



St James' RC Primary Weekly Newsletter

Friday 26th January 2024

Twitter: @stjamesrc

Issue 16

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents,

In assembly at the start of the week I spoke again about this term's 'Catholic Virtue' which is **PATIENCE**. We obviously live in a world where we can get drive-through meals, instant coffee and 24-hour shopping. The children realise that this makes it hard for them to learn that they have to wait for some things. I explained that patience is something that we all need to learn. The children shared examples of their friends waiting for them or how they had seen people waiting their turn.

This week I was invited to assist St Mary's University in interviewing prospective students. It was a privilege to be involved in helping to select the next generation of student teachers and there was a wealth of energised graduates ready to embark on their future careers. I will continue to be involved in this work with St Mary's University and next week I will also be doing similar work with Greenwich University.

On Tuesday, I visited Holy Innocents, Orpington to meet with the other Umbrella Trust Head teachers. It is good to have time to discuss topics with colleagues and to plan initiatives for the future.

The PTA held their first meeting of 2024 on Tuesday and I would like to take this opportunity to thank those that attended for their continued service to the school. Without the support that the PTA provides we would not be able to provide the resources that we do. I know that the staff and children appreciate all the hard work of the PTA.

This week staff attended allergy training delivered by Bromley Health Care. Please remember to keep the school updated on any allergies that the children have and ensure that any Epi Pens or Jext

pens are in date and that we have two. Can you also ensure that if your child has asthma that we have a spacer in school for them to use with their inhaler.

We are reminding the children about our Mission Statement and our values of:

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

Our vision is to: Share our love of God every day in all that we learn, do and say and 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.

To celebrate Christian Unity Week, Year 5 visited St Francis of Assisi Church in Petts Wood. The children learnt how we are all Christians and that we work together to spread the love of Jesus. They looked around the church and recognised similarities and differences with St James the Great Church. We thank Father Stephen for talking to the children and for giving up his time.



As part of Christian Unity week, Year 2 visited Southborough Baptist Church. The children were fascinated with the baptism pool and how they had drums in church! They reminded themselves about the Good Samaritan and how we should help all people. Year 2 had a wonderful time!



On Wednesday Reception Class met Pastor John Ingle from the Ark Mission Church. He spoke to the children about his daily work for Jesus and his Church. The children asked him lots of questions and discovered his favourite food was steak and chips!



Thank you to Mrs Martin and all the parents who came to the recent Equality, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Meeting. The committee met and looked at diversity in Art and DT. They also discussed how our school can be more proactive in being anti racist. The next meeting will be on the 26th March at 5pm and geography will be discussed. If anyone would like to join the committee they would be most welcome. Please speak to Mrs Martin if you are able to attend.

This week KS1 took part in a Perform Drama Workshop. The horse with the golden mane was tricky to find but the children did it!





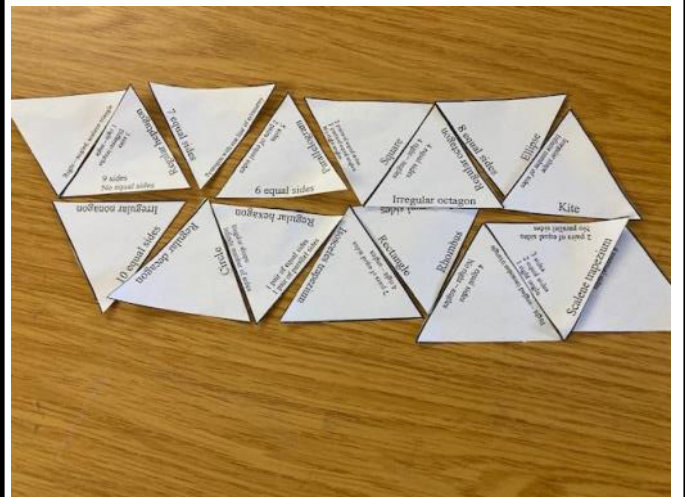
The Eco Committee held an Eco Council meeting this week. Thank you to Mrs Deasy for organising this. This year, in addition to representatives from each year group, we have been joined by an ex pupil of St James' as he prepares to study Sustainability at university in September. The forum allows for all pupils to bring their ideas about how we, as a school, can improve our impact on the environment around us. The children discussed restricting paper usage, electricity, water and heating. Suggestions were also made on how to improve the classroom environment and air quality by introducing plants and flowers and by also having regular litter picks on the KS2 field and in the wider community. In the next few weeks the group will turn their attention to a number of eco initiatives including a grant application to Ikea to improve the green space at St James' and to try and encourage families to use greener alternatives for sandwich wrappings to reduce plastic waste.

For more information about our Eco Council meetings, stay up to date by reviewing the minutes that can be found on the school website under 'Curriculum', sub heading 'Gardening'.

This is not just a school initiative, but a community one. If you would like to contribute suggestions to the team, please do so by contacting Mrs Deasy via the school office.



