



HEADTEACHER'S WELCOME

Dear Parents and Carers,

When we looked at the calendar for Spring Two, we knew it was jam packed with exciting opportunities to excite and inspire our children. Whilst the planned curriculum ensures all of the statutory teaching requirements are met, it is often the extra-curriculum, the above and beyond, the enriched activities, that creates memories the children take away. It makes St James' a special place for both staff and children. Here's a flavour of Spring Two.

Spring Two Events

Visitors to School	School Trips	Celebration Days	Performances
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 4 Wessex Water Keith Hatton Author Visit and Workshops Tim Laycock visit to Squirrel's class Samba Rehearsals with Dorset Music Service Hatching chickens in Reception 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Squirrels Performance at Blandford Parish Owls Anglo Saxon Day at Carymoor Foxes Farm Trip Year 3 and 4 Tag Rugby Festival 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Book Day Science Week Celebration Afternoon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hedgehogs Parent Share Community Easter Service Owls Samba Performance

For such a small school, none of the above can take place without the incredible commitment of the staff and volunteers who serve our school. Whether it is researching venues, completing risk assessments or organising teams, I would say a huge thank you, thank you, thank you!

Over the Easter break we have a number of school improvement projects taking place. We will be replacing the carpets in all of the communal areas, painting all the doors throughout the school and finally filling the pot holes in the car park. Against the backdrop of financial challenges facing the whole public sector, it is so important to continually maintain our site and make sure it provides the best possible learning environment.

Have a wonderful Easter break, don't eat too much chocolate!

Yours faithfully,

Mr Lawford



St. James' CE First School



Diocese of Salisbury Academy Trust



KEY DIARY DATES

- 15/04 First Day of Summer One
- 17/04 Interim Reports Sent Home
- 19/04 PFA Mufti Day
- 22/04 Reception Height and Weight Checks
- 25/04 Reception Vision Screening
- 26/04 Year 4 Cross Country Fixture (Rearranged date)
- 29/04 Dorset Council Talks to Squirrels (Geography)
- 03/05 Maypole Dancing and Family Event
- 06/05 Bank Holiday Monday
- 08/05 Year 4 Hooke Court Residential
- 16/05 Squirrel's Visit to Carymoor Environmental Centre
- 17/05 Think Bigger Day
- 18/05 Breakfast Church
- 22/05 Sports Day
- 24/05 PFA Mufti Day
- 24/05 Last Day of Summer One

LAURA ROBERTS

Owls Class Teacher and Assistant
Headteacher



What an extremely busy half-term it has been with different trips, visitors and events!

This half-term saw Owls become historians and they developed their understanding of the Anglo-Saxons. We enjoyed our educational visit to Carymoor Environmental Trust where we took part in a day of action-packed activities. The children represented St James' wonderfully and I was very proud of them all.

Another class highlight was performing our final samba concert where Owls showcased their learning from the Dorset Musicianship Programme. Over the last ten weeks, the children have developed their understanding of different samba instruments and independently created their own samba grooves. What fantastic teamwork was demonstrated!

The children have impressed us with their design technology learning linked to cooking and nutrition. Owls have developed their understanding of seasonal foods and the advantages and disadvantages of importing food. They carefully considered the design request and their design brief when creating their own seasonal tarts.

It was wonderful to see the children's costumes on World Book Day and the children enjoyed a day of book-related activities. This half-term, we have enjoyed reading 'The BFG' by Roald Dahl. During our English lessons, Owls have written some fantastic character descriptions relating to this learning.

Our maths lessons have seen learning focused on fractions and for Year 4 we have also started learning about decimals. The children have continued to impress us with their dedication to become fluent with their times table facts and they are showing great progress with this.

