing them between two chocolate biscuits and also had some time in their den that they had built during the day. They came in to set up their beds in the hall and got into their pyjamas before heading back to Forest School for some calm time and some exploring as the sun went down. Once all teeth were brushed and faces washed, the children had a movie before going to sleep. The children all behaved so well and really worked together as a wonderful team.



Last week Year 6 all practised their French by asking for food at a French tasting session that Mme Batten organised. The children sampled baguettes, Brie, Roquefort, Pate and Madeleines for dessert! They also listened to French music and completed a survey in French about the food they

had eaten. This was part of their topic called Au Café. Thank you to Mme Batten for arranging this fabulous morning.

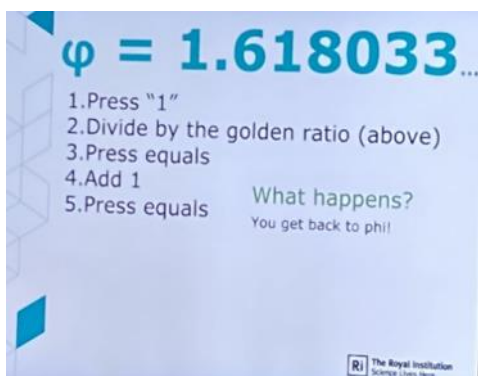


On Monday we were visited by a representative from CAFOD who delivered workshops on the Catholic Social Teaching Principles of human dignity and distributive justice, peace, solidarity, subsidiarity, stewardship and the common good. Each class discussed one Catholic Social Teaching principle in detail. The children thought of ways that they could put their principle into action in the local and wider community.



Year 6 were busy this week as they had a workshop with Bank of America, the Well Being Ambassadors met with Bromley Y and the class went on a trip to The Biggin Hill Museum.

Members of Year 5 attended Bromley High for their final Maths Masterclass session, organised through The Royal Institute. The theme was sequencing and patterns. It was fascinating to learn 'Limits of sequence', 'The Fibonacci Sequence', 'The Golden Ratio' and 'Numbers in Nature'. Numbers in Nature allowed for drawing realistic flowers using the angles that occur in nature as well as in seashells and noticing sequencing, such as patterns occurring in the centres of sunflowers and the fascinating way a pineapple is formed. It was commented on by adults from other schools that St James' children were very polite and had great manners. They definitely showed great respect to the 6th Formers that managed the course. The pupils cannot wait to share this information with the rest of the class.



On Wednesday Year 5 took part in a very informative zoom call with the RAF on possible STEM careers. The children were told that they should follow their dreams and that they could do

anything that they were passionate about. They listened to talks given by a Squadron Leader, a female engineer, a female pilot working within the field of space exploration and a female business analyst who was now working with F1. They also learnt about the mathematicians Alan Turing and Katherine Johnson.



Year 5 Library also visited the library on Friday.

Year 2 have been writing letters to Southmore Court residents this year and on Thursday the children visited Southmore Court. They made wind chimes together (look for these along the hand rail after half term) and had a mini afternoon tea! It was lovely for the children to meet their pen pal face to face.



Reception Class visited the London Aquarium on Friday and had a wonderful time. Thank you to Mrs Richards and the adults that went with them.



This term's Philosophy for Children session took place on Friday. The stimulus used for discussion was a book called : The Truth About Old People by Elina Ellis. The Equality Act of 2010 identifies age as a protected characteristic. It states that we should not discriminate against people in relation to their age. It is important that all children gain an understanding of the world that they are growing up in, and learn how to live alongside, and show respect for, a diverse range of people. The book helped children discuss how we may discriminate against age and treat people differently.

I want to say a big well done to all the children in Year 2 this week as I know they have been completing their KS1 SATs. Mrs Martin and Mrs Le Cuirot have told me that they are very proud of the children. Well done Year 2!

Letters have been sent out this week inviting parents of the children joining us in Reception in September to a meeting in June to hear about how to prepare their children for school. We are all very much looking forward to making them feel very welcome to our community.

