



**Headteacher's Welcome**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Another half-term draws to a close and I am so incredibly proud of every child at St James'. Ploughing through the winter months can often feel tiresome, as if Summer might never come, but the children's vivacious attitude and love of learning has made me smile every day. We have used Spring Two to focus on our core value of love, finishing off the famous words in Corinthians we started in the Autumn term.

Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.

1 Corinthians 13:6-7

This week's collective worship rounded of our theme with three simple words, 'Love Never Fails'. It is a concept so often popularised in books and movies, that love will always overcome evil. However, our heart at St James' is so much deeper than that. We have seen that love allows our friendships to grow and develop even when we get it wrong. It is love that allows us to celebrate the successes of those around us without feeling frustrated. It is love that keeps us trying our best in every situation and achieve our goals. And it is love that drives my incredible team to always look for the best in every child and provide a well-rounded learning environment, so a huge thank you to them.

As we bring our Spring term to a close it is wonderful to see the bulbs we planted in the Autumn term bringing some colour to our playground. There was a moment when I did not think anything would flower, but it was a relief to see the bank burst to life as the warmer months approach. The summer term is by far my favourite term, not only are the days longer and warmer (and I'll be able to get out on the paddleboard after work), there is just so much in the calendar to look forward to!

As always, have a restful holiday break and we looking forward to welcoming the St James' community back for the Summer Term.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Lawford



**KEY SUMMER ONE  
DIARY DATES**

- 17/04 INSET Day
- 18/04 First day of Summer One
- 18/04 Spring Interim Reports Sent Home
- 01/05 Bank Holiday
- 02/05 Snow Leopards at Ancient Technology Centre
- 02/05 School Prayer Meeting
- 04/05 Puma at Ancient Technology Centre
- 05/05 King's Coronation Celebration
- 08/05 Bank Holiday
- 09/05 Class Photographs
- 13/05 PFA May Fayre
- 16/05 Year 3 & 4 Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra Visit
- 18/05 Year 1 & 2 Multi-skills Festival at Cranborne Middle
- 24/05 Sports Day
- 26/05 Last day of Summer One

**LAURA ROBERTS**

**Snow Leopards Teacher and Assistant  
Headteacher**



It has been another brilliant half-term in Snow Leopards. In our English lessons, the children have written their own fantastic portal stories and created their own settings, characters and plot. They have also written their own explanation texts linked to their own inventions.

In addition to this, the children have enjoyed reading the historical adventure story: 'The Secrets of a Sun King' by Emma Carroll. Next half-term, we are looking forward to reading 'The Night Bus Hero' by Onjali Q. Raúf which explores important themes of bullying and homelessness, while celebrating kindness and friendship. This half-term, we also celebrated World Book Day and it was wonderful to see the children come into school dressed as their favourite book characters and promote a love of reading.

During our Maths lessons, learning has focused on fractions and for Year 4 we have also started learning about decimals. The children have enjoyed using visual representations to support their learning and continue to develop their use of mathematical talk.

The children in Snow Leopards continue to be full of creativity. During our Design Technology lessons, the children have designed, made and evaluated their own pneumatic toys. In our computing lessons, they have shown great problem-solving skills using Logo to test code and write their own. As part of our geography learning, the children have impressed me with their brilliant knowledge of climate zones and biomes. During British Science Week, the children also showed excellent team working skills, completing scientific investigations.

Next half-term, we will be learning about the Anglo-Saxons and are looking forward to our trip to The Ancient Technology Centre to support with this learning. We are also looking forward to our visit to the Lighthouse in Poole to watch the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra.



**SNOW LEOPARD CLASS NEWS**





## PUMA CLASS NEWS



**ISOBEL ASHBY**

**Puma Class Teacher**



As we quickly approach the Easter holidays, I'd love to share our highlights this term. This half term has been super busy with trips, visitors and heaps of hard work. The children have gone above and beyond in representing the school and 'wowing' me with their perseverance and hard work!

In our whole class reading sessions, we have been looking at 'Leon and the Place Between' by Angela McAllister. This is a beautifully illustrated picture book, which takes you on magical journey at the circus! The children have thoroughly enjoyed this book, whilst developing their 'VIPER' skills. We have written a wishing tale, using Pie Corbett's 'King of the Fishes' as our focus. We focussed on creating strong openings, by varying from traditional openings to using dramatic speech. The children impressed me by writing exciting, magical tales, incorporating all the writing skills they have learnt. We then turned to non-fiction and wrote a recount of our wonderful trip to Wimborne Minster.

In Maths, Year 2 have been developing their measuring skills focussing on Length and height, plus mass, capacity and temperature. Whilst Year 3 have been learning about fractions and mass and aapacity. The children continue to be excellent mental mathematicians and develop their problem solving and reasoning. They have enjoyed many practical lessons measuring and weighing objects in and outside the classroom.