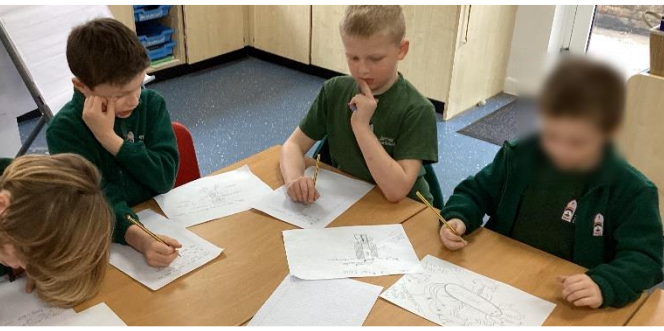
There are so many exciting events and opportunities to look forward to next half-term with the Year 4 residential, Maypole dancing and Sports Day to name a few! I can't wait to see what Owls can achieve.

Wishing everyone a happy Easter!



OWLS CLASS NEWS





SQUIRRELS CLASS NEWS



HOLLY ANNELS

Squirrels Class Teacher



As we quickly approach the Easter holidays, I'd love to share with you 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 amazing me with their perseverance and hard work! In our whole class reading sessions, we have been looking at 'Oscar's Lion' by Adam Baron. This is a new book that took us on an adventure all the way to the Battle of Trafalgar! The children have thoroughly enjoyed this book, whilst developing their 'VIPER' skills. Within our English we have written a story using 'Jim and the Beanstalk' as our focus. We focused on creating strong openings, by varying from traditional openings to using dramatic speech and using a wide range of vocabulary. The children impressed me by writing exciting, humorous tales, incorporating all the writing skills they have learnt as well as putting into practise their amazing cursive handwriting.

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 capacity. 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 joined with year 4 and 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 Art we have looked at sculptures and had a go at creating our own sculptures inspired by the work of Barbara Hepworth and Peter Randall-Page, before using charcoal to recreate these on A3 paper. 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 performance at Blandford church, they have worked so hard this last half term learning their songs and the outcome truly showed their perseverance and determination to master the songs. It was great to see so many of them step outside their comfort zone and stand on a stage in front of so many friends and family members. The adventures will continue into the summer term with more exciting visits but for now, Mrs Shergold and I wish you a wonderful, relaxing Easter spending time with friends and family.

TRACY HOBBS

Hedgehogs Class Teacher



At the beginning of the half term we launched our 'Explorers' topic by trying out our own map reading skills by finding our way around the new school orienteering course. In our history lessons, we looked at two very different explorers, Christopher Columbus and Felicity Aston. Columbus, the first European to discover the Americas, was a controversial figure and the children showed great maturity, discussing both his achievements and the negative impact his discovery had on the people living there. They were also in awe of Felicity's achievements skiing solo across Antarctica!

In maths, children have been solving problems involving length, height, mass and capacity. We had great fun pouring different volumes of liquid from containers with different capacity as well as comparing different class room objects to find out the longest and the shortest!

It was so lovely to see all the children dressed up for World Book Day – you all made such a fantastic effort and it was so good to see such a range of book characters! It was great that the day fell during our work on Fairy tales.

The children enjoyed acting out both the Three Billy Goats Gruff and Goldilocks and the Three Bears and their understanding of the stories saw the children produce some amazing writing this half term. They have described the troll and where he lived, wrote wanted posters to find Goldilocks and diary entries as Baby Bear.

Hedgehog class have also been busy solving the problem of how to make Baby Bear a new chair! In Design Technology lesson, they learnt about stability and strength in structures, carrying out tests to see which plasticine shapes were the most stable and which shaped card tubes were the strongest. When it came to making the chairs there was lots of rolling of cards, bending straws and pipe cleaners and sticky everything together with tape!

Alongside this the children learnt all about materials and their properties in their science lessons. They went on a material hunt around the school, identified what materials objects are made from and started to make predictions and carry out a fair test. The children tested to see which material was most absorbent and which were waterproof.

