



Dates for the diary

6 th March	PTA book fair after school
7 th March	World Book Day
13 th March	PTA meeting infant hall 2pm
22 nd March	Parent Rep meeting & Easter Egg Bingo after school
26 th March	Year 5 led church service (2pm – Y5 parents welcome to attend)
28 th March	Easter Egg hunt and end of term
29 th March	Easter holidays start
15 th April	Children return to school
17 th April	Sharing Learning (14:45 until 15:15)
18 th April	Sharing Learning (8:45 until 9:15)
22 nd April	Year 6 residential week
13 th May	SATs week
18 th June	Sports Day
2 nd September	INSET day
3 rd September	First day of the new school year

Newsletter – Friday 1st March

Dear parents and carers,

You cannot help but notice that Spring is here; I am looking forward to those strong winds and rain lashing our faces getting a few degrees warmer.

Last week we finally got the answer to “how long is a piece of string?”. Mr Fleming asked just that question to a group of Year 4 children in response to one of them asking him something. The children promptly found a piece of string, measured it and came back to him with the answer: 140cm. We have learned the answer to an age-old question, and the children also learned the meaning of the phrase “rhetorical question”.

Next week the BBC have said they would like to film at the start of a school day, so we may have a camera by the school entrance – I will let you know if and when, so you have time to “showbiz yourself up” for the school run. The issue we would like to highlight is the volume/speed (and sometimes aggression) of car, lorry and van drivers outside our school each day.

Dogs

I think dogs are great! I love their boundless (mindless) optimism, unquestioning loyalty and the ability to extract joy from the smallest (and smelliest) things in life. What I love less is the incessant barking that some dogs feel they need to share with the rest of us. If you own one of these types, please do not tie it up outside the school; aside from being very annoying, some children can be frightened by it.



Sarah Greenfield asked me today why I always “go on about dogs but never cats”. I abhor all forms of discrimination and would therefore like to make it clear that this guidance applies to equally to them; please do not tie up your cat outside the school if its barking is going to be annoying to others or would be frightening for the children.

To ensure even greater inclusivity, this guidance also applies to hamsters, budgies and goldfish.

Staffing news

Next week Sophie Stock starts her paternity leave and in common with all people leaving us, even temporarily, we look forward to marking the occasion with some challenges for them in assembly. We wish Sophie all the very best and look forward to meeting the new member of the family.

Ferrero Rocher

We had a child bring some of these into school, and they do (of course) contain nuts which are not allowed at St James'. Please check the ingredients list on any processed foods you are providing children for lunch – if nuts are listed then they are not allowed and will be safely disposed of by staff in the dining hall. If you do not wish to check ingredients, a good rule of thumb would be that if the product is processed/packaged do not include it in your child's lunch.

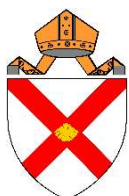
Again, we have children with extremely serious allergies and any exposure to nuts could be fatal. We are a strictly nut free school.

Year 6 Trip to the coast

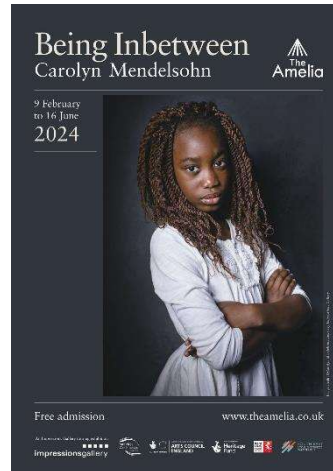
On Thursday 22nd February, Year 6 went to Birling Gap and Eastbourne to look at coastal erosion and coastal management. It was a wet and windy day but the children didn't complain and made the most of the trip out. They did sketches of the coastline (whilst making sure their paper didn't fly off into the sea); ate their packed lunches on benches on the pier and walked along the beach at Birling Gap to have a closer look at the erosion along the cliff edge. All in all, it felt like we had a very British day out - but we had lots of fun!



