



St James' RC Primary Newsletter

Friday 22nd March 2019

Twitter: @stjamesrc

Issue 24

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents,

Thank you so much for your generosity last week. We raised £90.95 for Comic Relief by wearing Red Noses and The Movie Night raised £369.40 for the KS1 Playground. The playground work was due to start this week but unfortunately has been delayed and we are waiting for the new start date. We are confident it will be soon.

In early December, we were invited to apply for a school garden grant from an organisation called the Whole Kids Foundation overseen by School Food Matters. Mrs Deasy put together a detailed budget, timeline and photographs of the existing or proposed school garden space together with a proposal. The submission requested monies for a school greenhouse as our existing plastic one have seen better days and is now in a state of disrepair. This would allow our children to raise plants from seed, see their transformation and eventual transplantation into our school garden, supporting many aspects of the national curriculum. In addition to this, we want to lay gravel paths between the raised beds in our school garden to allow for all year round access. We are delighted to announce that our bid was successful and that we have been awarded £1,250. A huge thank you to Mrs Deasy for applying for the grant and for all the hard work that went into the application.



Thank you also to Mrs Deasy for organising the Daffodil competition. A judge from The Children's Flower Society visited us on Tuesday and was impressed by the children's growing skills! The daffodils were truly beautiful and brightened the hall. Out of 26 entrants, we had 2 bronze, 9 silver and 16 gold certificates. Our judge, Mr Webb, was very impressed and will let us know how we have performed as a school in due course.

Thank you to all the children that entered their flowers.



On Monday our Year 6 Junior Travel Ambassadors delivered an assembly to the whole school about the dangers of car engine idling. The Royal College of Physicians estimate 40,000 deaths a year in the UK are linked to air pollution, with engine idling contributing to this. Idling is the act of leaving a vehicle's engine running while it is stationary. While this is often the result of traffic, there are some instances, such as waiting for children outside of schools and in traffic jams when idling is not necessary and should be avoided. Idling increases the amount of exhaust fumes in the air. These fumes contain a number of harmful gasses including carbon dioxide, which is bad for the environment and contributes towards climate change, as well as a range of

other harmful gasses including nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons which are linked to asthma and other lung diseases. Thank you to the Junior Travel Ambassadors for bringing this to our attention.



At the beginning of the week Year 5 had a two-day Healthy Relationship Project led by Tender Education and Arts. This was offered to a group of schools in Bromley. The culmination of the two-day project was a presentation, where Year 5 shared their knowledge to Year 4. The project used drama and interactive activities to cover a range of topics that included key elements of healthy and unhealthy friendships and relationships, conflict resolution techniques and managing emotions, the NSPCC underwear rule and equality and respect in friendships and relationships.



Teachers met with other teachers in the Umbrella Trust this week to moderate science work. This gives us the confidence that we are pitching work

at the right level and stretching and challenging our children. It is great to see our children enjoying their science work and their books show good progress.

I met with the other Head teachers in the Umbrella Trust and we discussed how our schools can support one another in the future to drive improvements.

We have welcomed Miss Bryan to St James'. She is a student teacher from St Mary's University, Strawberry Hill and will be working with Year 1 until May. She has already settled into school life.

The highlight of the week has to be the KS1 Production of Puss in Boots. It was incredible how the Year 2 children learnt so many lines! The actors, narrators and musicians were so good and thoroughly entertained us. Reception Class and Year 1 sang so well and knew all the words and actions to the songs. The children should all be very proud of themselves. What a treat for us! I know that KS2 enjoyed watching the dress rehearsal on Tuesday. Thank you to Mrs Martin, Miss McCarthy, Mrs Richards, Mrs Haynes, Mrs Nash, Mrs Coxon, Mrs Ferrari, Mrs O'Neill and Mrs Fage for all their hard work. After the two performances there were collections for the KS1 playground and you kindly donated £438. We all thank you so much.

This week the NSPCC wrote to schools about how parents can start serious conversations with their children. They suggested that if parents are too forceful, the child may clam up and if parents are too subtle, they could end up discussing something completely different. Their advice is:

- Make your child feel at ease
- Get the balance right
- Let your child talk without interruptions
- Encourage questions
- Listen

Choose a place your child feels at ease. Make it a

time when you're unlikely to be interrupted. Make the conversation relevant. For example, if you both see something on TV, you could ask your child what they would do if they ever found themselves in that situation. Or, to show that you value their opinion, you could say that a friend of yours needs advice. Ask what they think.

When you are chatting with your child, take care to listen and:

- Ask them questions that don't result in a yes or no answer. It gives them the chance to tell you what they really think
- Let them talk without interrupting and encourage them to ask questions.

It is important that your child knows they can talk to you in confidence. If they do not feel comfortable talking to you, suggest they talk to other people they trust, or to organisations such as Childline. The number for Childline is 0800 1111.

