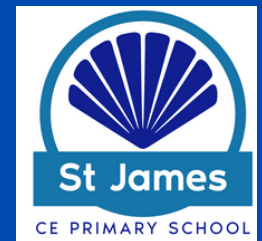


Learning together with courage
and kindness

'For the good of all' 1 Corinthians 12



Term 2 - Dec 2023

St James curriculum News

WHAT'S IN THIS TERMS ISSUE?

- Wonderful Christmas Performances
- Spotlight on Phonics/ Reading & Writing
- Class News
- Dates for your diary
- Online safety

Dear St James families,

The second half of the Autumn Term has had a real feel of caring and kindness, which is so pivotal to who we are at St James! This term's focus on Empathy has really shone through and been supported by a range of charity events that have taken place from Children in Need, The Samaritan Purse, Santa Run for Helen & Douglas House, The Children's Society at Christingle and Festive Film Club. Not forgetting all the wonderful work of St James Helping Hands raising money for some exciting projects coming to St James soon!

Thank you to all of you for your support it means so much to us to have such a wonderful school community!



A curriculum which celebrates difference, develops an understanding of right and wrong, and which supports pupils to develop a strong moral compass and an understanding that they can be a catalyst for positive change.

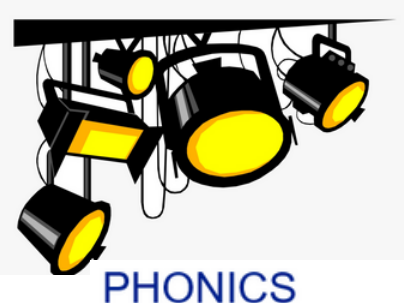


Wonderful Christmas Performances!

This terms has ended with some beautiful Christmas events, where the children have had a range of opportunities to perform in front of an audience. Further opportunities for this will be something we continue to develop throughout the year.



WISHING YOU
a Merry
Christmas
and a
WONDERFUL
New Year



Spotlight on: Phonics, Reading & Writing



Rocket Phonics



At St James CE Primary, we believe that it is essential that all children become confident, successful, fluent readers. To do so, we aim for all children to develop competence in word reading; promote and develop language comprehension; and ensure that throughout their time at St James CE Primary they experience a range of high-quality texts leading to a strong reading culture. We believe in the importance of teaching children systematic synthetic phonics as a firm foundation for reading. Being able to read most words 'at a glance', supports children in being free to focus on the meaning of what has been read.

We intend for all pupils to achieve to their full potential and will ensure this happens by:

- Following a systematic synthetic programme with fidelity (Rocket Phonics)
- Ensuring that all children participate in high-quality phonics sessions
- Tracking children from the start to ensure that no child falls behind
- Providing additional support for children at risk of reading failure
- Ensuring all staff are experts in the teaching of reading
- Appointing a designated phonics lead
- Developing strong relationships between home and school
- Providing fully decodable readers that are carefully matched to the child's developing phonics knowledge and do not require children to use other strategies to work out words
- Promoting a love of reading - Ensuring children apply their phonic knowledge in reading and writing across the full curriculum

Rocket Phonics
Sounds Mat 2

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READING

"The whole world opened up to me when I learned to read." (Mary McCleod Bethune)

At St James, we recognise that reading is a master skill. Our vision is to develop not only pupil's confidence and skill as readers but also their enjoyment, leading, we hope to a lifelong love of language and literature. We aim for our pupils to leave us competent readers having read widely across fiction, non-fiction and poetry; enabling them to achieve well academically, flourish personally and to develop their knowledge of themselves and the world in which they live.

Reading and literature are at the heart of the curriculum at St James. We recognise that reading for purpose and for pleasure is of fundamental importance, impacting every subject in our curriculum and each pupil's own wellbeing. With this in mind our curriculum and reading spine has been designed to promote, teach and celebrate reading and to develop pupils' sense of curiosity, empathy and adventure. In order to be competent readers, St James pupils must:

- decode accurately and with automaticity
- monitor their own comprehension and self-select from a toolkit of strategies when the meaning is not immediately clear
- use key skills such as retrieval and inference to understand a writer's message and methods
- read independently and for pleasure

'What is a bookshelf other than a treasure chest for a curious mind?'

