

Learning together with courage
and kindness

'For the good of all' 1 Corinthians 12



Term 3- Feb 2023

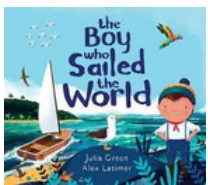
St James curriculum News

Dear St James families,

WHAT'S IN THIS TERMS ISSUE?

- Engineering adventure!
- Spotlight on maths
- Recommended Reads
- Class News
- Dates for your diary
- Sleep support
- Helping Hands easy fundraising

After another wonderful term at St James, its time to reflect on the learning adventures we have all been on! As a short term it is amazing how much we have managed to pack in! We started



the term with our shared text with our focus on adventure. The children had immersive experiences to start this term's Geography learning and had visitors and trips to enrich their learning.

Our Helping Hands team have made a great start planning some exciting future events and supporting the school with some new resources and enrichment experiences - Thank you so much for all the time and hard work that is put into this!



Collective Worship this term has had a focus on courageous advocacy - being brave enough to speak out for what we believe in. It has been brilliant to see some the children leading this and we will continue to encourage this. This has also involved learning how to keep ourselves safe both online and with other people.



Engineering adventures!

This term ended with the St James Engineering Fair, with all our children taking part and designing and creating prototypes to solve a range of challenges from transportation to floating gardens. Thank you so much to the whole school community, from our families who supported by sending in recycling or by attending, our Governor Chris Palmer, who was able to attend and be our expert judge and the Vale Academy Trust who organised the final competition and guided us through with some excellent CPD - A great team effort 'for the good of all'!





Spotlight on: Maths

MATHS AT ST JAMES

'I work with a lot of mathematicians, and one thing I notice about them is that they are not particularly fast with numbers; in fact some of them are rather slow. This is not a bad thing; they are slow because they think deeply and carefully about mathematics.' (Jo Boaler - Maths Professor at Stanford University)

'Mathematics is not about following rules, it's about playing - and exploring, fighting, looking for clues, and sometimes even breaking things.' (Dan Finkel, Founder and Director of Operations of Math for Love)

VISION

Our vision is that every St James pupil will become enthusiastic, creative and articulate mathematicians who use their skills to become great problem solvers.

We believe maths is a universal language and a tool for life: it helps us to describe, make sense, investigate, understand and respect our ever-changing world.

INTENT

At St James, we believe that children should experience the awe and wonder of maths as they learn to solve problems, develop ways of looking at patterns, discover efficient strategies and make links between the different areas of maths.

We believe all children can achieve in maths and teach for secure and deep understanding of concepts through fluency, reasoning and problem solving. We encourage children to reason mathematically by following a line of enquiry, conjecturing relationships and generalisations, and developing an argument, justification or proof using mathematical language.

Wherever possible, we try to make our maths 'real-life', making our learning and experiences relevant to everyday life. We use mistakes and misconceptions as an essential part of learning and provide challenges through rich and varied problems. We encourage children to use approaches which work for them, equipping them with a range of efficient strategies and ensuring a sound understanding of them.



All children are naturally curious and good mathematicians are excited by new ideas, are eager to explore and investigate them. At St James, we want to nurture our children's mathematical curiosity to enable them to grow into creative, flexible problem-solvers.

- In Key Stage 2 children take part in financial planning workshops that help them to start thinking about money and ask questions such as: how much could I earn? What is VAT? If I have children how much does childcare cost? Where can I buy the best value food?



Opportunities to learn and apply maths beyond the classroom are encouraged in order to deepen children's understanding and knowledge and practise their skills.

- All year groups take part in activities during Maths Week England and support the NSPCC Number Day, taking part in challenges and designing their own number-related outfits

- Children are encouraged to take risks in their learning, to try things out and have the courage to explore numbers, look for patterns and learn from mistakes!



At St James, we help children to understand and appreciate the real-world applications of mathematical concepts and foster a sense of connection between maths and people's lives.

