



# St James' RC Primary Weekly Newsletter

Friday 23rd February 2024

Twitter: @stjamesrc

Issue 19

## Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents,

I hope that you all had a wonderful half term break and that the children who attended the Buzzers Holiday Club held at school had a good time.

This week we have been talking to the children about Lent. The children have been learning about how Lent reminds us of Jesus' forty days of fasting and prayer in the wilderness, where he grew stronger through resisting temptations. We have been talking to the children about how Lent is a time for us to make an extra effort to listen carefully to God and to try and make a change for the better by turning away from things which are wrong for ourselves or others. As it is Lent, all of the focal prayer areas around the school are now purple.

We have the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Group Lent Carbon Fast in school and are using it to help us focus ourselves throughout Lent. We spoke about how the average plastic bag is used for just 12 minutes but will not disappear for up to 1000 years.

Today is of course CAFOD Family Fast Day. I spoke to the children in assembly about possibly having a simple evening meal and donating the money that has been saved to CAFOD so that they continue with their work to end global poverty.



We have introduced the new Catholic Virtue focus for this half term which is **HONESTY**. The children have talked about what this means and are already nominating their peers if they see examples of this.

I hope that all parents were finally able to get an appointment to meet with the class teachers on either Monday 4<sup>th</sup> or Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March. This is the appointment that we ask children not to attend. To help with childcare it is not necessary for both parents to attend the meetings but do please book your child into After School Club if you need to use this facility.

Thank you to the parents who have already attended the virtual online safety talk delivered by ECP. Unfortunately at the moment the attendance information states that only 11 parents have viewed it so if you have not watched this invaluable session please see the joining information in the safeguarding section below. It really is important. Thank you.

Have a good weekend.  
God bless,

Mrs Weeks

### Word on Wednesday

The Wednesday Word is SACRED. In this Sunday's Gospel, we read about the transfiguration on Mt Tabor. Often in the Bible, mountains are described as sacred places. Our churches are sacred places, dedicated to the worship of God, but other places are sacred too. We asked the children how we can fill our school and homes with the love of God. Praying at home helps us to recognise and respect our homes as sacred places, full of God's love. We can have Bibles, a cross or crucifix and sacred images to remind us of God's sacred presence in our homes and at school.

## Safeguarding

Please ensure that you have watched the virtual one-hour session on online safety. This is only available until **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March**.

### Joining instructions:

Please find below the links to provide immediate access to the sessions.

Once the attendee's details are entered, the session will start immediately:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4250770663591523933>

### Important information:

The session is 1 hour in duration, without breaks.

### Post session information:

Following the training session, the school will be provided with a SharePoint link to access an attendance and feedback summary which will include a summary of attendees. This will let us know how many parents watched the session.

## Dates for your Diary

### February

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup>-Friday 1<sup>st</sup> Lenten Reflection Week (8:30 each morning)**

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> Start of Fair-Trade Fortnight**

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> Braille Day**

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> KS2 Assembly given by Cardinal Hume Centre**

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> Y3 visiting Chislehurst Caves**

**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> Maths Day**

**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> Y4 Retreat Day at Bishop Challoner School**

### March

Friday 1st National Offer Day for Year 6

Friday 1st: 9:05 Y3 Class assembly

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> Y6 Petts Wood Library

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> Y1 Visiting National Gallery

Monday 4th Open evening 3:30-6:30 (Parents only)

Tuesday 5th Open evening 3:30-6:30 (Parents only)

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> Y4 online talk on 'Redraw the balance'

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> World Book Day (Dress up as a character)

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> KS2 Talk on 'Jobs behind the books'

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> International Women's Day

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> Start of British Science Week

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> am Y5 and Y6 STEM jobs talk

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> National Science Week

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> 9am Year 4 Class Mass in school (Peace)

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> Red Nose Day

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> 9:15am Spring Walk

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> 6:15pm Moon Watch Led by Orpington Astronomical Society

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> pm Oscar Romero Mass at St George's Cathedral

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

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> KS2 Reading Passports in

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> Catholic Children Society Boxes returned

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> Reading Passport Assembly KS2

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> Rec to Sea Life Centre

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> 5pm EEDI Committee Meeting (All welcome)

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> 9:15am Year 5 Passion Play

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> End of term at normal time

## Advert for MDS

Please let the school office know if you are interested in being a supply Mid-day Supervisor at St James'. We do have vacancies at present and if you would like to consider this please let us know. We would be happy to answer any questions that you may have about the role.

