



St. James' Church of England Primary Academy

NEWSLETTER

Term 6 – 2024-2025



MESSAGE FROM MISS CORDINGLEY

What a fantastic and action-packed term it's been! From the energy of our Power Down Days in Key Stage 1 to the fascinating learning about biofuels in Year 6, every week has brought something new and exciting.

We've welcomed visitors like the Fire and Rescue Service, cheered each other on during a brilliant Sports Day and explored the journey of food on our Farm to Fork visit. Our pupils have bowled us over with their skills in cricket, creativity during Art Week, curiosity in Science Week and deep thinking from Year 3 during their Estuary Learning sessions.

A special mention must go to our amazing Year 6 – your production was a joy to watch and your residential was full of laughter, teamwork and unforgettable memories. And of course, this term saw the high note with our beautiful Music Soirée, showcasing the incredible talent across the school.

It's also been a very hot term, but our pupils have soldiered on with smiles and determination, showing real resilience and positivity.

As we say goodbye for the summer, we also say farewell to some valued members of staff. Mr. Collier is leaving us to take up a post at a school closer to home and he'll be greatly missed, especially for his sense of humour and warm presence around school. He will be replaced by Mrs Avery, who we're excited to welcome to the team. Mr. Baker is also moving on to a much busier role, taking his many skills with him and we thank him for all he has done. Mr. Goodwin will be stepping into the caretaking role and we look forward to working with him in the new school year.

Finally, we say a heartfelt goodbye to our Year 6 pupils. We hope you have fun, continue to grow and carry your confidence and kindness with you as you move onto your secondary schools.

Stay safe this summer and we look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 2nd September 2025.

"And let us not be weary in well-doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. So then, as we have opportunity, let us work that which is good toward all men, and especially toward them that are of the household of the faith."

Galatians 6:9-10



MESSAGE FROM OUR GOVERNING BODY

It only feels like yesterday we were starting the academic year and yet, here we are, at the end of Term 6. It sounds cliché but the year really has whizzed by and the children and staff have made every single second count.

As the year comes to an end, it is unfortunate that we do have to say some goodbyes. New adventures and beginnings await our Year 6 pupils. They have worked so incredibly hard this year and we wish them all the luck in the world as they move on in their learning journeys.

We also would like to wish Mr. Collier the very best of luck in his new school - they are lucky to have him.

There are also a couple of changes to share with you from within the Governing Body. The first, unfortunately, is a goodbye. Kerrie Cook will not be returning as a Governor next academic year and she will be sorely missed. Kerrie has been an instrumental member for many years, which includes some time spent as Chair, and she has been an asset. We wish her the very best of luck in all her future endeavours.

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

Another change is that Samantha Avery will not be returning as a Parent Governor next academic year but we do not have to say goodbye to her! This is because she will be joining the teaching staff here at St. James' as our Year 4 class teacher. We'd like to welcome her to our staff and wish her lots of luck in her teaching role here.

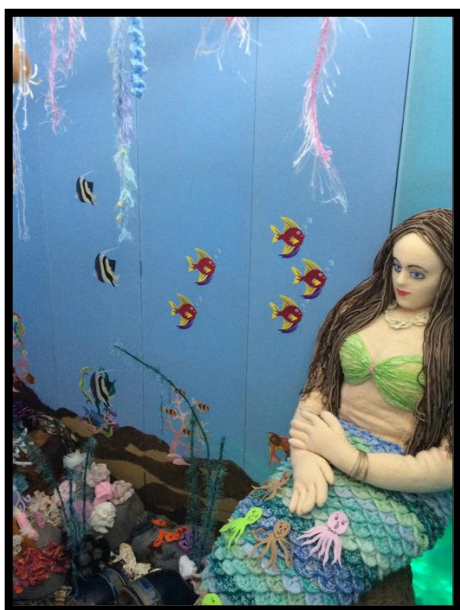
Finally, a couple of appreciation messages! Our first thank you goes to the SJPA who have done a fantastic job at fundraising yet again this year and the Summer Soirée was another huge success. Your hard work is much appreciated. Our final thank you must go to our dedicated, hardworking, and enthusiastic staff. We appreciate everything you do for the children and community and you truly deserve a well-earned rest this summer!

We hope you have a safe and restful summer and you get to enjoy the glorious weather (long may it continue!). We look forward to welcoming you back in September for our new academic year.



LEARNING THIS TERM

Clownfish Class and Anemone Class



Our learning journey started with lots of questions: Where will we go? Where can we go? How will we get there? What do we need to take with us? We started by exploring the sea and made various sea creatures, practising our fine motor skills.

