Learning together with courage and kindness

'For the good of all' 1 Corinthians 12

St James CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

St James News

Dec 15th 2023

WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE?

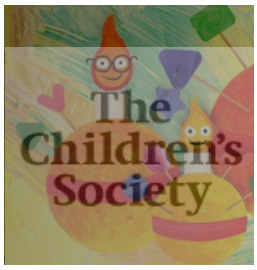
- St James Helping Hands
- Learning celebrations
- Dates for your diary

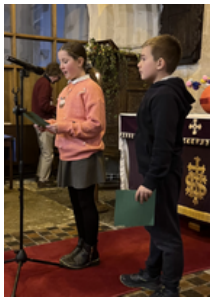
Headteacher: **Mrs Ottaway**
Contact: **office@stjamesce.vale-academy.org**
Telephone: **01235 868232**

Attendance this week: 95.2%
School & Trust target: 96%

Dear St James Families,

As we reach the penultimate week of term, St James continues to be full of festive cheer! The Christmas lunches were delicious and there was a great display of Christmassy jumpers! Christingle is always such a highlight and it was lovely to have so many of you there. Well done to our pupil volunteer choir and readers from Years 3, 4 & 5; you performed wonderfully! Thank you to those of you who were able to make a donation to the Christingle charity 'The Children's Society'. I'm looking forward to next year already!





We also had some wonderful singing from Donaldson class. Thank you so much to the wonderful team of staff for organising this and to everyone who was able to come and support their children and of course see Santa! Thanks again to Helping Hands for providing refreshments!

St James Helping Hands: **New email: helpinghandshanney@gmail.com**

NEXT HELPING HANDS MEETING: TUESDAY 16th JAN - 7pm, school library (or join on Zoom)

The Helping Hands have been busy this week and here is a rundown of what we have been doing:

- We donated leftover art activities including bauble-making and wreath-making to the school ready for their Christmas crafting next week in Donaldson class and Inkpen
- We organised the leftover Christmas clothing to be taken to the Oxford Ukranian Society to support their Christmas activities for refugee children
- We put in a cheeky request to a very busy Santa Claus and made sure he stopped off in an impromptu visit at Donaldson Class - he was en route anyway to load the sleigh at the North Pole. Thanks Santa Claus!
- We topped the parents up with mulled wine and mince pies at the Christingle for donations
- We collated the responses from children and staff across the school concerning the things they really want to spend funds on in 2024 - more on this to come shortly about the exciting projects for 2024.

Learning Celebrations:

This week I visited Year 3 to see their amazing Stone age writing and awarded them a well earned Headteacher's Award. In Celebration Collective Worship Year 4 performed 'Talking Turkeys' in tribute to the brilliant poet Benjamin Zephaniah. Our School Council also presented their upcoming project with a vote that will be happening next week. We were also able to celebrate our Bronze Sports Award as a school alongside lots of other wonderful out of school achievements. Finally we celebrated with Alfie for getting through to the next round of the National '500 words' story writing competition.

Key Dates for the Diary

Dec 2023

18th December	**Irock Performance** **2.15pm**: Parents of children who attend Irock are invited to their performance in the hall.
19th December	**Years 2 & 3 Carol Concert** 2.30pm in the Hall. More details to follow.
20th December	**Last day of term –** School ends at 12:30

Notices:

- Please be aware when parking by the school that there is now limited spaces to improve the safety for children. Use of these needs to be prioritised to those with limited mobility or other needs. If using the lane at the side of school please ensure you do not block access either to other vehicles or pedestrians trying to safely walk to school from the West.
- Reminder that after a sickness it is 48 hours before children should return to school.
- Next term there will be a new booking system for club and dinner ordering - more details to follow about theses.

Enrichment at St James CE Primary School

Are you a sewer? A knitter? Love amdram? Sporty? Play chess? Could you spare some time to share your passion with the children of St James school?

Enrichment is a very important part of what we offer for the children of St James. To gain the best possible provision we are hoping that there may be members of the Hanney community who might be able to give some time and offer a skill they could share with the children. This could happen at lunchtime or as an after school club, ideally for a 6 week block.

If this is something you may be interested in please contact the school by email: office@stjamesce.vale-academy.org

Phone: 01235 868232

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

WOULD YOUR CHILD LIKE TO JOIN THEIR OWN ROCK BAND?

iRock

Book now online
Visit www.irockschool.com/enrol

Dear Parent / Guardian,

Bookings are now open for your child to join their own rock and pop band at school! Enrolling is straightforward, and iRock offers a **first lesson money-back guarantee!**

Discover the benefits of band lessons: not only are they fun, but they also play a significant role in enhancing children's life skills. Lessons focus on boosting confidence, supporting well-being, developing social skills, and even improving academic performance.

How it works:

- Children don't need music experience to join, and all of the instruments are provided by iRock.
- Your child can choose from drums, keyboard, electric guitar, or vocals (subject to availability). They'll play the same instrument every week and join their bandmates in 30-minute weekly lessons.
- Lessons are held during the school day and are led by one of our experienced band coaches, who will guide your child through every session. *Some sessions may take place straight after school.*
- Lessons are available from Reception to Year 6, with children grouped by age. Children can choose their band name and learn their favourite songs.
- Band sessions build towards a concert at the end of each term, providing a great way to showcase just how far they have come.
- Children in Years 2, 4, and 6 will be enrolled in a Group Performance qualification by RSL.
- Access the iRock parent portal to view your child's band memories, song choices, manage your subscription and much more!

You can subscribe to iRock through our monthly subscription plan, which spans 11 months with no payment required in August. We offer full flexibility, allowing parents to cancel their subscription at any time. By subscribing, you're guaranteed a minimum of 33 lessons throughout a full academic year.

For availability and cost please visit: **www.irockschool.com/enrol** and search for your school. For any helps please call 0330 174 2655

Kind regards,

Joshua Franklin
Founder
iRock School of Music

Proudly supporting

CAMKIDS
The Cambodian Children's Charity

"My daughter is so excited when it's iRock day at school! She loves playing in the band"
Google Review

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