



HEADTEACHER'S WELCOME

Dear Parents and Carers,

With the summer term half-done, the long summer break is on the horizon and judging by the size of this newsletter, it has already been a busy half-term.

Last week was Mental Health Week and we continue to utilise Stormbreak across the school as a vehicle for promoting the five themes of Resilience, Self-Care, Self-Worth, Relationships and Hope & Optimism. We have been 'Stormbreaking' as a whole school and linked these to our Collective Worship theme of Hope. In our final assembly together, we explored what it meant to have given our best as we looked back over the half-term. We read this short verse from the book of Romans...

'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope.'

Romans 15:13

I am heartened by the idea of what it means to 'overflow with hope' because I see it happening all around me at St James'. Whether it is the children always giving their best in their learning or demonstrating love for their friends in an act of selflessness. We also see it when our community comes together at the events we have hosted. Spare a moment to thank the staff team as term ends, they are endlessly overflowing with hope as they give over and above what is expected of them to provide for our children.

Finally, as we set our sights on the future, Year 4 begin their transition work and will, in a few weeks, close the St James chapter. But before that, we have so much to look forward to; choir performances, sponsored walks, leavers events and of course Peter Pan! Hopefully the sun shines on our half-term.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Lawford



St. James'
CE First School



Diocese of Salisbury
Academy Trust



KEY DIARY DATES

- 03/06** First Day of Summer Two
- 04/06** Year 3 & 4 Run, Jump and Throw Festival at St Michael's Middle
- 06/06** Choir Performance in Wimborne for D-Day Celebrations
- 13/06** New Year R Information Evening
- 17/06** Year 4 Bikeability
- 18/06** Year 4 Bikeability
- 19/06** Year 4 Leavers Service
- 20/06** Oliver Twist
- 22/06** PFA Summer Fayre
- 27/06** Sports Day (Take Two)
- 28/06** Transfer Day
- 06/07** Staff Sponsored Walk
- 12/07** New Year R Taster Session
- 17/07** Peter Pan Rehearsal and Matinee
- 18/07** Peter Pan Evening Performance
- 19/07** New Year R Taster Session
- 22/07** Year 4 Leavers Service
- 23/07** Thank You Celebration Service
- 23/07** Last Day of Term

LAURA ROBERTS

**Owls Class Teacher and Assistant
Headteacher**



What an incredible half-term we have had! I continue to be amazed with the brilliant learning that has taken place and the teamwork shown.

Some of our favourite highlights of this half-term have included performing our Maypole dances at the May Fayre and mastering the tricky Spider Web dance. The Hooke Court residential was yet another wonderful opportunity for Year 4. The children enjoyed an action-packed, three-day trip full of exciting opportunities and glorious sunshine. The children represented St James' wonderfully and it was a pleasure to accompany them.

Within our reading lessons, we have been enjoying reading 'The Explorer' by Katherine Rundell. We are looking forward to finishing this book after half-term and discovering whether or not the children can make it to Manaus! Our geography learning has taken us on a journey to Madrid and we have enjoyed learning about Spain's capital city and contrasting it with London. In English, we have become travel agents and have written our own persuasive adverts encouraging people to visit Madrid.

With the Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check quickly approaching, we continue to work hard at recalling our times table facts. Both Year 3 and Year 4 have also completed learning linked to fractions and money. During science, Year 3 have completed their learning on plants and Year 4 children have developed their understanding of electricity and particularly enjoyed making their own circuits.

Our art lessons have seen the children inspired by the work of Friedensreich Hundertwasser and the children have designed their own piece of architecture that they will make after the half-term break.

Our final half-term is set to be another busy one with Year 4 Leavers' celebrations and our whole school production of Peter Pan to look forward to. Wishing the St James' community a brilliant half-term!



OWLS CLASS NEWS





HOOKE COURT SPECIAL REPORT

Our Year 4 children had a fantastic residential at Hooke Court - we just cannot believe how much they managed to fit into three days! Upon arrival, year 4 got straight to work with a Viking workshop. They were making jewellery, translating Viking runes, trying their hand at weaving, re-enacting a Viking battle and they even made a wattle and daub fence. After an evening meal, everyone gathered around the campfire for some fun, games and singing. On day two, we celebrated the great outdoors and learnt the power of working as a team. Children took part in shelter building, negotiated the low ropes course and navigated the orienteering course across the beautiful site. The final morning, children worked in teams to create their own rockets which were then launched into the sky

A huge thank you to everyone at Hooke Court for hosting us and to the St James staff team who went above and beyond to give our children a wonderful experience.





