

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



St James News

Dec 13th 2024

WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE?

- Performance at St James
- Mental Health Support
- Celebration of Learning
- Dates for your diary

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Dear St James Families,

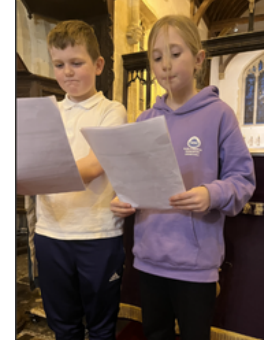
**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

Attendance this week: 95.0%
School & Trust target: 96%

What a Christmassy week we have had; packed full of wonderful performances! The children have been amazing and demonstrated our value of courage brilliantly. For many children performing in front of an audience can be a daunting task but the children rose to the challenge! Each time they perform their confidence grows and this shines through in their performances! Community is such an important part of what makes St James such a special school and this is really celebrated by the support families have shown for all these events!



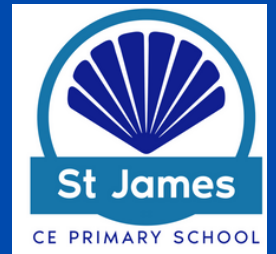
This week we also had Christingle at St James Church; It is always such a special service, a real Christmas treat. Thank you to all the families who were able to support this. The children all made a Christingle in school representing Jesus as the light of the world. This annual event is in support of the Children's Society and if you would like to make a donation please visit: www.childrensociety.org.uk



The week was completed with festive film club - our annual fundraiser event, where the children get to stay in school for a Christmassy film night full of fun and treats! Thank you so much to the staff for organising and running this and to all the parents who supported this event. It was topped off brilliantly after Miss Green managed to organise the Festive Tractor Run to make a special stop at school - what a fantastic evening!



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Performances at St James

**WELCOME
BACK TO
SCHOOL**
Singing Performance



**Mini Speaks
Competition**



HARVEST!
Poetry & songs



**Collective Worship learning
celebrations**



Band Performances



Christmas Performances



Violin Concerts



Young Voices

Easter



Year 6 Play



Mental Health Support



We have been promoting good mental health in school all this term, linked to our driver of empathy. As well as training up Year 6 as mental health ambassadors we have raised money for a variety of charities that support mental health - thank you to everyone for supporting this!

This time of year can be difficult; if you or anyone you know needs support please see a range of websites that provide support and resources.



Mental Health And Wellbeing

We're passionate about improving the mental health of children and young people. Access training, research and free resources for parents, schools a...

annafreud.org



Ending hunger together | Trussell

We provide practical support to people during their hardest moments and work with our community of food banks, partners, volunteers, and supporters to ensure no one needs a food bank to survive.

trussell.org.uk



Your Local Mental Health Charity

Oxfordshire Mind is your local mental health charity. We are here to make sure anyone with a mental health issue has somewhere to turn for advice & support.

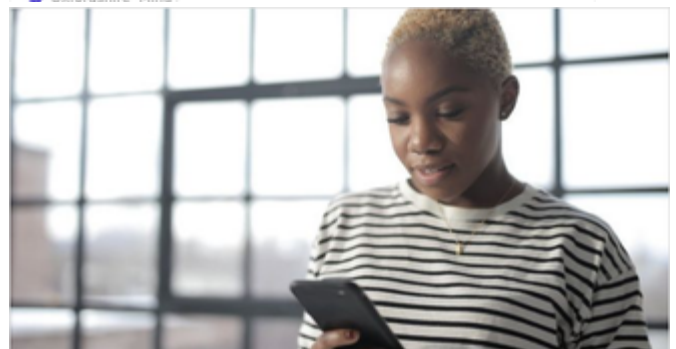
[Oxfordshire Mind](#)



The UK children's charity

As the leading children's charity, the NSPCC believes that every childhood is worth fighting for. Discover how you can help us keep children safe.

nspcc.org.uk



Shout: the UK's free, confidential and 24/7 mental health text service for crisis support

Shout is the UK's first and only 24/7 text service for anyone in crisis. Get free, confidential mental health support anytime, anywhere. Text 'Shout' to 85258.

shout85258.com

Celebration of learning:

House Points:

Azure

55

Sage

60

Maroon

43

Saffron

47



Congratulation green team!

Congratulations this week to all our many performers, who all received a Headteachers Award for their brilliant courage:

Inkpen Class (Reception) & Rosen Class (Year 1) - for wonderful performance in the Nativity play
Nichols Class (Year 2) & Dahl Class (Year 3) - for their brilliant carol singing

iRock School of Music band performances
Choir and readers at the Christingle Service






We also had our wrap around care club celebrating having their pictures published for a recent competition, as well as certificates for the Trust Science photo competition. Finally we celebrated our out of class learning and achievements.



