



St James' RC Primary Weekly Newsletter

Friday 9th February 2024

Twitter: @stjamesrc

Issue 18

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents,

We started our busy week with Health Screening for children in Reception and Year 6.

I hope that you found the Open Classroom session on Monday after school useful and that you were able to see the children's work.

All week we have been raising awareness for the annual Children's Mental Health Week. This is a mental health awareness week that empowers, equips and gives a voice to all children in the UK. Children's Mental Health Week was launched in 2015 and the theme this year is 'My Voice Matters'. Please see the following link for resources that families can use and the attached leaflet.

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/families/>

Year 3 completed some positive acclamations to celebrate Children's Mental Health Week.



They also went outside to carry out a winter scavenger hunt. During their time outdoors they focused their senses on what they could hear, smell and feel. In our busy world, we often do not allow ourselves time to experience all that our outdoor space can offer us. Upon their return the children created their own outdoor creatures.



Safer Internet Day took place on Tuesday and the theme was 'Inspiring Change. Making a difference, managing influence and navigating change online'. This year the focus was on a child's perspective of new and emerging technology, using the internet to make change for the better, the changes children want to see online and the things that can influence and change the way children think, feel and act online and offline. All children watched a virtual talk given by Education Child Protection Ltd about internet safety. This was kindly funded by the PTA. Please watch the virtual talk for parents. The details were sent out this week and are in the safeguarding section of this newsletter.

Reception watched their online video about keeping safe online. They learnt what personal information is and how important it is to not give out their name, age, address or their school.

All the children talked about who their trusted adults. They could explain that if they saw something when they are online that worries them or they are unsure about then they would tell a trusted adult. They also found out about CEOP and how they make sure children are safe online.

Mrs Wilson this week attended a two day RE Conference in Aylesford and will be feeding back to staff on what was discussed at the conference.

Chess Medals were awarded recently by Chess Club. This club goes from strength to strength and we are so proud of the Chess Club members for all of their achievements. We fortunately run many clubs before and after school and at lunchtime. Please see the office if your children are interested in joining any of our clubs including Gymnastics, Dance, Choir, Spanish, Pop Lacrosse, Running, Bromley Football, Munchkins Football, Drama, Gardening, Taekwondo, Holy Club, Creation Station, Yoga, Science and Tech Club

The children listened to a talk by The London Borough of Bromley and their initiative to tackle loneliness .



I held a Student Council Meeting this week. It is always good to meet with the class representatives and to hear about their ideas. The minutes from the meeting can be seen on the school website under School Day and Pupil Voice.

The Year 2 Class Assembly took place on Friday and we were delighted to hear about everything that they have been learning. Thank you Year 2.



Year 1 visited the library and had a wonderful time choosing books.



In the Philosophy for Children (P4C) session the children focused on the protected characteristic of gender. The book 'Pink is for Boys' by Robb Pearlman was used as the stimulus for their discussion. The children shared their thoughts on the book and these thoughts were then turned to questions with each class voting on one question to discuss in depth. The book enabled the children to question how gender should not discriminate you. The question chosen by each class will be displayed on the P4C display in the hall.

We have had a few incidents recently where children have been scratched accidentally so I would kindly ask that parents ensure that their children's nails are short. Thank you.

This Lent we are supporting the Catholic Children's Society Appeal. The charity was founded in 1859 and is one of the oldest charities supporting

disadvantaged children and families in the UK. The Catholic Children's Society supports families across London and the South East. They work with individuals of all faiths and none; their sole aim is to help those in greatest need. The charity has been inundated with requests and in recent months they have provided over £60,000 of emergency funding to support families in crisis. They are helping disadvantaged families with food costs and bills so that families can feed their children and keep them warm. The Catholic Children's Society's vision is a world where every child gets the support that they need to achieve their potential, creating a better society for all. Their mission is to bring hope and positive change to children and families. Their work is informed by Catholic Social Teachings and the core values of integrity, compassion, inclusion and partnership. All of the children brought home a box this week that they can fill during Lent with loose change or money that they donate from giving up something. We ask that children return their boxes to school on **Monday 25th March**.

We are supporting two student teachers this term and we sadly say goodbye to Miss Smarth on Friday. She has been working in Year 1 and we wish her the very best for the future. We are pleased that Miss Smith continues in Year 2 after half term.

God bless and Happy Lunar New Year. I hope you all have a good half term break.

