



St James' RC Primary Weekly Newsletter

Friday 26th April

Twitter: @stjamesrc

Issue 25

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents,

Year 5 had a fantastic time at their sleepover at The Natural History Museum last week. The children had great fun designing their own dinosaur t-shirt, taking part in an educational science show learning about octopuses and exploring the museum by torchlight! Well done to all the children for their outstanding behaviour. They were a credit to St James'. We know that it will be a sleepover that they will never forget! Thank you to Mrs Wilson for organising this and Mrs Ferrari, Miss Spencer Boyce, Mrs Brown, Miss Atkinson and Mrs Jessup for accompanying the children. What an amazing experience!



On Monday it was Stephen Lawrence Day. As a young teacher, I was teaching in April 1993 at a primary school near the Well Hall roundabout in Eltham where Stephen was killed and his story has always been important to me. Stephen's story is both challenging and inspirational. He was a normal young person who made the most of everyday opportunities. Although his life was short, Stephen provides a positive role model of a life well lived. He was born and grew up in south-east London and had ambitions to use his talents in maths, art and design to become an architect. He wanted to have a positive impact on his community. As we know, his dream of becoming an architect was never realised because on 22nd April 1993, at the age of just 18, Stephen was tragically murdered. Stephen Lawrence Day is about the part we all play in creating a society in which everyone can flourish. It is an opportunity for children to have their voices heard, make the changes they would like to see and create a society that treats everyone with fairness and respect. It hopefully inspires children to live their best life. On Monday we talked to the children about Stephen Lawrence, linking this to our Catholic Social Teaching of Promoting Peace.

This week in our assemblies we have been celebrating World Earth Day. We all have a vital role to play and must come together to look after and care for our shared world and tackle the climate crisis. The theme for World Earth Day this year is Planet vs. Plastics and to mark that there has been a call for a 60% global reduction in plastic production by 2040.

On Wednesday, I was waiting at the school gate when I saw Aiyla and Maiya walking to school through Jubilee Park litter picking. On their walk through the park they filled a huge bag of plastic and rubbish. This is Catholic Social Teaching and Stewardship in action. We are so proud of both Aiyla and Maiya. Well done!



This week, coinciding with World Earth Day and a visit from CAFOD promoting Catholic Social Teaching, Reception class begun their Stewardship Project which is to care for the school pond. Having visited last term to find it overgrown and full of grass and weeds and no wildlife, they have spent this week clearing mud, moss, grass and other matter in an attempt to get down to the pond liner to check if it is compromised. It is a tough job and Mrs Richards is so proud of how hard they worked as a team this week. There is a long way to go but here is a look at what they have managed so far. Watch this space for volunteer days were hopefully families will get involved as well.





It was good to see the children who belong to one of the uniformed organisations in their scouting or guiding uniforms on St. George's Day.



Thank you to the PTA members who attended the meeting this week. They work so hard for the good of the children and I am very grateful to them. Please contact the PTA if you would like to help in some way.

Maureen, a representative from CAFOD visited Reception, Y1, Y2, Y3 and Year 4 to talk about our Catholic Social Teaching Principles. She told us all about the different animals that CAFOD have linked to the principles and their stories. The children reflected on how we can live out our principles in everyday life.



Year 6 had their third session with Bank of America this week. They were looking at where their money goes and how it is spent on essential and luxury items. They talked about budgeting, using a spreadsheet to keep track of their spending and finished off with a "Price is Right" style quiz.



We were lucky enough to have a travelling theatre company come to school last Friday to present an adaptation of JRR Tolkien's classic "The Hobbit". It was an amazing production and the children thoroughly enjoyed it!



Year 5 enjoyed visiting Petts Wood Library today and enjoyed having a chance to look at the books.

I hope that the parents who came into school this week to hear about the Y1 Phonic Check and the Y4 Multiplication Check found the information helpful. Thank you to Miss McCarthy and Miss Atkinson for organising these meetings.

Hygiene poverty is humiliating and The Hygiene Bank tries to combat this. Buying the basics like period products, shampoo, toothpaste or deodorant when we need them is something most of us take for granted. For many on a low-income however, especially those who rely on food banks, these essential products have become out of reach luxuries. Illness, disability, family breakdown or loss of a job can leave people destitute, and these unplanned events can happen to anyone. We receive support from the Bromley Hygiene Bank for some of our families. If you would like to donate to The Bromley Hygiene Bank please see their website or donate products to any Boots or to Divas and Dudes, 34 Chatsworth parade, Petts Wood.