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



Dates for the Diary

18 th December 	Nursery and Reception Christmas fun day Parents invited to join us for some Christmas fun – more details to follow
18 th December 	Christmas Lunch Children are invited to wear a Christmas jumper on their Christmas dinner day.
19 th December 	Open Classroom - Celebration of Learning – 3.15pm Parents are invited into their <u>child's</u> class for them to share the great learning they have done this term!
20 th December 	Last day of term. Schools <u>ends</u> at 12.30pm after the children have eaten lunch.

Resident support scheme

If you're supporting people in Oxfordshire who are struggling with living costs, more help is now available.

The resident support scheme is for people who are in crisis.



It can help with short term living costs and in some cases with white goods, furniture and transport for those most urgently in need.

oxfordshire.gov.uk/residentsupport

Safety checks for toy shopping

Know who you are buying from

Wherever you are shopping, remember reputation matters. Is the seller widely recognised for safe and reliable toys?

Get as much information on the seller as you can, especially if you're buying from an online marketplace.

Not everything sold on an online platform is supplied by them. If the actual supplier is not based in the UK, you may face heightened risks.

Always read the warnings and instructions

Toys must be clearly marked with age restrictions, which are based on risks such as choking hazards. Always follow the age recommendations.



Consider special needs

Children with special needs might be more vulnerable, so keep this in mind when shopping.



Avoid toys with small parts

They can be a choking hazard.



Look out for strangulation hazards

Loose ribbons on toys and costumes can pose risks to young children.



Check the toys are for kids

Magnets can look like toys. Keep them away from children.



Compare the sellers

Bargains may be too good to be true. Compare the toy's price with other sellers. If it's a fraction of the cost, it's likely to be counterfeit.



Check for button batteries

Ensure that any button batteries in a toy are safely behind a screwed down flap.



Check for product recalls

See if the toy you're buying has been recalled at productrecallcampaign.gov.uk



Check before you wrap

Toys must be clearly marked with age restrictions, which are based on risks such as choking hazards. Always follow the age recommendations.



Gaming Connections

By Brad,
Lou & Helen

Gaming can be a source of connection and joy for young people. However, it can also be a source of rupture and turbulence, especially between caregivers and adolescents. This might happen more in the Christmas holidays when a greater emphasis on real life family connections are expected, which can change routines and cause conflict.

In an ideal world we should be having a magical time together, right? Enjoying each other's company and nourishing ourselves and each other within our close relationships. However, this is so often not a reality for a lot of families, especially when we hold trauma as part of our story.

If gaming is part of your parenting life, getting curious about how your young person experiences it may help you understand why it might be so important to them; when it is useful for them and when it is not so useful. Having some judgement-free, curious conversations and acknowledging and trying to understand the importance of their experiences, may help strengthen your connection to each other, alongside giving you some understanding of what they might be playing when they are feeling different things. It may also give you some direction on how you can support them when they are finding things tricky.

Take a look at our curious questions and reflective thinking on the next page.

An infographic featuring a large, detailed illustration of a video game controller at the bottom. Above the controller, several circular bubbles of varying shades of gray contain reflective questions. The background is a light, textured gray with faint lines suggesting motion or connection.

I've noticed you play fast games that need speed and quick reaction time when you need to wake your body and your mind up. Does that feel true for you?

How does gaming help you manage feelings of anger?

When you choose to game alone does it help you to feel more in control of everything?

Is playing online with people less complicated than socialising in person?

I wonder if playing games that require you to hold lots of things in mind, like health, equipment and weapons, makes you feel competent and in control when day-to-day life can feel so complicated or hard?

Does it help when you are stuck in your feelings? How?

If the game you are playing doesn't get rid of your anger, what do you do?

Is it helpful to play fighting games to release your anger so it doesn't spill out on to anyone else?

I've noticed some of the games you play are so visually beautiful. How does that make you feel when you are walking through a medieval castle or a snowy forest? What do you notice happens to your body?

When we say you can't game or we set a time limit, I've noticed you get anxious. I'm wondering if that's about games not being able to update, missing out on new games coming out or not being able to speak to friends?

What does it feel like to play with other people all working towards the same goal?



Beacon House
Temporary Services and Therapeutic Team

Join us for a **free**, in-person

COMMUNITY BIRTH GROUP

run by *local midwives with guest speakers*



Mindfulness
for birth

Care of
your pelvic
floor

Feeding and
postnatal
recovery

Advice, support and
opportunities to ask
questions

Connect with
other mothers-
to-be

Preparation
for birth



© Womb to World Art

Last Thursday of every month 7-9pm
Old Stables, Wantage OX12 7AU

 growfamilies.co.uk/book-online