This week, some Year 5 children attended a Royal Institution Maths Masterclass held at Bromley High School. They learnt that 3D shapes can also be platonic solids and these are names after the Greek philosopher Plato. Platonic shapes are 3D shapes where each face is the same regular polygon. The same number of polygons also meet at the same vertex. The children made different 3D shapes such as: tetrahedrons, octahedrons, dodecahedrons and icosahedrons. They are looking forward to presenting this information to the rest of the class.



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



In January, Archbishop John Wilson launched an online campaign encouraging people to #GivePrayerAGo. People often say they find it difficult to pray, because they are too busy or they are unsure where to start. #GivePrayerAGo aims to help people overcome those barriers and support them. As you know, Pope Francis has designated 2024 the Year of Prayer.

https://twitter.com/RC_Southwark/status/1741749540032516226

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/whats-happening/big-garden-birdwatch>

Next week parents are very welcome to come into school on Friday morning to see Phonics being taught in KS1 and RE being taught in KS2. Please come into the hall at 9am and at 9:15 you will have an opportunity to choose one classroom to visit for 30 minutes. We kindly ask that you do not move between classes as this will disturb the 30-minute lesson. We look forward to seeing you then.

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.

It is lovely to see children celebrating their birthdays. Can I remind you that we ask that children do not bring sweets in to share for their birthday so that we can promote healthy eating however if your child does want to mark their birthday in a special they are very welcome to donate a book to the class library. The book will have your child's name added to the inside cover. On the PTA section of the website you will find Amazon book lists for each class with suggestions of books that the class teacher has suggested. Thank you in advance for this.

We were delighted this week to receive the attached letter congratulating the school on the 2023 Year 1 Phonic results which have put us in the top 3% of primary schools in the country. This is due to the hard work of staff, parents and of course the children. Well done to the present Year 2 class!

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

Please remember that on Monday it is the PTA Own Clothes Day

God bless,

Mrs Weeks

Word on Wednesday

The Wednesday Word is TEACHER. Jesus stood out as a teacher because he taught with authority. In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus demonstrates this through the amazing healing of a man in the synagogue. His teaching is calm and wise, powerful but gentle. Jesus teaches us how important it is to follow God's laws - to live a good life. Our Catholic schools and parishes try very hard to do the same. The 28th January is the Feast Day of St Thomas Aquinas – the Patron Saint of Catholic Schools.

Safeguarding

Please see the following for online safety advice:

<https://nationalcollege.com/parents>

Dates for your Diary

January

Monday 29th PTA Own Clothes Day

Monday 29th Catholic Children's Society Lenten Appeal Assembly

Tuesday 30th Y1 visiting Pizza Express

Wednesday 31st KS2 Assembly about Faith In Action

Wednesday 31st Y1 visiting St James' Church

February

Thursday 1st Class Mass Y5 Christian Unity (Parents welcome)

Friday 2nd 9:00-9:45 am Open classrooms for parents to see Phonics and RE teaching

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 and Buzzers Holiday Club

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

The children have had some exciting mornings this week, learning to play chess and draughts. The older children were very helpful, teaching the younger ones how to play. They all seemed to enjoy themselves.

Just a friendly reminder to all parents, Oakies Breakfast Club opens at 7:30am and breakfast is served until 8:10am. Oakies After School Club closes at 5:55pm and unfortunately there is a fine for late pick ups.

Oakies email is breakfastclub@st-james.bromley.sch.uk
Oakies mobile number is 07340 961024

Have a lovely weekend.
Oakies Team



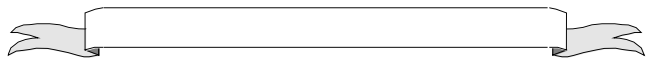
OTHER NEWS

Congratulations to Cameron who has won the Chelsfield Lakes Par 3 Junior Golf Championship for the second year in a row. Well done Cameron! We are very proud of you.



AWARDS

Headteacher Award



Year	EFFORT/ PARTICIPATION
Rec	Yzmael
Year 1	Jaxton
Year 2	Maiya
Year 3	Carlotta
Year 4	Jadon
Year 5	Samuel
Year 6	Oliver



KS1 AWARDS

Year	Gold Sticker Award		Golden Promises
Rec	Jaxon	Morgan	Blosson
Year 1	Plivino	Louie	Louie
Year 2	Mateo	Jaimie	Phoebe

KS2 AWARDS

Year	Respect in class	Pride in work
Year 3	Matt	George
Year 4	Catherine	Aidan
Year 5	Oscar	Mia
Year 6	Taeya	George

Congratulations to **Joshua** in Y5 who was the winner of the Courtesy Cup this week.

ATTENDANCE

	Attendance (%)	Occasions Late
R	99.33	1
1	98.0	0
2	96.0	0
3	97.5	0
4	98.06	0
5	96.56	0
6	94.52	0

Congratulations to Reception Class who had the best attendance last week.

Weekly Winners

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

The class with the best attendance at the end of term will win an 'Own Clothes Day'.