During British Science Week, both Year 2 and 3 carried out some exciting experiments. They worked collaboratively, showing superb predictions, observations and conclusions. It was brilliant to see them all enthused with their learning.

In our Design Technology lessons, we have been making castles. The children have showed true perseverance and determination in the building phase. It has been wonderful to see lots of team work; sharing and helping each other out. I am totally mesmerised with the final outcome, they are fab!

I must say how proud I am of their hard work and courage for our class worship. It was great to see so many of them step outside their comfort zone and speak aloud in front of the school. The adventures will continue into the summer term but for now, Mrs Hobbs and I wish you a wonderful, relaxing Easter. I must say I'm looking forward to riding my horse and eating lots of chocolate!

**SARAH MILWARD**

Lynx Class Teacher



This half term the children have been enjoying exploring the story of The Bog Baby. This has resulted in some fabulous writing! In a recent writing moderation session, the other teachers were impressed with the writing that Lynx Class had produced. The visit from the author, Eileen Browne, certainly sparked enthusiasm for writing stories (with children writing their own books at home for our book corner!).

Adults and children alike enjoyed World Book Day! Lynx Class loved their story time with Mr Lawford and reading with children from other classes across the school. There were scavenger hunts and other reading challenges but the most exciting aspect was the dressing up – thank you for your support with this, the children looked fantastic!

In Maths we have been focusing on numbers to 50, addition and subtraction to 20. We have been also been exploring height and length, mass and volume. After Easter, we will be learning multiplication and division as well as fractions and geometry (position and direction). Thank you for all the support you give your children with their learning at home it is truly invaluable and can be as simple as counting in 2s, 5s and 10s up to 100 and back whilst in the car.

In Design Technology, the children have been busy making Easter puppets, looking, in particular, at different ways to fasten materials. Geography has focused on the weather and Computing on Lego Builders and programming a robot. Lynx Class's theme for British Science Week was 'Life Under Water' and the children shared with me their passion and ideas for looking after our planet, especially the importance of preserving and protecting our underwater eco systems.

Once again, a plea for support in Lynx Class - we really need adults to help hear readers, support with interventions or do some admin jobs around the classroom. If you are able to spare an hour or two a week, that would be fantastic – please just let me know.

Wishing you all a Happy Easter!

Mrs Milward



**LYNX CLASS NEWS**





## OCELOT CLASS NEWS



AMANDA WALKER

Ocelot Class Teacher



Another half-term flown by! We've had a great Spring 2 term and have managed to pack in so much learning and not forgetting our first class trip to Launceston Farm. I think this has to be the highlight of the half-term. We were well looked after at the Farm and were able to find out about worms and how they play such an important job to keep our soil healthy. We also had the opportunity to make our own bread rolls. We found out what was needed to make bread and were able to grind the wheat to make flour. We were able to then use this and other ingredients to make our own bread. The children had such a great time and we were so proud of the way they all acted with integrity on this trip.

Our learning this half-term has been centred around animal lifecycles and the farm. We have been lucky to have tadpoles in the classroom and have seen them hatch from the frogspawn and have enjoyed watching them grow bigger. We have also had 'live' eggs in the classroom and have counted down the days until they were ready to hatch. The children were so excited to see the chicks hatch. This has been such a special 'awe and wonder' experience, thank you Mrs Hamer for making this happen.

Next half-term our theme is 'Once Upon a Time' and we will cover learning about plants and growth. We will be learning about what is needed to help plants grow and carry out some planting of our own. We will also have a big focus on Kings and Queens and will look forward to the King's Coronation. We will learn about lots of London landmarks too and where these are in relation to each other using maps.

We hope you all have a restful Easter holiday and look forward to seeing you all next half-term.

## BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK

On the 13<sup>th</sup> March, we launched this year's science week, focussing on the seventeen United Nations sustainability development goals. Each class used their science lessons throughout the week to look at how science could be used to achieve these ambitious goals.

Year 4 enjoyed their visit from Mr Stevens who works for Wessex Water. They explored how much water we use and water efficiency. They carried out a water filter investigation in groups. They were challenged to see which group could turn the dirty water into clean water.

*Mrs Milward (Science Coordinator)*



## WORLD BOOK DAY AND AUTHOR VISIT

With our continued focus on supporting reading across the school, World Book Day is always a highlight of the school calendar. There was joy and excitement as the children guessed each other's favourite book characters as well as officially opening our library. Just a week later, we welcomed author Eileen Brown to school who helped to inspire our children with her wonderful writing. Our Key Stage 2 children took part in her illustration workshop whilst our youngest children were active participants in her creative story telling.



## THE EASTER EXPERIENCE

Puma class were able to explore what the message of Easter means to Christians when they visited Wimborne Minster to take part in the 'Easter Experience.' In small groups, the children rotated round five interactive activities, each re-telling a part of the story. They learnt the meaning of this for Christians and how they can learn from the message of Jesus' life and death.

