



Headteacher's Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers,

It almost seems unthinkable that the first half-term has already past and a week's rest is upon us. We have, for the most part, been able to make the most of our wonderful outdoor space in the warm September weeks and it was a privilege to see the whole school engaging in weekly tennis lessons and making the most of our new lunchtime sports clubs. Sport provides a great vehicle for teaching teamwork, resilience and skill and we are always looking to foster opportunities to help our children grow these.

I have also been struck by the number of parent and community volunteers playing an active role within the school, supporting reading, attending harvest festival and helping teachers prepare resources. This was exemplified in the full school hall of parents and carers who joined Hedgehogs to test and evaluate their smoothies at the end of their Design and Technology unit (I could only watch wistfully through the door as I was teaching Foxes at the time but I'm sure they tasted great).

This terms' collective worship focussed on our core value of Love and we have explored many different themes related to this. We have demonstrated it in our generosity, kindness and thankfulness and I'm proud to say so many of our children exude these qualities in abundance.

Your children have so much to look forward to next term and we cannot wait to share this adventure with them.

Have a restful half-term.

Mr Lawford



St. James'
CE First School



Diocese of Salisbury
Academy Trust

KEY DIARY DATES

- 30/10 INSET
- 03/11 Poppy Pebble Painting
- 09/11 Community Remembrance Service
- 10/11 PFA Mufti Day
- 17/11 Children in Need
- 18/11 Volunteer Day 2023
- 20/11 Owls Tree Planting
- 22/11 Individual Photos
- 23/11 Dogs Trust Workshops
- 24/11 Christmas Shoe Boxes
- 01/12 DSAT 10th Birthday
- 02/12 PFA Christmas Fair
- 12/12 Christmas Nativity
- 15/12 Christmas Party day

LAURA ROBERTS

Owls Teacher and Assistant
Headteacher



This half-term has been action-packed and the children have made a brilliant start to their time in Owls. It has been wonderful to see them demonstrating our school values and they should be commended on their positive attitude towards learning. They have shown resilience, teamwork and increased independence – I am extremely proud of them all.

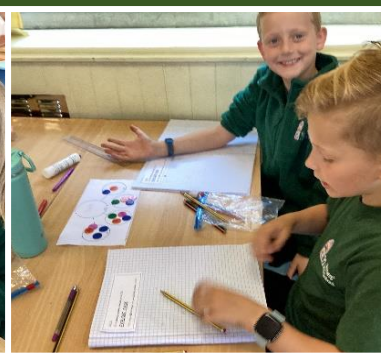
In Owls, we love to read and we have enjoyed solving the mystery of the shadow in the 'Case of the Lighthouse Intruder' by Keren Getten. The children wrote some brilliant character descriptions linked to 'The Enormous Crocodile' and impressed me with their use of ambitious vocabulary. Our Maths lessons have focused on place value, addition and subtraction and the children have shown fantastic collaboration during our 'explore tasks'. 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. In addition to our core learning, we have enjoyed getting active during our PE sessions, developing our tennis and tag rugby skills. During our Art lessons, the children have shown brilliant creativity and have produced some beautiful end of unit outcomes for our 'cloth, thread and paint' unit linked to wild flowers.

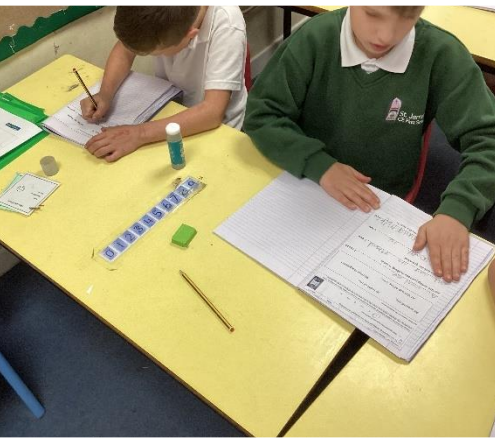
It was wonderful to see Year 4 performing a number of different songs at the DSAT iSingPop concert at Salisbury Cathedral. Furthermore, we are looking forward to taking part in our 'Virtual Volcano' workshop with the Natural History Museum to finish our Geography learning on volcanoes.

