



Newsletter – Friday 26th March 2021

Dear parents,

There is plenty of good news in this newsletter, so I hope you enjoy reading all about it.

Can you believe that the clocks change this weekend (and not in the good way)? Does that fill you with as much dread for getting out of bed on Monday morning as it does me? Do you have tiered bedtimes leading up to the big day to wean the family into the new routine or do you just go for it and accept that the children will need a foghorn and a hoist to rouse them out of bed on Monday morning? As always, there is expert advice available online; personally I follow the advice of BBC TV's "In the Night Garden" where their resident experts (Upsy Daisy and Iggle Piggle) have given their top tips for coping with the changing clocks. Follow the link below for some priceless advice:

[Six bedtime clock change tips for kids - CBeebies - BBC](#)

As an aside, does anyone else find almost all children's TV characters sinister? By that I mean that if I was out for a walk and stumbled across one, for example Upsy Daisy, Big Bird from Sesame Street or a teletubby (cheerfully/chillingly shouting "Eh-Oh!") I would instinctively flee in terror. Is that just me?

We are beginning to emerge from the other side of what has been a very strange 12 months. Reminders keep popping up on the phone showing what I was doing this time last year, which for some reason always surprise me despite the fact that I was obviously there at the time. Throughout the last year, it is the children who have been completely and totally magnificent and shown us the real meaning of resilience.

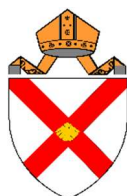
Anyway, please read on for wall to wall, floor to ceiling, fully fitted, honey glazed, perfectly seasoned and dry roasted good news.

Red Nose Day

The school raised an amazing £585 for Comic Relief last week. Thank you to everyone for taking part and to Miss Hayward for organising. The children's jokes were expertly told; if you absolutely love "knock knock" jokes (and who doesn't?) then you would have had the afternoon of your life. Well done to all the children who bravely shared their jokes virtually with the whole of the school.

Miss Greenfield

It is with great pleasure that I can announce the news that Sarah Greenfield, Assistant Headteacher and Chestnut class teacher is expecting a baby. I know you will join me in offering her congratulations and good wishes.



Zog Day

On Tuesday, Year 2, as part of their topic 'Ice and Fire', spent an enjoyable day as students at Dragon School on our Zog Day. Each child had five challenges to pass, including learning to roar like a dragon; fly a flying machine they had made; dodge a ball during a game of Dodge Ball; create a mini-dragon and listen then respond to a dragon poem. Everyone had a roar-some time!

Mrs Williams



Year 3

The children in Year 3 have been building models of Stonehenge. They cooperated in pairs and made their own choices such as the materials that they used and the size of their models. Some imagined what Stonehenge looked like in the past and some did it as it is today.



Mrs King

Parent Consultations

You should have had an opportunity to book a slot at a parent consultation with your class teacher for next week. These meetings will take place via Teams and will be accessed through your child's account



in the same way that their remote learning was. It would be a good idea for you to log in a day or two before the meeting just to check you still have the usernames and passwords; if there are any problems this will give you a chance to contact the class teacher.

Prompt drop-offs

Once you arrive on site, please drop off your child straight away and then leave as promptly as you can. Some parents are waiting for friends to arrive before sending their children into class and this is leading to unnecessary crowding in the car park. If you have a message for your child's class teacher, please email it to them and do not pass it on to Teaching Assistants on the gate.

Key Stage 2 Accelerated Reader Challenges

This term's challenge between the classes is proving to be quite competitive and very exciting. Many congratulations to this week's winners.

Highest Individual Word Count	Highest Number of Quizzes Achieved	Highest Class Word Count
Divit in Fox Class	Divit in Fox Class	Chaffinch Class
1,368,412 words	66 quizzes	8,110,683 words

Thank you for all your support and for encouraging your children to read and complete their AR quizzes. Every word counts!

Ms Simpson

Forest school news

Last week, Year 3 and 4 had a fantastic time enjoying Stone Age week, including working together to build a wattle and daub hut with Forest School, many of them immersing themselves fully in the experience. Lots of children helpfully brought in bags of mud to make into daub, but particular thanks go to Mr Wyke for excavating his back garden specially for us and bringing in all the lovely clay!

The children also enjoyed making cave art, using a variety of coloured paints they created from natural materials and decorating a wall with handprints. I think you'll agree, the results are spectacular!



Mrs Hadley



Free School Meals

Please refer to our Free School Meals page on the school website or contact Kent County Council on kentfsmenquiries@kent.gov.uk.

After the Easter holidays please contact Dawn Johnson in the school office for any queries further concerning either Free School Meals or Pupil Premium.

djohnson@st-james.kent.sch.uk

Admissions

If you have applied for a primary place the national offer day is 16th April. You should receive an email after 4pm. If you do not receive it, please check your junk/spam folder.

Have a lovely weekend and thank you all, as always.

John Tutt

March 2021