Our focus RE has been looking at why Easter is so important to Christians. We have explored the symbols of Easter, sequenced the Easter story and discussed the various events that made up Easter week. Children have thought about the concept of 'forgiveness' and worked together as a team to create a collaborative piece of artwork.

Thank you again for all your hard work and support you give everyday to the children in Hedgehogs. I hope you all have a fantastic two weeks; the children definitely have earned a break they always work so hard! I'm very excited about next half term as once again we will be brushing off our dancing bells and being inspired both by nature and the work of William Morris in art! We be going off on an adventure exploring oceans and continents in Geography as well as getting our hands dirty planting seeds and plants.

HEDGEHOGS CLASS NEWS



FOXES CLASS NEWS



AMANDA WALKER

Foxes Class Teacher



We've had a great Spring 2 term and have really embraced our theme 'All Creatures Great and Small.' We were so excited about our class trip to Launceston Farm and this was definitely one of our highlights. 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, which then produces healthy crops. We also had the opportunity to make our own bread rolls. We were shown some wheat and talked about this being an essential ingredient to make bread, and were then able to grind the wheat to make flour. Making our own bread rolls was very exciting and they smelt delicious after they were baked. The children had such a great time and we loved seeing their excitement across the day.

Our learning this half-term has been centred around animal lifecycles and the farm. This started with the children exploring the lifecycle of a frog in the water tray and small world area. The children loved creating their own lifecycle pictures to show their understanding of this process. Later in the term we enjoyed reading the 'Little Red Hen' and were very lucky to have had 'live' eggs in the classroom once again. We enjoyed counting down the days and waited with great anticipation, and eventually saw the eggs hatch. We have had 10 very cute and fluffy chicks in the classroom for us to look after and handle carefully. This has been such a special 'awe and wonder' experience; thank-you Mrs Hamer for making this amazing experience happen once again.

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 learn about how and where they are crowned. We will learn about lots of London landmarks too and where these are in relation to each other using maps.

Thank you all for your continued support. We hope you all have a restful Easter holiday and look forward to seeing you all next half-term.



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 and then took part in an afternoon of book themed activities. It was wonderful to see the children enjoying the book café where our older children took time to share their favourite books with our younger readers. Earlier in the week, we welcomed author Keith Hatton Brown to school who helped to inspire our children with his wonderful writing.





Wimborne Minster Easter Experience

We had a wonderful time at Wimborne Minster taking part in the Easter Experience. Our children learnt about how the Easter story is important to Christians and through a series of guided reflections were challenged to think about how they can make a positive impact on our world.

THE ENRICHED CURRICULUM

The St James' Curriculum is rich with opportunities within the school but also outside of the classroom. The Spring term has been busy with Trips, Visits and Visitors. We have had 4 school trips, a number of sporting fixtures and a wide range of visits into school. The diverse range of opportunities the children are offered gives them fond memories that they will carry with them and help shape their ambitions. We continue to work hard to secure funding and grants to enable us to keep the cost of these experiences as low as possible.

Owls Anglo Saxon Day

Owl's class had a fantastic visit to Carymoor Environmental Trust as part of their Anglo-Saxon unit of work. They used traditional Anglo-Saxon tools to grind grain and create willow plates. They shared their knowledge of Anglo-Saxons and had the opportunity to dress up in traditional tunics and explore the centre using the Anglo-Saxon orienteering course.



Foxes Farm Visit

Foxes class had a wonderful trip to Launceston Farm as part of their Understanding of the World topic. They explored what makes healthy soil and were able to dig up worms and talk about the role they play. They then went back to the farmhouse to bake some delicious bread, thinking about how a small seed eventually becomes flour for baking.

Squirrel's Performance at Blandford Church

Squirrel's joined other schools from across Dorset to take part in the Dorset Rural Music Project. They learnt three traditional Dorset folk songs and performed them with Tim Laycock at Blandford Parish Church.