"I loved my time away at Hooke Court. My favourite part of the trip was the rocket workshop because our rockets went 200 metres in the air! I also enjoyed the den building and spending time with my friends."



"Hooke Court was an amazing trip. I enjoyed all of the activities but especially enjoyed the fossil making and den building. I loved using my creativity and making fantastic memories."

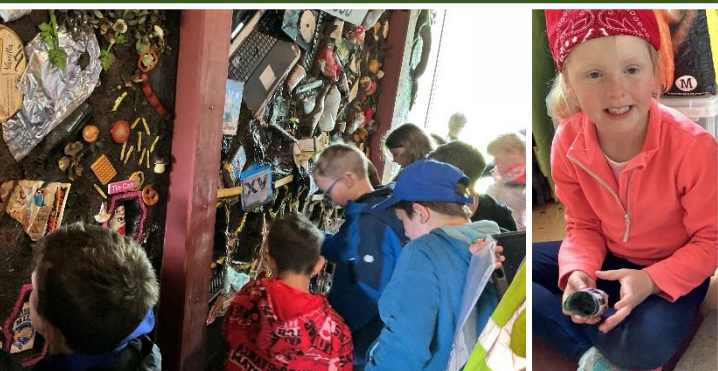


"I had the best time at Hooke Court and really enjoyed all of the Viking activities we completed. I enjoyed helping to make the pottage and learning more about the past. We had lots of fun singing songs around the campfire."





SQUIRRELS CLASS NEWS



HOLLY ANNELS

Squirrels Class Teacher



A super half term filled with excellent learning, teamwork and an offsite visit where the children demonstrated to the best of their abilities how to represent St James. 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 non – chronological report all about sea turtles, inspired by our book Clean Up! They have excelled in drawing on previous knowledge and skills to craft an informative piece of writing. Their creativity and independence always blows me away! In our reading sessions, we have enjoyed Red panda rescue together which has had us all on the edge of our seats waiting to find out what happens next. Year 2 and 3 also both had a go at reading and creating poems, with year 2 also looking at performance poetry and how to engage the reader.

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 Squirrels class are showing lots of resilience and determination with their learning.

As we reflect on our fabulous trips, we had a super time visiting the Carymoor environmental centre. It was an opportunity to become an eco pirate for the day and learn all about what happens to our waste. It was great to see them all engaged and joining in so well with all the activities – especially out parrot pots!

The May dancing was fabulous with Squirrels all working together to create a performance that they were truly proud of, the routine was really tricky and required lots of concentration but everyone showed great teamwork skills. We have finished the term creating our own tasty but healthy packed lunches in DT – some sandwiches were too good to even make it home to be shared!

I wish you all a lovely week's holiday, and look forward to hearing all about it!

TRACY HOBBS**Hedgehogs Class Teacher**

Wow! This really does feel like the quickest half term of them all! We have had another wonderful six weeks with the children demonstrating just how much they have matured and developed in confidence. They are all such a hardworking group who encourage, help and support each other at every turn.

Plants have been a big focus this half term! In science children have explored the signs of spring within our beautiful grounds and garden. We then had a go at planting our own plants and seeds. The children have loved watering them and watching them grow - looking at the differences between each of the plants.

Our 'Inspired by Nature' topic in art saw us examining in detail the work of William Morris – a British textile designer famous for his wallpaper designs, through which he intended to bring the outside indoors. In our sketchbooks we recreated some of his designs and then carefully did our own sketches of flowers and leaves. Finally, we designed our own print tile which we carefully rolled with ink and then printed in a repeating wallpaper design and they are now on display in school!

In geography Hedgehog class have been investigating the seven continents and five oceans of the world. We have compared the temperatures, physical and human features of Africa, Antarctica and Europe as well as looking at the importance of our oceans and how we can help to protect them.

