



St James' RC Primary Weekly Newsletter

Friday 12th January 2024

Twitter: @stjamesrc

Issue 14

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year if I have not seen you yet this term! I hope you and your families all had a good Christmas.

During the Christmas holidays the PTA paid for new flooring to be put into the KS2 Gazebo and we are very grateful for this. It will ensure that the gazebo lasts for many more years to come.

We have all returned to school with renewed energy ready to start the new term. Lots of exciting things are planned and the children have already settled down to their learning which is a joy to see.

Pope Francis has declared 2024 as a special Year of Prayer and we have been talking to the children about different kinds of prayer.

This term the Catholic Virtue that we are focusing on is **PATIENCE**. Children will be nominating one another in assemblies when they see this in others.

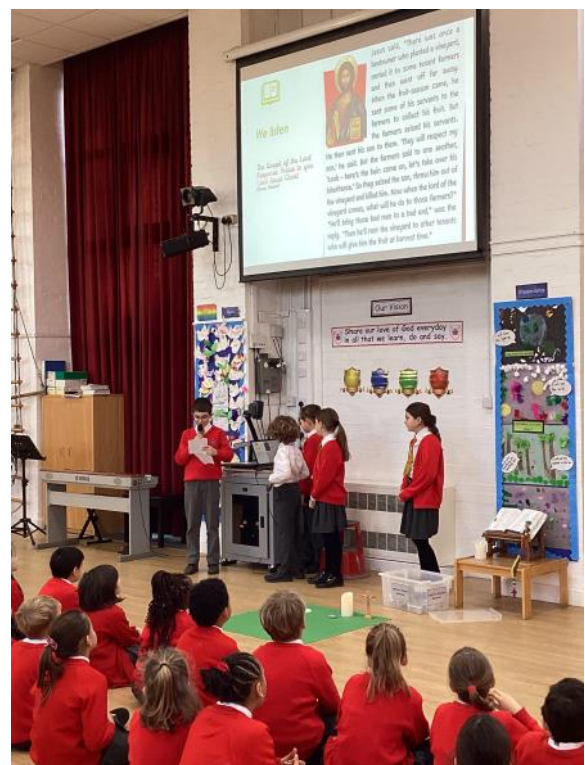
In KS2 children will be bringing home their Reading Passports. Please encourage the children to take part and to read a range of genres so that they can aim for a Bronze, Silver or Gold Certificate at the end of term. They are due back in on Friday 22nd March ready for the assembly where we will be awarding the certificates on 26th March.

Class teachers have been sending home letters this week that explain the topics that your children will be studying this term and suggesting ways in which you can help. Please remember to contact class teachers if you have any questions as they are always happy to help. You are very welcome to catch staff at the end of the day or via the office.

We were really pleased to welcome our extra-curricular clubs back this term. Harlequins Dance Club performed for children this week. If you have any questions about any of our clubs please do contact the office.



KS2 Collective Worship this week was led by Year 4 who reflected on the Bible scripture : Matthew 21:33-43



As the weather continues to be cold and children are coming to school with hats and gloves we ask that you ensure that all items of clothing are clearly labelled with your child's name. We already seem to have lots of hats and gloves that we do not know who they belong to.

I wanted to share some information regarding our adverse weather and school closure policy. I will always endeavour to keep our school open and operating as normal. However, my first priority will always be to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of pupils, families and staff. Therefore, in the event of severe adverse weather such as snow it may be necessary for me to decide to close the school for reasons of safety. The school will only be closed if one or more of the following conditions apply: there are insufficient staff to keep the school running safely; conditions on site are dangerous or conditions are considered to be too hazardous to travel. If I am unable to open the school on a morning I will issue a message to be communicated to parents via twitter and email as early as possible. The message will be sent when I have been able to speak to staff and do a site visit. Hopefully, we will not have any extreme snow and we can remain fully open this winter.

