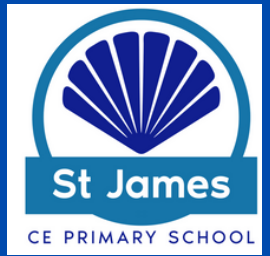


# Learning together with courage and kindness 'For the good of all' 1 Corinthians 12



## St James News

Headteacher: Mrs Ottaway  
Contact: [office@stjamesce.vale-academy.org](mailto:office@stjamesce.vale-academy.org)  
Telephone: 01235 868232

23rd Feb 2024

### WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE?

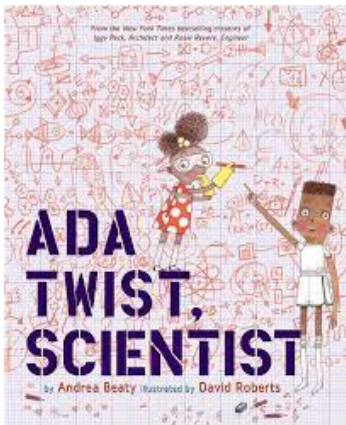
- Trust reviews
- Helping Hands
- Learning celebration
- Dates for the diary

**MOMENTS  
MATTER,  
ATTENDANCE  
COUNTS.**

Attendance this week: **95.8%**  
School & Trust target: **96%**

Dear St James Families,

Welcome back to school for term 4! Once again we start the term with a whole class book chosen around our curriculum driver or **CURIOSITY**. We have been encouraging the children to



ask lots of questions like Ada Twist! In Collective Worship we talked about how people such as Greta Thunberg have asked big questions in a very courageous way and this had impacted the whole World. We are encouraging the children to question the status-quo and give a voice to what they believe in!

This week the children have also been doing immersion activities to get them excited about their learning for this term! This ranged from archeology, a minotaur visit to battle reenactments with a visiting museum and Mayan mask making! This is such an important part of the enriched curriculum that we offer here at St James - well done everyone- wonderful learning!



### Trust Reviews:

Tuesday was a particularly busy day this week, as we had visitors from our Trust speaking to pupils, staff, parents and Governors, with a particular focus on our special educational needs provision. Thank you to everyone who was able to give some time for this. It was a brilliantly positive experience and the feedback was excellent! I feel very proud to be part of such an inclusive positive community!

St James was also very proud to be part of this year's Vale Academy Trust Mini Speaks competition, which was hosted by Larkmead secondary school. Our representatives did wonderfully - more about this in our learning celebration!



## Helping Hands:

It's been another busy and productive week for our Helping Hands. New resources have been ordered for year 2 at the request of Miss Brown, so watch this space for updates on those. We have been delighted to date so far, to provide extra resources for Pre school, Reception, Year 2, & Year 4. Inkpen class have already enjoyed their science experience day as paid for by Helping Hands with future enrichment activities agreed for Year 1,2 5 & 6. With thanks to the teachers for their engagement and responses in sharing what things would benefit their classes and enrich their curriculum this term.

The 2 week campaign we had running for new sign ups for easyfundraising has now closed. I'm delighted to say we had 46 new sign ups in this window which means £46! Easyfundraising is really making an impact for us with payments at the moment. It's free, quick and easy so if you haven't already seen how just by doing your normal shopping we could be receiving donations then do check it out! Our most recent payment received was for £88. If everyone continues to use this, the benefits will be huge with no effort needed!

Fundraising is so important and how we see a direct result to how much we are able to offer additionally to our St James children.

Next events -

**Friday 8th March** - Wonky bar sale taking place in the playground. Some fantastic golden ticket prizes inside that the children will love! Will you be a lucky winner?

**Saturday 16th March 2-4pm** - Easter trail with extra fun and games. Join us for a family fun afternoon as we prepare for Easter with lots of Easter themed activities! Tickets will be on parentmail for sale soon so keep your eyes peeled.

**Volunteers needed** - we could do with extra sets of hands on the 8th & 16th March. We are only able to put on these fabulous fundraisers if we have enough Hands to make them happen. Selling bars will take no more than 15 minutes of your time straight after school on 8th March. -Do you have an hour spare whilst bringing the family along to our Easter event. Many hands really do make light work and the tasks required are very lightweight. Please email [helpinghandshanney@gmail.com](mailto:helpinghandshanney@gmail.com) if you are able to support us. We really can't do it without a few extra hands.

In official news, our vice chair Fiona Larner steps up to take the position of interim cover for the chair position. An official voting in will take place at our next meeting. Fiona continues to work with our existing trustees Lucy & Emma and the wider support team.

If you'd like to join us to see what we have planned, how we work directly with the school and put any of your ideas forward or see how you could help, do join us at our next monthly meeting.