Antarctica became our focus in our English lessons when we wrote non-chronological reports on emperor penguins and elephant seals. The children blew me away with the independent research they carried out on the iPads! They also did a super job of writing out the facts and presenting them beautifully in their information text. The children have loved the narrative and viper reading work we have done on 'Beegu', 'The Night Pirates' and 'The Day the Crayons Came Home'. They have written some wonderful sentences explaining how the characters are feeling at different points in each of the text.

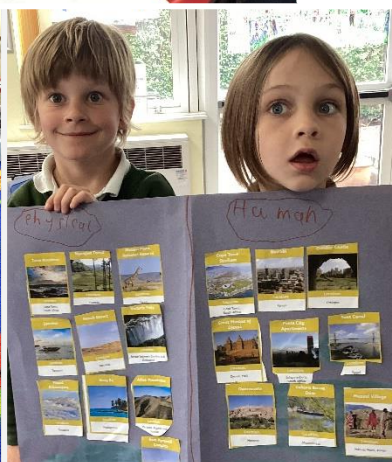
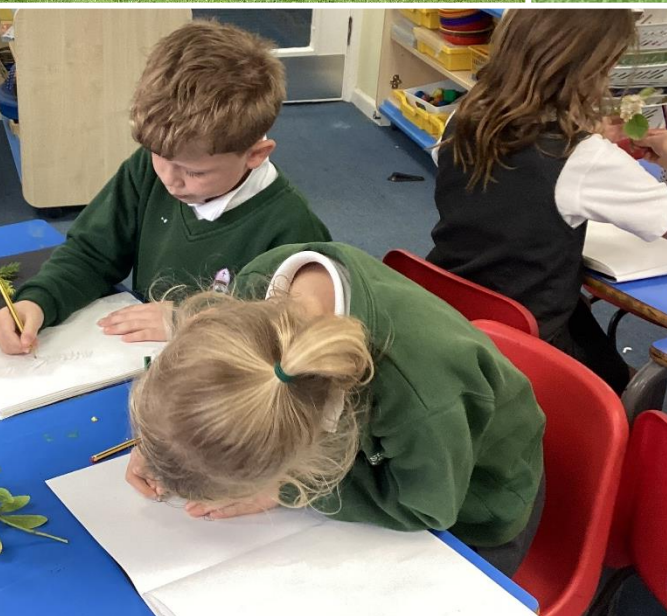
During our maths lessons all the children have been busy learning about multiplication and division through drawing arrays and solving sharing and grouping problems. We have also explored fractions both of shapes and quantities, we put our thinking caps on to work out which numbers could be quartered, looking at the link to the four times table! Year 2 have also been learning to tell the time whilst year one finish the half term focusing on directions and positional language.

This has also been a key part of our computing learning as we have been investigating how to operate the 'beebots' and getting them to move from one position to another. Hedgehogs were also very excited to get out the iPads to use the maze explores activities on Purple Mash, navigating characters around various maps and courses.

Our focus RE has been looking at what Shabbat means for Jewish children. We have explored the traditions of the Shabbat, including the importance of preparation and the stages of the Shabbat meal. Hedgehogs reflected on the positive and negatives of not being allowed any electronic devices during Shabbat.

Thank you again for all your hard work and support you give every day to the children in Hedgehogs. Next half term we will be heading off to Wimborne Model Village for our class trip, as we explore changes in Wimborne for our History project. There will be more dancing and singing and we will be making our own vehicles in DT!

HEDGEHOGS CLASS NEWS





FOXES CLASS NEWS



AMANDA WALKER

Foxes Class Teacher



This half-term seems to have gone by in a flash! We've managed to pack in lots of learning around our theme 'One Upon a Time'. It all started with a 'hook', based on the text 'Jack and the Beanstalk' we found magic beans, gold coins, a cow and a hen. We then learnt this story during our carpet sessions and then enjoyed retelling and performing it using our stage area outside. 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, beans, sunflowers and cress to name a few. We then used our home-grown cress as part of our English session and followed instructions about how to make a cress sandwich. We had mixed feelings about the cress sandwiches but I'm glad to say most of the children were willing to try them, especially as we added a few more ingredients, such as cheese and cucumber!