I hope that you enjoy reading this term's RE Newsletter that Mrs Wilson has attached. It explains what we will be doing this term to deepen the children's faith.

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. It is 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. 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 a child is unwell in the morning and feels better later they can come into school ready for the afternoon session. For every day of school missed by a child it will reduce their attendance by 0.5%. Holidays in term time will not be authorised. Children only attend school for 190 days out of 365 which leaves 175 days for holidays.

Please see the attached letter about children continuing to receive a free school lunch next academic year. Even though your child will receive their free school meals automatically, it is still vitally important to complete Bromley's registration form in case your child is eligible for extra funding for their school from the Government, worth over £1,300 per year. This will ensure you will also receive any other benefits you may be entitled to, like food vouchers during the holidays. Please see the following link:

<https://www.bromley.gov.uk/FreeSchoolMeals>

Please remember that if you are applying for your child to start Reception Class in September 2023 that the closing date for applications is Monday 15th January.

Please make a note of an exciting event we have booked with the Orpington Astronomical Society. On Friday 15th March they will give a talk at 6:15pm in the school hall about the moon and then everyone will get a chance to observe the moon and hopefully Jupiter through some professional telescopes that will be located on the KS2 field. This will be a free event for everyone.

I hope you all have a good weekend. Stay warm!

God bless,

Mrs Weeks

[Word on Wednesday](#)

The Wednesday Words are NEW START. January is traditionally the month of beginnings – a time for making a NEW START. In this Sunday's Gospel, we hear about the two disciples of John the Baptist making a new start. They may not have known what John meant when he said 'Look, there is the

Lamb of God,' but they knew what he wanted them to do: they had to start afresh and get close to Jesus. Once John's disciples got to know Jesus, they couldn't wait to tell their friends and share their joy with them. We too are filled with this same joy when we get close to Jesus and share the good news. Regardless of our past, God is always ready to help us to begin again.

Safeguarding

Bromley Y has now released the Spring Term Webinars – links below are for the webinars.

Bromley Y Webinars

Joining the webinars is easy – look at the topics you are interested in below and click on the link to see the dates on Eventbrite where you can book your place or [click here](#) to see the webinar calendar on their website.

Topic: Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA) (for parents) ([Poster](#))

Topic: Helping children with anxiety (For parents) Primary Dates and Secondary Dates ([Poster](#))

Topic: Help your child with sleep (for parents) ([Poster](#))

Topic: Changing from Primary to Secondary School ([Poster](#))

Dates for your Diary

January

Monday 15th Y5 and Y6 Choir to Young Voices Concert at the O2

Wednesday 17th Y5 to a Synagogue

Thursday 18th Y3 to Petts Wood Methodist Church

Friday 19th Y5 Stem Challenge

Friday 19th Y4 to Petts Wood Library

Friday 19th Y4 to the United Reform Church

Tuesday 23rd 5pm EEDI Meeting

Tuesday 23rd 6:30 PTA Meeting

Wednesday 24th PTA Own Clothes Day

Wednesday KS1 Drama Workshops

Friday 26th: 9:05 Y4 Class Assembly (Parents are welcome)

Friday 16th Y5 to Petts Wood Library

Tuesday 30th Y1 visiting Pizza Express

February

Thursday 1st Class Mass Y5 Christian Unity

Friday 2nd 9:15 am Open classrooms for all parents to see learning

Friday 2nd Y2 to Petts Wood Library

Monday 5th- Friday 11th Children's Mental Health Week

Monday 5th Rec and Y6 Health Screening

Monday 5th 3:30 Open Classroom to look at trays

Tuesday 6th Safer Internet Day (Information to follow)

Friday 9th 9:05 Y2 Class Assembly (Parents are welcome)