Anonymous



'Keep reading, it's one of the most marvellous adventures that anyone can have'

Lloyd Alexander



'Reading allows us to understand the world through the eyes of others. A good book is an empathy engine'

Chris Riddell



Reading at St James

WRITING

'Writing is an important lifelong skill. Children need to learn to write so they can communicate and express themselves' (National Curriculum- July 2014)

'You can make anything by writing.' (CS Lewis, Author)

At St James, we recognise that writing is a natural extension of speech and reading, offering a blank canvas for children's imagination and a way to share their unique perspective with others. We believe that making secure connections between reading and writing is key and our aim is to develop pupils who 'read as a writer' and 'write as a reader'.

To achieve this we help our children to develop into articulate and imaginative communicators, who are well equipped with the basic skills they need to become lifelong learners; who have mastered the craft of writing. Pupils will leave having been exposed to a wide range of high-quality texts, giving them a passion for the spoken and written word. Writing opportunities will be inspiring, enjoyable and with genuine purposes and outcomes. Through direct teaching of words, we will develop a curiosity surrounding vocabulary and language where pupils will develop a sophisticated bank of vocabulary that they are able to draw upon both within writing and conversation.

We want every child to master the key skills of punctuation, sentence structure, transcription and spelling, so they are able to communicate effectively through a range of text types. Through the teaching of this, it will equip pupils to independently select and adapt their language and style to suit a range of contexts, purposes and audiences.

The high quality texts that we have carefully chosen enable pupils to ask and answer questions within both fiction and non-fiction. This natural curiosity inspires the children's purposeful writing.

> High-quality fiction and non-fiction texts provide children with the opportunity to demonstrate and ask (and answer) questions.

For example:
What do you think the legend of Black Rock is? - The Secret of Black Rock - Year 1

What curse do you think they may be referring to? - The Curse of the Maya - Year 6

Our writing spine has carefully designed to enable all pupils to see themselves and others in the literature they read. Once they have 'read as a writer,' they can then 'write as a reader' to enable their audience to feel empathy for the characters and any topics they are writing about.

Texts are specifically chosen to encourage children to develop a sense of empathy whilst reading and promote thinking and action in their writing.
> Lost and Found - Year 1
> There's an Orang-Tan in my bedroom - Year 3
> Suffragette: The Battle for Equality - Year 4



Writing provides the opportunity for the children of St. James to go on many adventures throughout their time at school as well as taking their reader on their own adventure through their writing.

> Fiction texts are specifically chosen to give children a range of experiences - pupils are encouraged to make connections between what they read and their learning in class:
- Hermin - Year 2
- Emma Jane's Aeroplane - Year 1
> Pupils read about a range of inspirational people/events with the hope that they are inspired by their adventures.
- Marcy and the Riddle of the Sphinx - Year 3
- Paddington - Year 1



Writing at St. James



For further information on this and lots of other exciting school information please visit our new look website - <https://www.stjamesprimaryhanney.co.uk/>

Early Years News

Donaldson Class

The term started with lots of pumpkin action - carving, roasting seeds, painting and making playdoh models. We've enjoyed playing outside lots, particularly in our mud kitchen. We have worked really hard on our phonics this term; thank you to everyone for supporting the children to bring in things for the sound of the week. The rest of the term we have made the most of the festive season and been creating Christmas craft and practising our singing ready for our brilliant performance at the end of term! Happy Christmas from the Donaldson team!



Inkpen Class

We have had another wonderful term in Inkpen Class. We have really enjoyed going to outdoor learning with Miss Hawkes, we have: made houses for bugs, dug lots of holes, made bird feeders and had lots of fun! During our learning we have been thinking about changes in our environment during the different seasons. This will continue throughout the year as the seasons change. We have also learnt about lots of celebrations this half term including: Diwali, St Andrews Day and Hannukah. This term we have also continued to learn new sounds in phonics, the children have been amazing!

One of their favourite things to play is 'teachers', they are very good at testing each other on their sounds!

Next term we will be answering the question 'How can we be a hero for the planet?' thinking about what we can do to help protect the environment and we will be using the book 'Michael Recycle' to help us.

We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and we will see you in the New Year!



Key Stage 1 News

Rosen Class

What a fantastic term we have had in Rosen class. We have been super busy learning how to write letters, how we can add and subtract within 10 and learning all about the human body in science – and these are just a few of the subjects! Having lots of baby pictures to launch our history topic was great fun at the start of the term. Lots of very cute photos were sent in, thank you parents!

On top of all this, we performed the story of the nativity to the school and to our parents which was an incredible experience for our little ones. They were amazing!

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas!

From all the Year One Team 😊



Nichols Class

Nichols class have been absolutely brilliant this term, showing great enthusiasm for their learning. This term we have considered: Can one person change the world? In English and History we have looked at significant individuals from the past, particularly through our writing text 'Fantastically Great Women Who Changed The World'. In our writing we focused on recognising and accurately punctuating statements, commands, exclamations and questions. We planned how we would like to change the world and individually wrote letters to the Prime Minister detailing this.

