



St. James' Church of England Primary Academy

NEWSLETTER

Term 5 – 2024-2025



MESSAGE FROM MISS CORDINGLEY

As we wrap up another fantastic term, we have so many wonderful experiences to share with you all.

Our youngest explorers had an amazing time at Wingham Wildlife Park and were thrilled to see all the animals and learn about their habitats. The excitement was palpable as they spotted everything from majestic tigers to playful meerkats. What a wild adventure we all had!

Year 4 has been busy with their estuary learning, heading to the beach once a week. The children have been investigating the unique ecosystem of the estuary and learning about the plants and animals that call it home. Each visit has been a blend of education and fun, with plenty of hands-on activities to keep everyone engaged.

Year 6 have been working with Syntech on an incredible project about biofuels and recycling. They have been learning about sustainable energy and how we can all do our part to help the environment. The enthusiasm and dedication they have shown are truly inspiring!

The Farm to Fork group went on a delightful adventure to Riverside Country Park. It was a day filled with discovery and appreciation for nature's bounty.

We are thrilled to announce that St. James' has been awarded the Food for Life Bronze Award! This is a huge achievement and we want to extend a massive well done to everyone involved in the Farm to Fork initiative. Your hard work and commitment have truly paid off.

Lastly, a big shout-out to our Year 6 pupils for their hard work on their SATs this year. It was a week of calmness and focus, which was lovely to see.

Wishing everyone a restful and enjoyable break. We look forward to seeing you on Monday 2nd June 2025.



” Those who work the land will have plenty to eat, but those who engage in empty pursuits have no sense.”

Proverbs 12:11



We grow together, through God we are Giving, Loving and Honest

MESSAGE FROM OUR GOVERNING BODY

As we come to the end of another busy and rewarding school term, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on all that has been achieved and to thank everyone who plays a part in making our school community such a special place. We are very proud and lucky to be part of such a loving, giving and honest community and our vision and values are embedded in our school life. It's wonderful to know that our children will grow with these values, which will help them to be positive members of the community.

This may have been a short term, but it's certainly been full of opportunities for our children to grow, learn, and thrive. It has been a joy to see their enthusiasm and resilience as they've taken on new challenges and supported one another. A special mention has to be made for Year 6 and how they approached their SATs tests this term. They certainly showed just how resilient they are and all their hard work this year will surely be reflected in this. They certainly tried their very best and that is always enough. In addition to this, a big thank you to all the adults who helped out during test week and a special mention has to be made for the Year 6 staff as you've worked tirelessly all year to support the Year 6 class.

We wish you all a restful and happy holiday break and we look forward to the new term with renewed energy and optimism.



LEARNING THIS TERM

Clownfish Class and Anemone Class

This term we have been focusing on our topic 'What is growing?'

The children have been looking into the process of growing plants, fruit, vegetables and flowers from seeds and beans and used lots of stories around growing. They enjoyed reading 'Jasper's Beanstalk' and changed Jasper into ourselves thinking about being patient, waiting for things to happen and what we would do if we climbed up a beanstalk - what would we see!

Seahorse Class

We have enjoyed exploring our topic 'What is growing?' and have been on walks around the school looking at the plants growing in the glorious weather we have had recently.



The children have also been interested in the idea of frogs so we have been looking at the life cycle of frogs to see how they grow and change over time - this has led to the development of a pond area in our outside space where the children love to sit and observe what is happening.

To help with this we often find them taking a clipboard and drawing materials to practise their observational drawing skills and their writing.

There has also been lots of talk of wobbly teeth leading to discussions about how they are growing as children. We have been lucky enough to have borrowed an oral hygiene box from Medway's Healthy Early Years Team so we can practise brushing our teeth and find out more about how, when and why we need to take care of them.

Jellyfish Class

The children were all very excited to start their new topic, Wiggle and Crawl, with a trip to Wingham Wildlife Park. They enjoyed learning about all of the animals and their habitats and finding out more about the bugs and insects from one of the keepers. You could see how much the children enjoyed their day through their brilliant recounts that were produced during English.

During Maths, the children have been practising counting in multiples of 2, 5 and 10 and are beginning to show more confidence, which has been great to see. Furthermore, within Science, the children have started their topic on plants. They have each planted their own sunflower seed and are waiting with anticipation to see whose grows the tallest. We have also planted more seeds and are investigating whether plants really do need sunlight to grow!

We are very excited for more adventures in Term 6.



Orca Class



Our new topic this term was Wiggle and Crawl, giving us the opportunity to explore more about the living world around us. We started off with a visit to Wingham Wildlife Park and the children had a fantastic day visiting all the many species at the zoo. They also had the opportunity to learn more about minibeasts, for example, that crabs have 10 legs! The children were so inspired by their visit they wanted to write more about it and produced a recount of their day, drew pictures of their favourite animal and even produced a map of their visit!