[Click here to join our email group to receive our meeting minutes and updates. You can opt out at any time.](#)

## Celebration Collective Worship:

This week we started our celebrations with Year 3 sharing their excellent writing outcomes from last term. They have been working really hard on including emotion in their writing and it was clear how much they had been inspired by the story of Peter Pan. I was particularly impressed with their vocabulary choices - well done year 3 a well deserved Headteacher's Award!



A massive well done to Maya and Chloe this week who took part in the Vale Academy Trust Mini-Speaks competition! Their speeches were brilliantly researched and well structured, using their own time out of school. They both presented clearly and with confidence and I know myself and Mr Dudley felt very proud as we watched them present!



Finally we had our out of school learning and achievements, including football player of the match, extra writing & maths learning and Isabella's amazing park runs achievement- having run further than a half marathon before the age of 6! I love having this opportunity to showcase how our pupils are developing our school values!

At St James we really want to encourage the children to feel confident speaking in front of others and have the opportunity to share with us all the brilliant learning that happens out of the classroom! Thank you families for all the support you give your children to make this happen and please keep sending in anything the children feel proud of and would like to share!

Next week we have our anti-bullying week in school, which will continue to support the children to develop and apply our school values in everything they do.




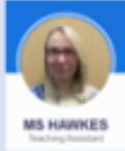



# After School Enrichment Clubs

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
 <b>iRock</b> Who: Reception upwards Where: Library Booking <u>direct</u> with <b>iRock*</b>	 Singing Choir Who: <u>Yr 1</u> – Yr6 Where: Library	 Multi - sports Who: Yr1 – Yr3 Where: MUGA/ Field	 Martial Arts Who: <u>Yr 2- 6</u> Where: Hall	
		 Dungeons & Dragons Who: <u>Yr 4</u> – 6 Where: Year 5 <b>Finish 4:30pm</b>	 Piano Lesson Who: <u>Yr 1</u> upwards Where: Harbour Booking <u>direct*</u>	



 **easyfundraising**







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# Key Dates for the Diary

Feb/March 2024

<p>W/C 26<sup>th</sup> Feb</p> 	<p><b>Anti-Bullying Week</b> School will have an anti-bullying focus this week</p>
<p>27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> Feb</p> 	<p><b>Parents' Evening 2pm-6pm</b> Parents' Evening will be on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> October from 2pm-6pm.</p>
<p>27<sup>th</sup> Feb</p> 	<p><b>Pilgrims Progress Workshop (Methodist Chapel)</b> Pilgrims Progress from the Methodist Chapel will be leading today's collective worship.</p>
<p>28<sup>th</sup> Feb</p>  	<p><b>Fire Service visiting Year 2</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Reception Vision Screening</b> All information can be found in the letter that has been sent out.</p>
<p>4<sup>th</sup> March</p> 	<p><b>Coffee Morning 9.00-9.30</b> 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.</p>
<p>5<sup>th</sup> March</p> 	<p><b>Year 1 History Talk</b> Year 1's history learning will be brought to life with a visit from a historical expert</p>
<p>6<sup>th</sup> March</p> 	<p><b>Reception trip to Farmer Gows</b> Inkpen Class will enjoy an exciting day at Farmer Gows. More details to follow.</p>
<p>6<sup>th</sup> March</p> 	<p><b>VAT Singing Festival – 7.00pm</b> <b>The Beacon</b> Representatives from St James will perform in this Academy-wide festival.</p>
<p>8<sup>th</sup> March</p> 	<p><b>World Book Day</b> 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.</p>
<p>10<sup>th</sup> March</p> 	<p><b>Mothers' Day Service 9.30am</b> <b>St James Church</b> There will be a special Mothers' Day service, which all families are invited to take part in.</p>
<p>W/C 11<sup>th</sup> March</p>  	<p><b>SEND Review parent meetings</b> Parent teacher meetings to review ISPs and set outcomes for Term 4 &amp; 5.</p> <p><b>British Science Week</b> There will be lots of Science-linked activities throughout this week in school.</p>
<p>15<sup>th</sup> March</p>  	<p><b>Red Nose Day</b> Children are invited to wear red and donate money for this great cause. Details of how to donate will follow.</p> <p><b>Reception and Year 6 Child Measurement progress</b></p>

<p><b>16<sup>th</sup> March</b></p> 	<p><b>Helping Hands Family Easter Event</b> More details to follow from Helping Hands</p>
<p><b>W/C 18<sup>th</sup></b></p>  	<p><b>Scholastic Book Fair</b> 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.</p>
<p><b>20<sup>th</sup> March</b></p> 	<p><b>Easter Service 10am</b> <b>St James Church</b> We would love parents to join us for our Easter Service. Inkpen Class will be performing, alongside some school readers and our choir.</p> <p><b>Nursery (Donaldson Class) afternoon closure due to staff training</b></p>
<p><b>27<sup>th</sup> March</b></p> 	<p><b>Science Fair Final at Williams F1</b> The winners of our Science Fair will be going to Williams F1 to join the science competition winners from other schools.</p> <p><b>Reception Stay and Play 8.45 - 9.30</b> More details to follow</p>
<p><b>28<sup>th</sup> March</b></p> 	<p><b>Last day of term</b> School ends at 12.30pm after lunch</p>

**“THIS MORNING, HE HAD A RUNNY NOSE... BUT LOOK AT HIM NOW!”**

**MOMENTS MATTER, ATTENDANCE COUNTS.**



**HM Government**

Head to the NHS website to find out more.