- Where appropriate, examples relate to budgeting, shopping or solving problems that people encounter in their everyday lives.
- Mathematical discussion and teamwork are essential elements in all lessons, helping to promote resilience and recognise that there can be multiple valid approaches to problems, fostering empathy for different ways of thinking.



Maths at St James



Early Years (Nursery and Reception)



NSPCC



Book Recommendations

Here are some wonderful book recommendations for this half term.

Why not visit a book shop during half term and buy a new book?

3+



5+



7+



9+



Early Years News

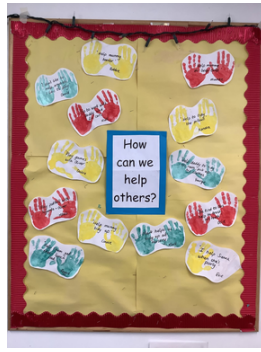
Donaldson Class

This term Donaldson class have been focusing on people who help us and how we can help each other. They have been busy working on independence too, putting on their own coats and shoes for outside play, asking each other for help if needed.

The children helped us create a new feelings display where they share how they are feeling each day with us. Rainbow fish was a firm favourite story, with them all making their own to take home. The children have responded so well to our phonics sessions and 'sound of the week' where they each have the opportunity to bring in things from home starting with the sound.

Digit day was fabulous, lots of great costumes and fun had by all.

Next term is all about nature and the animals that live in and around Hanney!



Inkpen Class

This term has been extremely short but we have crammed a lot in!

We started off the term by reading the book 'Michael Recycle' and thinking about how we can be superheroes for our planet! As part of this, we made our own superheroes and compared where we live to where Michael Recycle lives.

For the second half of this term, we have been focusing on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths), we had a wonderful workshop from Science Oxford where we learnt all about different materials and what they are useful for. We then used this learning within our independent learning, thinking about what materials would be best to build a house for our teddies and which materials float/sink.

This last week we have been engineers, creating cars and bridges!

Thank you for a wonderful half term Inkpen Class, have a wonderful half term break!

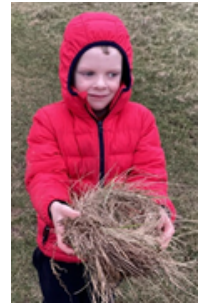


Key Stage 1 News

Rosen Class

It has been a short, yet fun packed term for us in Rosen class. We started the term launching our 'adventure' curriculum driver where we began our learning thinking about taking different adventures around the world. We then linked this to our geography topic of the UK and we went on our very own adventure up Uffington White Horse.

It has also been a super fun learning all about Paddington Bear in our English lessons. We started our learning journey making some yummy marmalade sandwiches and finished the term writing postcards to Paddington.



Nichols Class

What an amazing term for Nichols class! This term, Year 2 have thoroughly immersed themselves in our adventure curriculum driver. We started the term with our virtual trip around the world, considering our Geography big question: 'Where in the world would you go on an adventure?' We especially focused on ocean adventures in our writing, using 'I See The Sea' as our inspiration for setting descriptions. I was totally blown away by the outstanding vocabulary choices made by Nichols class! Our writing commenced in ocean-themed acrostic poems, please see the pictures as I know Year 2 are very proud.

As mathematicians we learnt about money; finding change and making amounts, before starting our learning of multiplication and division. Nichols class have demonstrated great respect for their learning in Maths – well done!


Computing and Science have been particular highlights for the class where we have introduced programming with Scratch. In Science our focus this term has been on our Engineering Fair project. We considered the question: which material best prevents an egg from cracking? The whole class were incredibly creative with their ideas and enthusiastic in conducting their experiments – it was a joy!




Year 2 Acrostic Poems

The group was magnificent. *Yvette*
under the sea is a very colorful reef.
There are many different types of fish.
The water is very clear and the
beaches are white. The water
is so blue and beautiful.

