

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

Dear St James Families,

We have had so much to celebrate recently, with so many enriching and inspiring experiences and opportunities for the children! Here are some of our highlights, that all demonstrate our children flourishing to be the best they can be 'for the good of all'!

***St James's Boccia team competing in Trust schools event - all had a brilliant team spirit!***



Dec 6th 2024

## WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE?

- Pupil news
- Inside the staffroom
- Governors message
- 2024 SATs outcomes
- Celebration of Learning
- Dates for your diary

**MOMENTS  
MATTER,  
ATTENDANCE  
COUNTS.**

**Attendance this week: 95.1%**  
**School & Trust target: 96%**



***Sleeping Beauty Pantomime trip for Years 1 -6 at Oxford Playhouse - a riot of lights, music and laughter!***

***St James's Book Fair - just another way we celebrate the joy of reading! Thank you so much to Mrs Assershon, one of our wonderful governors, who volunteered all week to make this happen!***

**Intra-House Tag rugby  
competition for Year 1 -6  
Results: Sage 1st, Maroon 2nd,  
Azure 3rd and Saffron 4th**



**Helping Hands Pottery  
decorating!**

**The Funky Teapot**  
"We Fire your Creativity"



**Our wrap around care 'The Club'  
decorating our Christmas Tree  
which has once again been  
incredibly kindly donated by  
Dipper & Divers - Thank you!**



## Pupil news:

### Water safety visit:

Last week, A lady from the Wantage Leisure Centre called Becka talked to us about how to stay safe around water. We learnt to stay together and never go on the ice if someone's already on it.

What to do if a pet or friend is on the ice:

When someone is on the ice, NEVER go on it, instead lay on the ground away from the ice and get a long stick or a rope and pull them in. If you ever end up on the ice slowly walk back the way you came. If a pet goes on the ice, bring out a treat and call their name until they make their way off the ice. The number to call is 999 and they will help you.

What to do if you're by yourself:

If you are by yourself float on your back and call for help. Preserve heat by pressing your arms by your side and keep your legs together. Keep your head clear from the water. Stay calm until someone rescues you.

Stop and think:

Keep back from the slippery banks and wear a thick pair of footwear with a good grip. Stick to well-lit areas and plan your walks in daylight or along well-lit paths where you can see big puddles and non-solid ice lakes. NEVER GO ON THE ICE!

By George & Ivy Poster created by Evie

### Cambrian Learning Trust Maths Challenge - Tuesday 22nd October

A team of Year 5 children (Ivy, Monty, Oliver K and Autumn) went to West Site to compete in the challenge. We had some very positive feedback about how well our children conducted themselves and how excited they were to be challenging themselves in Maths! Well done team!

We completed some tough challenges against other schools.

The teachers were all really nice and they would help us if we were stuck. It was super fun and I want to do it again!

Ivy (Year 5)

Matt Taylor (KA's Head of Maths) read the maths questions – it was fun and there was a lot of maths! Monty (Year 5)



### Make me smile Day

The make me smile company also known as 180 taught us about mental health. They gave us work sheets about if we know what mental health is and what we know about it. We made faces and had lots of fun. Last week the half of the year six class went down and talk to year three about it and the other half of year six taught half of year three came up to the yr six class room and listend to year six. They where given a sheet of paper and answered the same questions and also made faces (By Zach Y6)



In the make me smile project we got taught about mental health. It was super fun, and we were able to do fun activities like making faces and reading a book. And then a couple of days after we taught year three the same lesson, half of their class came into year six and the other half stayed in year three. For the project they enjoyed making the face. (By Heath Y6)

Next term, we will have Mental Health Ambassadors out at break times and lunch times. Year 6 will be wearing these lanyards and will be there to help you if you are feeling wobbly about anything.

Today, we asked you to come into school in your own clothes to help raise awareness and money. We are pleased to tell you that we have already raised over £200, which will be split between One-Eighty and school so that we can buy some resources to help us improve our mental health.



## Inside the staffroom:



As we celebrate this festive time of year the staffroom has got into the spirit of things and as a staff we have made a Christmas Advent calendar full of fun and treats for amazing staff!