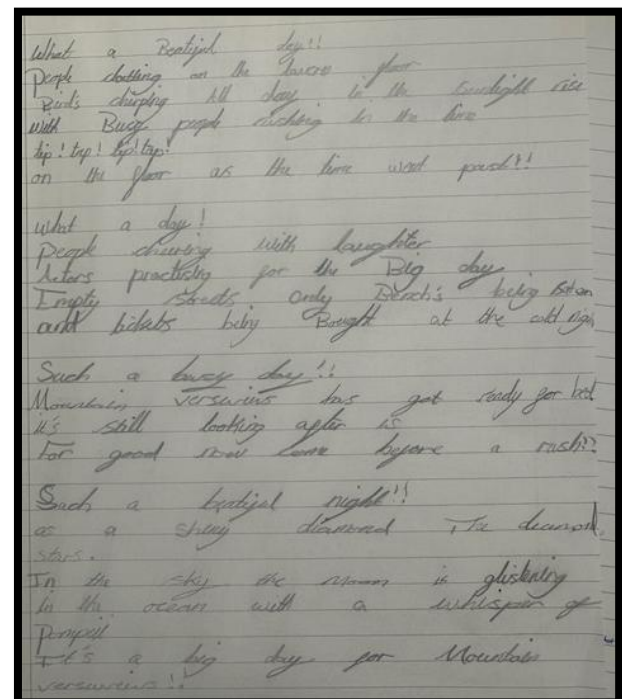
During our topic time, we have been exploring the different climate zones around the world and how different each climate is to our own climate in England.

Starfish Class

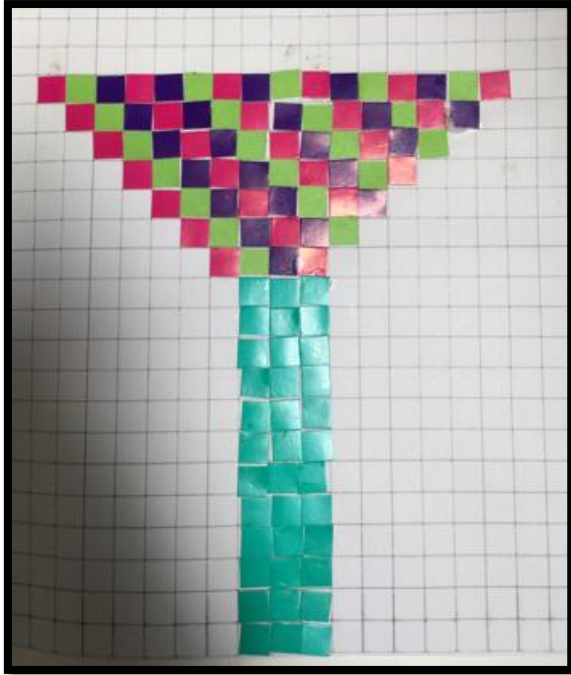
In English we have been looking at different types of poetry and have written our own free verse and narrative poems based on our class text 'Escape from Pompeii'. We have used poetic device to develop our poetry writing skills and have produced beautiful poems full of personifications, onomatopoeias and similes!

We are really proud of our poems and enjoyed performing them to the class, developing our presenting skills through drama.

In History this term we have been learning about what life was like before the Romans invaded! We have role played being Roman spies, surveying Britain to report back to our generals about the pros and cons of invading Britannia! We have looked at the population and type of land, considering how Britain lived, and how warrior tribes behaved. We have enjoyed learning about the life of a Roman soldier and how difficult it was, we have collectively decided that we probably wouldn't have volunteered for the job!



Sea Turtle Class



The children were introduced to our new topic, Romans, and have enjoyed learning some of the key information concerning their origins and key events in history.

The topic has spilled over into our art work, where the children had to design and produce a mosaic made entirely from 1cm squares of coloured card! They quickly realised how much time and effort the Roman artists must have used to decorate some of the structures we had seen in our lessons.

In English we have been reading the book 'Escape from Pompeii', which is based upon true historical events. This seemed to capture the children's attention and lead to some exciting poems being produced.

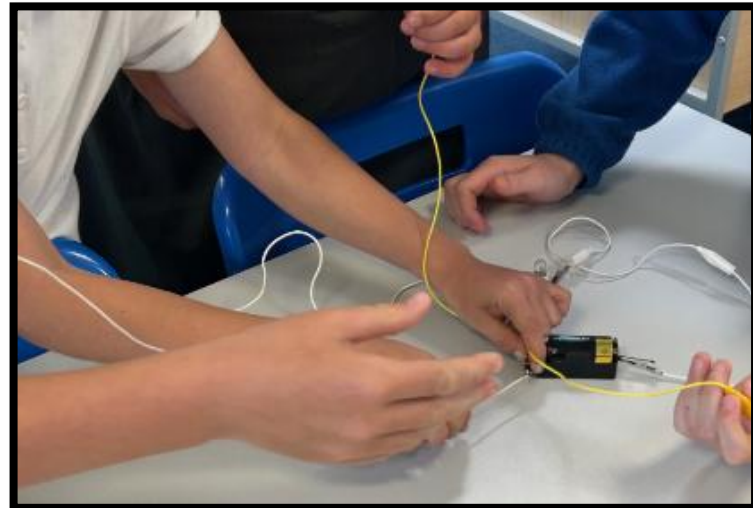
In Maths, we have been focussed on understanding decimals and this has led on to us understanding money. In RE we have moved on to learning about an alternative faith, Hinduism. It has been interesting to hear the children's thoughts about what similarities they believe it may share with other religions.