Taylor




2 hummingbird Ocean are
giving spiritily
E vergen is horrible,
A real with car of work
wonder to keep



Paradise


The Pacific Ocean has coral
Under all the continents (on the
Rising above - highest mountain
The Pacific is deepest and warm
Like that we must
Entire

① Spring and shorts
 ② Always happy fun
 ③ Many magazines
 ④ Close into sea
 ⑤ All young
 ⑥ It is even less significant
 ⑦ Love, love
 ⑧ In some way to see your life
 ⑨ Heart is still with you.



⑩ In a small, unassuming way
 ⑪ You can see the world of people and things

Sharks are colossal in the water world
Hunting for prey in the source sharks
Always looking for prey
Hunting sharks hunting for prey
Killing lots of prey



SHEMING

Swelling caused by
overdose.
Referring to other
Dermatologists
Yellowish bluish white
discoloration
Other possible skin lesions
Common side effects of
Sedation
Cyanosis of lips
Drowsiness, headache
not really purple when
cyanotic
Only 1 person
died

June
 1 dolphins playing and singing
 what a fun time.
 2 look how cute dolphins
 look.
 3 baby cute baby sing to their
 friends.
 4 baby baby swimming with their
 friends.
 5 Happy swimming with gloom.
 6 I love dolphins so much.
 7 them.
 8 How fun! it can
 9 be dolphins.

The drawing at the bottom of the page shows a green dolphin jumping out of the water, a purple dolphin swimming, and a small blue fish. There are also some green and purple bubbles or seaweed-like shapes.

[illegible]

Beam
when moonbeams under the
ocean
excited illuminating crystals
rare and beautiful like
diamonds, pearls, secret and shiny
crystals.

Turtles are beautiful,
big old creatures.


Under the ocean waves are
majors and the colorful seas.

Rising on the waves and
old dark waves below.

Turtles are living in
the ocean waves.

Every turtle is born
happy.

Every turtle is
happy and beautiful
too.



A child's drawing of a rainbow with a face, clouds, and a sun. The drawing is on a piece of paper with a grid pattern. The rainbow has a face with eyes and a mouth. There are clouds above the rainbow and a sun in the top right corner. The drawing is signed 'S. H. 1991' in the bottom right corner.

[illegible][illegible]

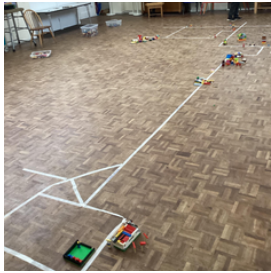
Lower Key Stage 2 News

Dahl Class

This term year 3 have been busy writing some brilliant narrative pieces, based around Peter Pan. They have worked really hard on using speech that really considers the character who is speaking. It has been lovely to see this inspire some of the children to write their own Peter Pan books, which they have proudly shared in Collective Worship.

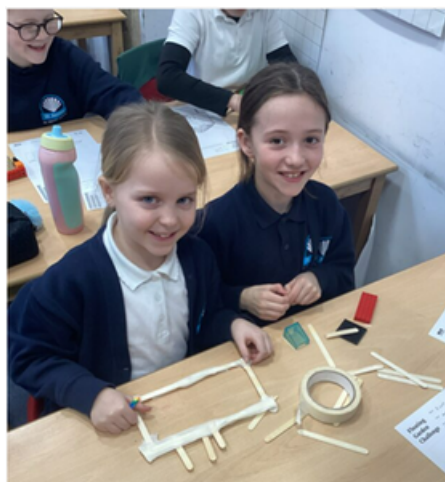
In Geography they have been learning about all things maps, developing their skills and knowledge of how to use them. The children particularly enjoyed creating a map of the Hanneys in the Hall using lego to create important features.

The class have also really enjoyed working on their engineering projects in science, creating gardens that would be able to survive flooding - potentially quite important in Hanney!



