



## Newsletter – 29<sup>th</sup> April 2022

Dear parents,

I hope you had a lovely Easter break and are now looking forward to an exciting summer term. The children are already getting started on their new learning adventures, which you can read more about below.

New life is springing up everywhere around the school; we have a few nests filled with baby birds in the school grounds and a possible family of bats. The lower phase are learning about bugs and nature in their topic this term while below you will find an update on the migrating swifts. For the naturalists among us (not to be confused with naturists – very similar names but very different agendas; in case of confusion Sir David Attenborough is a naturalist), this is a wonderful time of year.

### Swift update

They're nearly here! Swifts are back nesting in Spain, and the UK's next!

The Swift Conservation website reports that swifts are crossing southern Europe on their way back here from central Africa. Right now they are flying back to us from their Winter quarters over the Congo, over the Sahara, Spain and up into France, heading back to us.

They have already crossed the Sahara desert, flying across it in about three days without stopping. Many will not have landed since they were nesting here last summer.

They will be here within two weeks. We hope that some of them will choose to come and nest in our beautiful new nest boxes.

- They come to Europe each summer arriving in this country at the end of April/ beginning of May
- They make their way back to Africa in August
- A round trip of 14,000 miles!

— Southward migration  
— Northward migration  
— Winter range and movements



### Staffing



We are pleased to say that we have a new addition to the SEN team at St James'. Marissa Noble has been appointed as our Deputy SENCO to work with Penny Wardell and Sarah Moriarty. She is in school on Thursdays and Fridays.

Jane Woolcott and Vrushali Mahajan have joined our fantastic team of midday supervisors and Alice Vanns has joined us as one of our amazing Teaching Assistants.

We are very lucky to have all of them on our team and we look forward to working them.

### **Reception news**

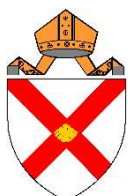
Reception enjoyed the start of our new topic It's a Bug's Life! All the teachers were dressed up as different bugs. Reception have been busy exploring what they know about bugs and learning new facts. They have also been bug hunting during their woodland sessions and learning about life cycles.



### **A stunning start in Lower phase written by Squirrel class**

Last Thursday something very unexpected happened. It was just an ordinary day until the end of assembly when suddenly the teachers who had been in a very important meeting came dancing into the hall looking very different! While they were at their meeting a very strange feeling had come over them and they started twirling around and then began to look very different - they had turned into bugs!

They looked so beautiful and there was a butterfly, spider, dragonfly, bumblebee, glow worm, earthworm, grasshopper and a ladybird. As it wasn't a normal day Mrs Ladybird said we should we do something different at school and so we all got into groups and went to all the classes to learn about the different bugs. We did lots of fun activities like jumping, symmetry, craft, art and we learned so many new facts about the bugs. We had the most amazing day it was so much fun and very exciting, and we can't wait to learn more about our new topic "It's a bug's life!"





### Times Tables Rock Stars

Next week, we are relaunching Times Table Rock Stars across Key Stage 2 and asking the children to play regularly to improve their recall of multiplication facts. Times Table Rock Stars is proven to help pupils develop quick recall. Multiplication facts are essential to success in maths across the school and beyond. Just five minutes a day can have a positive impact on your child's multiplication fact knowledge. We will have prizes for those children who log in regularly and try hard to increase their knowledge and speed.

Mr Wyke



### Nourish Food Bank

Apparently the Nourish food bank are running very low on stock. Donations are only 25% of what they usually are and demand is higher than ever. St James' have offered to help, although only those who can easily afford to spare should do so. I will let you know more about this soon, but in the meantime have attached a list of what is needed most. If people wish to and are able to, they can begin dropping off items in the foyer.

Most of those coming to the food bank are people in employment – I was less shocked than I should have been to hear the description “working poor” used when discussing those often most in need, something that took me back to my A-Level studies on Victorian England.

I have included a link from the BBC website for those interested in finding out more.

### COVID rules

New newsletter – new COVID rules!

If your child has a positive test, they need to isolate for just 3 days and should only stay off for longer if they continue to have a high temperature or feel too unwell to come to school. The list of possible COVID symptoms is now significantly longer. Regardless of COVID, the guidance for sickness and diarrhea continues to be that the child should remain at home for 48 hours after the last episode. I have included a link with more information.



## Key Stage 2 Accelerated Reader Challenges

It gives me great pleasure to announce **last term's winners** of our Accelerated Reader Challenges.

Highest Individual Word Count	Highest Number of Quizzes Achieved	Highest Class Word Count
Isabelle W in Deer Class <b>1,524,115 words</b>	Isabelle W in Deer Class <b>67 quizzes</b>	Kestrel Class <b>8,707,115 words</b>

Our millionaire readers last term were **Isabelle W** in Deer Class, **Harry** in Kestrel Class, **Divit** in Dormouse Class and **Emily** in Osprey Class.

Many congratulations to all the children for their incredible achievements with reading.

As we start a new term, we give each child in our Key Stage 2 classes the opportunity to take part in the reading challenges again and find something magical. Here are **this week's winners**:

Highest Individual Word Count	Highest Number of Quizzes Achieved	Highest Class Word Count
Isabelle W in Deer Class <b>557,539 words</b>	Hanako in Badger Class <b>15 quizzes</b>	Kestrel Class <b>2,526,483 words</b>

A huge well done to them all.

Ms Simpson

### Key dates for this term

9 <sup>th</sup> May	SATs week (Year 6)
27 <sup>th</sup> May	Last day of term 5
6 <sup>th</sup> June	INSET day
7 <sup>th</sup> June	First day of term 6
4 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 residential
13 <sup>th</sup> July	Sports Day whole school (provisional)
16 <sup>th</sup> July	PTA summer fair
18 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 productions (afternoon and evening)
19 <sup>th</sup> July	Infant church service (afternoon) & Year 6 evening production
20 <sup>th</sup> July	Junior church service (afternoon)
21 <sup>st</sup> July	Last day of term 6
2 <sup>nd</sup> September	First day of new school year

Thank you all, as always.

John Tutt  
Headteacher

