



# St James' RC Primary Weekly Newsletter

Friday 1st December 2023

Twitter: @stjamesrc

Issue 11

## Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents,

Firstly, I would like to thank everyone who supported the Christmas Fair and made the event such a huge success. It was very well attended and there was a real community feel. Thank you for all the donations and to everyone who volunteered on the day and stayed to tidy the school afterwards. Thank you to the PTA Representatives for everything that they did to ensure the fair ran smoothly on Saturday. I would finally like to thank Mr Colonnese, Mrs Saunders and Mrs Adebajji. They should be congratulated on how it went. It was a great way to spend a Saturday afternoon and it made me feel so blessed to be part of this special community. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of the staff who either sold Christmas crackers, school jam and chutney or were elves in Santa's grotto. I know that the PTA make it look so easy but I really do appreciate all the hard work that goes into this huge fundraising event both on the day and for all the weeks leading up to it.

Last week we were visited by our School Improvement Partner. In her report she wrote that 'Data shows St James' pupils' learn very well because teaching is extremely strong in every key stage. The school's outcomes are extremely strong compared to other schools in England. This shows the HT's and senior leaders' relentless drive to improve pupils' learning and the school's performance'.

On Monday, our Junior Travel Ambassadors announced the winners of their competition and presented the winners with their prizes. Thank you to the Junior Travel ambassadors for organising this. The school winners have been sent to Bromley to be judged so fingers crossed.

The winners were:

KS1:

1st - Matilde (R)

2nd - Maria (1)

3rd - Lorenzo (R)

KS2:

1st - Symeon (Y4)

2nd - Oscar (Y6)

3rd - Oscar (Y5)

Well done to everyone for all the amazing entries! Our two winners' posters have now been entered into the Bromley wide competition.

Year 2 visited The Golden Hinde on Tuesday. Thank you to Mrs Martin for arranging this exciting trip and for the staff and parents who accompanied the children. They learnt all about the explorer Sir Francis Drake and climbed aboard the ship and experienced what life would have been like at sea. The children decided that they definitely would not like to be an explorer in the 1500s!



We are really pleased with our new website and the new photographs that have been added. Please do take a look.  
<https://stjamesprimarypettswood.co.uk/>

This week we were treated to a performance at lunchtime by Drama Kids. The children really have developed in confidence at this lunchtime club and clearly enjoy taking part. It was a joy to watch. Please contact the office if your child would like to join after Christmas.

Thank you to Mrs Grist who held a Mini Vinnie Meeting on Friday to discuss plans for the year.

This Christmas the children will be collecting for The Cardinal Hume Centre and The Passage. These worthy charities desperately need our support at this time of year. There will be retiring collections after the KS1 Nativity and the KS2 Carol Concert and the donations will be shared between the two charities.

Thank you for your patience with the school pedestrian gate. Unfortunately, the phone signal drops out sometime.

Please note that for the children who missed their Flu vaccine this year there is a clinic at the Glades Shopping centre on Saturday the 9th of December. Please see the attached poster.

A new Bromley guide for parents has been published called 'Keep Your Child Well This Winter'. It includes lots of advice about managing illness at home, when to seek medical advice and which services to use. It also provides advice on when to keep children off school and for how long, so that children do not miss school unnecessarily. It is [available online](#) and printed copies will also be sent out in the next couple of weeks.

As we approach the end of term, life in school is getting busier so please make a note of the remaining dates as I know there is a great deal going on. Next week, please note that on Friday, children are asked to make a £1 donation to Save the Children and to wear their own clothes and a Christmas jumper if they have one. Hopefully, the preloved Christmas jumper stall at the PTA Fair was a success.

Please remember to collect your Christmas Tree tomorrow from the PTA. I am looking forward to collecting mine as they are always beautiful.

God Bless.

Mrs Weeks

### Word on Wednesday

The Wednesday Word is PRAYER. This Sunday we begin to celebrate the season of Advent, a time of waiting and prayer. It's a time to pause and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas and give thanks to God for the gift of Jesus to the world. As Advent begins, Pope Francis invites us to observe the upcoming year as a 'Year of Prayer', in preparation for the 2025 Jubilee Year. When we discuss prayer with the children they know that they can pray aloud or quietly, alone or with others. They also know that they can pray anywhere and at any time.

### Safeguarding

Please see the below Virgin Media link. It is an internet safety guide to help build awareness for parents and children of all ages to ensure they are better protected online.