**Please remember to keep your contact information up to date and let us know immediately if anything changes.**

# WONKY BAR SALE

8 MARCH 2024

Do you ever dream of winning a Golden Ticket to enter Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory to see the **OOMPALOOMPAS**, sample the fizzy lifting drinks and eat all the chocolate you can get your hands on? Well, we might just have the next best thing!

After last year's **SCRUMDIDDLYUMPTIOUS** Chocolate Bar Sale, Friends of St James is bringing the 'Wonky Bar Sale' to you again. If you are the lucky winner of a Golden Ticket slotted into your Chocolate Bar, you will win prizes better than an **EVERLASTING GOBSTOPPER!** Good luck.....

## Golden Ticket Prizes

Extra playtime ~ Extra table tennis time ~

Class games on the MUGA ~ Storytime in Library ~

Extra time on laptops ~ Class movie and popcorn ~

Hot chocolate and brownies at playtime ~ Shadow Mrs Ottaway

~ Board games in the Cabin ~ Extra class session in Forest

School ~ Choose the music in Collective Worship ~

High Tea with three friends ~

Class parachute games ~ Breaktime in the Staff Room ~

Ring the Playtime Bell for a week ~

Doughnuts for your Class.



Hop on over for our  
**St James**



**EASTER**

**trail, fun & games**

Join us on  
**Saturday March 16th 2-4pm**

**held at school**  
for some egg-citing fun!

**Tickets £3 per child - Included is a  
chocolate prize for completing the trail  
& Easter story sessions in the library**

**PLUS** games to have fun on, prizes to be  
won, crafting to be made!

**SCHOLASTIC TRAVELLING BOOKS**

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**LOOK!** Save £3

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**NEW VILLAINS ACADEMY** RYAN HAMMOND £3.99

**NEW DIARY OF WIPY KID SUPER OVERLODE** £7.99

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- If you can't attend the Fair in person, your child can order books via a Wish List - please ask your school for details.

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Free books are subject to terms and conditions. Please contact your Book Fair Designer at Scholastic Book Fairs for details.

**18th March  
at St James!**

# Easter Holidays Tennis Course

Ages  
4 - 16

EXCEL  
Tennis  
Academy

📍 Kingston Bagpuize

Monday 1st - Friday 5th April

📍 Witney

Monday 8th - Friday 12th April

- Mornings 09:00 - 12:00
- Afternoons 12:30 - 3:30
- Full Day 09:00 - 3:30 (ages 6 - 16)
- Short Course 09:00 - 11:00 or  
12:30 - 2:30 (ages 4 - 7)



**Childcare Vouchers  
Accepted**

[info@exceltennis.co.uk](mailto:info@exceltennis.co.uk)

[www.exceltennisacademy.co.uk](http://www.exceltennisacademy.co.uk)

## TENNIS AT HANNEY TENNIS CLUB

COACHING SESSIONS:  
Children aged 4 - 16 years old  
Adult Beginners and 'Rusty Rackets'

### Adults

Beginners / Rusty Rackets - Thursdays 18:30 - 19:30  
Improvers / Club Players - Thursdays 19:30 - 20:30  
Cardio Tennis - Wednesdays 09:00 - 10:00

### Juniors

Born 2019 - 2017 - Tuesdays 16:15 - 17:00  
Born 2018 - 2016 - Tuesdays 17:00 - 18:00  
Born 2018 - 2016 - Wednesdays 16:45 - 17:45  
Born 2015 - 2013 - Tuesdays 18:00 - 19:00  
Born 2012 - 2008 - Wednesdays 17:45 - 18:45



**FIRST  
SESSION  
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**Childcare Vouchers  
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EXCEL  
Tennis  
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# Easter Holiday **2024** PONY CAMP

h a p p y  
e a s t e r



**Pony Camp (08:45 - 13:15)**  
**8 - 10 APRIL 2024**  
Only **£225-00** For the whole 3-day Pony Camp  
\*For working parents, students can stay on after camp @ £5 per hour till 5pm and join in with Yard activities.

**PONY CLUB**  
BADGES WILL BE INCORPORATED THROUGHOUT THE CAMP FOR MEMBERS



A great experience for the outdoor animal lover! We offer loads of riding, games, horse care and fun. Book Now!  
**Limited Spaces!**



Email your booking to [nico@huntersfieldec.com](mailto:nico@huntersfieldec.com) or call Nico on 07717724692 to enquire!

Children from 4 to 16 years    No Experience or Equipment needed

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SN7 8NT**