Nichols class demonstrated great perseverance through our addition and subtraction topic, implementing different approaches to calculating answers. We finished the term by looking at 2-D and 3-D shapes, recognising, sorting and making patterns with them. In Science we have practiced our observation skills, using microscopes to look at seeds and planting bulbs ready for the Spring. We also looked at different habitats around the world and micro-habitats around the school.

DT has been a particular highlight for the class! We considered what a 'balanced diet' means and everyone designed, made, and evaluated their own wraps. Year 2 showed great maturity and safety with their chopping, grating and spreading skills - well done!



Lower Key Stage 2 News

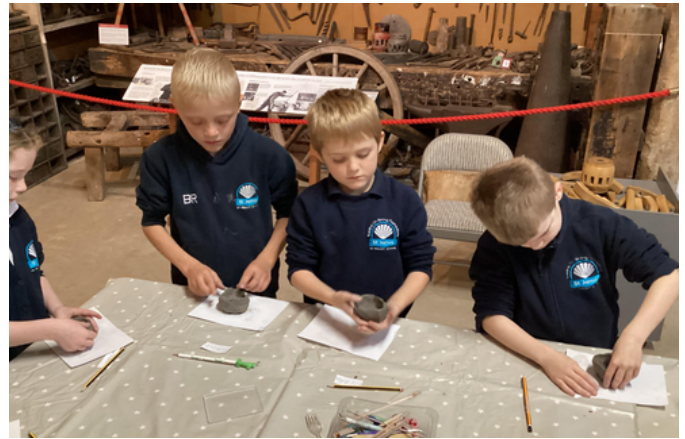
Dahl Class

This term year 3 have been enjoying learning about the Stone Age. They finished the term having written some brilliant information reports, which earned them all a Headteachers award. We had an absolutely fantastic time at Wantage Museum. We were able to hold and learn about Stone Age artifacts,

listen to a story and make a clay pot like Neolithic farmers.

In DT we have been developing cooking skills, including making a delicious apple crumble!

Christmas has brought with it some great experiences - the pantomime was brilliant and inspired us with our wonderful singing performance at the end of term!



Rowling Class

This term year 4 have been extremely busy. We've been exploring the suffragettes, including the life of Emmeline Pankhurst and her protests, and how they helped develop voting rights for women. We then wrote a report on one of the suffragettes' protests in London, which included smashing shop windows and setting fire to post boxes. In our reading lessons, we explored the book 'The Dog that saved Christmas', and the poet Benjamin Zephaniah. We performed one of his most famous poems, Talking Turkeys, in assembly. Year 4 have also been learning about crimes and punishments within our history lessons. We have researched how the laws have changed, particularly within school rules and laws. We've then researched different historical crimes and punishments, as well as the change in policing society throughout the years.

We also went on our trip to Oxford Castle to explore crime and punishments that existed there, which the children thoroughly enjoyed. In DT we built castles using junk modelling and 3D nets to develop our castles whilst in Science, we have explored the human body; including our digestive system and teeth. Finally, in Maths, we've been practising our times tables including both multiplication and division facts. The children have also been introduced to Times Tables Rockstars, which they all thoroughly enjoy!



Upper Key Stage 2 News

Ibbotson Class

A space-themed term has seen Ibbotson class beginning with immersion into all things space including trying astronauts food, (model) rocket science, astronaut exercise and space maths. We moved on to look at the solar system while also learning about the amazing people who have sent humankind into space and landed us on the moon.











In Design Technology we've designed, built and evaluated moon buggies and had some fun racing them against each other. We've also managed to do an intensive swimming course, play hockey, explore dance, programming using Crumbles to control lights and motors, as well as looking at the Christmas story and celebrating difference in RE and PSHE. All in all, a packed term!