Rowling Class

This term, despite being a shorter term, Year 4 have been busy exploring lots of topics. We have explored how and where volcanoes and earthquakes are formed, why and where flooding happens and what people may do to try and prevent it. In English, we have been writing narratives based on our picture book 'Flood' whilst learning all about the technique of writing speech – whilst practising the 'inverted commas song' – which the children have enjoyed. We've also read the book 'The Firework Makers daughter' during our reading slots and as our end-of-the-day book. The children have really enjoyed it, especially when being left on cliffhangers, with them often wanting me to read more. We have also had the 'floating garden' competition which the children enjoyed designing and creating miniature prototypes for, whilst also learning about the flooding in Bangladesh. We have also been learning about 'flag football' in PE, which they have all really enjoyed. Whilst we've had a busy term this term, next term we've got the exciting topic of ancient Greece and Greek mythology to look forwards to.



Upper Key Stage 2 News

Ibbotson Class

An adventure-filled term began with our Everest basecamp experience and ended with us engineering solutions to help farmers suffering from flooding in Bangladesh. We set hearts racing and pimples goosing, writing our Francis suspense e-book and I'm sure when parents read the books at the e-book café next term they will be impressed the children's authoring skills.

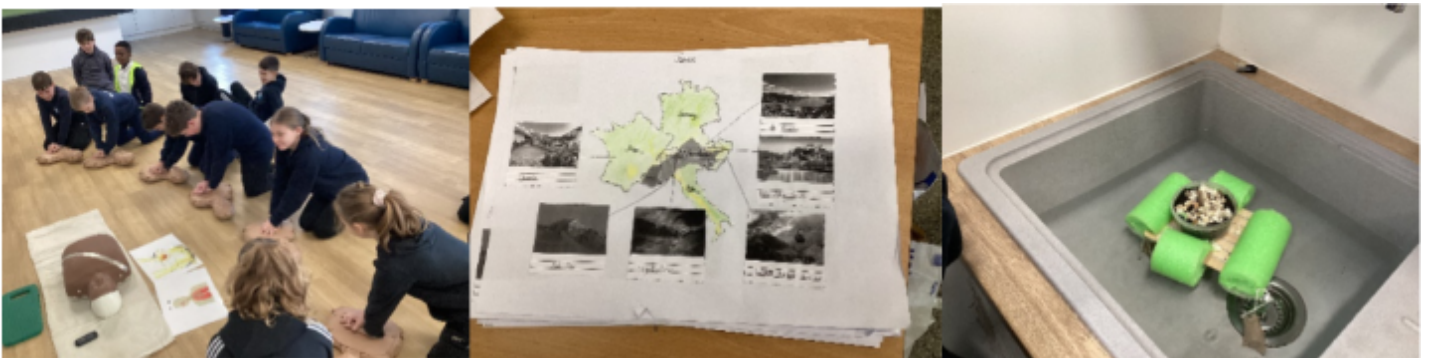
Continuing the adventure and mountain theme, we've learned about the mountains of the UK and the world, how they were formed and how harsh the climate is.



We've also been thinking about our dreams and goals and how we might achieve them in PSHE. In computing we've explored how databases can be a really powerful tool in the modern world as well as looking back to the beginning of Judaism's special relationship and covenant with God in RE. The children have engaged with all this and more, with great attitudes and lots of effort for some excellent learning and progress. After the short break, I'm sure we'll all be back and raring to go!












Shakespeare Class

It has been a very short but busy term in Year 6! In Geography, we have been studying what life is like in The Alps and have produced some amazing leaflets, persuading tourists to visit. In Maths, we have looked at converting units of measure and ratio (including discussing scale drawings and interior designs – sorry if anybody has their furniture rearranged over half term!). We have worked extremely hard on our entries for the Engineering Fair and have developed our Computing skills by creating spreadsheets, using formulas to add and find the average of sets of data. In Art, we have been researching Andy Warhol and developing our pop art skills. We have experienced some line dancing and developed passing and dodging skills for netball in PE. We have also spent some time considering online safety and cyber bullying, discussing what is and isn't appropriate and where to turn for help if we need it. A highlight for this term was our IMPS trip to the John Radcliffe hospital! The children have worked incredibly hard across the term and this has shown in the incredible progress they are making!



