



# St James' RC Primary Weekly Newsletter

Friday 27th January 2023

Twitter: @stjamesrc

Issue 17

## Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents,

I am confident that the school will remain open during the forthcoming industrial action by the National Education Union over four days in February and March. If this changes I will of course let you know but the **school will certainly be open on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February**. Please see the attached leaflet.

In assembly on Monday we spoke to the children about our relaunched Mission statement and looked in detail at our values of:

**FAITH IN ACTION, WORKING TOGETHER and WALKING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF CHRIST.**

This term, we will continue to focus on our vision which is to:

**Share our love of God every day in all that we learn, do and say.** We will also talk to the children about how we therefore strive to:

- Live out our Catholic values, placing them at the heart of our whole school community.
- Inspire all to be excited and empowered by learning.
- Celebrate diversity and promote inclusive relationships through mutual respect, kindness and compassion.
- Work together for the common good for a fairer and a more just society in which we can all serve.

Some pupils from Y5 attended a Primary Maths Masterclass organised by Bromley High School in association with the Royal Institution. The children enjoyed learning how algebra can be used to perform mathematical magic tricks!

### I Bet I can Guess Your Number!

**Choose a number from 1-20**

**Double it. Add 10. Divide by 2 and then subtract the number you started with.**

**I bet the number is 5!!!!!!**

They also learnt how to multiply any number from 10 to 99 by 11 without using long multiplication,. The pupils then had an opportunity to share the activities with the rest of Year 5 so they all benefited from this new knowledge

Thank you to everyone who supported the PTA own clothes day this week. The children certainly enjoyed it.

We ended the week with a very informative assembly presented by Year 4. They told us all about what they had been learning and finished with a very uplifting song where they taught us the actions. Thank you Year 4, Miss Atkinson and the adults in Year 4 for organising this lovely assembly.



We have started our visits to Petts Wood Library for this term and Year 6 went on Friday. Year 6 visited the library today. Sally, the librarian, completed a quiz with us and then we were able to choose our new books.



We were very proud to be featured in the training video clips for The All Aboard Phonics. Well done to Reception Class and Year 1, Mrs Richards, Miss McCarthy and the Reception and Year 1 class staff. Please copy this link into your browser to watch the video.

<http://resources.allaboardlearning.com/training/teacher-training-lessons>

This week I spoke to a group of KS2 girls and then a group of KS2 boys about whether they felt that they were treated fairly in school. They all agreed that boys and girls are treated equally in school and that any stereotyping is challenged. They also all said that they felt safe in school.

This week I visited St Mary's, Beckenham to meet with the other Umbrella Trust Head teachers and I also attended the Bromley Headteacher Forum. It is good to have time to discuss topics with colleagues and to plan initiatives for the future.

This weekend it is the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch. This is fun and free activity for everyone and you do not need a garden to take part! Counting birds from your balcony, or your local park will play a vital role in helping the RSPB to understand how UK birds are doing. You can sign up for a free guide at <https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/>

Next week please remember that you are welcome to come into school on Monday after school to see the children's work in their trays. Please go straight to the classrooms and please come with your child so that they can share their wonderful work with you.

Can I remind you that if you are struggling during this cost of living crisis and would like to seek some financial help please do contact me completely confidentially and I will do what I can to help. It is important to know that you are not alone and that there are things that we can do to support our families.

On Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January and Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February, the Street Dance Club are offering a free taster session. This is an excellent club that we have been running at St James' for many years and the children really do enjoy it. The staff also like it as it is held in the school hall on a Monday morning while staff are preparing for the week ahead and it wakes us all up! It looks great fun. Please do see the attached leaflet if your child is interested in joining or is interested in a free taster session.

I hope you all have a good weekend and I hope you enjoy taking part in the RSPB Birdwatch.

God bless

Mrs Weeks

[Dates for your diary](#)

January

**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> Year 5 Visiting Petts Wood Library

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

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

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

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

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> -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

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> Bank of America talk to Year 6

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> Year 4 Visiting Petts Wood Library

March

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> Year 6 National Offer Day for secondary schools

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> World Book Day (Children may dress up as a book character)

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> CAFOD Lent Family Fast Day

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup>: 9:05 Y3 Class assembly (Parents are welcome)

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> Year 3 Visiting Petts Wood Library

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> Open evening 3:30-6:30 (Parents only -not children)

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> 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)

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> Year 2 Visiting Petts Wood Library

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)

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> Year 1 Visiting Petts Wood Library

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

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> Y4 visiting Dulwich Picture Gallery

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> Bank of America talk to Year 6

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

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> Y6s JTA visiting Bromley

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

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

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> Reception Class Visiting Petts Wood Library

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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 HAPPINESS. We all want to be happy, to have a sense of well-being and inner joy. Jesus' Sermon on the Mount teaches us how to discover the true happiness for which we were created. Living in the way that Jesus taught us, knowing that we are loved forever by God our Father and responding to that love by loving others, is the path to everlasting happiness. We asked the children what they think true happiness is and when are they the happiest they can be? We also asked the children when they last make someone truly happy? We all thought about a simple thing we could do to help to continue to create an atmosphere of happiness in school, the community, or at home this week.

### Safeguarding

Although it's since been expanded to 280, Twitter's initial 140-character restriction was designed to make posts short and punchy. Counter-intuitively, however, these bite-size injections of information and opinion can drive users to engage with Twitter for hours at a time. There are a mind-boggling 6,000 tweets sent every second and around 250 million people (roughly two-thirds of its total user base) go on Twitter every single day. For young people, there is clearly a risk of compulsive use. Please see the attached leaflet.



