



# St James' RC Primary Newsletter

Friday 12th October 2018

Twitter: @stjamesrc

Issue 5

## Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents,

It was great to see so many people supporting the PTA on Saturday at the Fashion Show. The children that took part all did so with such confidence and obviously enjoyed every minute of it. Thank you to everyone involved as they made it run so smoothly.

On Monday morning Year 6 were visited by Her Honour Judge Kathryn Major. The Queen appointed Kathryn Major to be a Circuit Judge and The Lord Chief Justice deployed her to the South Eastern Circuit, based at the East London Family Court and the Bromley County Court. She spoke to Year 6 about how she had read the book *To Kill a Mocking Bird* at the age of eleven and had wanted to be a Judge ever since. This was an amazing example of the power of literature. She told the children that she had been a solicitor before becoming a District Judge.



The Blue Cross came to speak to all the children in assembly this week about how to stay safe around dogs. It is important that children understand how to behave around the dogs in their homes and in their community so they can enjoy their company

and remain safe. There are many benefits of having a dog in the family however, we often hear in the media of children getting bitten by dogs. The Blue Cross talked to the children about how to understand dog behaviour and explained the reasons why dogs might bite.



I hope that if you were able to come on Monday after school to visit classrooms your children showed you the work that they are proud of.

We weighed the two pumpkins this week and the two people that guessed the weight correctly were delighted to win the pumpkins. Thank you to Mrs Deasy for organising this.



On Tuesday we held an event called 'The Big Soup Share'. In 2017, The Campaign for School Gardening members served over 57,000 portions of soup all over the country and this year they invited schools to host an event in October. It is a chance to celebrate the work the school does in our garden by harvesting our crops, whizzing them up into a delicious soup and sharing it with others. We are very proud of our garden and see this as a chance

to celebrate all the children's hard work and show others how fun growing food can be. Mrs Deasy was kindly helped by Clare, our school cook, to make Pumpkin Soup from our pumpkins which the children all tasted. Thank you again to Mrs Deasy.



I would like to thank Mrs Mooney-Clarke who came in last week and worked very hard shifting soil into one of the raised beds. If there is anyone else who can spare an hour during the week at any time could they please see Mrs Deasy via the office so that all our classes can start using the garden.

Year 5 had a visit from the school nurse this week who talked to them about growing up and puberty. The children listened intently and asked very mature questions. They have been having a fabulous time on their residential trip to the Wildchild Adventure Site where they are experiencing the outdoors in a woodland environment. We are looking forward to hearing all about their trip on their return. Thank you to Mrs Wilson, Mrs Deasy, Mrs Stewart and Mrs Brown for giving up their time to take the children away. I hear that the children have all been perfectly behaved.

In the KS2 assembly Mrs Brown spoke to the children about her recent trip to Santiago de Compostela, in northwest Spain. The Cathedral has the shrine of Saint James the Great, and is the destination of the Way of St. James, a Catholic pilgrimage route since the 9th century. Mrs Brown bought the school a wooden statue of St James and a silver bell which we will keep on

the prayer table. Thank you to Mrs Brown.

This week I met with Father David to discuss the possibility of having a Parish and School Mission. The aim would be to present the Gospel message in a lively and stimulating way in order to encourage all concerned to take a fresh look at their faith. The mission would bring a time of renewal to the whole parish and school community.

I heard from our International Partners in The Lebanon this week at the Jesus and Mary School, Rabweh. They explained that they have been back at school a week now and wished our children a great year ahead.

Please see the letter that was sent out earlier this week to Year 4, 5 and 6 about your child possibly becoming an Altar Server if they are interested.

STARS – Sustainable Travel: Active, Responsible, Safe- is TfL's accreditation scheme for London schools. STARS inspires children to travel to school sustainably, actively, responsibly and safely by championing walking, scooting and cycling. STARS supports pupils' wellbeing, helps to reduce congestion at the school gates and improve road safety and air quality. We have recently been awarded Bronze accreditation 2017/2018. We are trying encouraging children to walk to school. Walking is good for:

- **Academic performance** – a child who walks is more likely to be better at concentrating during the day as they arrive more alert.
- **Independence** – the responsibility of walking to school helps children to become aware of their surroundings, think responsibly and make decisions.
- **Physical health** – walking helps to develop cardiac capacity as well as keeping weight controlled and building muscle strength.

As a result of the parent questionnaires from the end of summer many parents asked for homework to be set over weekends. We are in the process of looking at our Homework Policy which we consult with Governors about. Any changes to the present policy will be explained in due course

and will begin in the spring term.