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 then painted portraits of King Charles III and the late Queen and made crowns and practised walking like a King or a Queen with a heavy crown on our heads!

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. Hopefully the children have come home talking about the Ravens and how they are known as the 'Guardians of the Tower' and the legend that comes with them.

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.



Year 4 Cross Country

A huge well done to our Year 4 team who competed at Castle Court School across a challenging cross-country course. The team finished 3rd overall which is a tremendous achievement.

A special mention must go to Arthur J and Mason who finished 1st and 3rd in the boy's race to bring home the silverware for St James'.

Samba Experience with Dorset Rural Music School

Foxes and Hedgehogs took their music outside as we welcomed the Dorset Rural Music School to St James' First School - Wimborne. Felix, a percussionist for over 20 years, had all the children taking part and enjoying playing Samba in our wonderful Peace Garden for the afternoon. Thank you to the Mansel-Pleydell Trust for supporting the event.



OTHER NEWS FROM ACROSS THE SCHOOL



May Pole Dancing

The May bank holiday weekend begun with some fantastic traditional country dances around the Maypole. Community events, such as this, highlights the strength of our community with so many parents, carers and family out to support everyone. A huge thank you to St James' PFA for providing tea, coffee and so many cakes. The money you raised continues to bless the school and provide more opportunities for our children.

Year 1 & 2 Multi-Skills Festival

It was such a privilege to welcome Witchampton CE First School to St James' for a Year 1 & 2 Multi-skills Festival. Children competed in a variety of sporting activities to earn points for their team. Sports Leaders from St Michael's CE Middle School did a fantastic job hosting the friendly competition and were a credit to their school. Well done everyone for a wonderful afternoon.



SCREEN ADDICTION

It can be challenging to know whether our children are spending too much time on their devices. It's even more of a challenge to know whether a child is addicted to the internet and social media. As technology is becoming more pervasive, children and young people are experiencing tech - related dependencies. Do we as parents and carers have the knowledge to identify and support children and young people who may be developing an addiction to their devices?

TOP TIPS

3. Limit Screen Time

Rather than banning them from using their devices, we suggest setting a screen time limit. Work out what you think is a suitable and healthy amount of time for your child to be on their device per week.



4. Encourage Alternative Activities

It may seem like an obvious solution, but encouraging children to play with their friends, read a book, or playing outdoors will help them realise they can have fun without their device.



5. Lead by Example

Children model their behaviour on their peers, so if their parents are constantly on their device, they will see this as acceptable. Try limiting your own screen time and follow the same rules you have set for them.

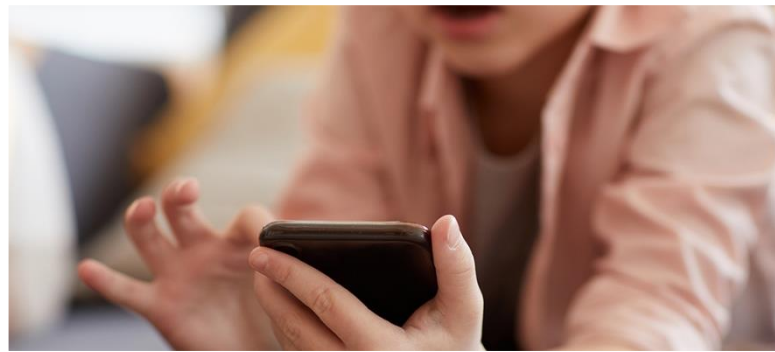


57% of 3 & 4 year olds spend at least 8 hours on screens a week

79% of children aged 5-7 go online for nearly 9 hours a week

94% of children aged 8-11 go online for nearly 13.5 hours a week

99% of children aged 12-15 go online for nearly 21 hours a week



1. Mobile Free Mealtimes

Have you tried to settle your child by giving them a tablet at the dinner table or restaurant? This may seem like a quick fix to calm them down but in reality, it is encouraging them to use their device as a distraction from conversation and dealing with their emotions.

2. Device Free Bedrooms

Setting a rule about removing devices from bedrooms will help your child to get the sleep they need and be more focussed the next day at school.

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