



## Headteacher's Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers,

The first part of the summer term has been full of community spirit and aspirational hope. The May Fayre, Coronation Party and Sports Day were all outright successes and I am so grateful to all those involved in making everything a success.

In our approach to sports day, I used Collective Worship to consider how we can use our Christian value of Hope to celebrate the successes of others (even if they might not be on our team). I cannot be more proud of how all our children demonstrated this quality in my first sports day at St James'. I was particularly moved by one competitor who, when beaten on the line in a close fought contest, turned round, gave his friend a handshake followed by a chest pump!

It was of course a triumphant community event only made possible when the individual parts that make our school so special were able to shine together. Whether it was the team out late setting up the night before; parents marshalling the many cars who needed to park; supporting family and friends cheering on their loved ones or my fantastic staff team showing once again how much can be achieved when we work together. Can I also express my gratitude for your kind words and encouragement; I want to create memories for your children and Sports Day should always be something everyone remembers.

At the beginning of the week, I shared this Bible verse with the children...

*"And let us consider how we may spur one another  
on toward love and good deeds."*

Hebrews 10:24

As we look ahead to the final seven weeks of the year, we all might need a little 'spurring on'. With the end of year show on the horizon, as well as many leavers events, I know we will definitely need lots of help to avoid burning out.

For now however, we have all earned a half-term break.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Lawford



## KEY SUMMER TWO DIARY DATES

- 05/06** First Day of Term
- 15/06** New Reception Welcome Evening
- 21/06** Lynx Farm Visit
- 26/06** Year 4 Bikeability
- 27/06** Year 4 Bikeability
- 30/06** Year 4 Rounders at Cranborne Middle
- 03/07** 'The Secret Garden' Theatre Production
- 06/07** Year 4 Leavers at Salisbury Cathedral
- 07/07** Transfer Day
- 11/07** Layard Matinee Production
- 12/07** Layard Evening Production
- 20/07** Year 4 Leavers Evening Celebration
- 21/07** End of Year Celebration

**LAURA ROBERTS**

**Snow Leopards Teacher and Assistant  
Headteacher**



It has been an action-packed half-term with lots to be celebrated. Firstly, I would like to congratulate the children on their excellent behaviour on our two off-site visits. The children took part in a variety of hands-on activities at the Ancient Technology Centre to support their history learning about the Anglo Saxons. In addition to this, the children enjoyed the wonderful opportunity of watching the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra perform at Poole Lighthouse. Many were inspired by the wonderful performances. Other highlights of this half-term for Snow Leopards have included our St James' street party to mark the Coronation of King Charles III, as well as performing traditional maypole dances at the May Fayre! I was very proud of the children for showing fantastic perseverance and brilliant teamwork.

This half-term, we have enjoyed reading our class text, 'The Night Bus Hero' by Onjali Q. Raúf which explores many important issues and promotes the message of kindness and helping others. In Mathematics, we have focused on important real-life skills through developing confidence working with money and telling the time. Year 4 continue to work hard practising for their upcoming multiplication check by developing their confidence recalling facts up to 12x12. Don't forget to get involved with our Times Table Rockstar Battle of the Bands competitions. In Science, Year 3 have completed their learning on animals including humans and Year 4 children have developed their understanding of electricity and particularly enjoyed making their own circuits. In R.E., I have been impressed by the children's understanding of Pentecost and their thoughtful contributions. During our art lessons, the children have enjoyed their learning linked to sculpture and in our computing lessons have shown fantastic creativity when designing their own animations.

It's hard to believe the final half-term of this academic year is fast-approaching. It is set to be a busy one with our end of term production and leavers' celebrations. Wishing everyone a lovely half-term.



**SNOW LEOPARD NEWS**





## PUMA CLASS NEWS



**ISOBEL ASHBY**

**Puma Class Teacher**



A super half term filled with excellent learning, trips and sports day! As always, the children have thrived with their learning and flourished in embedding truth, hope and love in every school day.

During our English lessons, we have focussed on writing a character description, inspired by Fantastic Mr Fox. They have excelled in drawing on previous knowledge and skills to craft a descriptive piece of writing. Their creativity always blows me away!

In our reading sessions, we have spent time learning the poem 'In the Magic Box' by Kit Wright, by which the children showed courage in performing it to the class. We have spent time reading 'How to grow dragons' by Andy Shepherd which has had us all in giggles imagining what it would be like to own our own pet dragon!

