



St James' RC Primary Newsletter

Friday 15th February

Twitter: @stjamesrc

Issue 20

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents,

Thank you to Mr Harrison who kindly spent Saturday morning making a planter for the school garden that is going to be used for growing herbs. We are very grateful to him.



We have a partnership with the Orpington Astronomical Society (<http://www.orpington-astronomy.org.uk/>) who were kind enough to visit us on Wednesday evening. Thank you to everyone that came. We were given an amazing opportunity to observe the moon through five extremely powerful telescopes that left us all in awe. We also saw Mars which was an extra bonus. Hugh, from the society, gave a very interesting talk about the moon and answered any questions that people had. I think that everyone went away having discovered something new! Thank you to the society and we look forward to seeing them again in the summer for the Solar Watch. Please contact them if you are interested in becoming a member.



Year 1 went on a very exciting trip to Pizza Express in Bromley this week to learn all about pizzas and they all made a pizza to take home with them. This is linked to their DT topic and they have been telling me all about it.



It was good to hear Damian Hinds speak recently about something that we feel strongly about at St James'. He spoke about character and resilience as being the qualities that we call on to get us through the setbacks that are part of life. As a school we think about how we make sure that our children are ready to make their way in the world as confident individuals. Damian Hinds quoted Albert Einstein as saying, "Most people say that it is the intellect which makes a great scientist. They are wrong: it is character". We know that it is important that children need to develop the ability to bounce back from the knocks that life inevitably brings. Character must be grounded in values such as kindness, generosity, integrity, humility, tolerance and integrity. At St James' we try to ensure that our children become the very best version of themselves. One characteristic that we try to instil in our children is the confidence to have a go. Confidence calls for bravery and a determination to succeed. Maybe we can't directly teach a child to be confident but we can certainly introduce them to situations where they need to be courageous. Courage – to have tried and succeeded, or to have tried and failed, but to get

back up again anyway – comes from within. In Angela Duckworth's book 'Grit' she says that one of the ways we can build up character is to commit to 'one hard thing', which she defines as something that requires regular practice. The important thing is that you must pick the hard thing yourself and you must stick at it. You must not give up at the first sign of failure. Failure and disappointment are not a bad thing and we will all face them at some point in our lives. We aim to stretch and challenge our children and help them to think, develop and grow to enhance their self-esteem. We encourage character and resilience through sport, art, design, creative writing, composing music, drama, dance, playing in an orchestra or singing in a choir.

Thank you to Year 5 for raising over £100 for their chosen charities.

I hope you all have a wonderful half term break.

Kind regards

Mrs Weeks

Dates for your diary

February

Thursday 28th PTA own clothes day

March

Wednesday 6th Whole School Ash Wednesday Mass led by Yr 5

Thursday 7th World Book Day: Children are welcome to dress up as a Book Character

Friday 8th Year 4 Class Assembly in the school hall at 2:50pm

Friday 8th International Women's Day

Saturday 9th Cross Country for Year 3 and Year 4

Monday 11th Open evening 3:30-6:30 for parents

Tuesday 12th Open evening 3:30-6:30 for parents

Wednesday 13th Individual photographs

Friday 15th Staff to hold a Movie Night for children (More details to follow)

Wednesday 20th KS1 Performance 9:15 for

parents

Thursday 21st KS1 Performance 9:15 for parents

Saturday 23rd PTA Family Disco

Thursday 28th Whole School spring walk in Jubilee Park

Friday 29th PTA KS1 Easter Egg Hunt

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

April

Monday 1st Bike Ability Year 6

Tuesday 2nd Bike Ability Year 6

Thursday 4th Year 5 Passion Play for parents

Friday 5th End of term

SAFEGUARDING

Please note that no search engine is ever 100% safe. These are thought to be the 'safer' ones:

nICE

CBBC

Kids Yahoo

Google offers a safer search option for children searching the internet that can be downloaded.

For images:

Pics4learning

Picsearch

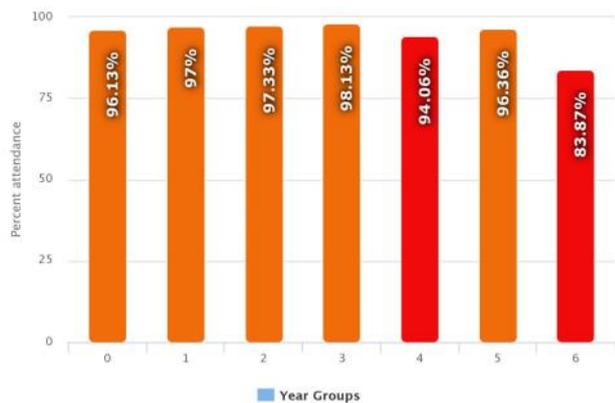
Wednesday Word

This Week's Word is **TRUST**. We explained to the children this week that Jesus wants each one of us to place all our trust in God. There can be many things that trouble our hearts, but following and trusting in God is what we must do. It is through trusting in God that we will find security and hope.

After School Club

The children have been really busy over the last few weeks - creating lanterns, dragons and fans for Chinese New Year. They have also been colouring in hearts to celebrate St Valentine's Day. Have a lovely half term break and see you in a week's time. Janet Wallis

Attendance



Class	No. of lates last week
Reception	0
Year 1	5
Year 2	1
Year 3	0
Year 4	5
Year 5	2
Year 6	0

PTA News

We hope you all enjoy a lovely half-term break.

We still have a few spaces available for the PTA Spring Disco which is along a Wild West theme this year! You should have received ticket forms by email but if you need a copy then let us know. A cash bar will be available on the night serving beer, wine, prosecco, hotdogs and snacks and free squash for the children.

All profit from the PTA Spring Disco and forthcoming Ball will go towards the KS1 & 2 playground project.

DIARY DATES

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

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