We visited the Alpaca Farm and were welcomed by Narissa the Mermaid who was part of an art exhibition and she gave the children some fabulous under the sea gifts.

The children also took part in Art Week and we looked into how to express spirituality through different artistic medias. We went on an adventure around the school and collected natural resources and the children produced some amazing self-portraits and used their fingers to paint a rainbow.

We wish all the children moving to Seahorse Class good luck, keep working as hard as you have in Nursery and welcome to all our new starters in September.

Seahorse Class

We have been thinking about the topic 'Where will we go?' and about different places in the world we would like to investigate such as coral reefs, the beach, deserts and mountains as places of interest the children found when exploring atlases. They enjoying finding out about the animals and plants living in each of these places.

We also explored the creatures that we found in our outside area, such as ladybirds and wrote stories about where they might be going.

We have also started to think about where we will go in our school journeys, looking at where our next class is going to be, who our teachers will be and what the learning we might do could be.



We have also been exploring numbers initially focusing on the numbers to 20, finding out about how many tens and ones each number has and then applying this knowledge to explore other much greater two digit numbers such as 78.

We were also fortunate to have our special PE day with Mr. Heath where we explored the concept of different sports and really refining our skills and burning off lots of energy!

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Jellyfish Class



It has been a wonderful year in Jellyfish Class and we will miss all of the children and how super they all are!

This term has been exceptionally busy. The children all thoroughly enjoyed Art Week and Science Week and enjoyed creating their own portraits using images of fruit and vegetables and were amazed to test the viscosity of different liquids.

They have continued to enjoy our topic and have thought carefully about our planet and how to look after it, writing some beautiful acrostic poems on this theme.

During Maths the children were confident at discovering what coins and notes we have and what we could use to pay for items in the shop. During RE the children put a lot of effort into their diya lamps, which looked wonderful.

Orca Class

This term, we have continued to explore the wonderful world of all living things and their habitats.

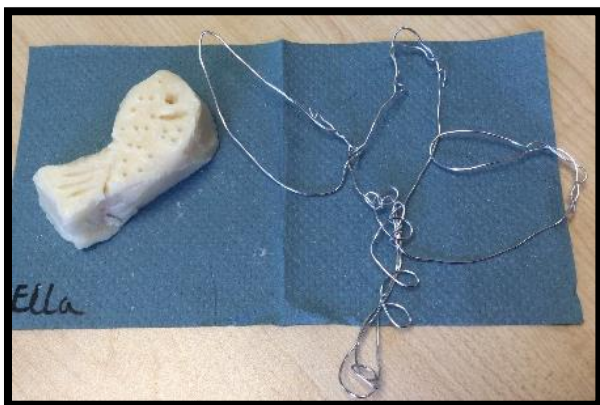
As part of our Hook Day, the children were given the challenge to create their own wormery and we explored what worms need to survive and using plastic bottles made their own wormeries. Over the following weeks, the children were excited to follow the progress and watched as the worms dug through the layers of sand and dirt. The children were sad to see them go but knew that releasing them back into their natural habitat was the right thing to do.

This all linked beautifully to the Science learning, exploring living things and their habitats and understanding that each creature has adapted to live in a particular place.

As part of our History and Geography learning, we have enjoyed researching Charles Darwin and his voyage to The Galapagos Islands. We learnt that both animals and plants are perfectly suited to living on these beautiful islands. We even discovered an Iguana that can swim and shoots salt water from its nose!



Starfish Class



The summer term has flown by in the blink of an eye and as always, we have had a jam-packed exciting learning experience! The children have grown so much in Year 3 and have developed academically, emotionally and spiritually throughout the year and it has been lovely to be part of their journey.

We really enjoyed taking part in Arts Week and produced a beautiful patchwork quilt depicting when we feel most spiritual. We have taken part in live dance lessons with Darcy Bussell and have choreographed our very own Charleston dances! We have also designed and created superheroes, took part in a class rap and created artwork in the style of Georgia O'Keefe.

In DT we have been looking at different types of sculptures and materials and made a sculpture out of soap and created a wire sculpture. We have learnt that it takes lots of patience, determination and resilience to make it successfully!