Anna Holland



Artists visit the Amelia to complete Discover Art Award



In half term a group of keen artists from Year 5 and 6 met up at the Amelia for a day of discovering art – they even gained a Discover Art Award by the end of the day! Currently at The Amelia, there is a photography exhibition featuring portraits of girls between 9 and 14. The group learnt about the photographer Carolyn Mendelsohn and her work – especially her ideas behind the exhibition entitled ‘Being Inbetween!’ Exploring art is fun, so please do visit the exhibition, if you get the chance.

Anna Williams

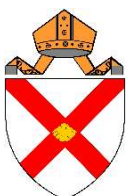
Early Years

Footprints have been found in the reception classrooms and the children have been busy trying to figure out what has made them. The children went on their first school trip to the Amelia this week to help try and discover what the footprints belong to. The children were very sensible walking to and from the Amelia and spent time learning about fossils and discovering what a paleontologist does. The children were able to touch fossils and hunt for them around the museum. A huge thank you to all of the parents that helped us on the trip.

We are still looking out for what made the footprints in our classrooms as we are not sure what has made them!



Lucy Coward



Year 1's mysterious visitor

Last week year 1 were surprised, delighted and maybe a little over-excited by a flying visit from a superhero! The friendly, mysterious and vaguely familiar hero circulated outside and through the classrooms before zooming off on a mission, leaving the children with many questions and theories to discuss. The next day, the classes received a letter from the superhero, who had lost their cape and needed help to find it. The children rose to the challenge, searching the grounds and making missing posters to put up around the building. Sadly, the cape remains lost, but the children are now busy working out which everyday materials would make a suitable replacement cape and developing their own designs to make one. Rumours that the superhero's day-to-day job is headteacher of a local school are so far unconfirmed!

Jude Ledger

Online Safety

Attached is a copy of Vodafone's Digital Parenting Magazine. This is packed with informative articles about online safety and other topics such as how to help your child to be an ally online and how to get the most out of your phone's camera. Whilst it's hard to have the time to read anything from cover to cover, I do recommend at least a skim read to help keep up to date with the ever-evolving online world that children are growing up in. There's a section about future jobs with suggestions that I had never heard of before - I thought a scrum was only a rugby term but it turns out it also connected to software development. It's a good job I'm not a careers advisor!

Lucy Hayward

INSET days next year

We have now set our INSET days for 2024 to 2025. Please see the school website under the parents - term dates tab for more details.

Parent Rep meeting

If available, could parent reps come to school for a second meeting on Friday 22nd March after drop off?

Key Stage 2 Accelerated Reader Challenges 01.03.24

We had such a fantastic start to Term 3, so I thought I would share the overall winners at the end of last term with you.

Highest Individual Word Count	Highest Class Word Count	Highest Individual Number of Quizzes Passed	Highest Class Quizzes Passed
Ella M in Osprey Class 1,975,137 words	Osprey Class 8,502,785 words	Raffi in Badger Class 49 quizzes	Badger Class 325 quizzes

A wonderful amount of reading took place last term with almost all classes reading over one million words.

In addition to Ella M, these children also successfully read over one million words in last term.

Class	Pupil	Word Count
Osprey	Morgan	1,086,691



Owl	Divit	1,545,590
Swift	Isabelle W	1,038,438

Last week, for the first time this academic year, a Year 3 class won all the reading challenges - an incredible achievement! Well done Badger Class.

Highest Individual Word Count	Highest Class Word Count	Highest Individual Number of Quizzes Passed	Highest Class Quizzes Passed
Dylan in Badger Class 651,718 words	Badger Class 1,487,248 words	Raffi in Badger Class 12 quizzes	Badger Class 96 quizzes

Here are this week's overall winners:

Highest Individual Word Count	Highest Class Word Count	Highest Individual Number of Quizzes Passed	Highest Class Quizzes Passed
Elsie in Vole Class 292,083 words	Stoat Class 995,134 words	Elissa in Chaffinch Class 15 quizzes	Badger Class 75 quizzes

The children's love of reading is fantastic and we are really looking forward to celebrating this on World Book Day. Thank you for supporting and encouraging your child with their reading.

Mrs Simpson

Kindest regards,

John Tutt

