



## Newsletter – 28<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Dear parents and carers,

I can sense summer approaching now – new leaves are appearing on the trees and the rain is gradually warming up. We managed to let the children play on the school field for a magical 20 minutes on Thursday as we had a small window in time when it had just dried enough to be usable without being too muddy.

### Ofsted trousers

The Ofsted visit last week at Rusthall was an interesting experience which I am sure I will recover from soon. The day we got “the call” began with an ominous sign - at 7:15am on Tuesday morning my trousers broke – the very same pair of trousers that I bought when I first became head at St James’ in 2012. From the very start of our time together, which began (as many relationships probably do) in the changing rooms at Eastbourne’s Marks and Spencer, that pair of trousers has seen me through thick and thin and been a constant and loyal companion. In many ways they were my lucky trousers, and their demise was a clear omen that something unsettling was afoot.

Luckily I always have spare trousers at work (for when I cycle to school, obviously) which saved me having to undertake a complex bodge job with safety pins and sellotape. My stand-in trousers gave me the confidence I needed to see the day through, and I wanted to publicly express my sincere appreciation. I would like to reassure you that I now have a replacement spare pair of trousers, ready to go should the need arise, and I will be completely Ofsted ready when the call arrives.

### Ofsted request

We are still expecting Ofsted any day now at St James’ and wait with bated breath from Monday to Wednesday for “the call”. As of today, we only have 20 responses on Ofsted ParentView from St James’ parents for this academic year. If you responded last year, please do complete another survey – it would be very much appreciated.

### New building

The completion date for the new building is now the end of June. The new building is going to be the new school staffroom and give us two additional group rooms. The current staffroom will then become a new school library - more on this below.

### School Library

We are about to embark on a wonderful opportunity to create our new school library. We would like to transform the area we have into an amazing space that inspires and encourages a lifelong love of reading. We hope to make it unforgettable!

We will be gathering the children’s ideas for their new library, but we would also truly welcome support from you if you are an interior designer or have a passion for interior design. Please contact Ms Simpson ([badgerclass@st-james.kent.sch.uk](mailto:badgerclass@st-james.kent.sch.uk)) if you think you could help make our space exciting and inviting.

### Church parking



Please do not park in the pre-school at drop off or pick up time. It means that pre-school staff and parents are unable to park there, which is obviously unhelpful.

### **Year 6 Residential**

We all had a fabulous week in Norfolk last week. If you have a child in Year 6 I am sure they have filled you in on all the important details (like how great the food was!) and may have taught you the words to the Pizza Song - if not make sure to ask (it's catchy.)

All your children were brilliantly behaved and really made the most of the adventure and challenge. It was a delight to spend so much time with them all and have the opportunity to get to know some of them a bit better as well. They were a credit to the school.

Mrs Holland



### **Crowns for the coronation**

We would like to challenge the children to create a crown to wear to school on Friday 5th May. It can be traditional or modern and simple or ornate. It could have symbols that link it to King Charles. Please do not spend lots of money on this. We will be happy if you use a cereal box! There will be assemblies linked to King Charles' Coronation and some year groups are doing other special events. In our Friday assembly we will have a look at the crowns and it has been suggested that the most dramatic ones should be tested by Mr Tutt!

Mrs King

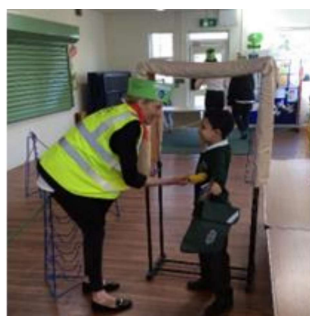
### **Key Stage 1 curriculum news**

Last Thursday, Year 1 and 2 started their new topics. They arrived at school to find it had been transformed into an airport! They completed their passports and gathered their belongings before joining the queue. Once they were checked in, the children went through security and spent some time browsing in duty free before boarding their flights. Year 1 used clues and puzzle pieces to find out they had travelled to Africa. They found out about some of the animals that live in the continent and explored African patterns. Year 2 children flew to Ecuador, Brazil and Peru to explore the rainforests of the world. Luckily, we all made it back to England for the end of the day. We are looking forward to seeing where our new topics will take us this term!





Miss Greenfield



#### Year 4

The Year 4 children have enjoyed a stunning start to their Raiders and Traders topic as they became the invading Angles, Saxons and Jutes, looking for better farming and precious metals. They successfully sailed across the sea and landed in Britain, ready to learn more about these invaders.



Mrs Jones

#### Year 5

We have some events coming up to help Year 5 parents make the decision about secondary schools. I have sent a separate message to Year 5 parents with more details. What I failed to include was that my evening talk on the local secondary school options on 24<sup>th</sup> May is for parents only.

#### Netball update

The year 6 girls netball teams played against last year's teams. It was a great match which the Alumnae eventually won 12-6. Our team had a great start but we were caught and overtaken in a competitive but friendly game. There was laughter and chatter amongst the players which was very good humoured and often very funny.