Shakespeare Class

Another jam-packed term! In English, we have written biographies about migrants and refugees – it was lovely to see such a variety of people being researched. In Maths, we have spent a lot of time working on fractions – finding equivalents, simplifying, adding, subtracting, mixed numbers, improper fractions, multiplying, dividing by whole numbers and finding fractions of amounts! We have looked at living things in their habitats and begun to look at how we can classify these. We have been practising our gymnastic, problem solving and teamwork skills in PE and been using Scratch to program variations in Computing. Highlights for this term were the residential trip to Yenworthy and creating our steady hand games in DT



Parent Dates Term 3

Date	Information
8 th Jan 	INSET Day Teacher INSET. School closed for children.
9 th Jan 	NEW LUNCH BOOKING SYSTEM School dinners are now booked on Parent Mail, two weeks in advance. School lunch for the first day of term must be booked by 26th December.
9 th Jan 	Start of Term 3 Gates open at 8.30am. Classroom doors open at 8.45am.
10 th Jan 	TA sports after-school club starts Years 3-6 can sign up for after-school football club with our TA Sports coaches. Please see Parent Mail for more information.
11 th Jan 	Martial arts after-school club starts Children in Years 2-6 can sign up for martial arts club. Please see Parent Mail for more information. Piano lessons start this week. All other clubs start following week
15 th Jan 	Year 6 IMPS Trip More details to follow.
15 th -19 th 	Year 3 Swimming Intensive Week Please ensure children have their swimwear with them in school every day this week.
16 th Jan 	Helping Hands Meeting 7pm Please come along to the Helping Hands meeting in the library.
17 th Jan 	Coffee Morning (in the afternoon!) 2pm St James will be hosting termly drop-ins with guest speakers. This term, Laura Morgan from Autism Oxford will be joining us. Please come along to meet Laura and hear about the service they offer. Refreshments provided!
30 th Jan/1 st Feb 	Year 1 trip to Uffington White Horse Date to be confirmed - More details to follow.
31 st Jan 	Rags to Riches (Bags to School) This is a great way to raise funds for the school by getting rid of unwanted clothes, shoes etc. Bring your bags to school (by 9am) or leave them at the village hall car park and SAC will ensure the bags get into school.
2 nd Feb NSPCC	Dress up for Digits Day (NSPCC) A great way to raise money for the NSPCC and fun too! More details to follow.
8 th Feb 	Engineering Fair open classrooms 3-3.30pm This term, the children will be designing and creating a product for our Engineering Fair. These will be judged on 8 th February and parents are invited to walk round school and see all the children's entries. The winners will be invited to the final at Williams on 27 th March.
9 th Feb 	Last day of term School ends at 3.20pm

After School Enrichment Clubs

3:20pm-4:15pm

Clubs are £3.00 per session, please book via Parentmail

This clubs are enrichment opportunities, not childcare

**charged via provider not £3.00 a session*

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
 <p>iRock</p> <p>Who: Reception upwards Where: Library</p> <p>Booking <u>direct</u> with iRock*</p>	 <p>Singing Choir</p> <p>Who: <u>Yr</u> 1 – Yr6 Where: Library</p>	 <p>Football</p> <p>Who: 3, 4, 5 & 6 Where: MUGA/ Field</p>	 <p>Martial Arts</p> <p>Who: <u>Yr</u> 2- 6 Where: Hall</p>	
		 <p>Dungeons & Dragons</p> <p>Who: <u>Yr</u> 4 – 6 Where: Year 5 Finish 4:30pm</p>	 <p>Piano Lesson</p> <p>Who: <u>Yr</u> 1 upwards Where: Harbour</p> <p>Booking direct*</p>	
			 <p>Netball</p> <p>Who: <u>Yr</u> 4 – 6 Where: MUGA</p>	

It's Christmas Time!



A Parent's Guide to Social Media



A Parent's Guide to Sharing Pictures



A Parent's Guide to Gaming



A Parent's Guide to Online Grooming



scan the QR code with your phone's camera to see the guides on our website



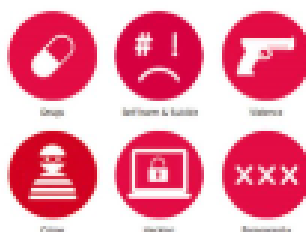
A Parent's Guide to Live Streaming



A Parent's Guide to Online Influencers



A Parent's Guide to Fake News



A Parent's Guide to Privacy Settings

It's always best to be prepared

Many parents may be planning to give electronic gadgets to their children this festive period.

Our guide is designed to help parents take a realistic approach to help keep their children safe when using the internet, social media and playing online games.

Scan the QR code to find out more.

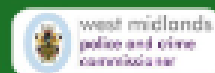
Online safety is when young people know who they can tell if they feel upset by something that has happened online.

Parents please contact your school to enquire attending their next e-safety workshop or have any concerns.

Working with Home Office 'PREVENT', The Police and Crime Commissioner and Children's Safeguarding Partnerships to help keep children safe online.

Skips Educational Email: info@skipssed.com Tel: +44 121 227 1941

Developed in partnership with



Skips

www.skipssafetynet.org