A FOCUS ON FUNDRAISING

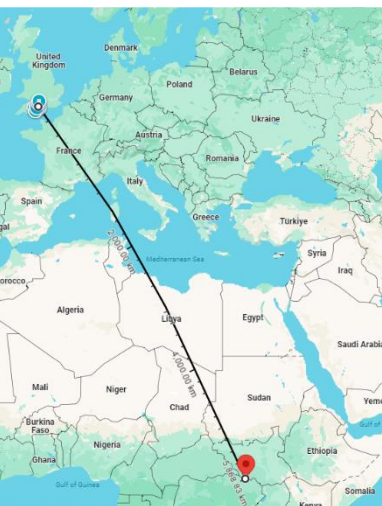
In our Easter Celebration Service, Owl's class led the school in some prayers for the nations. They challenged us to think about how grateful we should be for all that we have, even in a time of huge economic uncertainty. The pressures facing all public sectors budgets continue to be a huge worry for school leaders but when some schools can't even afford pens, it does put things into perspective.

In our mission to live out our Biblical values, we have challenged ourselves to raise £500 to send out to Mangbondo Primary School in South Sudan.

COULD WE WALK TO SOUTH SUDAN?

Here me out on this one... It is roughly 3647 miles to Mangbondo Primary School in South Sudan as the crow flies. If every child walks 3 miles we would have walked 10% of the distance. But what if they brought their mums, dads, brothers, sisters, grandparents, neighbours and even their dogs. What if members of the wider community joined us from across our surrounding villages. If that were to happen I think we could quite easily 'Saunter to South Sudan'.

An idea is hatching for a family fundraising walk at some point in the summer term, watch this space.



SUPPORT BCP MATERNITY

A team of maternity staff (including our very own Mrs Green) will be climbing Snowdon on 4th May 2024. To make the climb even more challenging, they will be wearing baby dolls in slings all the way to the summit!

Colleagues ranging from administrative support through to consultant obstetricians will be climbing the mountain to raise funds for our new maternity unit being built at the Royal Bournemouth Hospital site. The money raised will help to buy items aimed at making our families as comfortable as possible during their stay with us, hopefully reducing any anxieties they may have. Items such as mood lighting, soft furnishings and artwork would be funded by this walk.

Check out Mrs Green's [JustGiving page](#) to find out more and make a pledge.

PEGI RATING EXPLAINED

If you have children, it is understandable to have concerns about the films and TV shows they watch, as well as the games they play.



What are PEGI Ratings?

PEGI ratings are split into age restriction and content descriptors. Additional 'content descriptors' help parents and children to understand the type of content featured within a particular game, including sex, fear, bad language, discrimination, gambling, drugs, violence, and in-game purchases. In combination, the two different ratings can provide a good level of information to help make informed decisions regarding the suitability for your child.

Are there limitations with the PEGI System?

It's possible for young people to buy games online without a required proof of age, opening them up to age-inappropriate content without you knowing. We advise that you regularly monitor your child's gaming activities and maintain an honest and healthy dialogue with them about the online world.

Can I use parental controls?

It is essential to put in place parental controls for all online accounts which your child may use to purchase or download online games e.g. The App Store, Google Play Store, PlayStation Store and Microsoft Xbox Store etc.



IS YOUR CHILD PLAYING FORTNITE?

'Fortnite - Battle Royale.' is a free to play section of the game 'Fortnite.' The game sees 100 players dropped on to an island from a 'battle bus,' where they have to compete until one survivor remains. The last remaining player on the island wins the game. Players have to find hidden items, such as weapons, to help them survive longer in the game.

Should I let my children play Fortnite?

There is a long and short answer to this question. With the right parental controls some of the risks of exposure to offensive language and random strangers can be mitigated, but this still does not detract from aggressive nature of the game. It has a PEGI rating of 12 and Common Sense Media recommends it for children aged 13 and over.



[Read this helpful guide](#)

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