Dolphin Class

Term 5 may have been short but we have packed in lots of fabulous learning.

The children have been working hard to write detailed descriptions with excellent vocabulary and have been finding out about life in a Victorian workhouse to link to our novel, Street Child.

In Maths we have worked hard to use co-ordinates correctly, translate shapes and investigate lines of symmetry. This term our class has thoroughly enjoyed Science lessons involving carrying out practical experiments to find out about electrical circuits and we are becoming great handball players in PE.

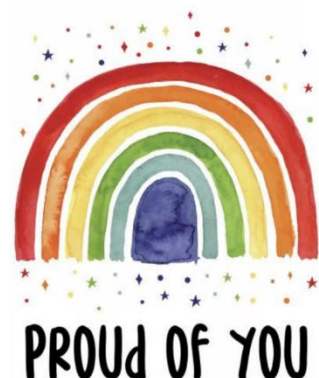


Stingray Class

As we come to the end of what has been a particularly busy term, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the tremendous effort our Year 6 pupils have shown, especially in preparation for their SATs. Their perseverance and determination has been impressive and it is great to see how they have applied the skills they have learned throughout the year.

They have all worked hard, demonstrating not only their academic abilities but also their resilience in facing the challenges that come with these assessments. I am incredibly proud of how they have tackled each task and the progress they have made. Their hard work has paid off and I would like to thank you, as their parents, for your support during this period.

Looking ahead, we have some exciting opportunities on the horizon. We will soon be starting preparations for our school production, which will showcase their talents. This is a wonderful chance for them to express their creativity and work collaboratively with their peers. I encourage you to discuss this with your child, as their involvement will not only enhance their school experience but also build their confidence in a supportive environment. Your encouragement at home will undoubtedly motivate them further.





Attendance Matters

EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS!

Attendance to Date - 94.7%

School Target - 97%

TERM 5

Whole School – 95.4%	Year 3 – 93.5%
Year R – 94.2%	Year 4 – 93.4%
Year 1 – 98.4%	Year 5 – 96.7%
Year 2 – 94.3%	Year 6 – 97.1%

FARM TO FORK

Farm to Fork have had a very busy term! Firstly, we received the Food for Life Bronze Award from The Soil Association. Well done to all children that have been part of our clubs so far. Our journey is continuing, we are aiming for silver next!

The children enjoyed an educational visit to Riverside Country Park, working with a park ranger to find out about the park and wildlife.

Finally, we would like to say a big thank you to all of you that supported us, buying plants from our very busy plant sale. We raised £71.00 to go towards funding our Farm to Fork activities.



Date	Event	Audience
Monday 2nd June	START OF TERM 6 – Children return to school	
Thursday 5 th June	Outdoor Learning Session at Grain Beach	Year 3
Tuesday 10 th June at 2.00pm	Coffee Afternoon followed by Shared Reading	Key Stage 2
Thursday 12 th June	Outdoor Learning Session at Grain Beach	Year 3
Tuesday 17 th June at 2.00pm	Coffee Afternoon followed by Shared Reading	Year R and KS1
Thursday 19 th June	Sports Day – <i>More information to follow</i>	
Thursday 26 th June	Outdoor Learning Session at Grain Beach	Year 3
Friday 27 th June	Art Exhibition – <i>More information to follow</i>	
Friday 27 th June at 2.45pm	Service in St. James Church led by Year 1 - parents welcome	Year 1
Thursday 3 rd July	Transition Day	
Friday 4 th July	SJPA Evening of Music	
Wednesday 9 th July	Year 6 End of Year Performances – <i>More information to follow</i>	Year 6
Thursday 10 th July	Outdoor Learning Sessions at Grain Beach	Year 3
Friday 11 th July at 2.45pm	Service in St. James Church led by Year R - parents welcome	Year R
Monday 14 th July to Wednesday 16 th July	Residential Visit to Lower Grange Farm	
Thursday 17 th July	Outdoor Learning Sessions at Grain Beach	Year 3
Tuesday 22 nd July at 2.45pm	Celebration Worship	Year R / Key Stage 1
Wednesday 23 rd July at 9.15am	Leavers' Service in St. James Church	Year 6
Wednesday 23 rd July at 2.45pm	Celebration Worship	Key Stage 2
Wednesday 23rd July	END OF TERM 6	

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