



St James' Church of England Primary School

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Opening doors to our future.

"Ask, and it will be given to you. Seek, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened to you." Matthew 7:7

Friday 16th February 2024



Dear Parents/Carers,

Whilst this half term would appear to have been quieter than the last, the children and staff have been very busy, working hard and making an excellent start to 2024. There are some new initiatives that are underway in English and PSHE which have had a really positive response from pupils across the school. More information about them is detailed below.

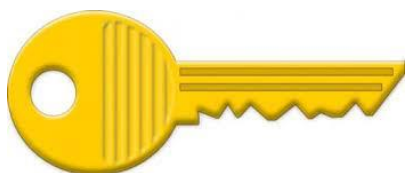
Opening doors to our future by understanding our school vision

This half term, we have been looking closely at our school vision 'Opening doors to our future' and the bible verse the underpins it –

"Ask, and it will be given to you. Seek, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened to you."
Matthew 7:7

We thought about the kinds of things that may close doors to us, such as bullying, not following school rules, finding tasks difficult but also about how we could open doors for each other by being kind, respectful, safe and seeking help from the tools around us, our friends and adults in class.

We then explored how we might feel when the doors are closed to us – unworthy, unwelcome, left out and like we can't achieve. We all agreed that we didn't want anyone in our school to feel this way and so concluded together that when we ask, seek and knock we give ourselves and others these important keys:



You are worthy – we believe in you
You are included – we are together
You are invited – we want you to join us
You are welcome – we're happy you're here
You are able – we know you can do it!



Opening doors through our Christian values: Respect, Responsibility, Community, Friendship, Forgiveness, Courage.

Essex Year of

NUMBERS

Essex Year of Numbers Workshops

As part of the Essex Year of Numbers the whole school took part in the NSPCC Number Rocks challenge on TTRS this half term.

Years 5 & 6 also enjoyed a maths workshop with Mercury Theatre, who will be returning in the summer term to perform a maths show for us!

Children were immersed in mathematical tasks and challenges across the school which they thoroughly enjoyed!

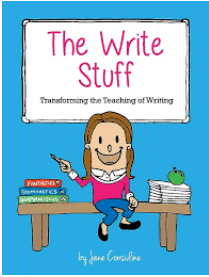


Year 4 Ancient Greeks Day

Year 4 had a brilliant day immersing themselves in Ancient Greece for the day earlier this half term. They learned a lot about the life and times of the Ancient Greeks and enjoyed exploring artefacts, making pottery and re-enacting city state battles!



Opening doors to our future by building a rich curriculum...



The Write Stuff

This half term we have been delighted to introduce 'The Write Stuff' resources as part of our English curriculum. It is a new approach to teaching writing which enables pupils to develop rich banks of vocabulary and learn about the key skills of writing through 'lenses' which support the children to structure their work. The initial units have shown some brilliant pieces of writing which you will have the opportunity to see during the parent/teacher consultations.

RISE Resilience

As you may be aware, schools were given the opportunity to access a new mental health and wellbeing programme as part of the Harlow Futures project. Our school selected the RISE Resilience programme as we felt it complemented our existing PSHE curriculum well and focussed on building resilience which we felt would hugely benefit our children at St James'. Each week, every class looks at a different aspect of developing resilience: confidence, character, connectedness, coping skills, contribution, sense of control, competence and enjoyment with the aim that they will develop key strategies that will help them to grow into independent, resilient young people.



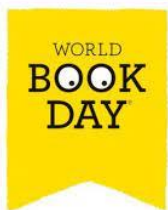
For more information about the programme, please see the parent information booklet attached to this email.

Opening doors to our future through our school community...

ACL Workshop – Story Sacks



Another lovely afternoon of creativity took place this week with the ACL story sacks workshop! These workshops happen every half term and everyone is welcome to join. Look out for the emails and posters, then simply call the office to book your space



World Book Day – Wednesday 6th March 2024

Please note that our St James' World Book Day will be Wednesday 6th March this year. All children are invited to dress as their favourite book character for the day. We will not be asking for any donations for dressing up. Our focus for the day is to continue to promote a love of all things reading!



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Just a few reminders...

Trip Payments

Please ensure that trip payments are made by the date given on the letter. In case of any financial difficulties, please contact the office and ask to speak to either Mrs Cox, Mrs Coote or Mrs Walsham who will be able to talk to you about the options available.

It is important to note that unfortunately the school is not able to fully fund trips and so without enough contributions from families, visits are at risk of being cancelled.



School Disco – NEW DATE – 21st March

On behalf of the PTFA, we apologise that the disco had to be postponed. The new date is 21st March and any tickets purchased will automatically be transferred over. If there are any problems at all, please let the office know.

Upcoming dates:

Monday 19th February- Friday 23rd February	Half Term School Closed
Wednesday 28 th February	Parent consultation meetings Years 1,3 &5. 1pm-6pm
Thursday 29 th February	Year 3 Trip – Castle Park Colchester Parent Consultation meetings Years Reception, 2, 4 and 6. 1pm-6pm
Friday 1 st March	Year 5 swimming
Monday 4 th March	Year 2 Florence Nightingale Workshop in School
Wednesday 6 th March	World Book Day (Children may come to school dressed as their favourite book character)
Friday 8 th March	Year 5 swimming
Friday 15 th March	Year 5 swimming Reception Trip – Boydell’s Farm
Monday 18 th March	Year 5 Trip – British Museum
Friday 22 nd March	Year 5 Swimming Year 6 Danbury payment deadline
Friday 29th March – Friday 12th April	End of Term School Closed
Monday 15 th April	Children return to school at normal time

Wishing you and your families a restful half term break.

Kind Regards

Mrs Casey Cox

Mrs Gina Bailey

Head of School

Executive Headteacher



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