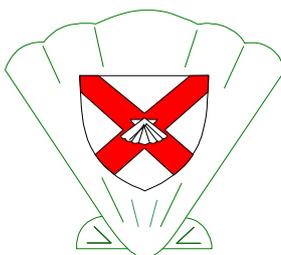


ST. JAMES' CHURCH OF ENGLAND JUNIOR SCHOOL

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Executive Headteacher: **John Tutt**
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14th December 2018

Newsletter 8 2018

A message from the Head of School

What a wonderful couple of weeks we have had! The days have been filled with nativity songs, carols and a lot of glitter (to the delight of the cleaners!).

The children in the Infant School have been incredible, taking part in five performances this week. They have made us all very proud with their singing, dancing and performing. Year 4 also had a performance week, wowing us all with their performance of 'The Inn Spectors'. I was so impressed with the dancing, singing and speaking – we could hear every word! It takes a lot of courage to stand up in front of hundreds of people and perform so a huge 'well done' to all the children. Thank you to you parents, too, for supporting your child by providing costumes, practising lines or songs and clapping/laughing loudly in the right places!

Next week, we have the carol services at the church. Please join us for a good sing – there is nothing better for the soul than communal singing!

May I take this opportunity to thank you all for making me feel so welcome and helping me settle into life at St James' – I can't believe I have been here for a whole term already.

All the staff and I wish you and your families and very merry Christmas and a peaceful start to the New Year. We look forward to seeing the children back in school on Monday 7th January 2019 (3rd and 4th are INSET days for staff only).

Debbie Johnson
Head of School

Christmas Service at St. James' Church – Tuesday 18th December at 2pm – Parents invited

Please do come and join us for the Christmas service and start your Christmas Festivities with the heart-warming sound of children singing carols!

Parking

One last nag about parking: we are still getting residents in Shrubland Court saying that parents are parking in resident places and also illegally. We have advised them to report illegal parking to the police and borough council. Please make sure that you park legally and are considerate of our neighbours.



Sport Report by Mr Hodges

Our basketball team played their play-off vs Staplehurst last week. After a tense match, the final score was 10-10 at full time. 2 periods of extra time were played and unfortunately, Staplehurst scored the only basket making the score 10-12.

Our football teams played against Claremont this week. In two very competitive matches, Claremont came out on top, beating our B team 1-0 in the final minute and the A team 2-1; the solitary goal coming from Alfie. The boys all played exceptionally well and will take lots of positives into our matches in the New Year. The Year 5/6 Indoor Athletics competition took place last week at the Angel Centre. Our team competed in lots of relays and field events and finished in an exceptional 3rd place out of the 9 schools. It was a great day out and the team all performed brilliantly.

In the New Year we have lots of football to play, the Year 3/4 Sportshall Athletics Competition and a Year 3/4 Squash Competition. We don't run a squash club in school, so if your child is interested in the squash competition please let me know.

Report from Mrs Gibson: Netball Club

Netball club has been a very popular club with year 5 and 6 again this year. At the Wednesday club all abilities of netballers come and are very enthusiastic to learn new skills and play games. It has been very encouraging to see the progress everybody has made. The Tuesday and Thursday morning practices are always fully attended by the teams and are very competitive and great fun.

We have been able to put out three Year 6 teams and, for the first time, two Year 5 teams. The year 6 A and B teams have been very successful in the Tunbridge Wells league. The A team winning all their matches while the B team have won most of them.

Besides the league, we have played a number of friendlies involving all the teams and we have won all but one of these.

I would like to thank Mrs Pearce and Mrs Dragon and Mrs Waller for their help and Mrs Simpkins for driving us to the matches.

Accelerated Reader Challenge

This term, all children have been taking part in our Accelerated Reader Challenge. Accelerated Reader is a programme the children use to complete quizzes on the books they are reading. All year groups have been competing against each other and there have been weekly announcements in our celebration assembly. It has brought such a buzz around the school about reading and all teachers are extremely proud of their classes.

The winners this term are:

Highest word count per class: 6S – 14,514,301

Highest word count individually: Eleanor T (5W) – 3,760,385

Highest amount of quizzes completed: Eva G (4H) - 74

This challenge will begin again in January, so please encourage your children to get involved!

Miss Stock

News from Year 6

For many of our children, the start of Year 6 was an anxious time with the 11+ looming. However, we are incredibly proud of how hard all children have worked this term – with huge smiles on their faces throughout!

Through our topic we have been exploring different ways to care for the world, which has been eye-opening and inspiring for all. They have produced fantastic up-cycled products and have all pledged to continue their fight to heal our world! We have all thoroughly enjoyed reading 'Floodland', 'Skellig' and the incredibly imaginative writing the children have produced.

We wish all the children a Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing them in 2019!

Year 6 Team

School dinner booking system change

Nourish will be changing their system in the new year. Parents will no longer have to book meals online and teachers will take a daily register. Meals will be paid for in the usual way on Parentpay. See the attached letter for more details.

Choir

We have been enjoying learning Christmas songs in the run up to the church service. Not only that, we have started to learn songs for the Singing Festival that takes place in February in the Assembly Halls. We were very pleased with the theme, 'Songs from the shows' and would encourage anyone else that is interested to come along on Monday lunchtimes after Christmas...the more the merrier!

Mrs Anna Holland

News from Year 4

Year 4 have had a great time rehearsing for their school production of '**The Inn Spectors**'. From scarily serious inspectors that have come to inspect all the inns in Bethlehem, to a really rather hilarious donkey who would like nothing more than a foot spa after his treacherous journey - this play has it all! We hope that you had as much fun watching as we had performing!



News from Year 3

3R have really enjoyed choreographing and practising their dance to 'Sparkle and Shine' for the end of term entertainment.



Dates for your diary – Please keep check the website for dates to the end of the year

03/01/2019	Staff development day – Children not in school
04/01/2019	Staff development day – Children not in school
07/01/2019	Children’s first day back
08/01/2019	5S & 5Y first swimming lesson
11/01/2019	3R & 3P first swimming lesson
15/01/2019	Deadline for Year 2s to apply to Junior school
16/01/2019	PTA meeting in Infant Community Room at 8pm – Parents encouraged to come along!
15/02/2019	Last day of term 3
25/02/2019	First day of term 4
27/02/2019	Swimming Gala at St. John's Pool – 6.30 to 9.00pm
27/02/2019	Year 6 only class photos - pm
01/03/2019	PTA meeting in Infant Community Room at 8pm – Parents encouraged to come along!
07/03/2019	World Book Day – Children to dress up as their favourite book character
19/03/2019	Parent Consultations - 3.30 to 6.30pm
20/03/2019	Parent Consultations - 3.30 to 6.30pm
02/04/2019	Easter Service at St. James’ Church with Infants – Children only
05/04/2019	Last day of term 4
05/04/2019	Strictly Cool Dancing – TW & Area Schools’ dance competition at Assembly Hall
23/04/2019	First day of term 5
01/05/2019	PTA meeting in Infant Community Room at 8pm – Parents encouraged to come along!
06/05/2019	May Bank Holiday
w/c 13/05/2019	Yr 6 SATS Week – Monday to Thursday
w/c 13/05/2019	Yr 5 CATS Week – Monday to Wednesday
15/05/2019	Year 5 transition to Secondary School talk at 7.00pm
24/05/2019	Last day of term 5
01/06/2018	11+ Registration opens
03/06/2019	Staff development day - Children not in school
04/06/2019	First day of term 6