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Sea Turtle Class

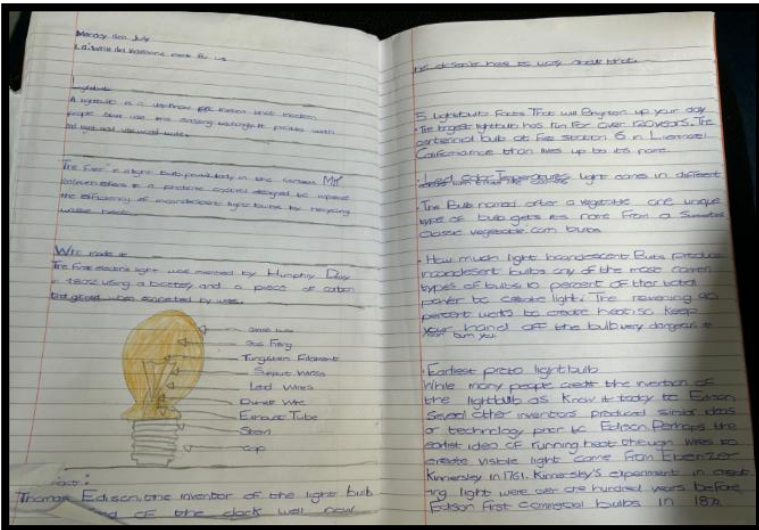
As we draw closer to the end of the academic year, we have been working hard to finish all of the topics we have left to conclude before the children progress on to Year 5.

In Topic we have been continuing to learn about the impact Romans had on our lives and culture today. In Art and DT we have been learning about sculpture, which will conclude with the children creating their own Roman themed statue. It has been great to see their excitement of trying new artistic methods, including soap carving.

In English we have just finished reading the class book 'Romans on the Rampage' and are enjoying creating a newspaper article about one of the key events in the story. Lastly, in RE we have continued our learning about Hinduism. It has been interesting discussing how alternative cultures celebrate and the children particularly enjoyed designing their own mandalas.



Dolphin Class



We can't believe that Year 5 is coming to an end!

What a fabulous year we've had in Dolphin Class, finished off with learning lots of facts about the Victorians and particularly the inventions they made that still impact life for us today such as cameras, lightbulbs and cars.

We are enjoying finishing our novel Street Child and in PE have had great rounders lessons and a fantastic Sports Day.

Thank you to all of the children and families of Dolphins for a great year and we hope you have an amazing summer!

Stingray Class

As we wrap up the final term of Year 6, I want to take a moment to celebrate what has been a truly unforgettable end to a fantastic and busy year. From the classroom to the stage, the countryside to the Nerf battlefield – Year 6, you have certainly been on a journey.

Your talent, teamwork and enthusiasm absolutely shone through in our production of Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies. Whether you were singing, acting, dancing or working behind the scenes, every single one of you played a part in creating something magical. The audience was blown away by your performance and I couldn't be prouder. You truly brought the house down!

Our residential trip was packed with adventure, laughter and plenty of fun! You challenged yourselves, supported one another and showed incredible resilience. From conquering high climbing to late-night campfire stories, we've made memories that will last a lifetime.



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The Nerf War was an absolute blast! You worked so hard to raise the money for it with your businesses and it was wonderful to see you enjoying the reward of your efforts. What a way to celebrate the end of your time at primary school – full of fun, laughter, and a lot of foam darts.

As you take your next big step to secondary school, remember just how far you've come. You've grown into strong, capable and confident young people and I have no doubt you'll continue to shine in your new schools. Embrace the challenges ahead, stay true to yourselves and never stop believing in what you can achieve.

You've left your mark on our school and I couldn't be prouder to have been part of your journey.



Our children have had another busy term taking part in the Food for Life programme.

The school's fruit and vegetable gardens have never looked so wonderful. Well done to those of you that have sown seeds, planted and watered the garden areas – we have had a great harvest!

Our great potato grow down competition has come to an end and the children had fun harvesting their year group's potatoes. The winners were Year 5 for the biggest potato, Year 2 for the wonkiest and Year 5 for the biggest yield. Well done everyone.

We had an exciting session with Sarah and Fleur from Medway Council's Multiply Project, delivering a session about healthy eating and making fruit smoothies with the children and their parents. They were delicious!

The grand finale for this term was a visit to Church Farm in Hoo, working with the farmer and Alisa from the Country Trust. The children found out how wheat is grown, harvested and milled for Warburton products - it was a great day out.

Miss Williams and Karen would like to thank all the parents that have supported us, buying plants from the Farm to Fork stalls this year. We raised £157.90 to help continue our work with the children during the next academic year – thank you all.



Have a safe and restful Summer Break and we look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Tuesday 2nd September 2025

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