As we get ready to start the month of May, we remember that May is dedicated to Mary Our Mother and the Holy Rosary. Mrs Wilson and the RE Ambassadors will be leading a morning Rosary Club for KS2 and Y2 children in the week beginning Tuesday 7th May at 8:30am. Children will learn how to pray the Rosary and its importance and they will talk about the most important events in the lives of Mary and Jesus. Please could you let the office know if you would like your child to attend. Mrs Wilson will collect the children at the school gate every morning. If your child attends Breakfast Club and you would like your child to attend please also let the office know and Mrs Wilson will ensure that she collects them too.

It has been lovely to see some of the children returning to school in their summer uniforms. Please remember that we ask all children to be in their summer uniforms by Wednesday 1st May. Now we pray for warm weather!

God bless,

Mrs Weeks

Word on Wednesday

The Wednesday Word is GROWING. We explained to the children that we all make mistakes, but God is loving and patient and gives us time to grow into the people we were created to be. In this Sunday's Gospel, the fruit which gives God glory is not the type that grows on trees, but the goodness that grows inside each one of us such as joy, love, kindness, patience, courage, generosity, peace and self-control. Each new day is an opportunity to grow in goodness. Growing in goodness helps us to be happy together and as we grow, we become more like Jesus: patient, loving and full of forgiveness.

Safeguarding

According to Ofcom's annual study of children's relationship with the media and online worlds, 24% of 5 to 7 year olds own a smartphone! If the definition of devices is widened to tablets, that figure rises to 76%! It has also been reported that a third of those surveyed use social media unsupervised. Profiles on social media sites can be found for those in that age bracket, which due to the nature of social media may be a cause for concern. If interested in Ofcom's findings please follow the link below:

<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/news-centre/2024/a-window-into-young-childrens-online-worlds>

Dates for your Diary

May

Wednesday 1st Children all now wearing summer uniform

Thursday 2nd Y5 Bromley High

Thursday 2nd Y6 Bank of America

Friday 3rd Y4 visit Petts Wood Library

Monday 6th Bank Holiday

Tuesday 7th -Friday 10th Rosary Week

Tuesday 7th 10:15 school saying Rosary

Wednesday 8th VE Day

Thursday 9th Ascension Day Holy Day of Obligation
Whole School Mass Year 5

Friday 10th Y2 visit Petts Wood Library

Friday 10th Y5 Bromley Y Workshop

Monday 13th –Thursday 16th Year 6 SATs

Wednesday 15th Y4 Dulwich Picture Gallery

Friday 17th Y3 visit Petts Wood Library

Tuesday 21st PTA Own clothes

Wednesday 22nd History Day

Thursday 23rd Whole School Mass May Procession

Year 3

Friday 24th: 9:05 Y1 Class assembly

Friday 24th Y1 visit Petts Wood Library

Friday 24th Catholic School Junior Athletics

Friday 24th P4C afternoon

Saturday 25th Bromley Planter Competition

Monday 27th- Friday 31st Half term

June

Monday 3rd INSET day

Tuesday 4th 5pm EEDI Committee meeting

Thursday 6th Y6 Bank of America

Friday 7th Mini Vinnies Mass, St George's Cathedral

Friday 7th Y6 visit Petts Wood Library

Saturday 8th Holy Communion

Monday 10th Year 1 and Year 2 Phonic Check week

Monday 10th Y6 Junior Citizen Week

Wednesday 12th 6:30 pm New Reception 2024

Parent Meeting

Thursday 13th KS2 Athletics Norman Park

Saturday 15th First Holy Communion

Wednesday 19th Class Photographer

Thursday 20th Y6 Bank of America

Friday 21st Bromley Make Music Day

Friday 21st 9:05 Rec Class Assembly

Saturday 22nd Windrush Day

Saturday 22nd PTA Summer Fair

Saturday 22nd Holy Communion

Monday 24th Sports Day

Monday 24th –Friday 28th Sports Week

Friday 28th Reserve Sports Day

Friday 28th Year 4 Sleepover

July

Tuesday 2nd 2pm New Reception children visit/
Meet the teacher

Wednesday 3rd 2pm New Reception children visit/
Meet the teacher

Thursday 4th Y3 Class Mass (Holy Communion)

