



Headteacher's Welcome

It seems like only yesterday that I wrote my first letter as Headteacher at St James'. The half-term has flown by and we can now celebrate all that has been achieved. Whereas my regular letters provide a greater focus on the operational aspects of school life, our half-termly newsletters are a moment to pause, reflect and celebrate the incredible effort your child has demonstrated.

In these rare moments of pause, I am struck by the immense privilege it is to play a small part in your child's journey. In helping to cultivate a love of learning and for those around them, they have understood the role they have to play as part of ours and the wider community. This was so clearly demonstrated in our Harvest service earlier this month where we were thankful for what God has given us and demonstrated this in our generous giving. We lived out the words of Jesus when he said 'Love your neighbour as yourself.

Next term, we will explore our core value of hope. We will look at what it means to be aspirational in our learning but how we should also hope to build a better place for us all to flourish.

Thank you again for your ongoing support. Your personal words of encouragement helps strengthen my resolve that St James' is a place where all children and staff can experience life in all its fullness.

Have a restful half-term.

Mr Lawford



St. James'
CE First School



Diocese of Salisbury
Academy Trust

KEY DIARY DATES

- 31/10 INSET
- 01/11 First day of Autumn 2
- 02/11 South Sudan Clothes Collection
- 02/11 Open Evening
- 18/11 Children in Need
- 18/11 PFA Movie Night
- 23/11 School Photographs
- 03/12 PFA Christmas Fair
- 08/12 Christmas Service
- 13/12 Christmas Jumper Day



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

For much of this term we have been welcoming 'Open the Book' to lead our Wednesday collective worships. They have dramatized some exciting Bible stories which the children have loved. Some of them also took to the stage in their acting debut!

LAURA ROBERTS

Snow Leopards Teacher and Assistant Headteacher



What a fantastic half-term it has been! The children have made an excellent start to their time in Snow Leopards. It has been wonderful to see them demonstrating such positive attitudes and showing commitment to their learning. It was a pleasure accompanying the Year 4 children to Salisbury Cathedral this week and watching them perform with confidence and enthusiasm – what superstars they were!

This half-term, Snow Leopards have enjoyed reading both Charlotte’s Web and Secret Seven. During our English lessons, the children have produced some brilliant non-chronological reports and have written their own adventure stories based on the picture book ‘Jumanji’ by Chris Van Allsburg. Our Maths lessons have focused on place value and the children have explored learning linked to addition and subtraction. In Science, Year 4 have learnt about the digestive system, teeth and food chains and Year 3 have deepened their understanding of different types of rocks and investigated their properties.

May I take this opportunity to thank the school community for the warm welcome I have received – I feel privileged to be part of the St James’ team and excited for the rest of this academic year!



SNOW LEOPARD CLASS NEWS





PUMA CLASS NEWS



ISOBEL ASHBY

Puma Class Teacher



I've had a super start to my second year of teaching with the wonderful Puma Class. I really can't believe that's another half term gone- where does the time go?

The children have been brilliant this half - term, with their smiley faces and enthusiasm for their learning. It has been a pleasure to watch the children embed our school values, through endless acts of kindness and happy friendships.

This half term, Puma class have been reading 'Fantastic Mr Fox' which has had the children in stitches! They thoroughly enjoyed it. During our English lessons, we have been writing our own journey tales, inspired by The Gingerbread Man. The children have been very imaginative with their writing- creating comical and original narratives!

In maths, the children have been focussing on place value, addition and subtraction. Whilst, also practicing TTRS on the side, their times tables are developing brilliantly!

Overall, the children have made a seamless transition into Puma class and I'm excited to see what adventures and successes are next!

I wish you all a relaxing half term!

SARAH MILWARD

Lynx Class Teacher



I am incredibly proud to be teaching at this friendly, community school. Having joined St James' in January, I am really looking forward to spending the whole year with Lynx Class, following the flow of seasons and cyclical activities and events. I have been teaching for many (many!) years and in a variety of different schools but the community, children, families and staff at St James, make this a wonderful school to work in. Thank you all for welcoming me so warmly!

Children at St James' really do thrive educationally, socially and physically; our school values of love, hope and truth underpin all that we do. All pupils are loved, valued and encouraged to achieve their very best.