Parent Dates Term 4

Date	Information
19th Feb 	Start of term 4 Gates open at 8.30am. Classroom doors open at 8.45am.
20th Feb  	Year 6 SATs Parents Information Evening 5.00pm Year 6 classroom Mrs Dipple will talk parents through the KS2 SATs and answer any questions. Mini Speaks Competition 6.00-7.30pm Larkmead School Representatives from St James take part in the debating competition. Let's hope we win again!
21st Feb 	Year 5 Museum Workshop An exciting visit from the Oxfordshire Museum Services will be bringing Year 5's history learning to life!
22nd Feb  	Year 5 Parent E-Book Cafe 3.00pm Parents are invited to Year 5's E-Book cafe and celebrate their learning! Helping Hands Meeting 3.30pm Please come along to the Helping Hands meeting in the library.
W/C 26th Feb 	Anti-Bullying Week School will have an anti-bullying focus this week
27th and 28th Feb 	Parents' Evening 2pm-6pm Parents' Evening will be on 27 th and 28 th October from 2pm-6pm.
27th Feb 	Pilgrims Progress Workshop (Methodist Chapel) Pilgrims Progress from the Methodist Chapel will be leading today's collective worship.
28th Feb  	Fire Service visiting Year 2 As part of Year 2's Great Fire of London topic, the Wantage Fire Team will be bringing their fire engine on site and talking to the children about fire safety. Reception Vision Screening All information can be found in the letter that has been sent out.
4th March 	Coffee Morning 9.00-9.30 Rhonda Oliver (Communication and Interaction Team), will be our guest speaker for this term's coffee morning. We will be discussing Zones of Regulation and de-escalation strategies for challenging behaviour.
5th March 	Year 1 History Talk Year 1's history learning will be brought to life with a visit from a historical expert
6th March 	Reception trip to Farmer Gows Inkpen Class will enjoy an exciting day at Farmer Gows. More details to follow.
6th March 	VAT Singing Festival – 7.00pm The Beacon Representatives from St James will perform in this Academy-wide festival.

8th March 	World Book Day Your child is invited to dress up as their favourite book character on the day or if they don't want to dress up they could wear their pyjamas ready to snuggle up with a book at school. More details on our World Book Day celebrations to follow.
10th March 	Mothers' Day Service 9.30am St James Church There will be a special Mothers' Day service, which all families are invited to take part in.
W/C 11th March  	SEND Review parent meetings Parent teacher meetings to review ISPs and set outcomes for Term 4 & 5. British Science Week There will be lots of Science-linked activities throughout this week in school.
15th March 	Red Nose Day Children are invited to wear red and donate money for this great cause. Details of how to donate will follow. Reception and Year 6 Child Measurement progress
16th March 	Helping Hands Family Easter Event More details to follow from Helping Hands
W/C 18th  	Scholastic Book Fair We will have the Scholastic Book Fair in school all this week. Children will have the opportunity to look round in their classes. The book fair will then be available for parents to walk round with their children and purchase books after school. This is a great way to buy books and raise funds for the school.
20th March 	Easter Service 10am St James Church We would love parents to join us for our Easter Service. Inkpen Class will be performing, alongside some school readers and our choir. Nursery (Donaldson Class) afternoon closure due to staff training
27th March 	Science Fair Final at Williams F1 The winners of our Science Fair will be going to Williams F1 to join the science competition winners from other schools. Reception Stay and Play 8.45 - 9.30 More details to follow
28th March 	Last day of term School ends at 12.30pm after lunch

Children

Young People

Adults

Advice sheets for children



Practical sleep tips for children
Download [full colour](#) or [print-friendly](#) advice sheet



Relaxation at Bedtime
Download [full colour](#) or [print-friendly](#) advice sheet



Children with SEND
Download [full colour](#) or [print-friendly](#) advice sheet



Nightmares or Night Terrors
Download [full colour](#) or [print-friendly](#) advice sheet

Turn your daily shopping into everyday magic for us with easyfundraising

You shop, brands donate to us. It won't cost you any extra!



 easyfundraising

Help us make a difference when you shop.
Visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk



Download on the
App Store



GET IT ON
Google Play