In maths, both year 2 and 3 have been learning about fractions and time. They have shown a solid understanding in fractions through positive engagement and accurate problem solving. They will all continue to develop their time skills as we head into the next term but so far Puma class are showing lots of resilience and hope with their learning.

As we reflect on our fabulous trips, we had a super time visiting the Ancient Technology Centre in Cranborne. It was a great opportunity to jump into the shoes of someone living in the Stone or Iron age. It was great to see them all engaged and joining in so well with all the activities- especially archery!

The Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra was also a fabulous morning out. Year 3's danced and sang brilliantly. They did St James' proud.

It has been brilliant to end the half term with sports day. It's always one of my favourite events, seeing everyone shine and work together. A big hurra to all those competitors- you were fab!

I wish you all a lovely week's holiday, we all deserve it!

**SARAH MILWARD**

Lynx Class Teacher



Another busy and productive term has passed in Lynx class and I think that following sports day, we are all in need of the half term break!

In Maths, the children have been learning multiplication and division and fractions. It has been wonderful to see, through our explore sessions, the progression in their reasoning skills and problem solving approaches. They are becoming really great mathematicians!

Our English this half term has focused on the Great Fire of London- we have made story maps and have been learning and rehearsing the text and writing our own versions. We have also been inspired by Samuel Pepys to explore diary writing. The children never cease to amaze me with their innovation and creativity!

Lynx Class all seem to have loved delving deeper into the historical events surrounding the Great Fire of London and have been looking at life in Stuart England and events of that era that led to this devastating historical event. We have looked at timelines and the children are able to sequence events and discuss their significance.

Our whole class reading has also focused on key skills, including inference and deduction and we have loved reading Vlad and the Great Fire of London and learning about this event from the perspective of a flea!

The multi-skills trip to Cranborne Middle was a great success and the children really did us proud. The sports leaders at Cranborne Middle looked after us really well and were impressed by our children's great sporting abilities.

Our next trip is to Launceston Farm on the 21st June where we will be looking at where our food comes from. The venue is amazing and the children have a wonderful space to eat and learn as well as getting out into the fields to access the activities planned outside.

Wishing you all an enjoyable and (hopefully) sunny half term break.

**LYNX CLASS NEWS**



## OCELOT CLASS NEWS



AMANDA WALKER

Ocelot Class Teacher



We've had a fantastic half-term in Ocelot Class. Our theme has been 'Once Upon a Time' and our learning started with a hook, based on the text 'Jack and the Beanstalk' when we found magic beans in our outside area along with a note from Jack. We then learnt this story in our Talk for Writing sessions, were able to retell it using our stage area, and enjoyed performing it to our friends. We have also enjoyed describing the character of the giant and his castle and have been using adjectives within our writing to help extend our sentences when writing independently.

We have loved learning about plants this half-term and finding out what they need to help them grow. We have conducted an experiment to see where beans grow best (with water and sunlight, with sunlight and no water, with water and darkness and with darkness and no water) and enjoyed watching what happens to these beans. We have planted potatoes, peas, strawberries, sunflowers and cress. We then used our cress as part of our English session to learn to write instructions to make a cress sandwich. We had mixed feelings about the cress sandwich but I'm glad to say most of the children were willing to try them!

We have learnt about castles and have been able to find out about their features. We have used this key vocabulary when we have made our own castles from Lego, large blocks and Duplo. We loved finding out who would live in a castle and this led us on to talk more about the monarchy. We wanted to write to King Charles and sent him a card ahead of the Coronation to wish him a fantastic day, really living out our vision of Love. We are hopeful for a reply! We had a great day when the whole school celebrated with traditional games and a picnic.

We've been fascinated by the city of London and have enjoyed exploring it using the Beebot robots and creating maps of the area. We are able to name some of the landmarks around London and have painted pictures of Big Ben, described the Houses of Parliament and have an understanding of the history of the Tower of London.

Next half-term takes our learning around the world! Our theme is called 'Let's Explore our Wonderful World' where we will explore different continents, animals, and arts/crafts within them. Wishing you a restful half-term holiday and look forward to seeing you all soon.



## SPORTS DAY SPECIAL

Sports Day is always a highlight of any school year and we had a wonderful time celebrating and competing at our annual Sports Day. Children were in mixed age teams and competed for their colour house throughout the day. The morning field events were a blend of throwing, jumping and multi-skills activities with all children earning points for their team.

In the afternoon, parents and carers joined us on the school field for our track events. We packed in almost 50 races, from the egg and spoon to mixed team relays. The children competed wonderfully throughout the day, demonstrating our value of hope for all as they cheer on their friends to achieve their best.