It began to rain as soon as the match started and got worse and worse. By the end, all of us were thoroughly soaked. However, this didn't dampen the mood as we joined together for an after-match cupcake; a very sociable time when the children talked about the schools they were going to and what it would be like there. Hopefully our year 6's have made some connections that can continue when they arrive at their new school next year. I know the Alumnae enjoyed looking at the developments and projects that are taking place at St James'. They are keen to come again and we hope to host other ex St James' netballers later in the term.

Miss Gibson

#### Mini Marathon

Thirty children had a fantastic time at the London TCS Mini Marathon. We were fortunate enough to have the perfect weather of a cool day and no rain. It was a unique event and the children ran a mile and finished their race at the same point as the full London Marathon the next day. It was perfect seeing our children smiling over the finish line with the backdrop of Buckingham Palace.



The children have raised £300 by participating in this event for our school and we are looking forward to discuss how to spend this money on sport equipment in the school.  
Well done to all that had the chance to have fun and run.

### **Sports Day**

Providing the weather continues to hold out, Sports Day is scheduled for Wednesday 28th June. KS1 and Early Years will complete all activities in the morning and KS2 will have completed activities in the previous week and will only be having races in the afternoon. Parents are invited to attend the morning for children in Years R to 2 and the afternoon for children in Years 3 to 6.

Years R to 2: - Please drop your child as usual in the morning. You may wish to send in trainers as the ground is very hard and there are a number of children with plimsols that no longer fit.

The Year 2 (green) gate will be opened for parents of children in Years R to 2 between 9.15 and 9.40. and you will make your way up to the KS1 field.

We aim to finish the Early Years and KS1 activities by 12 o'clock, when you will be invited to sit with your child to have a picnic.

Years 3 to 6: We will aim to start the KS2 races at 1 o'clock. These will be on the track on the KS2 field.  
Sports day will end at the usual school time for you to pick up your child.

### **Year 6 and Year R reading together**

Year 6 came to read with the Reception children this afternoon which they all enjoyed! We are hoping to do it again in the future. We have some pictures below.



### **Message from the PTA**

Thank you to all the parents and staff who gave up their time to help at the discos this week and last week. The children had so much fun and we made a good start with our fundraising efforts for the school's library refurbishment.

Thank you also to Steph Nailor Stevenson for organising the sale of Legoland tickets for next Tuesday's inset day which raised £543.49 for the school. Tickets have all now been sent out by email. We hope you have a brilliant day out.

The PTA's next meeting is on Wednesday 3 May at 7.30pm in the junior hall and will be focused on summer fair planning. Please come along if you can, especially if you are a class rep.



Thank you. Have a good bank holiday weekend.

Kirstin

## Key Stage 2 Accelerated Reader Challenges

### Term 4 winners

Here are the winners of our Accelerated Reader challenges last term:

- Highest Class Word Count – **Chaffinch Class** with **6,726,616 words**
- Highest Individual Word Count – **Divit** in **Chaffinch Class** with **1,496,283 words**
- Highest Class Quiz Count – **Deer Class** with **318 quizzes**
- Highest Individual Most Quizzes passed – **Jessie** in **Badger Class** with **50 quizzes**

I would also like to congratulate these children who read over 1 million words last term:

- **Chloe** in **Chaffinch Class (1,053,554 words)**
- **Jamie** in **Stoat Class (1,002,328 words).**

### 28.04.23

This week we celebrated achievements in reading with the following classes and children:

Highest Individual Word Count	Highest Class Word Count	Highest Individual Number of Quizzes Passed	Highest Class Quizzes Passed
<b>Jessie in Badger Class</b> with <b>591,842 words</b>	<b>Chaffinch Class</b> with <b>2,499,347 words</b>	<b>Yudai in Fox Class</b> with <b>25</b> <b>quizzes</b>	<b>Badger Class</b> with <b>126</b> <b>quizzes</b>

A special mention to:

- **Kestrel Class** who read the most words in one week (**1,616,011 words**)
- **Imogen** in **Chaffinch Class** read the most words in one week (**303,236 words**)
- **Badger Class** passed the most quizzes in one week (**73 quizzes**)
- **Yudai** in **Fox Class** passed the most quizzes in one week (**15 quizzes**)

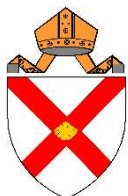
Many congratulations to all our winners. Please keep encouraging your children to read. Every word counts!

Ms Simpson

### **Dates for the diary**

Here are some dates for the remainder of the term ahead. If you visit the calendar on the school website, the diary dates can now be imported into Google calendars.

1 <sup>st</sup> May	Bank holiday
2 <sup>nd</sup> May	INSET day – school closed for children
8 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank holiday (coronation)
9 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 6 SATs week begins
24 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 5 secondary transition meeting for parents (no children please)
29 <sup>th</sup> May	Half term week begins
5 <sup>th</sup> June	Children return to school
6 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 5 parent consultations



28 <sup>th</sup> June	Sports Day
4 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> July	Parent consultations (except Year 5)
21 <sup>st</sup> July	Last day of term
1 <sup>st</sup> September	INSET day
4 <sup>th</sup> September	Children return to school
	New Reception children stay and play

Kindest regards,  
John Tutt

