



St James' RC Primary Weekly Newsletter

Thursday 20th July

Twitter: @stjamesrc

Issue 37

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents,

We took delivery this week of a government funded defibrillator. This funding comes as a result of the work of the Oliver King Foundation. Mark and Joanne King tragically lost their son Oliver at the age of 12 to a cardiac arrest and since 2012 they have been campaigning to fund defibrillators in schools. Defibrillators in schools have the potential to save the lives of pupils, staff and visitors, with [latest research](#) showing that accessing these devices within 3-5 minutes of a cardiac arrest increases the chance of survival by over 40%. The defibrillator is located on the wall between the office and the hall and no training is required to use it.



The school garden was judged last week by the London Children's Flower Society and we were delighted to hear that we had been awarded Gold. Well done and thank you to Mrs Deasy for her continued hard work and dedication.

We started this week with an assembly led by Jenny from Orpington Library talking to the children about The Summer Reading Challenge. The children were all given some information about how to take part and we look forward to seeing everyone's certificates in September.

Hopefully by now you have all received letters from class teachers summarising the summer term and the successes that there have been in classes. It has certainly been a busy and exciting term.

This week has also been busy. KS2 celebrated Bastille Day in their French Lessons. They asked for their breakfast in French and completed a survey about the food that they tasted and the music that they listened to. I would like to thank the parents for supplying the food and to Madam Batten for organising this wonderful event.





The children have also been taking part in talent shows and it is obvious that we have some very talented children although of course we already knew that. They also had amazing confidence to perform in front of an audience.

On Tuesday Ed and Noah in Year 6 were presented with the Petts Wood Achievement Award provided by the Petts Wood Resident's Association. This was voted for by all of the adults in the school. Noah and Emily were awarded the Sports Award. This

was voted for by the Year 6 children. Congratulations to them!



We also presented KS2 with certificates if they had completed their Reading Passports. There certainly were lots of Gold Certificates awarded. Well done to everyone who took part.

Many children performed their musical talents on Tuesday and their performance after school was truly amazing. Thank you to Mrs Anderson, Mr Feiring, Miss Prescott and a huge thank you to Miss Atkinson for organising this. It was a real treat to watch and to listen to.

I presented the Student Council with a pencil each this week and thanked them for their involvement over the year. They have worked very hard over the year for the good of the children of St James' and I want to thank them for their valuable contributions. I thoroughly enjoyed our meetings and was amazed by their maturity and leadership skills. I am sure that they will make great leaders in the future.

Year 1 visited Mudchute Park and Farm on Wednesday. Thank you to Miss McCarthy for arranging this and thank you to the parents and grandparents who accompanied the children.



Thank you to everyone who sent back the Parent and Pupil questionnaires. Thank you also for all of your ideas about ways that we can improve. These are always good to hear and I can assure you that we do listen. I will meet in September with staff and governors, as usual, to discuss all of the suggestions before I let you know about any new initiatives. We had an amazing response with some wonderful comments explaining what parents liked about the school. I have included a selection of the comments:

We feel that our children are thriving at St James'. They adore all the staff and are so happy to come to school. As parents we are confident to approach any staff with concerns and we feel that they are dealt with.

There is a very strong sense of community.

St James' is an amazing school. This is made possible by the dedication of all staff.

The Christian ethos is embedded throughout the school.

We are thankful for the information and help available on children's emotional well-being.

We honestly feel that attending St James' has helped our child to have the best possible start in life.

It is very inclusive.

St James' is outstanding in every possible way.

The amazing pastoral care to our child has been fabulous.

Our child loves breakfast Club and cannot wait to go to school each morning.

A safe environment.

We could not have asked for a better school.

Our child is happy that they can talk to someone if they have worries.

The values of the school are well articulated and children know the expectations. Very patient staff.

Great partnership with Parish and a focus on faith.

Everyone is treated the same.

I can't think of anything that needs changing.

100% agree or strongly agree that:

My child is happy at St James'.

I feel welcome when I come into school.

I would recommend this school to other parents.

The school buildings are well maintained.

I am happy with the progress my child is making in school.

There is an interesting and exciting curriculum.

I am happy with the teaching at St. James'.

I am given information about how I can support my child at home.

St. James' has high expectations for my child.

The homework matches the ability of my child.

There are a range of extra-curricular clubs.

The school deals with inappropriate behaviour effectively.

The school treats my child fairly.

My child is confident that should they have a problem, there is someone they can go to in school who will listen to them.

My child enjoys playtimes.

My child enjoys school meal times.

I find parent meetings useful.

The end of year school report provides me with information about my child's progress and achievement.

The newsletters provide me with clear information regarding what has happened in school and future events.

I feel that I can approach the school if I have a concern.

The leadership of the school ensures that my child learns effectively, grows in faith and becomes a good citizen.

One response disagreed that:

The school site is secure. (The school gate had been left open)

The After-School and Breakfast Clubs support families effectively. (A parent wanted it open longer on a night however we feel children should be home by 6pm)

The school website provides me with clear information. (In a recent Inspection we were told that ours was the best website they had seen however we are updating this early in September)

I understand the role of the school Governors. (We will continue to explain this next year)

As we come to the end of the year and I have been reflecting on the last three terms. I realise how blessed I am. Anyone who works in a school is in a highly privileged position and we never forget that. Working with children is an incredibly rewarding career and no two days are the same. However, it can come with its challenges and the emotional weight that comes with the role can sometimes be heavy. This is why it is crucial to have a team of staff that supports one another and that is something that our team do so well. At St James' we are incredibly lucky to have staff who are talented, dedicated, compassionate and will always do their very best for the children.

