



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

18th October 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a busy start to the year we've had! The children have come back ready to learn and full of the energy and enthusiasm we love to see at St James'. We have already had several exciting events taking place and this newsletter will give you an overview of this half term's highlights as well as some useful reminders. We also endeavour to update our Facebook page as often as possible so please like or follow us at

<https://www.facebook.com/stjamesharlow>



I will also be hosting parent/carer forums again each half term. The first for this year will be on Monday 13th November at 2pm. Please come along and join us! Just call the office to add your name to the list.

Show Racism the Red Card

This Friday 20th October we will be supporting the 'Show Racism the Red Card' campaign run by the UK largest anti-racism education charity. We kindly ask that pupil wear something red on this day in support of this very important cause. Voluntary donations can be made via the collection pot in the main office or by following the instructions below.

Text 'RED' to 70470 to donate £1. (Text 'RED 5' to give £5, 'RED 10' to give £10 or 'RED 20' to give £20).



You can also visit our JustGiving page at www.justgiving.com/theredcard

Year 6 Secondary Admissions Deadline – 31st October 2023

Please be reminded that the deadline for applying for secondary school places is 31st October 2023. You will need to apply online via the Essex County Council website:

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/admissions/secondary-school-places>

The national offer day is 1st March 2024.



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

Livewire Workshop

Years 5 & 6 were lucky enough to take part in a fantastic performing arts workshop run by Livewire this half term. They were taught vocal warm up exercises, a new song and played lots of drama games. As part of this offer from the Essex Community Foundation, there are weekly workshops that our children are invited to sign up to. Please see the video link which explain more below:

https://youtu.be/9THII53XyLU?si=-UmQ_12AUQAJMnkk



Harvest Festival

A huge thank you must go to our wonderful Year 1 and Year 2 classes for leading our Harvest celebrations! They spoke and sang beautifully! They reminded us of the important work our farmers do to produce crops and to be thankful for all we have and to be generous in spirit whenever and however we are able to be.

Thank you for your donations to the Harlow Foodbank. They will be very gratefully received.

School Ambassadors

At St James' we want to open new doors to our pupils and give them the opportunity to be leaders of the school; to learn how to positively contribute to our community and how to take on responsibility.

This half term, various ambassadors have been selected from across the school. Congratulations to all of those chosen – we know you will do us proud in your new roles!

Head Pupils	Perry, Keira, Philip and Danielle
House Captains	Ruth – Kaydee Esther – Amelia Jacob – Maisie Moses – Danny
Wellbeing Ambassadors	Naana-Adjoa, Isla and Calum
Worship Ambassadors	Year 5 – Imelda and Harrison Year 6 – Ohene and Tyreek
Learning Ambassadors	Y1 – Johnny and Emelia-Bluebell Y2 – Toby and Aliyah Y3 – Mason and Alex Y4 – Bilqis and Mert Y5 – Lisa and Bryan
Head Play Leaders	Alex and Lexi
School Councillors (elected by their peers)	Year 1 – Aliyah and Levi Year 2 – Skyla and Hallie Year 3 – Emelia and Stanley Year 4 – Ivy, Bilqis and Jamie Year 5 – Anaiya and Lois Year 6 – Leon and Kairo



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Sports for Schools

We were delighted to be joined by Steve Frew the British gymnast and Commonwealth gold medallist this week! The pupils had a great time participating in the sponsored fitness circuit and thoroughly enjoyed listening to Steve talk about the journey towards achieving his dream. They were even lucky enough to see him demonstrate his amazing back flips, front flips and handstands! Thank you for all of your donations and support for this event!



Keep-a-beat – CPR Training for Year 6

Year 6 were lucky enough to be visited by Sam who taught them the importance of first aid and what to do in an emergency, including how to administer CPR. Danielle said “It taught us how to save a life and inspired me to perhaps become a paramedic one day.” Thank you to Sam for giving us her time and for sharing her expertise.

ACL Christmas Workshop

We are excited to be hosting another ACL workshop on Thursday 14th December at 1.30pm. It’s a great opportunity to come and take part in a seasonal activity with your child. Please contact the office to book your space – we’re looking forward to seeing you there!



Vine Schools Trust Poetry Competition

You will have received an email about the Vine poetry competition that is being held by the trust. We would love to have as many entries from St James’ as possible so if you are able to support by encouraging your child to have a go, it would be greatly appreciated. All the details are below...