## Message from the Governors:

Dear Mrs Ottaway

Please pass on to your staff Governors' gratitude and appreciation for their individual and collective contributions that are being delivered professionally and with love.

Governors have recently reviewed the performance appraisal outcomes for staff in 2023/24. Individual appraisals were conducted in the context of positive assessments by Ofsted and the Church of England, and in-depth reviews by the Trust central team. Governors have also witnessed systematic review, adjustment and improvement in provision for all pupils. This has been achieved through ambitious leadership, and staff meeting challenges as a team that embraces change.

Governors also conducted a monitoring visit today. We saw and heard evidence of strategic priorities for improvement being delivered by passionate and committed staff working together for the good of all. We were shown around by pupils who had a sense of belonging and pride in their school. It seemed to us that everyone was learning and flourishing. The culture shift at St James is palpable and commendable.

I can also assure you of our continued support this year as the school faces further challenges around finance and resources.

Kind regards,

Alan McPherson, for and on behalf of the Local Governing Committee

## **2024 SATs results:**

I am writing about the Key Stage 2 SATS results that will be published shortly. On the face of it, St James' results don't reflect the very high expectations we have for all our pupils. However, we are really proud of the progress last year's Year 6 cohort made. We know our pupils well and that the individuals who didn't quite meet the SATs' expected standard were really very close to the mark and made great personal progress.

St James is all about your children and giving them the very best education so that they can flourish and be the best they can be, 'for the good of all'. We have always had, and continue to have, really high expectations for your children. That is why we have developed an ambitious, broad and balanced curriculum that goes well beyond the expectations of the National curriculum and strives to motivate and drive children through curiosity, empathy and adventure. Our goal is for all our children to become life long learners, great Global citizens and resilient risk takers.

The Year 6s that we sent on to Secondary at the end of last year were all amazing individuals. We have received many high-praise, wonderful reports about them from their new settings, including from Mr Smart, the Head at King Alfred's, who has spoken to me about how fantastic and ready to learn the cohort are.

We are very aware that people seeing this year's SATs results may have concerns. These results have been thoroughly reviewed by the leadership team with support from the central team and with the governors. We are confident these results were an exception rather than a trend, and every effort is being made to return pupil outcomes to the standard you expect. Please know that we always strive for academic excellence and high SATs results and those efforts are redoubled following these results. We are disappointed that the binary nature of SATs results doesn't show the many near misses to the expected standard there were this year or the confident learners, well rounded and brilliant individuals who left St James in the summer, as demonstrated by the feedback we have had about them from their secondary settings.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any particular concerns you would like to discuss with me.

# Celebration of learning:

House Points:

**Azure**

**122**

**Sage**

**122**

**Maroon**

**117**

**Saffron**

**121**



## Congratulation Azure & Sage house!

Congratulations to all the children who competed in the TTRockstars maths competition, particularly to those children who won 1st, 2nd & 3rd place in each class!



Congratulations to this week's out of class learners and achievers - well done everyone!

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



# Dates for the Diary

<p>9<sup>th</sup> December</p> 	<p><b>Rock Performance</b>  <b>2.15pm:</b> Parents of children who attend <u>rock</u> are invited to their performance in the hall.</p>
<p>10<sup>th</sup> December</p> 	<p><b>Years 2 &amp; 3 Carol Concert</b>                  2.30pm in the Hall. More details to follow.</p>
<p>11<sup>th</sup> December</p> 	<p><b>Reception &amp; Year 1 Nativity</b>                  9:30 and 2:30 – More details to follow</p>
<p>12<sup>th</sup> December</p> 	<p><b>Christingle Service</b>  <b>4pm at St James Church</b> – Please come and join us at St James Church. Children from Years 4-6 will be invited to sing or read. Details to follow.</p>
<p>13<sup>th</sup> December</p> 	<p><b>Festive Film Club: 3.20pm - 5.00pm</b>                  Children are invited to stay at school and enjoy a festive film. If you would like your child to attend, please donate £5 (which will go towards a light tea and refreshments).</p>
<p>18<sup>th</sup> December</p> 	<p><b>Nursery and Reception Christmas fun day</b>                  Parents invited to join us for some Christmas fun – more details to follow</p>
<p>18<sup>th</sup> December</p> 	<p><b>Christmas Lunch</b>                  Children are invited to wear a Christmas jumper on their Christmas dinner day.</p>
<p>19<sup>th</sup> December</p> 	<p><b>Open Classroom - Celebration of Learning – 3.15pm</b>                  Parents are invited into their <u>child's</u> class for them to share the great learning they have done this term!</p>
<p>20<sup>th</sup> December</p> 	<p><b>Last day of term.</b>                  Schools <u>ends</u> at 12.30pm after the children have eaten lunch.</p>

Advice for parents and carers on Nighttime Bed Wetting. Delivered by the school health nurse team.