I am excited for all the wonderful learning and opportunities we have planned for the rest of this academic year. Wishing all of the St James' community a great half-term break.



OWLS CLASS NEWS





HOLLY ANNELS

Squirrels Class Teacher

What a fantastic and busy half-term it has been! The children have made an excellent start to their time in Squirrels. It has been wonderful to see them demonstrating such positive attitudes and showing commitment to their learning. I really can't believe it is half term already! It has been a pleasure to watch the children show our school values, through endless acts of kindness and happy friendships.

Squirrels have been reading Claude in the City and Flat Stanley and the children have been in stitches at both! During our English lessons we have started looking at 'Inside the Villains' and how we can use this to inspire our own descriptive writing. The children have been so imaginative with their writing creating some lovely final pieces. In Maths the children have been focusing on place value, addition and subtraction. Their times table knowledge is really developing with all the practice they have been doing alongside on TTRS.

May I take this opportunity to thank the school community for the very 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!

SQUIRRELS CLASS NEWS



TRACY HOBBS

Hedgehogs Class Teacher



Wow what an amazing first half-term we have had together in Hedgehog class! It has been an absolute pleasure to join the teaching team here at St James and take up the reins in Year 1/2. The children have worked so hard and this is evident in the amazing work they have produced.

We started the term with our Geography focused topic of 'Beside the Seaside' where the children learnt about the human and physical features of coastlines and beaches. We had great fun creating our own rockpools and sandy beaches – the children also loved playing in our beach shop. One of the key messages of our topic was how important it is to look after our seaside. We looked at the impact that rubbish left on beaches has on wildlife and the effects of plastic pollution in the seas and oceans around the world.

All of the children have been incredibly busy spotting the signs of Autumn, part of our seasonal changes work in year 1 science, and this has inspired many Maths and art activities including making harvest wreaths. Our Harvest Festival became the start of our Design Technology work in which we have examined different fruit and vegetables and found out how they grow. The final part of this project has been to make smoothies, evaluating their appearance and taste.

I hope you all have a fantastic half term holiday and am looking forward to welcoming the children back for our 'Funny Bones' and 'Lady with the Lamp' topics next half term – I wonder if you can guess what we will be studying?



HEDGEHOGS CLASS NEWS





FOXES CLASS NEWS



AMANDA WALKER

Foxes Class Teacher



Congratulations to all of the Foxes for completing their first half-term in Reception. We are so proud of how the children have embraced school life by learning new routines, making new friendships and showing great enthusiasm for their learning. All the children are coming into school independently and with beautiful smiles on their faces – well done everyone.

We have had a very busy first half-term. Our theme has been 'I Am Special, I Am Me' and we have enjoyed hearing about everyone's family and talking about different family members. We have learnt about our senses, how to keep healthy (food and oral health) and have enjoyed looking at our community and drawing maps of our route to school from home. We also welcomed Dorset Fire Service into class as part of our local community, to learn all about keeping safe in the event of a fire and near water. We have also learnt many new sounds and have started to blend these sounds together to help us read words in our Read Write Inc sessions. We have really enjoyed playing 'Fred' games to help our blending skills too.

Next half-term our theme is 'Into the Woods' and will cover learning about animals that live in woods, particularly bears. We will learn about various countries that have bears and find these on a map. We will also be learning about celebrations such as Bonfire Night, Diwali and Christmas.

We look forward to hearing all about the children's half term adventures after the holiday.

Have a super break everyone.

READING IS THE GATEWAY

Former US president Barack Obama said, 'Reading is the gateway skill that makes all other learning possible.' This cannot be truer and is the driving force for us to ensure all children at St James' master this skill. There is a daily emphasis on the teaching of reading as well as helping our children to develop a love of reading for the future. After half-term, we welcome Dorset Reading Partners to help support identified individuals across the school.