A huge thank you to those parents and governors who offered their time and support to set up, run the event and pack down after. We could not have done it without you.





*'It was so much fun to watch everyone compete'*  
*'It was the best day of the year!'*  
*'I wish I was year 3 so I could do it again!'*  
Year 4 Pupils



*'It was such an action packed day'*  
Year 3 Pupil



*'It was the best sports day ever!'*  
Year 3 Pupil





Puma Trip to the Ancient Technology Centre.

## THE WIDER CURRICULUM

Throughout the school year, we have been fortunate to be able to take part in a wide variety of trips, visits and extra-curricular activities. By the time we wrap up for summer, we will have done 15 school trips, welcomed a variety of special guests, including Eileen Brown and The Secret Garden Theatre production as well as putting on our own show in the Layard Theatre. The wider curriculum is such an important part of 'what we do!' It gives children a depth of experiences, grows their confidence and increases their opportunities.

This term, Year 1 and 2 took part in a multi-skills sports festival at Cranborne Middle, Puma and Snow Leopard's supported their history learning with trips to the Ancient Technology Centre and Year 3 and 4 watched the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra at the Lighthouse.



Snow Leopard Trip to the Ancient Technology Centre.



Year 3 and 4 Visit to the Lighthouse



Year 1 and 2 Multi-Sports Festival at Cranborne Middle



## COMMUNITY IN ACTION

Our community is such an important part of who we are at St James' and was recognised and celebrated in SIAMS earlier this month. Our inspected commented that there was a 'tangible sense of family' around the school. I could easily fill many pages of the newsletter with how the community makes our school a better place. Our hope is that by living out our core values of love, hope and truth we can also play our part in supporting and serving our wider community.



## CORONATION PARTY

We had a special time celebrating the King's Coronation as a school community. Children took part in a variety of games in the afternoon, working as an effective team with children from all year groups.

The highlight of our celebrations was a Street Party out on the playground. It was a privilege to sit the whole school down to celebrate in traditional fashion, waving flags and sharing food together. A huge thank you to those parents who helped setup and serve the food, we could not have done it without you!

Our afternoon finished with a Celebration worship in the hall, joined by around 50 parents. Children had prepared a special Coronation song and came into worship waving their flags they had made earlier in the day. We were reminded that we are all leaders and should always act with love and justice to those around us.



## COTTAGE NURSERY

St James' Cottage Nursery aims to create a safe space, working as part of a community with the children, parents, and staff to support each child as an individual, while gently guiding them to be the very best that they can be.

We have the privilege of being able to extend this community to include St James' First School, working in close partnership with their Early Years team to create a curriculum that forms a strong educational foundation and a gentle transition from Nursery to Reception year.

In the Summer term we have an exciting opportunity for the children to go across to St James to explore the grounds and get to know their future teacher by joining Mrs Walker for singing. Having this early introduction helps the children to familiarise themselves with the space which in turn helps them feel confident and safe, both of which are essential building blocks for a successful learning journey.

We are looking forward to continuing to build and strengthen our relationship with St James ensuring that your children have the best all round care.



Claire Bischoff

## MAY FAYRE

A huge thank you from the PFA to everyone who contributed to our wonderful May Fayre earlier this month. The children's country and Maypole dancing was a wonderful highlight, the raffle was jam-packed with incredible prizes, the BBQ was absolutely delicious, the games, stalls and craft activities brought such joy to the children, and to top it off, the sun shone down on us all day long! Hooray! These events take a lot of planning and hard work behind the scenes, and only work with your help and support.

We are so lucky to have such a lovely school community pulling together to create happy memories for the children and raise money for the school. The May Fayre raised a whopping £2,600! What an achievement! Watch this space for updates on how we will be spending these vital funds to enrich your children's experience and learning at St James'!

If you'd like to be more involved in the PFA, search "St James' PFA" on Facebook to find us, email me at [pfa@stjames.dsat.org.uk](mailto:pfa@stjames.dsat.org.uk) or make yourself known to us in person at school. Look out for us after the May half term selling ice-creams and treats on the playing field after school.

Best Wishes & huge thanks from Kathryn Earl (May Fayre Planning Committee) and all of us at the PFA.



## KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE

Roblox is one of the most popular video games on the market. As a 'sandbox' title, it offers a huge amount of creative freedom for its community. If you want to be clued up on how to keep your children safe, this guide is a great place to start.



[Roblox Parent Guide](#)



Daniel Lawford

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