



# 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.

*"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*

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024



Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been wonderful to see our pupils developing their skills as historians throughout this term. They have been exploring sources, asking questions, learning key facts and enjoying lots of extra-curricular visits and activities! We hope this newsletter gives you an insight into some of the exciting things that have been happening.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank our fantastic staff who work so hard to support your children each and every day. We are so grateful for the unwavering commitment and care they bring to our school.

Finally, we would like to say goodbye and good luck to Mrs Fowlie-Burns who leaves us today after 12 years at St James'. She has worked incredibly hard during her time here, especially in her roles as PE lead and Clubs co-ordinator. We are very grateful to her and wish her all the very best in her new school.

## Opening doors to our future through enrichment activities...

### Year 3 Trip to Colchester Castle

On Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February Year Three visited Colchester Castle. They enjoyed spending time in the Museum Galleries taking on the role of archaeologists. They took part in various hands-on activities such as building a large Roman Villa and an Iron Age Round House. They also handled archaeologists finds and learnt about the Romans.



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

### Year 2 Visit from Florence Nightingale



Year 2 enjoyed a visit from Florence Nightingale. We learned all about her life and she taught us how to be nurses and soldiers in the Crimean War.



### Reception Trip to Boydells Farm

This term, Reception had a great time visiting Boydells Dairy Farm. The children were able to interact with the animals, by feeding and holding them while learning about them from Farmer Finn! They even milked a cow!



### Year 5 Trip to the British Museum



This half term year 5 were very lucky to visit the British Museum to further their understanding of the Egyptians. The children took part in a mummification talk where they learned all about the process and about the amazing mummies they have at the museum. They even found out that with different scans over the years they have been able to see what is inside the mummies, giving historians even more information about how the Egyptians lived and died. They then explored the exhibits and saw lots of artefacts. The children thoroughly enjoyed the day and were exceptionally well behaved, making us all proud.

### Year 6 Visit to the Harlow Museum

6King have been making teddy bears in Design Technology, as part of their WW2 history unit - learning how old material was used to make new things because of rationing. They also completed a home-learning project on Anderson shelters, and some of the children made fantastic models that they shared in a Collective Worship. As part of their PSHE learning, they went on a Crucial Crew adventure, where the children learned lots of important ways to keep themselves safe through workshops including: County Lines, Water Safety, Healthy Relationships and Road Safety.



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



## Opening doors to our future by developing a love of reading...

### World Book Day



Thank you for all your support with our World Book Day this month. The children had a great time dressing as their favourite book characters and the variety was brilliant!

KS2 classes were very lucky to be visited by the award-winning author Ray Starr, who led creative writing workshops. She taught the children all about developing characters and they thoroughly enjoyed having a go at creating their own.

Thank you for giving us your time Ray – it was very much appreciated!

## Opening doors to our future by supporting local and national charities...



### Comic Relief - Red Nose Day

Thank you for supporting our recent dress down day for Comic Relief. We raised £105.81 in total. We know the money will go towards helping lots of very worthy causes.

### Book Sale

Thank you for supporting our World Book Day book sale. The school council were really pleased to raise £84.85 for our school fundraising project. There will be more going ahead next half term so please look out for them.



### Coming up: Mini Marathon Fundraiser – Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April



On Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April that whole school will be taking part in a whole school 'Mini Marathon' to raise funds that will go towards a new wooden gym trail as sadly our current one can no longer be used. The children and staff will be running or walking all or part of 2.6 miles around our school field. Sponsorship

information will be sent out in a separate letter so please look out for it. It should be a great school community event!

### PTFA AGM

The PTFA will be holding their **AGM on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May**. Sadly, we will be saying farewell to several of the existing members who have worked incredibly hard to get the PTFA up and running again, reviving events such as the Christmas Fayre, movie nights and discos for the pupils. Huge thanks go to all of them for giving their time and energy so generously to help our school.

The AGM will be a chance for new volunteers to join the group. You may wish to take on a committee role or you may be able to offer help at events – all help is warmly welcomed! There is no need to book a place, feel free to just turn up and find out more.



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

Funds Raised for the new gym trail so far:

Mother's/Special Person Day Sale - £108.43  
 Disco - £300.81  
 Easter Egg Raffle: £221  
 Current PTFA funds: £1400

**Opening doors to our future through our Christian values...**

**Parent Forum – Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April at 1.30pm**

As you may know our existing Christian Values have been in place for several years and so in order to make sure that they are aligned to our new school vision, we are going to work as a school community to refresh these. Therefore, I would like to invite all parents/carers to attend a parent forum to discuss possible new values on **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April at 1.30pm**. Please just call or email to office to let us know that you are coming so that we can ensure that we have plenty of tea and biscuits for all!

**Upcoming dates:**

Spring 1:

Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April	First Day of the Summer Term
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 4 Swimming starts
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 4 Swimming
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Year 2 Trip – RHS Hyde Hall
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Year 4 Swimming
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank holiday School closed
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 5 Visit – Harlow College
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 4 Swimming
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> May	KS2 SATS Week
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 4 Swimming
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	Whole School Sports Day
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	Whole School Class Photos Year 4 Swimming (last Session)
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> May – Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> May	Half Term School closed

Wishing you and your families a restful Easter break.

Kind Regards

Mrs Casey Cox

Mrs Gina Bailey

Head of School

Executive Headteacher



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