



St James' Church of England Primary School

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Executive Head Teacher: **Mrs Gina Bailey**

Head of School: **Mrs Casey Cox**

Opening doors to our future.

I know all the things you do, and I have opened a door for you that no one can close. Revelation 3:8

Friday 14th May 2021



Parent Newsletter

Dear Parents,

Well we seem to be moving forward at a million miles an hour – the school feels full of life and buzzing with the sounds of children's learning and enjoyment. Lots have been going on since the holidays, so hopefully this newsletter will give you a taste of the fast-paced school life at St James'!

School Tree Project

We will all be taking part in a whole school project growing trees for the school grounds and the wider community, after our sister school William Martin won a grant for 400 trees. Each class has been given the responsibility for growing baby trees, so will be busy planting them and caring for them in their classrooms.



School Allotment and Outdoor Classroom

We are also planning to create a new school allotment area outside the hall. Each class will be given a section of raised bed in which they can grow vegetables or any plants of their choosing, giving children a brilliant hands-on experience as part of the wider curriculum. We are very excited about improving this space, and would also like to include a beautiful sensory garden as part of it. Therefore, we are asking parents, if possible, to donate plants for this project, we would be grateful for any of the following:

- Lavender
- Oregano
- Rosemary
- Daffodil bulbs
- Crocus bulbs
- Swiss Chard
- Love-in-a-mist
- Chamelon



Our Core Christian Values: Respect, Responsibility, Community, Friendship, Forgiveness, Courage.

We would also be grateful if anyone has slabs, planters, even a bench or a small shed (it's worth a try!) that they would be happy to donate to the school!?

Additionally, we are very excited to be working with the Parndon Wood Nature Reserve to create a large outdoor classroom on the back field. We are hoping to have areas for bug hunting, pond dipping, den building, team building activities and possibly even a camp fire one day! This will evolve over time but if there are any parents/carers or grandparents that would like to get involved with this project, we would be happy to hear from you.



Adult Community Learning

We are really pleased to inform you that we will be working in partnership with ACL from next half term to offer useful workshops for parents on a whole range of topics, from 'Helping your child to sleep' to 'Cooking on a budget'. A separate letter will be coming up about this and we would like to ask that you complete the poll and return it to us by the end of next week so that we can find out which workshops would be of the most benefit.

Exciting Learning Taking Place at School

We know it's been ages since parents could join us in the school so we thought we'd share photos with you of the exciting learning that's taking place in the school:



Our reception children had an amazing 'Minibeast Day' this week! Their costumes were brilliant so a big thank you must go to all of you for your support.



Hip Hop Pop has been a huge success and has filled the school with music and dance every Wednesday and Friday this half term!

There are caterpillars and butterflies around the school and the children are absolutely loving seeing how they change!



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As part of our arts themed term, the children have been exploring different styles of art and artists. There has been some stunning work produced around the school – well done everyone!



Year 6 had a rather delicious lesson exploring the phases of the moon using Oreo cookies. Daisy said, "Not only was it educational, but it was so much fun and has really helped me understand and remember the moon phases!"

Drama has been a key feature of many lessons this half term and the children thoroughly enjoy being active in their learning!



We hope you enjoyed seeing photos of some of the exciting learning that's taking place around the school, we wish we could have included photos of all the children – but we simply couldn't fit them all in!

Have a wonderful weekend and thank you as always for all your amazing support!

Very best wishes,

Gina Bailey
Executive Headteacher

Casey Cox
Head of School



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