My mission has always been to promote a lifelong love for learning. My aim is that in Lynx Class (and this applies across the school) we offer a rich and rewarding curriculum, with a focus on active learning and creative, hands-on experiences for all pupils. Our children love a challenge, they embrace all that we offer; their enthusiasm and energy results in a school that is genuinely a joy to be a part of.

It's been lovely to meet so many parents this term. Please remember my door is always open, and there is no problem too small.

Wishing you all a lovely half term break.



LYNX CLASS NEWS





AMANDA WALKER

Ocelot Class Teacher



OCELOT CLASS NEWS



It has been so lovely getting to know all of the children in Ocelot Class over this half term. We have had a really lovely start to our school journey together and the children have settled so well, coming through our gate independently with big smiles on their faces. They have been kind and considerate to one another and also shared quite a few giggles together along the way! We have learnt new routines and enjoyed exploring all areas of the classroom - I wonder which area is your child's favourite? Is it creative, writing, maths or the cosy reading corner? Maybe outside, performing on our stage or making mud pies in our mud kitchen?

The children have started their school life so well. This half term we have talked a lot about our families and have enjoyed looking at family photos and talking about who is in our family. We have labelled body parts, talked about and used our senses in our smelling station, played listening games and have been on a nature walk. We have loved learning new sounds, reading new words and even writing new words - the list is endless!

Next half term our theme is 'Into the Woods' and will cover learning about nocturnal animals, night and day. We will talk about and explore celebrations including Bonfire night, Christmas and family customs.

Have a restful half term.



HINTON MARTELL

For many year St James' partnered with our local church in Holt. A church had been on this site since 1284 but sadly closed its doors in 2020 at the height of the pandemic. We have been looking to build new partnerships with our local village churches and are excited to be using Hinton Martell church as 'home' for the coming years. Why not join us at the church for our Christmas service on the 8th December

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

The foundation of a successful school is building strong and meaningful partnerships with parents and the wider community. We are proud of the partnerships we already have and are actively looking to strengthen and develop new ones.

A MESSAGE FROM MARK

It has been a great privilege this term to welcome Mr Lawford and Miss Roberts to the team at St James'. We all recognise the challenges that the last couple of years have brought, but it certainly feels like we have turned a corner and I am sure you will have felt the openness and engagement of the new team. As a Trust, we are thoroughly enjoying working with the new leadership and staff team at the school, and they are really enjoying the challenge of taking further significant strides on their journey of on-going improvement.

At the end of September, I brought the whole DSAT team to the school for the day. This was partly for a training and development session that we needed to have, but also because we wanted to help the school out. We spent a couple of hours clearing some of the clutter, and hopefully helping everyone to be able to see the wood for the trees. According to Mr Lawford, we completed something in just a few hours that it would have taken the school a long time to get on top of. Above all, we enjoyed spending more time getting to know the staff, talking to a number of the children, and meeting some governors and parents after school.

Your school is very special, and I can feel the pride beginning to return. I know Mr Lawford has come back to you in more detail about the parent survey. Thank you for sharing your comments which have been considered carefully by the school's leadership team but also by us as Trust leaders. I am sure you can already sense a number of significant developments and that you feel you have reason to be hopeful. The children of St James' are very special, are being taught and supported by a talented group of staff and incredibly dedicated governors, and we are all determined to deliver the very best for everyone. Thank you for all you do to contribute to the life of the school.

Mark Lacey (*Chief Executive*)



SUPPORTING SOUTH SUDAN

Developing both local and global partnerships is so important in giving our children an understanding of how they can play an important role in giving back to their community.

Earlier this week we invited Dr Robin Sadler, a retired local GP, to speak with our children about his work supporting Salisbury Sudan Link, providing much needed medicines and training. Whilst we might not be going to the Sudan ourselves, we can also play our part in helping!



[Find out how to help out.](#)



St James' Parents and Friends Association (PFA) is a charity with the aim of advancing the education of students at the school. This is expressed in various ways; providing daily fruit snacks, supporting special events throughout the year, provision of additional equipment and funding special capital projects, such as the upcoming library project. We also combine fundraising events with the intent to develop the children's social engagement with movie nights, discos etc.

