

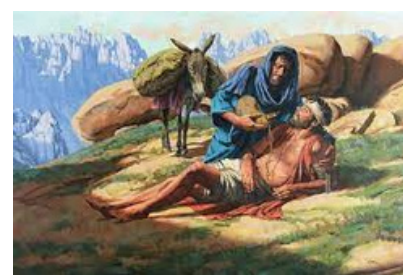
St James curriculum News

WHAT'S IN THIS TERMS ISSUE?

- Spotlight on: Keeping safe
- Sport at St James
- Science at St James
- Class News
- Dates for your diary

Dear Parents and Carers,

'Acceptance' has been our value this term linked to our curriculum driver of empathy. We have thought about self acceptance and the acceptance of others regardless of their appearance, beliefs, language, opinions or preferences. We have revisited the story of the Good Samaritan and started learning the song 'Cross over the road' thinking about being kind even when it might be challenging.



Space Makers:

Class Collective Worship has been focused on the 'Space Makers' practice of mending with children thinking about forgiveness and letting go of past pain.

This term's Geography focus has had the children looking at other countries around the world, thinking about similarities and differences, comparing hot & cold places, learning about the rainforest and finding out about where things come from and how this isn't always fair. As the children increase their knowledge about the wonderful world we live in and gain a better understanding, we hope they will move on from St. James as informed global citizens, who can talk knowledgeably and show acceptance of all!



Our Curriculum driver next term will be 'Adventure', with our value focus on 'Courage'.



Spotlight on: Keeping safe

The children learning about how to stay safe is a key part of our curriculum. Much of the learning is done through our PSHE program - Jigsaw. This program allows a whole school approach to the teaching of personal, social, health and well-being learning that is essential for children to leave St. James and go on to being happy health individuals.



In addition to this we ensure that arising issues are picked up on and bespoke lessons are used to deal with particular issues. We also have planned experiences that include visitors such as the PCSOs & the Fire Service as well as trips such as Junior Citizens that let the children experience a range of scenarios and learn how to react safely. Year 6 have also been doing 'bikeability' this term, so they know how to cycle safely. Please help to remind your children about the importance of wearing a cycle helmet!



There are also additional units of internet safety taught across the school, as part of our computing curriculum, which becomes ever more important in the modern world we live in. For more information visit <https://www.childnet.com>

Next term PSHE lessons focus on changes, particularly in the body and is where a majority of the 'DfE Statutory Relationships & Health Education Guidance' is included. This can be a sensitive area for some and we will be sending out a letter with more details. Our policy on this can also be found on our website.



Support for parents

Parenting tips and support for dealing with difficult situations.

NSPCC

The NSPCC website is a brilliant resource for parent advice from online safety to building positive relationships. Click on the link to find out more information and get some great top tips!

www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/

Sport at St James



Girl football tournament



This term we were very proud of the St. James' girls football team. We hosted 5 other teams from local schools in a mini-tournament. Our team played brilliantly and showed great sportsmanship throughout.

We look forward to Sports Day next term:
Nursery, Reception & Year 1: 1:30pm Tuesday 27th June
Years 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6: 1:30pm Tuesday 4th July



Science at St James



This year's Science Fair saw every child in the school taking part in some exciting science from paper airplane testing, marshmallow tower building to keeping Mrs Ottaway's tea warm! Well done to all the classes who did some brilliant investigating!

Early Years News

Donaldson Class

This term in Donaldson class our topic has been 'Can you tell me a story?'

This has given us the opportunity to share stories with the children that we heard growing up.

The children made their own books, used props and puppets to retell the stories to their friends and have had a great time dressing up as the characters.

We baked gingerbread men, tasted porridge and put on our thinking caps to come up with new words for 'big' and 'small'.

We celebrated the kings coronation by making crowns, discussing it in class and being part of St James afternoon tea party.

The weather has finally cheered up so we have been making most of the sunshine by having lots of water play fun! We hope you have a wonderful break! Donaldson team



Inkpen Class

We have loved our topic this term, 'Why were castles built?'. The children have been incredibly inventive and it has been wonderful to see the topic come alive in their play. We built a fantastic huge castle as a whole class – the concentration was amazing. One of our other highlights was getting to know the story of The Paperbag Princess and writing a letter to Roland, who wasn't very nice in the story. The letter was hand delivered by a member of Inkpen class! We are sure to receive a reply any day now....

The coronation was perfectly timed too so that we could look at Buckingham Palace as part of our exploration of castles. We looked fabulous dressed up in white, red and blue and ate an enormous quantity of cake!

It's hard to believe we are entering the last term of school now, but we will be finishing the term with an inspiring exploration of oceans and coastlines around the world.



Key Stage 1 News

Rosen Class

This term our curriculum driver has been Empathy and we started the term understanding how we can show empathy to our family and friends.

In English we have been writing a recount using the text, Lost and Found as our stimulus. We imagined that we were the penguin in the story and wrote from their perspective. It was wonderful to see such fantastic writing from everyone!

In geography we developed our map reading skills and located where Antarctica is and then made comparisons to the Kalahari Desert. We had many discussions about why Penguins live in Antarctica and why Meerkats live in the desert.

In week 4 we went to Cotswold Wildlife Park which was SO much fun! We had a great day out and saw lots of amazing animals! The penguins and meerkats were very cute!

In science we have been completing our very own child-led investigations, What is the Best paper aeroplane? Thank you for coming in to see them

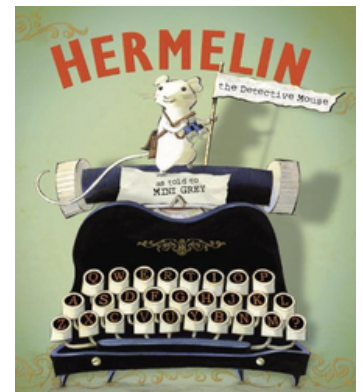
Next term: The history of aviation.



