



# St James' RC Primary Weekly Newsletter

Friday 3rd February 2023

Twitter: @stjamesrc

Issue 18

## Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents,

I hope that last weekend you managed to spot some birds if you took part in the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch.

We started the week with a Street Dance Assembly presented by Leia, the teacher from Harlequins Dance. All of the children and staff thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Remember that there is a free session for children before school on Monday to see if they would like to join Street Dance Club. Please contact the club if your children would like to take part in the free session.



I hope that your children were able to show you the work that they have been doing when you visited the classrooms after school on Monday. We are nearly half way through the school year and we are all so proud of the work that the children have completed since September.

On Wednesday, KS2 took part in a virtual assembly with a representative of The Passage. He thanked the children for their fundraising over Christmas and explained where their donations would be going. Thank you to Mrs Wilson for organising this

assembly. The Passage runs a centre for homeless and vulnerable people and each day they help up to 200 people. The outreach Workers make contact, often late at night or early in the morning, with those sleeping rough in Victoria as they are bedding down or getting up each day. The charity agrees an action plan with these people which is time limited with the aim of supporting them out of homelessness.

We welcomed some student teachers from Greenwich University to school this week. They spent the day with us observing lessons and reflecting on the techniques that we use to achieve outstanding behaviour management.

A highlight of my week was being asked to visit Reception Class to try one of the vegetable spring rolls that they had made as part of their continued celebration of Lunar New Year. They were delicious! The children all tried them and some wanted to go home and make them again for their families. Well done and thank you Reception Class.





I want to say a huge thank you to the KS2 RE Ambassadors who have set up a Friday lunch time club that they call 'The Holy Club'. Ed and Harry in Y6 and Ashley in Y5 choose music for the children to listen to as they enter the room. The RE Ambassadors read passages from the Bible and allow the children to reflect on what the Lord's Word means to them. The group have an opportunity to share who they would like to pray for in the session. After praying together, they 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, working together and walking in the footsteps of Christ! Well done Ed, Harry and Ashley and thank you to Mrs Wilson for facilitating this wonderful Friday lunchtime club. All KS2 are invited at 12:45 on Fridays.

On Thursday some classes took part in drama workshops. Thank you to Mrs Richards for organising these sessions. Reception took part in a workshop all about Chinese New Year. They acted out the river race with all the animals and finished with a giant dragon dance!



Year 2 had a workshop learning all about inspirational black people in history. They learnt about Rosa Parks and Mary Seacole. The children learnt so much.



Year 3 children were introduced to their future history topic about Ancient Greece. They learnt about democracy and how there is a little Greek in everything we do!



For many years now, parents have asked if the school can use Parent Pal and we are delighted to announce that we are now be in a position to do this. We hope that it will be helpful to parents.

We will also be using School Cloud in future for parents to sign up for parent evening appointments. More details for this will follow.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Garlick for setting both of these systems up. There could be a few teething problems but please bear with us as we begin to work with both Parent Pal and School Cloud. I would also like to thank Mrs Lams who has really settled into her new role in the school office and already knows all of the children's names. I hope parents have had a chance to meet her.

On Thursday we would like to welcome parents into school to see learning in action. We would ask that parents come into the school hall at 9:05. Once the children have settled, parents may visit a class to see what is being taught until 9:35. We ask that you choose one class to remain in so that the learning is not too disturbed by people coming in and out of the lesson. As our classrooms are small we ask that you do not bring pushchairs and please only bring younger children if you know they will not disturb the children in class. Thank you.

After the Staff Pantomime on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> we will dismiss the children at 5pm in the usual end of the day way onto the KS1 and KS2 playgrounds. Please let After School Club know if your child is staying with them after the Pantomime.

Thank you to the PTA and all the parents who support the fundraising projects throughout the year. KS2 now all have new tables and trays and Year 3 and Year 4 also have new chairs. The classrooms look very smart and children have trays that finally do not keep falling on the floor. Thank you!



Please see the attached Science Expo poster that is also being sent home via SeeSaw. The family project that is suggested is optional but it certainly looks good fun and we look forward to seeing the models on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February. Thank you to Mrs Richards for organising this.

Tonight I will be with Year 5 at their sleepover at The Natural History Museum. I hope that they have a fantastic time and we look forward to hearing all about it next week. Have fun Year 5!

God bless

Mrs Weeks

## Dates for your diary

### February

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

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> Safer Internet Day**

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> 2:15 Y5 visiting Memory Cafe**

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

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

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> 2:15 Y3 Well-being walk through Jubilee Park**

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> 9:05-9:35 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 4 Visiting Petts Wood Library**

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

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> Staff Panto (3:30-5)**

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 5 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 GOODNESS.

This Sunday's Gospel reminds us that we are not here only for ourselves – we are here for others: to improve the lives of those around us with love, care and goodness. Whenever we perform an act of goodness, even the smallest good deed, it pleases God and sets an example for others to see and to follow. We asked the children to name a quality of goodness that they can see in each other and they mentioned helpfulness, politeness, thoughtfulness, generosity, patience, gentleness and kindness. We all tried to decide on a particular act of goodness to let our 'light shine' and to make life better for others.

## Safeguarding

It is known that many parents *never* talk to their child about staying safe online. There are many quite understandable reasons for this, such as feeling that their child is still too young, or

assuming that they are being taught online safety at school. The fact remains, however, that regular conversations about our digital lives can help children keep online safety firmly in mind and avoid many common internet hazards. Please see the attached leaflet about how conversations can start.

### The Read2Dogs scheme

This scheme is provided by Pets As Therapy (PAT) and helps to improve literacy skills and wellbeing in children by developing their confidence, interest and enjoyment in reading. Some children feel incredibly nervous and stressed when asked to read aloud, regardless of whether they are in a classroom or having a one-to-one session with a teacher. When a PAT Dog visits, their presence can boost a child's motivation and morale. Dogs are non-judgmental and great listeners - they do not interrupt or correct - so they aid confidence and concentration levels. PAT Dogs are also known to encourage positive social behaviours, enhance self-esteem and inspire children to relax and have fun.

We are grateful to Poppy and her owner Diane who come to read with Year 2 every week and Honey and her owner Sue who visit Year 4.



### Book Fair

Thank you so much to everyone for supporting our Book Fair last term. For every book that was bought the school earned commission to purchase new books. The order arrived this week and as you can see the children have a lot to look forward to with their reading. Thank you all once again.

Mrs Connolly

### KS1 AWARDS

Year	Gold Sticker Award		Golden Promises
Rec	Luke	Thaara	Amelie
Year 1	Beatrice	Harry	Veronica
Year 2	Carlotta	Allegra	Mia

### KS2 AWARDS

Year	Respect in class	Pride in work
Year 3	Mauro	Chimbusonma
Year 4	Oscar	Natalie
Year 5	Noah	Florence
Year 6	Emily	Lana

### ATTENDANCE

Class	Attendance (%)	Occasions Late
Rec	97.97	
Y1	97.33	
Y2	98.67	3
Y3	96.88	
Y4	98.13	3
Y5	97.81	
Y6	97.19	1

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

Congratulations to Hannah in Y6 who won the Courtesy Cup this week.

### WEEKLY WINNERS

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