## Faith in Action

We are delighted to hear that four children from St James' have signed up for the Faith in Action Awards. If there are more children that would like to join please see the attached leaflet explaining that they can go along on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

## Lenten Reflection Week

If your child is in Yrs2-Y6 and would like to join the prayer mornings please meet Mrs Wilson each morning next week at the front gate at 8:30.

## OTHER NEWS



**A HELPLINE FOR PARENTS**

**Afasic**  
voice for life

Run by parents for parents. Make the helpline your first port of call.  
Toddler slow to talk?  
Child cannot understand the teacher?  
No question is too silly or too small!

**GUIDANCE** **SUPPORT** **ASSISTANCE** **ADVICE**

CALL THE HELPLINE  
OPEN 10-30AM - 4PM  
**0300 666 9410**

HLMGR@AFASIC.ORG.UK  
WWW.AFASIC.ORG.UK



You may remember Ed last year did a Dash for DLD. He is now doing another one and if you are able to support Ed please click on the link below.

<https://www.peoplesfundraising.com/fundraising/ed-s-2nd-dash-for-dld>

## ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS

Each year the Royal Academy of Arts holds an exhibition for young artists. Artworks are judged by a panel of artists and art professionals, with selected artworks displayed online and on-site at the Royal Academy of Arts. We have entered before but unfortunately were not successful. The school has an account and it is free to submit work online. Sculptures and 3D artwork are also included! To enter you need to create a piece of quality artwork and create a parent account and submit your work. Our school is signed up, however, only comes up when our postcode is entered (BR5 1BL). Registration and submission is open until 27th March 2024. Please do let Miss McCarthy know how you get on and if you submit work so we can look out for this. If you have difficulty submitting then we can submit for you.

<https://youngartists.royalacademy.org.uk/>

## AWARDS

### KS1 Awards

Year	Gold Sticker Award		Golden Promises
Rec	Tommy	Anthony	Matilda
Year 1	Jaxton	Thaara	Alexander
Year 2	Maiya	Abraham	Charlie

## ATTENDANCE

	Attendance (%)	Occasions Late
R	96.0	1
1	98.0	0
2	99.33	0
3	94.38	1
4	97.42	3
5	96.88	2
6	95.48	2

Congratulations to Y2 who had the best attendance before half term. The winner of the best attendance for this term will win an 'Own Clothes Day' and it is very close at the moment.

### Weekly Winners

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

## PTA NEWS

Welcome back to the spring half term from the PTA (even though it feels like we are in the depths of midwinter!)

Thank you to those of you who have donated costumes for World Book Day.

So far we have only received a very small number of donations, but if your child is anything like mine, their bedroom will be littered with umpteen costumes which they have grown out of, are taking up space and are just begging to be worn on World Book Day on the 7th March.

We are extending the costume donation deadline to Monday 26th February.

So this means you can have a good clear out this weekend, get rid of any World Book Day appropriate costumes your child has grown out of and bring them to the office on Monday.

These costumes will then be sold on Friday 1st March at pick up. If you have donated please take your ticket to get first pick/early access to donated costumes on Thursday 29th February.

Also, if you have any branded St James' school uniform, we will be having our spring term preloved school uniform sale on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March.

Many thanks

The PTA Committee

### Dates for your diary

LAST CHANCE TO BRING IN WORLD BOOK DAY COSTUMES: Mon 26th February

Early bird costume sale: Thurs 29th Feb

Costume sale: Fri 1st March

Preloved school uniform sale: Fri 8<sup>th</sup> March