The theme of this poetry competition is Remembrance.

The style of poem that you write is up to you! It could be an acrostic poem, a haiku, a rhyming poem or free verse. The choice is yours!

The winners will receive a copy of Michael Morpurgo’s Poppy Fields, as well as other writing goodies! They will also be sharing these poems across the trust’s social media pages.



Poems must be sent into school by Friday 3rd November.

Pop-up Services Event – Thursday 19th October

During the summer term, we hosted an event for family support services such as PACT, Citizen’s Advice, ACL, Integration Support Services (ISS) and many more. This term our sister school William Martin will be holding a similar event tomorrow from 8.45am – 11am and, as you will have seen in the email sent out, families of St James’ are also welcome to attend.



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PTFA Events

Our lovely PTFA are set to hold a series of events this year, the details of which are below. Over the last few years they have raised funds which have supported the school in refurbishing our therapy room, buying picnic benches for lunch times and putting on a Leaver's prom for our Year 6 pupils. This year they will be raising money to support the development of our outside areas and playtime equipment.



However, they need the help and support of more parents/carers. Several of the committee members will sadly be leaving us at the end of the year and without new recruits these fundraising events won't be able to run in the future. If you are interested in volunteering on occasion or want to be part of the committee, please email Tess at tessmiller38@gmail.com

Dates for your diary	
PTFA Non-uniform day Bring in a sealed bag of sweets for the Christmas Fayre Sweet Tombola	Friday 24 th November
Christmas Fayre	Saturday 2 nd December Times TBC
Spring Disco	Thursday 15 th February 3.15pm – 5pm
Mother's Day/Special Person Gift Sale	Monday 4 th and Tuesday 5 th March
Father's Day/Special Person Gift Sale	Monday 10 th and Tuesday 11 th June
Summer Movie Night	Thursday 11 th July 3.15pm – 5pm

Upcoming Dates:

Please note, we have added Christmas performance dates for Years 3, 4 & 5

Monday 23 rd October – Friday 27 th October	Half Term School Closed
Tuesday 31 st October	Year 3 Trip – Pizza Express
Wednesday 1 st November	Parent Consultation Evening 1pm-6pm for years Reception, 2, 4 and 6
Thursday 2 nd November	Parent Consultation Evening 1pm-6pm for years 1,3 and 5
Friday 3 rd November	Year 6 Swimming Year 5 Dodgeball Competition (selected pupils to be confirmed)
Thursday 9 th November	New parent tour – Reception 2024 9:30am
Friday 10 th November	Year 6 Swimming
Monday 13 th November	Odd socks Day – Children can come to school wearing odd socks to support the start of anti-bullying week
Friday 17 th November	Children in Need day – Children may dress down for £1 Year 6 Swimming



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Thursday 23 rd November	New parent tour – Reception 2024 9:30am
Friday 24 th November	Year 6 Swimming Non-school uniform day in exchange for packets of Sweets/Chocolate for the Christmas Fayre Tombola
Friday 1 st December	Year 6 Swimming
Saturday 2 nd December	PTFA Christmas Fayre 1pm
Tuesday 5 th December	New parent tour – Reception 2024 9:30am
Thursday 7 th December	Whole School Trip – Panto – South Mill Arts
Friday 8 th December	Christmas jumper day – Children can wear their Christmas jumper or Christmassy colours Year 6 Swimming
Monday 11 th December	KS2 Christmas Class Assemblies this week – times to be confirmed KS1 Christmas performance – 9:30am
Tuesday 12 th December	KS1 Christmas Performance – 2pm
Thursday 14 th December	Y3, 4 & 5 Christmas Performance – 9.30am
Friday 15 th December	Y3, 4 & 5 Christmas Performance – 2pm Year 6 Swimming (Last session)
Tuesday 19 th December	Christmas Church Service and Dinner
Wednesday 20 th December	Christingle Service Last day of Term – School finishes at 1:30pm
Thursday 21 st December – Wednesday 3 rd January	End of Term School Closed
Thursday 4th – Friday 5th January	Inset Days – School closed
Monday 8 th January	School re-opens at normal time
Thursday 11 th January	New parent tour – Reception 2024 9:30am

Wishing you all a wonderful half term.

Best Wishes

Mrs Gina Bailey

Mrs Casey Cox

Executive Headteacher

Head of School



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