Friday 5th Rec visit Petts Wood Library

Friday 5th Reports to parents

Tuesday 9th 6:30 PTA Meeting

Wednesday 10th 1:15 Drama Kids Assembly

Thursday 11th Yr 6 Bank of America visit

Friday 12th KS2 Reading Passports in

Tuesday 16th and Wednesday 17th Yr 6

Production 7pm

Tuesday 16th KS2 Reading Passport Assembly

Thursday 18th 3:30-5:30 Walk Around Evening

Friday 19th Summer Walk 9:15

Wednesday 24th 10 am Whole School Mass
Leavers (Yr 6)

Wednesday 24th Last day of term at normal time

Advert for MDS

Please let the school office know if you are interested in being a Mid-day Supervisor at St James'. We do have vacancies at present and if you would like to consider this please let us know. We would be happy to answer any questions that you may have about the role.

Library News

Please find a link to the Orpington Literary Festival which takes place between 13th-18th May. There are some great events happening including some children's author events with E.L. Norry, Allison Parkinson and Matt Robertson

<https://orpington1st.co.uk/visiting/orpington-literary-festival-2024>.

Bromley Libraries are very involved in Empathy Day (6th June) this year.

<https://www.empathylab.uk/empathy-day>

The Children's Team will be running a public event at Orpington Library on the 6th June from 4-5pm and there will be an Empathy themed puppet show in half term at Bromley Central Library on Wed 29th May.

Other libraries will be having drop in sessions where children can make Empathy glasses and Empathy bunting.

SPORTS NEWS

Our Year 5 and Year 6 Football Squad played in a semi-final cup match this week against The Highway. Their improvement in their game keeping possession was excellent to see. Unfortunately, the team lost 1-0 but they should be very proud of themselves for putting in such an amazing performance. Thank you also to Mr Kelly who has really developed the team over the past few months.



OTHER NEWS

Phoebe in Y2 has a starring role in an American TV series called FBI International which she recently travelled abroad to film. It is now streaming on Paramount Plus.



PTA NEWS

I'd like to start today by thanking everyone who attended the PTA meeting on Tuesday evening. It's a fantastic opportunity to learn how the PTA is supporting the school, as well as propose new areas of funding and fundraising ideas.

So far this year the PTA has funded the following items:

Gazebo Flooring Repair
Online Safety Course for children, parents and staff
Easter Egg Hunt
New flooring in the KS1 area.

We have 3 large events this term which we are looking forward to; the Family Disco, the Summer Fair and the Summer Ball.

The Family Disco

Saturday 18th May 2024 @ 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Tickets £5 per adult, £2.50 per child
Come as your favourite icon of the silver screen.
There will be prizes for best costume and best family costume.

Please email the PTA with the following details along with the payment by **Friday 3rd May**
Child's name and School Year
Parent's name
Email address
Number of tickets required
Total Payment

pta.stjamesprimary@gmail.com

Payment to be sent by bank transfer to
St James School PTA, Lloyds Bank
Sort code: 30-67-72
Account number 10062963
Please add your child's school year followed by your surname and 'DISCO' as a reference e.g.
5COLONNESEDISCO

Hope you have a good weekend.

PTA Dates for your diary

18th May – Family Disco 6:30-9:00pm
22nd June – Summer Fair 12-3pm
6th July – Summer Ball for parents

AWARDS

Headteacher's Award



Year	DETERMINATION
Rec	Amo
Year 1	Amelie
Year 2	Maria
Year 3	Theo
Year 4	Julius
Year 5	Cameron
Year 6	Douglas



KS1 AWARDS

Year	Gold Sticker Award		Golden Promises
Rec	Arabella	Oliver	Joshua
Year 1	Henry	Plivino	Max
Year 2	Teddy	Freddie	Taran

KS2 AWARDS

Year	Respect in class	Pride in work
Year 3	Mia	George
Year 4	Max	Abigail
Year 5	Emma	Joshua
Year 6	Rosie	Chloe

Well done to **Samuel** (Y5) who was the winner of the Courtesy Cup this week

ATTENDANCE

	Attendance (%)	Occasions Late
R	94.7	0
1	94.7	1
2	98.3	1
3	97.5	1
4	99.4	1
5	98.4	1
6	97.1	1

Congratulations to Y4 who had the best attendance last week.

Weekly Winners

Year	Number of wins
Rec	0
Y1	0
Y2	0
Y3	0
Y4	1
Y5	0
Y6	0

The class with the best attendance at the end of term will win an 'Own Clothes Day'.