Thank you to the Minster for hosting us, for the volunteer team who helped support our trip and to Puma class for being outstanding St James' ambassadors.

Miss Ashby



## OUR CHRISTIAN DISTINCTIVENESS

It is so important to teach the children at St James' the roots behind our vision and values. We want our children to grow in love, hope and truth. However, we don't just want them to be ideas, we want them to be lived out in their actions. If our children believe deeply what love, hope and truth means for them and our wider communities, we should see it acted out in their actions; faith demonstrated by deeds.

## A MESSAGE FROM REVEREND SUZIE

Hi! I'm your local friendly Vicar. I work for the local Church in the area (covering villages from Shapwick through to Horton) and St James School in Gaunts Common sits comfortably within my jurisdiction. So 'What does that mean to me?' I hear you ask. Well, the Church endeavours to be a place of love and acceptance to everyone, no matter what. I have the privilege of leading it, the people as well as the buildings. Along with others we move around the community helping where we can in whatever way is required/helpful.

For me, I move around people's homes (on invitation) and community settings such as schools. I can be a listening ear, a helping hand, an advocate... you name it. So how can the Church help you? Do always bear us in mind – it is often at times of greatest need that we can be the most helpful.

Reverend Suzie Allen



Members of the 'Open the Book' team retell the Easter story from the writings of John.





## YEAR 4 CROSS COUNTRY

Earlier this month, a team of 10 year 4 children took part in their first competitive sporting fixture at Castle Court School. Representing St James' is a great privilege and it is our desire that all children have the opportunity to compete either individually or as part of a team each year.

The team traversed a challenging 1500m course alongside seven other first schools and all performed admirably. A special mention goes to Milly who was 4<sup>th</sup> in her race and Joshua and Freddie who came in the top 10. Merley First took the team prize, but we'll be back next year to try again.

*Mr Lawford*

## PLAYGROUND MARKINGS ENCOURAGE ACTIVE PLAY

As a school, we have a responsibility to promote and support the development of healthy children. Children who know what foods to eat and not eat and children who understand the benefits of exercise. However, more important than this is developing children who have a love of physical activity that will last. Over the half-term break, we were able to renovate our playground space, installing a new playground games shed and replacing the tired and aging playground markings.

In the Summer term, we will launch our new orienteering course, which will be used in physical education lessons across the school. Orienteering promotes problem solving in the outside environment, collaboration and teamwork and has proven benefits for both physical and mental health of those taking part. We have two new courses to suit the age and ability of the children and have been able to link it to other curriculum subjects. Watch this space for our family and community orienteering event.



## WORLD WATER DAY

As part of our desire to live out our core values, we are always looking for opportunities to give back to our global community. Water is a commodity that we can so easily take for granted, yet there are millions without the running water and toilet facilities they need for basic life. For World Water Day, we all dressed in blue and sold cakes to raise money so that we could give something back, twinning three of our toilets with facilities in Malawi, Uganda and Zambia.



Thank you to all those who donated cakes, we raised a total of £190.



## COMMISSIONING SERVICE

Earlier this term, I had the privilege of attending Salisbury Cathedral for a commissioning service for new headteachers within the Diocese. I was able to speak with the Bishop at his residence about the acute challenges we face as leaders in education as well as attending Evensong later that day.

At the beginning of Evensong, the seven headteachers made promises to lead with integrity, to always ensure children receive the best education we can provide, to give generously of ourselves and be faithful to the duties and responsibilities we have been given.

## DORSET PARENT LINE

ParentLine 5-19 launched in November 2022 and is aimed at Parents and Carers of Children and Young people aged 5-19 to seek advice and support for their child from a member of the School Nursing team via text message. The School Nursing team can help Parents with Healthy eating, weight management, day/night time wetting, toileting, sleep, hearing, behaviour, emotional health and wellbeing and more. Parents that have already used ParentLine 5-19 have fed back that they have found it a convenient and easy way to gain information, advice and signposting to further support without needing to wait for an appointment.

ParentLine 5-19 runs from Monday to Friday 9am-4pm during Term times (excluding Weekends, Bank holidays and School Holidays). Parents can text their query to **07312 263131** and will receive an immediate bounce-back message to let them know their message has been received. We aim to respond within 24 working hours. More information on ParentLine 5-19 can be found on the School Nursing Web page [www.dorsethealthcare.nhs.uk/school-nursing/parentline](http://www.dorsethealthcare.nhs.uk/school-nursing/parentline)

## SAFEGUARDING



Daniel Lawford  
Designated  
Safeguarding Lead



Laura Roberts  
Deputy Designated  
Safeguarding Lead

## PARENT GOVERNOR

We still in need a parent governor and would love you to be part of the team. If you think you could support the school in this way, please [follow this link](#) to express your interest.