The Butler Centre, Wantage (OX12 8BL)- 18<sup>th</sup> December at 3.30pm



**Oxford Health**  
NHS Foundation Trust

The link to the booking for parents is here - <https://forms.gle/xsGMZezzWswTkamD6>

You're Invited!

★ Y5 ★  
Masterclasses

Every Wednesday from:  
26th February - 4th June 2025  
3:30 - 4:30pm









**Aureus School**

Rated 'GOOD' in ALL areas by **Ofsted**



**Charlton Primary School (Wantage) Christmas & New Years Sports & Activities Holiday Camp!**


**For ages 4-14 years (specialised sessions for seperated age groups)**

 <b>MONDAY</b> 23rd December 2024		<b>THURSDAY</b> 2nd January 2025		<b>FRIDAY</b> 3rd January 2025	
<b>4-7 years</b>  Home Alone Long Ball Reindeer Runners Protect the Castle Snowman Showdown The Elf Express <b>XMAS BINGO!</b>	<b>4-7 years</b>  Construction Crossover Doctor Dodgeball Guardian Hideout Games Stinky Bin Swamp Ball	<b>4-7 years</b>  • Certificates • Game variety • Exciting games • Leaderboard • Coaches Challenge <b>TASS TOURNAMENT</b>			
<b>8+ years</b>  4-Square Home Alone Islands Protect the Igloo's Snowman Showdown The Grinch Getaway <b>XMAS BINGO!</b>	<b>8+ years</b>  4-Way Dodgeball Bonanza Doctor Dodgeball Football Tournament Guardian Hideout Games Jail Break	<b>8+ years</b>  • Certificates • Game variety • Exciting games • Leaderboard • Coaches Challenge <b>TASS TOURNAMENT</b>			



**BOOK NOW!**

interested in signing up?  
visit - [www.fasportstars.co.uk](http://www.fasportstars.co.uk)

 Please note, some activities may be subject to change in the result or bad weather.

**Millbrook Primary School (Grove) Christmas & New Year Sports & Activities Holiday Camp!**


**For ages 4-14 years (specialised sessions for seperated age groups)**

 <b>MONDAY</b> 23rd December 2024		<b>THURSDAY</b> 2nd January 2025		<b>FRIDAY</b> 3rd January 2025	
<b>4-7 years</b>  <b>FESTIVE PARTY FUN!</b> Home Alone <b>REINDEER RODEO!</b> Reindeer Runners Snowman Showdown The Elf Express <b>XMAS BINGO!</b>	<b>4-7 years</b>  Crossover Doctor Dodgeball Guardian Hideout Games <b>INFLATABLE FUN!</b> Stinky Bin Swamp Ball	<b>4-7 years</b>  • Certificates • Game variety • Exciting games • Leaderboard • Coaches Challenge <b>TASS TOURNAMENT</b>			
<b>8+ years</b>  <b>FESTIVE PARTY FUN!</b> Home Alone Protect the Igloo's <b>REINDEER RODEO!</b> Snowman Showdown The Grinch Getaway <b>XMAS BINGO!</b>	<b>8+ years</b>  4-Way Dodgeball Bonanza Doctor Dodgeball Football Tournament Guardian Hideout Games <b>INFLATABLE FUN!</b>	<b>8+ years</b>  • Certificates • Game variety • Exciting games • Leaderboard • Coaches Challenge <b>TASS TOURNAMENT</b>			



**BOOK NOW!**

interested in signing up?  
visit - [www.fasportstars.co.uk](http://www.fasportstars.co.uk)

 Please note, some activities may be subject to change in the result or bad weather.