We finished the week with an amazing Year 1 Class Assembly. Well done Year 1!

The highlight of our week was our Whole School Mass and May Procession where we honoured Mary, our Mother. It was such a beautiful sight to

see the children hold up their flowers as we sung the final hymn. Back at school, the children read to us about the important events in Mary's life before the children laid their flowers in front of our statue of Mary. The hall was filled with such a wonderful scent. Thank you to everyone who was involved in making this such a prayerful event. Thank you to Mrs Malyon for holding our statue of Mary and to Father David for celebrating Mass for us. Thank you also to Mrs Wilson who organised the morning and ensured everything went smoothly.



This week has been busy for staff with external visitors. On Monday we were visited by our School Improvement Partner who came into school to

observe the teaching of Phonics and to speak to the children about their reading. She was very impressed indeed with everything that she saw and once again said that she saw outstanding practice.

Also, on Monday we hosted an event after school for all teachers in the six schools of the Bromley Catholic Schools Trust. This was led by Daniel Coleman from The Education Commission and we moderated our RE Writing. Daniel Coleman was delighted by the way that our group of schools support one another and work so closely together. Everyone found it very useful and we really value the strong links that we have with the other five schools in the Trust. These meetings are a very powerful and useful way that teachers from the various schools work together.

Finally, on Tuesday we invited a specialist safeguarding consultant to carry out a Safeguarding Review for us to ensure that we continue to have the correct safeguarding procedures in place. She saw many strengths in our systems and had no concerns. This of course is of huge importance as safeguarding is such a priority for us.

On Friday we had an external contractor on site building and installing a new platform at the pond.



Next week in school we are having the Year 1 and Year 5 Classrooms painted as well as the area

between Year 1 and Year 2. We hope to paint all the classrooms in the next few years on a rolling programme and the PTA have kindly agreed to fund this.

Thank you to all our wonderful staff for working so hard this half term and I hope everyone in our community has a well-deserved half term holiday. God bless

Mrs Weeks

Dates for your diary

May

Monday 29th- Friday 2nd Half term

June

Monday 5th INSET day

Wednesday 7th Y4 to Roman Villa

Thursday 8th Y6 Bank of America

Friday 9th Empathy Day

Friday 9th Y3 visit to the library

Monday 12th pm Y6 Junior Citizen

Tuesday 13th PTA Own Clothes Day

Tuesday 13th 5:30 EEDI Meeting

Wednesday 14th Y4 Architecture Trip

Thursday 15th am Class photographs

Thursday 15th Y2 Library Visit

Friday 16th Prayer Day

Friday 16th KS 2 Cake Sale (Y4)

Monday 19th NSPCC Assemblies

Tuesday 20th Y3 Ancient Greek Day

Wednesday 21st 6:30 pm New Reception Parent Meeting

Thursday 22nd Windrush Day

Thursday 22nd Canon Victor Darlington visiting

Thursday 22nd Y6 to Bank of America, Bromley

Friday 23rd Reception Class to Library

Saturday 24th PTA Summer Fair 12-3pm

Monday 26th Y5 Money Workshop

Monday 26th Reception Class to Church

Tuesday 27th Year 5 and Year 6 NSPCC Workshops

Wednesday 28th 2pm New Reception children visit and meet the teachers

Thursday 29th 2pm New Reception children visit and meet the teachers

Thursday 29th Whole School Mass St Peter and St Paul (Year 3)