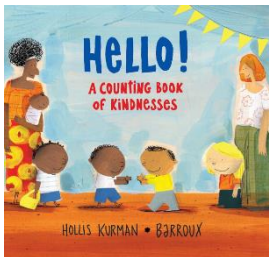


CELEBRATING READING SUCCESS

At the end of Year 1, all children take a statutory Government phonics screening. We are so proud of the whole phonics teaching team and the incredible efforts of all the year 1 learners who achieved a massive 96% pass rate (national average 79%)

ST JAMES' RECOMMENDS

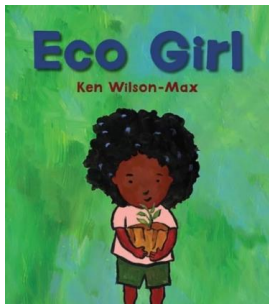
We are always looking to add new books to our library that exemplify our vision, increase diversity and address current issues. Here are six great recommendations. These would all be perfect gift for Christmas or you can add them to our library using our [Amazon Wish List](#).



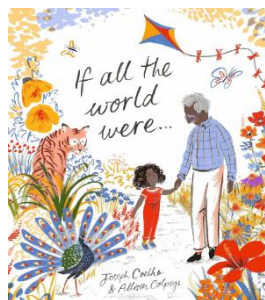
Families running away from war, floods or scary places need a safe place to live. This counting book beautifully illustrates hope, action and the importance of kind gestures.



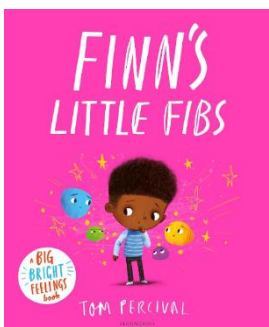
Rachel visits her grandparents and decides to find a way to clean up the plastic spoiling the beauty of the beach. 'It feels as though there is more plastic than sand!' When Rachel decides to do something she does... with va-va-voom!



Eve loves trees. In fact, she wishes she could talk to them. In a visit to Grandma for her birthday, she gets a magical surprise. A little Baobab tree of her own, just like generations of her family have.



A stunningly illustrated book about the love between a little girl and her grandad. When he passes away, she has a 'kaleidoscope of memories' that she writes and draws. A book to explore families, love and loss.



Finn loves visiting his beloved grandmother more than anything. One day, he finds himself telling a little fib. The fib grows; he feels sad and his tummy feels strange. In fact, he feels awful. He takes a big step and tells the truth.



Love grows on the street... and reaches out to those we meet. A neighbour from across the way. A friend from school who'd love to play. A book that pays homage to the fact that love makes a brighter world.

VOLUNTEER DAY 2023

Volunteer Day 2023 is just around the corner on the 18th November and we would love to have your help. We are hoping to come together as a community team to decorate Squirrel's classroom which is looking somewhat tired (and yellow). We will provide all the necessary resources and some of the preparation work will have been done to ensure we are painting walls in the morning and woodwork in the afternoon. Many hands make light work. Save the date if you can, more details to follow.



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.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

The idea of a harvest festival in churches was first introduced in the 1800's with hymns and readings to give thanks for the bounty of the fields and orchards. The festival has changed over the years and today tends to focus on charitable giving and sharing of food with those who do not have access to basic provisions.

On Tuesday 10th October, the St James' children and the wider community gathered at Holtwood Methodist to continue this tradition. The theme was thankfulness and our service was a lively collection of songs, readings and an interactive message by Reverend Nick.

We once again partnered with Wimborne Food Bank and we were so grateful for the many donations given by our children and families that will go to support those in our community struggling with the Cost of Living Crisis. By giving generously we have come together and demonstrate all of our Christian values in abundance.