## SPORTS NEWS

On Tuesday this week, a group from Year 6 competed in a hockey tournament at Langley Park secondary school. At the end of the group stages, they had 2 wins, 1 draw and a loss—enough to put them through to the knockout stages. At the end of full time it was 0-0: at the end of extra time it was 0-0: after 5 minutes of golden goal it was still 0-0! So up came the dreaded penalty shoot out.....unfortunately we lost the shoot out to the overall eventual winners of the tournament—but an amazing performance by all involved! Well done team!



Please look out for the flyer attached to the newsletter introducing a Running Club for Year 3 and Year 4.

Mrs Connolly

## GARDENING NEWS

Two weeks ago today, Mrs Deasy and her gardening volunteers, Mrs Charlesworth and Mr Bishop, came into Year 3 to support their learning around soils for their Science topic. They started the gardening session with a talk by Mrs Deasy and by watching two time lapse videos showing how peas develop over a period of days. The children were then invited to plant their own seeds in labelled pots using recycled soil (coir taken from the husk of coconuts) which were then taken to the school greenhouse. The subsequent plants from these seeds will be potted on into a larger container to reside in the quad between Year 3 and Year 6 providing flowers and scent in early summer.

The children also planted up a 'control' experiment - pea seeds were sown in coir, cotton wool and regular growing compost and placed on the class window ledge under the watchful eye of Jaydon, the class Eco Council representative. Thus far, the peas that have grown the most successfully are those in the cotton wool and Mrs Deasy has had a difficult job persuading the class that this is not the ideal medium and no, we should not be growing all our vegetables in this way!

A further report will follow when we successfully plant out our seedlings in early spring



We still have some Wellie removers for sale if anyone is interested in purchasing one. They are handmade by Mr Jawed—£4 each. Please see Mrs Deasy if you would like one.

## **FAITH IN ACTION**

The Bromley Deanery Catholic Youth Ministry Team are delighted to be launching Faith in Action, a National Awards Scheme at Holy Innocents Church this year. They have been in to present Faith in Action to Year 5 and Year 6, with some of the children expressing a keen interest in getting involved. They have said that it would be lovely to see you at their Launch Day which will enable you and your child/ren to learn more about the programme and meet the team, before selecting an award level and signing up. They look forward to greeting you on 4<sup>th</sup> Feb 11am in the Fr Phelan Centre at Holy Innocents Church, Strickland Way, Orpington BR6 9UE.

## **HOLY CLUB**

The KS2 RE Ambassadors at our school have set up 'The Holy Club' which is held on Friday lunchtimes. Ed and Harry in Y6 and Ashley in Y5 choose music for the children to listen to as they enter the club. The group have an opportunity to share who they would like to pray for in the session. The RE Ambassadors read passages from the Bible and allow the children to reflect on what the Lord's Word means to them. They pray together and then quietly leave whilst listening to songs which reflect the theme of the session. The children definitely show how they can follow the values of the school by putting their faith in action, work together and walk in the footsteps of Christ! Well done Ed, Harry and Ashley!

## **PTA NEWS**

The children had the PTA own clothes day on Wednesday which we hope they all enjoyed.

### **The PTA have a couple of requests for help.**

We have a large amount of donated school uniform in the PTA room, which needs to be sorted for the spring term sale. Some of our PTA Reps have already made a great start sorting through it, however there is a lot of uniform to get through.

If anyone is available to help please email the PTA ([pta.stjamesprimary@gmail.com](mailto:pta.stjamesprimary@gmail.com)) and we will coordinate when volunteers can do it most efficiently.

The uniform sale will be after half term, date TBC.

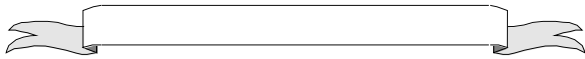
### **The PTA needs a volunteer to lead the coordination of organising the Family Disco on the 4<sup>th</sup> March.**

If this is something which you would be interested in, please email the PTA.

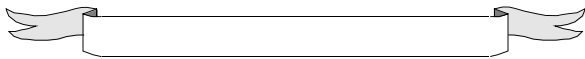
### **Dates for your diary**

80s Theme Family Disco – Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March.

## HEADTEACHERS AWARDS



Year	ICT
Rec	Finley
Year 1	Beatrice
Year 2	Ethan
Year 3	Ava
Year 4	Emma
Year 5	Pascal
Year 6	Adam



## KS1 AWARDS

Year	Gold Sticker Award		Golden Promises
Rec	George	Alice H	Max
Year 1	Sebastian	Ninoshka	Naomi
Year 2	Chimamanda	Patrick	Ada

## KS2 AWARDS

Year	Respect in class	Pride in work
Year 3	James	Matylda
Year 4	Lauren	Samuel
Year 5	Joe	Oliver
Year 6	Alessandra	Emelia

Congratulations to Ashley in Y5 who is the winner of the Courtesy Cup this week.

## ATTENDANCE

Class	Attendance (%)	Occasions Late
Rec	95.59	1
Y1	98.0	0
Y2	99.33	0
Y3	98.75	3
Y4	95.63	0
Y5	95.0	2
Y6	95.0	2

Congratulations to Y2 who had the best attendance last week.

## WEEKLY WINNERS

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