



St James the Great Church of England

Primary School and Nursery

June Newsletter

As we reach the end of another incredibly busy and successful month at St James the Great, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our staff, children and families for their continued support and commitment. June has been packed full of exciting opportunities and memorable experiences for our children.

Sports Day.

Our annual Sports Day was a wonderful success and a fantastic celebration of teamwork, determination and sporting spirit. The children demonstrated excellent resilience, enthusiasm and encouragement towards one another throughout the event. A huge thank you must go to Miss Passfield for all of her hard work in organising such a brilliant event. The planning and preparation that goes into Sports Day is enormous, and we are extremely grateful for all she did to make the day run so smoothly.

Art Day.

We were delighted to hold our Art Day this month, providing children with the opportunity to explore their creativity and showcase their artistic talents.

A special thank you goes to Miss Killington, Mrs Knapp and Mrs McSkimming for their hard work, organisation and dedication in ensuring the day was such a success. The children thoroughly enjoyed the activities and produced some wonderful pieces of work.

Welcoming Our New Families

This month we held our parent meeting for children who will be joining St James the Great in September. It was lovely to see so many new parents and families, and we are excited to begin building relationships with them as they prepare to join our school community.

We are very much looking forward to meeting the children during our upcoming induction mornings.

Whole School Induction Morning

A reminder that our whole-school induction morning will take place on 6th July. Our teachers are extremely excited to meet their new classes and begin getting to know the children before September. These sessions provide a valuable opportunity to help children feel confident and prepared for the year ahead.

Staffing News

We are very pleased to let you know that Mrs Metaal will be returning over the next few weeks following her maternity leave. It will be lovely to welcome her back to the St James community. Mrs Metaal will be working alongside Mrs Ford in Orange Class, teaching on Thursdays and Fridays.

We are also delighted to welcome Mrs Bambridge to the St James team as our new Nursery Manager. Mrs Bambridge is a highly experienced Early Years practitioner who is committed to providing the very best start for our youngest children. We look forward to the positive impact she will have within our Early Years provision.

We also welcome Mrs Lockwood as a permanent member of staff in September working in the Ark. Mrs Lockwood is an excellent addition to the team and brings a huge amount of SEND experience.

Statutory Testing

May and June have seen a significant amount of statutory testing take place across the school. This can be a stressful and high-pressure time, not only for the children but also for the staff involved.

I would like to thank all of the staff for their professionalism, dedication and the considerable additional work that accompanies these assessments. In particular, Mr Fortuna, Mrs Ford, Mrs Groves, Miss Haswell, Mrs Victor and Mr Perren have worked tirelessly to ensure that children remained calm, confident and supported throughout the testing process. Their commitment throughout the year has helped our pupils approach these assessments positively and achieve the very best outcomes possible.

Year 6 Residential

At the beginning of June, our Year 6 children enjoyed a fantastic residential trip to Essex Outdoors, Mersea. Over three action-packed days, the children challenged themselves, developed independence, built friendships and created memories that will last a lifetime.

A huge thank you to Mr Fortuna, Mrs Groves, Mrs Bethell and Mrs Egan, who gave up their time to accompany the children and ensure they had such a wonderful experience.

Thank you also to our Year 6 parents for transporting the children to and from Mersea. This approach worked extremely well and saved the school a considerable amount of money compared to hiring a coach.

Looking Ahead

We are already making plans for next year's residential visit and are pleased to confirm that we have once again booked Essex Outdoors, Mersea.

To provide families with more information about the trip, Mr Fortuna and Mrs Groves will be delivering a presentation for children and parents on Tuesday 30th June, where they will talk through the experience, activities and key information for the year ahead.

As always, thank you for your ongoing support. We are incredibly proud of everything our children have achieved this month and look forward to the many exciting events still to come as we head towards the end of the school year.

Hot Weather

Gosh, what a warm week we have had!

The children have been absolutely amazing in coping with the unusually high temperatures. Thank you to all parents for your support in ensuring children have water bottles, hats and sun cream each day. Your help has made a real difference in keeping everyone safe and comfortable.

Hopefully, as we move into July, temperatures will return to something a little more typical!

A huge thank you also goes to Alex and Toby Freeman and the PTA for providing what seemed like an endless supply of ice poles to help keep the children cool throughout the week. We are also very grateful to our wonderful kitchen staff for allowing us to invade their freezers all week long!

Year 6 Bounce

This week, Year 6 began the 'Bounce' programme; a workshop led by Mr Pulford, designed to support children as they prepare for the exciting transition to secondary school and ongoing development into young adults.

Throughout the sessions, pupils engaged in a range of activities focused on personal development, building resilience, and understanding how they are evolving as young adults. The sessions encouraged thoughtful discussions about change, new experiences, and the opportunities and challenges that come with moving on to the next stage of their education

Best wishes,

Mrs L Turner



Tuesday 30th June	Non uniform day – Donation for the Summer Fair
Friday 3rd July	Summer Fair
Monday 6th July	Transition morning
Tuesday 7th July	Year 6 Performance to parents (AM)
Wednesday 8th July	Year 6 Performance to parents (PM)
Thursday 9th July	Red and Rouge trip to the farm
Friday 10th July	Reports to parents
Wednesday 15th July	St James Has Got Talent!
Friday 17th July	Last Day of Summer Term - Leavers Service