SINGING POP

We are so privileged to be part of the Diocese of Salisbury Academy Trust (DSAT) who form a family of schools who work collaboratively to ensure all our children thrive. After the success of last year's Year 4 concert, we once again gathered with the other 23 DSAT schools at Salisbury Cathedral to sing and dance together in our annual concert. It was so lovely to see our year 4's working together as a class but also forming a chorus of joy that filled this historic building with a lively sound.

The concert also marked the start of the Trusts 10th Birthday celebrations which we will be taking part in, in the run up to Christmas.



CLUBS AT ST JAMES'

St James' is not just about the academic success in the classroom but about giving all children the chance to try out new experiences and using these to help them grow. One way this is achieved is through the lunchtime and after-school clubs we have to offer. With Art club and Play Sportz new this term, we are excited to add Choir and Chess club after the half-term break to our growing list of clubs.

 [Autumn Two Clubs List](#)



SCHOOL COUNCIL

In the next year, we are looking to encourage the children at St James' to play an active role in leading and developing the school community. We have already introduced Play Leaders and will be electing Worship Leaders next term. The School Council met for the first time this week under the expert guidance of Mrs Trevor who will seek to support and guide them over the coming year.

PROSPECTIVE PARENTS

Do you know someone whose child is starting school this September 2024?

For more details visit

www.stjames.dsat.org.uk/admissions

CHRISTMAS SHOE BOXES

Christmas is such an exciting time for all of us (although starting in September is sometimes a bit much). This year, we will be supporting Wimborne Food Bank who give out Christmas parcels (shoeboxes) to all the families and children who use their service over the Christmas period. The aim of the project is to spread joy and happiness at Christmas time through gifting children shoeboxes filled with essential items, small gifts and treats.



[Find out more](#)

Shoeboxes must be in school by Friday 24th 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



DO YOUR CHILDREN ACCESS YOUTUBE?



YouTube is a video sharing social media platform that allows billions of people around the world to watch, share and upload their own videos. It is an astronomically popular platform that has had a huge social impact: influencing online culture on a global scale and creating new celebrities.

It is also a parental minefield which needs to be carefully navigated. Read the [NSO Parent & Carer Guide](#) for great advice about keeping your children safe.

A GOVERNANCE PERSPECTIVE ON SAFEGUARDING

We are all aware that Safeguarding & promoting children's welfare is of paramount importance with every adult in school carrying this responsibility. However, the overall responsibility for ensuring that safeguarding procedures, policies and staff training are in place, being effectively managed and compliant lies with the Governing Board and the Designated Safeguarding Lead. All Governors undertake annual Child Protection training during which they familiarise themselves with the annually reviewed school Child Protection policy and the statutory Department of Education guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education'. Several Governors are also trained in safer recruitment so are involved in the interview process for new staff, and checks are made to ensure that all the employment requirements of new staff are in place and recorded.

The Designated Safeguarding Governor is the main point of contact between the Governing Body and the DSL. Monitoring meetings and discussions with the DSL take place at least once a term and the Designated Governor reports back to the full Governing board to keep them updated. Any policy reviews also take place at the full Governors meeting. The Designated Governor attends the external safeguarding review meetings which are arranged in conjunction with DSAT.

Part of the monitoring process involves talking to pupils and it is always very encouraging to hear that they feel safe in school and they would know who to go to if there were a problem. If this were not the case the situation would be discussed with the DSL and highlighted for action. Governors attend any safeguarding related sessions offered to the pupils such as internet safety.

Although Governors take on different areas of responsibility the Governing Body is a team working together monitoring and evaluating school performance to ensure the best possible education. With regards to safeguarding, the Designated Governor has specific responsibilities, but all Governors are key and every visit is a safeguarding visit – so whether through observation, conversations with staff and pupils, or more in depth discussions with the DSL, Governors play an absolutely vital role in helping children flourish and keep them safe.

Ros Nash – Safeguarding Governor