Watching the St James' staff work so hard each day for the children and families who they serve is incredibly inspiring. They strive for excellence for the children in their care. I want to take this opportunity to thank them all for their passion and commitment. They go above and beyond and do so very much that goes unnoticed. Working in education is obviously a vocation. Vocations cannot be switched on and off; they are part of you and you live them every minute of every day. The staff at St James' truly are amazing and they all now deserve a well-earned rest. I want to thank them for all that they do.

Unfortunately, we are saying good bye to Mrs Pearce and Mrs Stewart. Mrs Pearce has been working at St James' for 7 years and are we are going to miss her very much. We wish her the very best of luck as she starts a new job in a Secondary School in September. The children there will be very lucky to have her expertise. Mrs Stewart is retiring after 22 years at St James' and is looking forward to travelling and spending more time with her family. Mrs Stewart is one of the longest serving members of staff at the school and will be very much missed by us all. I also want to thank Mrs Le Cuirot for working in Year 2 for the last two years. We are not saying goodbye to her though as hopefully she will do supply work for us next year. Mrs Le Cuirot, Mrs Pearce and Mrs Stewart have

had a huge impact on the children at St James' and we are very grateful to them for all that they have done. We keep them in our thoughts and prayers as new adventures await them.

We also say goodbye this week to our Year 6 children as they begin the next chapter in their lives. They know that they are always welcome back and that they will always be remembered here. Saying goodbye is always sad however we know that they will all go on to achieve great things and we are confident that they will all be happy in their new schools. We wish them good luck and look forward to seeing them in their new uniforms when they come back to see us. We will keep them in our prayers.

I want to thank the families that are leaving us. They have also been a huge part of our school community and we will miss them very much. I am sure we will see them all again at Christmas and Summer Fairs but for now I want to thank them for everything that they have done to help the school over the years. I hope they know that they are always welcome back.

Thank you also to all of our adult volunteers who have supported the school over the year. Without their help we would not be able to do many of the things that we offer as part of our rich and varied curriculum. I am sorry if I have not been able to thank everyone personally but hopefully they know how much they are appreciated.

Please note that the school office will close on Thursday evening and will not open again until September. Any emails that are sent during the summer holidays will be answered in the new term. We look forward to seeing you again on **Friday 1st September**.

Please also make a note of the following dates for Class Briefings in September. This will be an opportunity for parents to come to school at 2:45 and meet their child's new teacher and hear about their plans for the year.

Monday 4th	Year 1 with Miss McCarthy
Tuesday 5th	Year 2 with Mrs Martin
Wednesday 6th	Year 3 with Miss Spencer-Boyce
Thursday 7 th	Year 4 with Miss Atkinson
Monday 11th	Year 5 with Mrs Wilson
Tuesday 12th	Year 6 with Mrs Connolly

On behalf of all the staff I would like to thank you all for your generous gifts. You do not realise how much these gifts and particularly your kind words mean to us all. I hope and pray that you all have a wonderful summer.

God bless

Mrs Weeks

Word on Wednesday

This Week's Word is GROWING. This Sunday's Gospel reminds us that the Kingdom of God is growing all around us. We live in a world where we see both good and bad and we can choose to be like the wheat or the weeds. We all make mistakes, but God is loving and patient and gives us time to grow into the people we were created to be. This school year we have seen how all the children have grown in goodness.

Safeguarding

For parents who could benefit from some advice and appropriate signposting over the summer holidays please contact Bromley Y by emailing: MHSTsupport@bromleyy.org

The email should contain the following info:

Full name of the child

School

Year group

A brief description of current difficulties

SPORTS NEWS

School Games Sports Mark Gold Award

We are delighted that St James' has been awarded the Gold School Games Award for 2023. This is the 6th time we have managed to achieve this. This is awarded to schools who continue to provide sporting opportunities for children both inside and outside of school and are committed to developing healthy active lifestyles. Many thanks to all of the parents who have helped with transport to competitions throughout the year - without this support we would not be able to continue to give the children these opportunities. Thank you also to the parents who have voluntarily given up their time to provide additional after school running and cricket clubs this year. They have been a huge success! Mrs Connolly



OTHER NEWS

Camille and Mrs Stewart at the Farewell picnic Year 3 hosted for them yesterday. The cakes were made by Mrs Devereux.



Earlier in the year, Y4 entered a competition called the Incredible Diary of ... with the Young Writers Association. We were very excited when our mini saga entries were chosen to be published and the book is now available in Year 4 for all to read. To continue our excitement we found out that Delphine was one of the winners of the whole competition. Her beautiful mini saga about the life of A Caterpillar Soon to Be Butterfly was chosen as one of the winning pupil entries. She received a lovely goody bag of books and writing accessories and you can read her 100 word story here <https://www.youngwriters.co.uk/competitions/winners/KS2/incredible-diary> Well done Delphine!