We received some wonderful comments about the Breakfast and After School Club from their own questionnaires. Parents have said that they are pleased that there is time given to homework. Parents also said it was flexible, friendly and caring. One parent wrote that parents could not live without it and another wrote that their child does not want to leave it on a night.

**AT THE MOMENT WE HAVE 120 FOLLOWERS ON TWITTER. PLEASE FOLLOW US AT @stjamesrc**

Have a great weekend.  
Mrs Weeks

### Safeguarding

TikTok is a global video community where users create, share and discover 'funny and memorable moments' via short video clips – typically about 15 seconds long. Currently one of the world's most popular apps, TikTok was formerly known as Musical.ly, before it was rebranded by the Chinese company that acquired it in November 2017. There is a free guide for parents that covers what they need to know about the platform to help safeguard their children from potential online risks including; *dangerous trends and challenges, oversharing, online payments and inappropriate content. The guide can be found at :*

<https://twitter.com/natonlinesafety/status/1049971808852697089>

### The Wednesday Word

This week's word is **HAPPINESS**. The children have been hearing about this week's Gospel about a wealthy young man whose love of money was stopping him finding true happiness. The children have been learning that if we want to have true happiness we must give God first place in our life.

### Dates

**Please make a note of the following dates:**

#### October

Monday 15<sup>th</sup>-Friday 19<sup>th</sup>: Year 6 PGL Trip

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> KS1 Author visit

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> Whole School Harvest Mass at church

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> Year 4 Roman Feast for children

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> PTA Own Clothes Day

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> Year 5 Class Assembly Wild Child 9:15 for parents

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup>-Friday 26<sup>th</sup> Half Term

### PTA NEWS

Our first PTA Fashion Show last Saturday was a great success! Thank you to all those who took part and families that came along to support. Special thanks to Eliza Jedruszak and Kids on the Catwalk for organising the event.

We are delighted to announce that the event raised over £811! Congratulations to everyone involved.

Your children's Christmas cards should be available to purchase online from this Friday. You will need to input the reference number that was on the sticker you attached to their artwork. If anyone has mislaid these details then email the PTA and we will try to help. <https://www.apfsorders.co.uk>.

Own Clothes Day is next Tuesday. The suggested donation for this is £2 per child (max £5 per family) and all funds raised will go towards the purchase of prizes for the raffle at this year's PTA Christmas Fair.

Tuesday 18 October Own Clothes Day

Saturday 24 November, 12-3pm St James' Christmas Fair

Saturday 8 December Christmas Tree Sale

Tuesday 11 December, 5.30pm Cinderella, Churchill Theatre

Contact us: [pta.stjamesprimary@gmail.com](mailto:pta.stjamesprimary@gmail.com) or via our Facebook page.

## Oakies Club

The Oakies' staff are currently busy planning the activities for the autumn term, if your children would like to add any suggestions we are open to ideas.

Previously we have made play dough, biscuits, greetings cards and many other items. Watch this space for further news.

Oakie Dokie  
Janet and Team

## Other messages.....

Dear Parents,

Our whole school Harvest Mass will take place at St James' Church on Wednesday 17th October. We will leave school around 9.10am. If you are able to walk with us please can you let the office know.

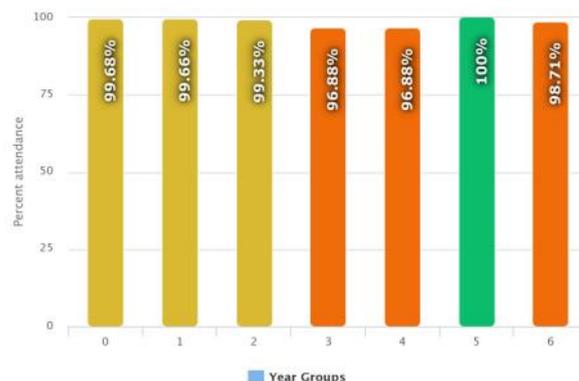
Please remember that the children will need to bring in their tins of vegetables on this day e.g. tinned potatoes, carrots, mixed vegetables and sweetcorn.

These donations will be offered up at Mass and transported to the local food bank by the Justice and Peace Group at St James' Church.

Many Thanks  
Mrs Wilson



## Attendance



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

**Well done to everyone who made a special effort to be in school on time last week. Amazing results!**

Thank you .

## Sports

Year 6 Girls' Football

Well done to our newly formed Girls' footballers in their first tournament playing together this week.

On Tuesday they were at Southborough for a Bromley schools' tournament. Twelve teams played at this venue and the girls managed to fight their way through to the final at the end of the tournament after a thrilling penalty shoot out!

In the final, they faced fierce opposition from Oak Lodge and unfortunately they lost 3-0.

A brilliant start to the season and good luck to them tonight in their match against Highfield.