Nichols Class

This term in Nichols class we have been inspired by our book Hermelin and all become spies. This ended with us all sharing our learning in a celebration collective worship where the children received their certificates. The children have also been working hard on their Vale Academy Trust Character and citizen bronze award and I know those who didn't receive it this term are on track to get it next term! The term ended with our sleepover - the children were brilliant and so brave to stay over night in school!

Next term: Our learning is all about the seaside!



Lower Key Stage 2 News

Roald Dahl Class

Term 5 in Year 3 has been extremely busy! To start off our Rainforest unit, we took part in a virtual workshop with The Eden Project where we learnt some key facts about their work and looked at a range of animals in the rainforest including how their senses helped them to survive. Also, as part of our learning on the rainforest we have enjoyed two wonderful books: 'There's a rang tan in my bedroom' and 'Let's save the Amazon'. Whilst reading these we learnt about the use of Palm Oil in lots of the products we use and how companies do not always use this sustainably. We have written letters to a large company to persuade them to find an alternative to palm oil or use palm oil more sustainably. The letters the children wrote are very thought provoking and persuasive. This week we finished off our Rainforest unit with an Art gallery inspired by Henri Rousseau. As part of this the children wanted to raise money for The Rainforest Trust, who work to protect acres of the rainforest from being destroyed. We raised £35.15 - thank you to everybody who donated! This term Year 3 have also had the opportunity to go swimming and the children made amazing progress during the week. Well done Year 3!

Next term: Ancient civilizations: Egypt



Rowling Class

This has been a busy term for year 4! We started the term exploring music from around the world and learning how to play the Mari African Djembe drums, which the children loved. We have also been exploring the book 'Music we love' and listening to a range of different artists from across the world, including Elton John, Ariana Grande, The Beatles and Beethoven. The children have then been inspired by this book to research particular musical artists and write a biography about them. In Maths, we've been focusing a lot on fractions and decimals, as well as practicing their times tables regularly. As part of our Geography topic, we have been learning all about mapping the world, including climate zones, the Northern and Southern Hemispheres and lines of latitude and longitude. In Art, we've been studying the famous Moai statues from Easter Island and sculpting them out of clay, whilst in PE, the children have been learning Ultimate Frisbee and Athletics in preparation for Sports day.

Next term, we're going to be exploring The Romans and how the Romans impacted Britain, whilst in Maths, we're going to be learning money and time and then moving on to shape.



Upper Key Stage 2 News

Ibbotson Class

Our term has included learning lots about food banks with among other things, Ibbotson class reading the wonderful "Great Food Bank Heist". As well as being a great read the book stimulated lots of fascinating discussion among the children. A visit from a representative from Abingdon Food Bank really brought the subject to life and gave the children some good background for their explanation text covering how food banks work. Our science has been a real highlight with the children investigating how to keep Mrs Ottaway's cup of tea hot for the St James Science Fair. The ingenuity and imagination they showed to investigate this seemingly simple question was fantastic. Our previous learning covering materials that insulate and conduct was put to good use and the results were presented really well by all the children. There was a winning team but the whole class deserves commendation.



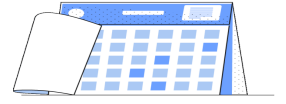
In art we've looked at the pencil sketches of landscapes by Diane Wright and learned and practised making good landscape sketches ourselves. We've touched on perspective, the rule of thirds, light and shadow, composition and foreground interest. We ended the term bringing this together in a pencil study of Lindisfarne. In geography we've been exploring trade (including imports and exports) and supply chains and we were quite surprised to find out just how long and complicated it is to get our favourite bar of chocolate from the growers to our mouths! Some of the children said they would definitely appreciate their chocolate bars more now they know (not that they really need to appreciate chocolate more than they already do!)

Shakespeare Class

It has been an incredibly busy term for Year 6 with the children taking their SATs tests for Reading, SPAG and Maths. I can't praise them enough for their positive approach to these tests, their perseverance and stamina. Every adult who supported the children through this time commented on how impressed they were with them. Everyone enjoyed having breakfast together during this week, it was a really nice way to start the day and a visit from the ice cream van was a well deserved treat on the final day. A huge thank you to the Friends of St James for organising this. The children have also taken part in the Bikeability course, where they learned how to check their bikes, what to wear to keep themselves safe and to ride safely on the road. Skills many of them will use over the coming years as they move on to secondary school. They also took part in a Junior Citizens course run at Oxford Firestation where they learnt how to deal with real life emergency situations.



Key Dates for the Diary



June 2023

Monday 5th June: Start of term 6 **New curriculum driver:** Adventure **Value:** Courage

Friday 9th June: VAT Science Fair

Week beginning 12th June: Year 1 phonics tests

Thursday 15th June: PTA Celebration Day shop

Friday 16th June: Fire safety talk

Thursday 22nd June: After school gardening with drinks & nibbles (community event)

Tuesday 27th June: Nursery, Reception & Year 1 Sports Day (1:30pm)

Wednesday 28th June: Year 3 residential - Hillend

Friday 30th June: PTA Ice-cream sale

July 2023

Tuesday 4th July: Year 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 Sports Day (9:30am)

Wednesday 12th July: Whole school Transition Day TBC

Friday 14th July: PTA Ice-cream sale

Saturday 15th July: Party in the Park!

Wednesday 19th July: TBC -Year 6 leavers service at church -parents invited

Thursday 20th July: End of Term - 12:30 (after lunch)



July 15th St. James' Party
in the Park