Mrs Weeks

Word on Wednesday

The Wednesday Word is COMPASSION. Jesus has compassion for all those who are left out: he came to take away fear and loneliness – to help people feel loved and accepted. We asked the children if they had ever been left out. We also asked them if they could remember a time when someone showed them compassion and really cared about their situation and feelings. To be compassionate is to share someone's suffering - to feel sorrow for their situation and to do something about it. We discussed how we could do that.

Safeguarding

On Tuesday 6th February it was Safer Internet Day. The PTA generously paid for all classes to have an online presentation this week by Education Child Protection Ltd on internet safety. We have used this company before and their online talks are very informative. Each talk is age appropriate and children had an opportunity to ask their teacher questions at the end of the talk. **As well as funding a session for staff training the PTA are also paying for an Online Safety Presentation for parents.** This virtual one-hour session will be available from Monday 5th February to Sunday 3rd March. I would encourage all parents to view this online safety training talk as parents in the past have found it extremely useful and feedback has been very positive.

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>

Please see the attached leaflet which outlines the aims of the parent session.

Important information:

The session is 1 hour in duration, without breaks. Attendees must register and log on INDIVIDUALLY to be registered as attending the training. All forms of digital devices can be used to access the sessions.

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.

Dates for your Diary

February

Monday 12th –Friday 16th Half term and Buzzers Holiday Club

Friday 23rd CAFOD Lent Family Fast Day

Friday 23rd Y3 to Petts Wood Library

Monday 26th-Friday 1st Lenten Reflection Week

Tuesday 27th Start of Fair-Trade Fortnight

Tuesday 27th Braille Day

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 (Parents only)

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

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

Monday 11th National Science Week

Thursday 14th 9am Year 4 Class Mass in school (Peace)

Friday 15th Red Nose Day

Friday 15th 9:15am 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

Monday 25th Catholic Children Society Boxes returned

Tuesday 26th Reading Passport Assembly KS2

Tuesday 26th Rec to Sea Life Centre

Tuesday 26th 5pm EEDI Committee Meeting (All welcome)

Wednesday 27th 9:15am Year 5 Passion Play

Thursday 28th End of term at normal time

Lenten Reflection Week

Mrs Wilson will be leading a Lenten Reflection Week. The week will start on Monday 26th February at 8.30am. It is open for children in Year 2 to Year 6. The children will be collected from the gate in the morning by Mrs Wilson. Please could you let the office know if you would like them to attend.

ECO Council News

Please see the attached minutes

Library News

There is a fantastic author and illustrator event during half term. Fiona Woodcock is going to share her wonderful picture book Silver Linings followed by a craft event on Thursday 15th February. Fiona will be selling and signing her books. Booking is via Eventbrite:

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


Food Awards

Nominations are now open for Jaime Oliver's Good School Food Awards. Please click on the link or copy into your browser to find out more and how to vote

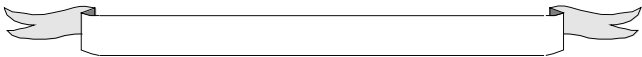
<https://www.jamieoliver.com/schoolfoodawards/>

AWARDS

Headteacher Awards



Year	EFFORT/ PARTICIPATION
Rec	Max
Year 1	Luke
Year 2	Clara
Year 3	Sophia
Year 4	Chimbusonma
Year 5	Joshua M
Year 6	Jacob



KS1 AWARDS

Year	Gold Sticker Award		Golden Promises
Rec	Amo	Francesca	Owen
Year 1	Zara	Luca	Maria
Year 2	Juluis	Phoebe	Nicole

ATTENDANCE

	Attendance (%)	Occasions Late
R	97.67	4
1	98.33	0
2	96.33	3
3	96.88	0
4	93.23	2
5	95.31	2
6	96.45	1

Congratulations to Y1 who had the best attendance last week.

Weekly Winners

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

The class with the best attendance for the term will win an 'Own Clothes Day' at the end of term.
It is very even at the moment!

PTA NEWS

Happy Friday!

Is anyone else shocked that it's half term already?!

As you know, Tuesday was Safer Internet Day.

The PTA funded an age appropriate online presentation by Education Child Protection Ltd about internet safety. There is also an online presentation for parents if you are interested. Please check your emails for details.

Please can you bring in any World Book Day appropriate costumes in the first week back after half term.

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 Feb.

We will also be having our spring term preloved school uniform sale on the 8th of March.

Hope you all have a great half term.

The PTA Committee

Dates for your diary

Bring in World Book Day costumes: 19th-23rd February

Early bird costume sale: Thurs 29th Feb

Costume sale: Fri 1st March

Preloved school uniform sale: Fri 8th March