On another note, attached to this newsletter is a copy of the Lock Down Policy. Schools are asked to ensure that they are able to secure their site, with pupils, staff and volunteers safely inside should the need arise. Please read our policy. We need to practise this annually in order to ensure that everyone knows what to do in a Lock Down. We will be holding a practice before Easter. We will tell the children that it will be happening and that it is a practice. We will do everything we can not to frighten the children and will use our sensitivity to this end. We have carried this out for the a few years now and no children have ever been upset or worried.

Finally, I wanted to remind you about the use of seatbelts. On Wednesday a concerned parent reported to the office that they had seen two children wearing St James' uniform standing in the back of a moving car without seatbelts. The car was a 'Range Rover type car'. Please help us to keep our children safe.

I hope everyone that comes to the PTA Family Disco on Saturday has a great time and that everyone has a good weekend. Mrs Weeks

Dates for your diary

Monday 25th Reception Class at 9:30 Mass at church

Monday 25th Year 5 will be attending Adoration and Reconciliation at church

Tuesday 26th Year 1 will be at 9:30 Mass at church

Tuesday 26th Year 6 will be attending Adoration and Reconciliation at church

Wednesday 27th Year 3 will be at 9:30 Mass at church

Thursday 28th 9:15 Whole School Spring Walk in Jubilee Park (Parents are welcome to join us)

Thursday 28th Theatre Group in school to perform Charlotte's Web

Friday 29th PTA Easter Egg Hunt for KS1

Friday 29th Helen O'Grady Performance to parents at 1:15

April

Monday 1st Bike Ability Year 6

Monday 1st Year 2 will be at 9:30 Mass at church

Monday 1st Year 4 will be attending Adoration and Reconciliation at church

Tuesday 2nd Bike Ability Year 6

Wednesday 3rd Year 1 Parent Meeting about The Phonic Check at 2:45

Thursday 4th Year 5 Passion Play for parents at 2:15

Friday 5th End of term

SAFEGUARDING

This week we want to tell you about 'Virtual Private Networks' (VPNs). Although they are a great privacy tool, they can allow children to bypass restrictions on web browsing, opening them up to potential dangers such as age-inappropriate content, malware infections and being spied upon. The following link gives you further information.

WEBSITE: <https://nationalonlinesafety.com/resources/platform-guides/virtual-private-networks/>

Wednesday Word

This Week's Word is **CHANGE**.

"To live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often." Blessed John Henry Cardinal Newman.

The children have been learning that Lent is a time of change and each new day is an opportunity for all of us to change. In this Sunday's Gospel, the fig tree represents God's people. The children know that we are all called to change. Jesus is like the gardener. He is patient with us, nurtures us and helps us to change for the better.

Attendance

Class	Attendance (%)	Occasions Late
Rec	95.1	0
Y1	96.67	0
Y2	96	0
Y3	99.06	1
Y4	95.63	1
Y5	97.58	0
Y6	98.71	0

Well done to Year 3

Other messages....

Could you let the office know if you are an electrician, plumber, painter and decorator or carpenter and would be happy for the school to contact you for a quote if we ever have work that needs to be completed at school.

Sports News

Key Steps Gymnastics

Well done to our 8 children from year 3 and 4 and our 8 children from years 5 & 6 who represented the school at Bromley Valley gymnastics centre. This was a school based competition where children with no previous gymnastics experience

are given the opportunity to perform a vault; a floor sequence and body conditioning.

Our Year 3 & 4 teams did well finishing 7th and 8th out of 13 and our Year 6 teams finished 9th and 2nd! Well done to Oliver who picked up a first place medal for his vault. A great performance from all after a lot of hard work training. Well done to Erin and Maddie for their expert coaching on the day too.



Girls Football

Well done to the Year 5 & 6 girls who played against Perry Hall this week. Unfortunately they lost 1-0 but are still showing great promise as a team.

More Gymnastics News....

Oscar in Year 4 recently competed at the Regional Gymnastics Qualifier. He and his partner were placed 2nd and have therefore qualified for The Inter Regional Championship in Southampton in May where he will represent The London

and South East Region and compete against children from around the country. We are very proud of him and look forward to hearing about how he does in May.

PTA News

Looking forward to a fun evening with you all this Saturday at the **Wild West Family Disco**. A reminder that we are only permitted to use the main halls and staff toilets – please make sure your children are aware of this. Disco merchandise will be available on the night so please do bring change!

Comedian Adam Bloom headlines at our first PTA Comedy Night on Saturday 28 April in the school hall. This is the first weekend of the summer term so do please mark it in your diaries and submit ticket requests before we break for Easter. There

will be a bar for the evening and, please note, the evening contains adult humour and is aimed at audiences 18+.

Another plea for raffle prizes for this year's Spring Ball. Please contact the PTA if you can assist with this.

DIARY DATES

Saturday 23 March **Family Disco**, School Hall
6.30pm

Saturday 27 April **Comedy Night**, School Hall

Saturday 18 May **Spring Ball**, West Kent Golf Club
6.30pm

Contact us: pta.stjamesprimary@gmail.com or via our Facebook page.