All school families are automatically members of the PFA. The PFA is led by a small committee, but the most vital element is *you*. Your PFA needs your time, little or large, to support fundraising activities, sub-committees and general "help on the day". We would love to hear from you.

Please find us and contact us at <https://fb.me/stjamespfa> or pfa@stjames.dsat.org.uk

Kirk Myers-Smith

PFA Chairperson



PFA CALENDAR

- 18/11** Movie Night
- 03/12** Christmas Fayre
- 07/12** Christmas Colouring Competition Deadline
- 03/02** School Disco
- 13/05** May Fayre
- 09/06** Ice Cream Fridays



WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

Our PFA do an incredible job and as a school we are so grateful for them. PFA funding has enabled us to fully revamp our aging library over the upcoming Christmas holidays and we can't wait to show it off!

OPEN EVENING

Do you know someone whose child is starting school this September? Why not tell them about our school open evening.

Wednesday 2nd November

17.30 – 18.30

For more details visit

www.stjames.dsat.org.uk/admissions



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Christmas is such an exciting time for all of us (although starting in September is sometimes a bit much). This year we are once again partnering with the Samaritan's Purse to support Operation Christmas Child. This project seeks to send Christmas parcels containing small gifts and essential items to those children less fortunate across the globe.



[Read Miss Robert's letter to find out more](#)

Shoeboxes must be in school by the 21st November.



KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE

Our number one priority is to keep your child safe. Our safeguarding team work closely with the wider school team to ensure that there are robust and clear procedures in place and that staff receive regular training. If you have a concern, please speak to a member of the safeguarding team.



Daniel Lawford

Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Laura Roberts

Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead



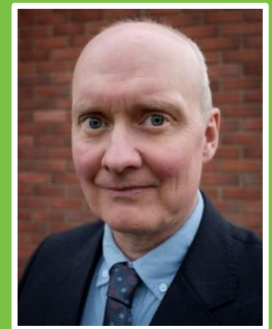
Sarah Clayton

Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead

INTRODUCTION TO GOVERNANCE

As chair of governors, I thought it appropriate for me to launch this new section that will tell you a bit about who the governors are, what they do and a little about me.

I have been part of the school community since 2015 when my son, started at St James'. I rapidly developed a passion for education and from my experiences as a Dorset police officer and my wife's experiences as a teacher, have no doubt that a rounded education is a critical investment in young people and the bedrock of a civilised society. My son has since moved on, but I remain as passionate about this school as ever.



St James' joined the Diocese of Salisbury Academy Trust (DSAT) in 2021 which effectively replaced the Dorset local authority. Academy trusts are non-profit companies responsible for running state-funded schools. Within DSAT, our governing body is known as an Academy Standards and Ethos Committee (ASEC) and that title tells you a lot about what we do. Governors are community representatives for the school, who give strategic direction to its ethos and hold school leaders to account for its performance, both academically and pastorally.

Our ASEC has a prescribed structure, including the Headteacher and a staff member. The chair is no more important than any other member, but acts as a team leader and point of contact. Our foundation governors are responsible for developing school ethos, ensuring that Christian values are embedded throughout and preparing us for our SIAMS inspections. Elected parent governors directly represent the parent community and trust governors complete the ASEC.

Individual governors take responsibility for key areas such as early years, health and safety, safeguarding, special educational needs and pupil premium. We meet formally each half term, but you will see us in school, escorting trips, meeting staff and carrying out monitoring work to support the school in reaching its goals. I take pride in really knowing the school, its wonderful staff and children and this cannot be done from behind a desk! Governors were key members of the panel that selected our new leadership team earlier this year and we are loving the new focus, energy and momentum as we work together to take St James' forward after a challenging couple of years.

As for me, I was a police forensic collision investigator and since retiring have worked in motor insurance claims investigation, driver training, run a cafe and supervised Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions. I love travel, skiing, scuba diving, music, camping, nature, being a dad and am a 3rd Dan in Tae Kwon-Do.

Please so do say hello if you see governors at school and please do contact me about any concerns, or if you are interested in becoming a governor. The school office will be happy to pass a message to me.

Cliff Beard – Chair of Governors