Friday 9th Y1 to Petts Wood Library

Friday 9th P4C afternoon

Monday 12th –Friday 16th Half term

Monday 19th-Friday 23rd Lenten Reflection Week

Friday 23rd CAFOD Lent Family Fast Day

Tuesday 27th Start of Fair-Trade Fortnight

Thursday 29th Maths Day

March

Friday 1st National Offer Day for Year 6

Friday 1st: 9:05 Y3 Class assembly

Monday 4th Y1 Visiting National Gallery

Monday 4th Open evening 3:30-6:30

Tuesday 5th Open evening 3:30-6:30

Tuesday 5th Y4 online talk on 'Redraw the balance'

Thursday 7th World Book Day (Dress up as a character)

Thursday 7th KS2 Talk on 'Jobs behind the books'

Friday 8th International Women's Day

Friday 8th Start of British Science Week

Friday 8th am Y5 and Y6 STEM jobs talk

Thursday 14th Year 4 Class Mass Peace

Friday 15th Red Nose Day

Friday 15th Spring Walk

Friday 15th 6:15pm Moon Watch Led by Orpington Astronomical Society

Wednesday 20th pm Oscar Romero Mass at St George's Cathedral

Thursday 21st World Poetry Day

Friday 22nd KS2 Reading Passports in

Tuesday 26th Reading Passport Assembly KS2

Wednesday 27th 9:15 Year 5 Passion Play

Thursday 28th End of term at normal time

OAKIES

Firstly we would like to say a very big thank you for all our lovely Christmas presents, it is very kind of you to think of us.

As you can see, the children have had lots of fun showing us their artistic talents by painting some wonderful paintings.

Next week we will continue with our arts and crafts.

Oakies Team



PTA NEWS

Happy New Year. We hope you all had a great Christmas.

With so many events last term (Christmas Fair and Tree sale, Wreath making, break the rules day, Panto) we thought we would ease slowly into the spring term.

Our PTA meeting is on Tuesday 23rd January and I would encourage you to try and come along. If you cannot make it in person please email the PTA and we will send you a zoom link. This is where we decide on fundraising events and how to spend the money which has been raised.

Part of these funds will go to repairs to the KS2 play apparatus and the flooring of the Gazebo.

We will also be looking for volunteers for the PTA committee for the next two academic years. The PTA is a registered charity and therefore must have a minimum of three trustees (the committee) in order to continue. If this is something that interests you please let us know and we can give you more details.

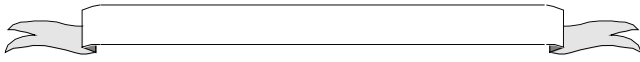
Thanks
PTA Committee

Dates for the diary

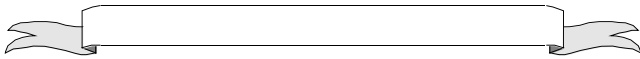
Tuesday 23rd January - PTA meeting
6:30pm

AWARDS

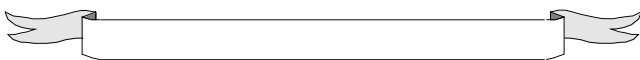
Head teacher Awards



Year	EFFORT/ PARTICIPATION 5th January
Rec	Owen
Year 1	Henry
Year 2	Patrick C
Year 3	Oliva B
Year 4	Aiyla
Year 5	Eliana
Year 6	Maddie



Year	EFFORT/ PARTICIPATION 12th January
Rec	Blossom
Year 1	India
Year 2	Mia
Year 3	Lottie
Year 4	Dylan
Year 5	Natalie
Year 6	Amelia



KS1 AWARDS

Year	Gold Sticker Award		Golden Promises
Rec	Isobel	Lorcan	Kee Kee
Year 1	Finley	Emily	Luke
Year 2	Ninoshka	Eli	Julius

KS2 AWARDS

Year	Respect in class	Pride in work
Year 3	Mia	Hugo
Year 4	Max	Julius
Year 5	Ivan	Emma
Year 6	Joe	Joshua

Congratulations to Chagi in Y3 who is the winner of the Courtesy Cup this week.