Friday 30th 9:05 Rec Class Assembly

Friday 30th Y6 Money Workshop

Friday 30th Y6 Careers Day

July

Monday 3rd Y2 Money Workshop
Tuesday 4th Reception Class Money Workshop
Wednesday 5th Y1 Money Workshop
Thursday 6th Y4 Money Workshop
Thursday 6th am KS1 Drama Workshops
Thursday 6th and Friday 7th Yr 6 Production 7pm
Friday 7th Y3 Money Workshop
Friday 7th KS2 Cake Sale (Y3)
Friday 7th Reports to parents
Monday 10th Sports Day
Monday 10th –Friday 14th Sport Week
Wednesday 12th 1:15 Helen O’Grady Performance
Thursday 13th Summer Walk 9:15
Friday 14th Reserve Sports Day
Friday 14th KS2 Reading Passports in
Friday 14th 3:30-5:30 Walk Around Evening
Tuesday 18th KS2 Reading Passport Assembly
Thursday 20th 10 am Whole School Mass Leavers (Yr 6)
Thursday 20th Last day of term
Friday 21st INSET

Word on Wednesday

This Week’s Word is **PENTECOST**. The children know that this Sunday the Church celebrates Pentecost. This is the feast of the gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church – a gift which we now receive at Baptism, Confirmation and at Mass. At Pentecost the apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit. Pentecost is not just a historical event as The Holy Spirit is alive and active today. Pentecost Sunday is popularly known as the birthday of the Church as this was the day when Jesus’ disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit and the mission of the Church really began.

Safeguarding

Omegle appears to be a simple internet chatroom. It has no registration or account system. It is designed with the objective of getting strangers to talk to each other. It allows children to use the platform without needing parental assistance, money or even an email address. This already creates a dangerous situation but its insistence on users needing a webcam to chat places children in an extremely vulnerable place. To find out more about Omegle and the risks it poses, please follow the links below:

Internet Matters: <https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/news-blogs/what-is-omegle-what-parents-need-to-know/>
Childnet: <https://www.childnet.com/blog/what-is-omegle-key-things-parents-and-carers-need-to-know/>

GARDENING NEWS

All KS1 children have, this afternoon, brought home a small packet of sunflower seeds - enough for older siblings in KS2 too! Please encourage your children to sow these seeds, either in a pot or directly into the ground, and to nurture any resultant plants. Photographs of their progress may be uploaded to their class Seesaw accounts to share with their classmates over the growing season. By mid July, the Gardening Club will be asking for a final submission for their judging. Prizes will be awarded to the tallest/smallest (with flower!) and 'best in show'. Have a lovely half term break, enjoy our great outdoors and, hopefully, some sunshine.

Mrs Deasy



OAKIES

Finally, we have had some beautiful weather! The children and staff sat on blankets and cushions and enjoyed a lovely fruit ice lolly in the sunshine! We are hoping for more glorious weather over the coming weeks.

Please could we remind parents that children should come to school with a hat. Thank you.

All the staff at Oakies wish you a fantastic half term break.
Oakie dokie



OTHER NEWS

Harrison represented the Kent County tennis team last weekend in the regional qualifiers with Kent topping the Group and moving onto the South finals in 3 weeks time. Congratulations!



ATTENDANCE

Class	Attendance (%)	Occasions Late
Rec	96.33	2
Y1	95.33	0
Y2	99.67	1
Y3	99.06	0
Y4	91.56	0
Y5	98.13	0
Y6	91.88	0

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

WEEKLY WINNERS

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

PTA NEWS

We hope you are looking forward to the Bank Holiday weekend and half term.

You will have received the raffle tickets for the summer fair and the request for donations with your child today.

We have lots of non branded school uniform, so we have requested only St James's branded school uniform. The same with the toys and books, hopefully if we have more items targeted at the children's age, we will be able to make a mini book shop!

Your PTA reps will also be reaching out for volunteers to help with the set up and running of each year groups stalls. Thank you in advance for your continued support here, as these events cannot happen without your help.

We are continuing with the Friday ice cream sales and will also have school uniform and book sales happening after half term.

We will be sending out details for the Summer Ball next week, so start thinking about who you want on your tables of 10 and get ready to nominate someone to collect the ticket money.

Dates for your Diary

- Own clothes day - Tuesday June 13th

Summer Fair – Saturday 24th June – 12-3pm

Summer Ball - Saturday 8th July