<https://www.virginmedia.com/blog/online-safety/childrens-internet-safety-test>

### Dates for your Diary

December

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> Y5 Retreat**

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> LAMDA Assembly**

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> Y3 Litter Pick**

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> Y4 to Advent Service at St George's Cathedral**

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> Y2 Polar Express Day**

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> 9:05 Y6 Class Mass (Parents welcome)**

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> KS2 Rehearsing at church**

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> 2pm Y6 Carol Singing at Southmore Court**

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> 3:40 LAMDA Performance for parents**

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> Christmas Jumper Day for Save the**

## Children

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> KS2 Reading Passports returned

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> KS2 Rehearsing at church

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> Orpington Christmas Concert for Y5 and Y6 Choir

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> 8:30 Harlequins Dance Performance for parents

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> Create Club Assembly

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> KS2 Rehearsing at church

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> 6pm KS2 Carol Concert at church

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> KS2 Reading Passport Assembly

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> Y6 Carol Singing at Memory Cafe

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> Christmas Lunch for all children

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> KS1 Nativity 9:15 (Babies and Toddlers are welcome)

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> KS1 Nativity 9:15 (No Babies and Toddlers please)

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> pm KS1 Party for children

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> pm KS2 Party for children

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> End of term for children at normal time

## January

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> Children return

## Applying for a place in Reception Class 2024

Please remember that if you would like to apply for a place for your child in the Reception Class 2024 the deadline to submit your application is Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024. Parents will also need to complete a supplementary form that can be found on the admission section of our website. If you are a Bromley resident, you need to make your application through London Borough of Bromley. If you live outside of Bromley, you need to apply through the local authority where you live and can name Bromley schools on that application if you wish. Please contact the school office or Bromley admissions if you have any questions.

## Library News

Please see the attached information about events and activities at Orpington Library. All activities and events need to be booked via

Eventbrite: <https://orpingtonlibrary.eventbrite.co.uk>

## Sports News

### Lacrosse Tournament

Eight of our Year 6 children played in a friendly Lacrosse tournament this week held at Poverest School. It is a new sport to the school and we have only had six lessons in PE. The team played four matches - drawing two of them and narrowly losing the other two. A great start to our Lacrosse journey at St James'.

Mrs Connolly



## MINI-VINNIES

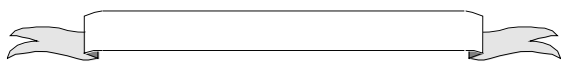
We have decided to set up a Foodbank at school. The idea is that parents can donate food but also take food out if they need to. The box will be kept outside by the office and any surplus food that we have at the end of the week will be taken to the church to be given to The Bromley Foodbank. We will start this scheme on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December and ask only Year 4 parents to donate in the first week. Please only donate tins and non perishable foods. It is for anyone to collect things from or if parents would prefer please contact Mrs Weeks if you would like things sent home to you.

Many thanks

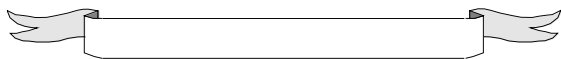
Mrs Grist and the Mini Vinnies

## AWARDS

### Headteachers Awards



Year	Good Manners
Rec	Camille
Year 1	Perla
Year 2	Charlie
Year 3	Chagi
Year 4	Mollie
Year 5	Logan
Year 6	Chetty



### KS1 AWARDS

Year	Gold Sticker Award		Golden Promises
Rec	Amo	Liam	Natalia
Year 1	George	Alice M	Luke
Year 2	Veronica	Patrick F	Felix

### KS2 AWARDS

Year	Respect in class	Pride in work
Year 3	Oliver	Jenna
Year 4	Alberto	Symeon
Year 5	Gracie	Tadas
Year 6	Lola	Ashley

Congratulations to Dylan in Y4 who was the winner of the Courtesy Cup this week.

## ATTENDANCE

	Attendance (%)	Occasions Late
R	96.67	0
1	98.67	1
2	98.67	1
3	96.88	0
4	98.44	0
5	97.81	0
6	96.77	0

Congratulations to Y1 and Y2 who had the best attendance last week. **Reception** are still in the lead and could be winning an own clothes day before the end of term if **Year 1** do not catch them!

### Weekly Winners

Year	Number of wins
Rec	6
Y1	4
Y2	1
Y3	0
Y4	1
Y5	0
Y6	1

## **PTA NEWS**

What a Christmas Fair!

A massive thank you to everyone who made the 2023 Christmas Fair a success.

Thank you for all the donations, from Christmas jumpers to cuddly toys and for all the bottles both big and small.

Thank you for the amazing raffle prizes, the children's raffle prizes, the cakes and secret present room.

Thank you to all the children for making some cracking Crackers!

Thank you to the PTA Reps, and other helpers for organising.

Also a huge thank you to the parents and grandparents who volunteered for the stalls/ kitchen/cooking Jollof rice/tidy-up (including the teachers and the Elves!). There could not have been a fair without you.

And of course, thank you to Santa!

I'd like to give a special shout out to the whole of the PTA Committee, for all the work they did in the run up to the fair and on the day.

Finally, a thank you to you all for coming to the fair. We hope you and most importantly your children enjoyed it.

### **Christmas Trees**

For those of you who have ordered a Christmas Tree, they will be available for collection at the back gate on Saturday 2nd December between 8:30am and 10am.

### **Dates for the Diary**

Monday 4th December - Wreath making

Tuesday 12th December 5:30pm - Cinderella, Churchill Theatre

Best wishes

The PTA Committee