



St. James' Church of England Primary Academy

NEWSLETTER

Term 1 – 2025-2026



MESSAGE FROM MISS CORDINGLEY

One of the highlights this term was our Harvest celebration, where we came together to give and share. With the support of the Church, we welcomed One Big Family, who gave a heartfelt talk about the incredible work they do to support people across Medway. Their stories moved us all, especially the challenge of feeding 120 people in one evening - a powerful reminder of the importance of compassion and community. Thank you to everyone who contributed so generously.



We also had the exciting opportunity to visit Home Farm as part of our Farm to Fork initiative. What a fabulous experience it continues to be! We were thrilled to explore the farm and learn about where our food comes from. It was a great way to appreciate the vital role our local farmers play in our lives - a lesson in gratitude and sustainability.

In the classroom, the learning has been nothing short of inspiring. I've been absolutely blown away by Year 1 and Year 2, who have been enthusiastically telling me all about the Great Fire of London. Their curiosity, storytelling and understanding have been a joy to witness - a real testament to their hard work and the dedication of our teaching staff.

As we head into the half-term break, I hope you all enjoy a restful week. Take this time to pause, recharge and enjoy some family moments. When we return, we'll be ready to sparkle and shine as we journey towards the festive season.

Thank you for your continued support and for being part of our wonderful school community.

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

Galatians 6:9

CHANGE OF SCHOOL MEAL PROVIDER

A ParentMail will soon be sent to you with instructions of how to register on School Food United's app. May we please encourage you to do this as soon as possible ready for their launch on Monday 3rd November.



The new menus will be sent home at the beginning of next term.



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

LEARNING THIS TERM

Clownfish Class and Anemone Class

This term we introduced our new 30-hour sessions and the children are all settled and enjoy having their healthy packed lunches in school.

This term's topic is "Who am I?" The children created their peek-a-boo books with their self-portraits: they all looked into a mirror and drew a good likeness of themselves, making sure they had two eyes, one nose and one mouth. This then took us into our numeracy learning where we have been practicing our subitising to three - we shared some traditional tales including The Three Little Pigs, which helped the children to begin to recognise the number three.

We are all enjoying our 'Wellie Wednesday' at the field where the children are fully equipped for all weathers to enjoy and explore the outside!



Seahorse Class



The children are settling well into their school journey, quickly learning the routines of the day and are keen to show us how kind and eager they are.

Our term started with us diving into our exciting new topic "Who Am I?" where we have been getting to know ourselves and each other by exploring our likes and dislikes. We started by creating self-portraits which the children decided to create using natural resources such as sticks and leaves that we found on our walk around the school.

The children are working hard to develop their independence in their self-care skills for example putting on and taking off their own jumpers, changing footwear and managing their own coats - please help them to keep practising these skills at home too.

Jellyfish Class

The children have settled beautifully into their new class and have worked hard at writing instructions on how to make bread rolls, which they got to do themselves.

We had a visit from the fire engine on our Hook Day where we all soaked the playground! We have also been busy in Maths recognising more than, less than and ordering numbers.

The children are all familiar with the Creation Story through their RE learning and have been investigating different materials in Science, which has kept them interested and busy. They have thoroughly enjoyed learning about the Great Fire of London and why and how the fire was able to destroy so much of London and how we rebuilt the city to make it better.



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Orca Class



The children are enjoying this term's topic on The Great Fire of London, showing amazing memory for facts and have been using this to inspire our writing as well.

They have also had great fun carrying out Science investigations. We particularly enjoyed trying to protect Humpty Dumpty from a great fall using our knowledge of a range of materials.

The children have made a good start to the year with their number bonds and times table learning, consolidating this in our weekly tests.

Our focus in Art has been Henri Matisse and the children have used his work of the snail to inspire their own versions and have created some beautiful collages inspired by the Great Fire of London.

Starfish Class

The children have been very busy this term, with lots of fabulous new learning and exciting adventures at the estuary embracing the opportunity to learn all about the environment and different creatures.

We have also been developing our writing skills and written beautiful setting descriptions using descriptive and emotive language. We have enjoyed using a lot of resources in Maths to help us with place value and number lines and have been working hard to develop new skills and learning lots of new Maths vocabulary.

Our French lessons are coming along nicely and we can happily greet each other and say goodbye in French and we have also been practising our numbers by singing tunefully in French!



Sea Turtle Class



The children have settled quickly into our classroom routines and expectations, showing great enthusiasm and maturity from day one.

This term, we have enjoyed diving into our English text, *The Wilderness War* by Julia Green. It's sparked some incredible discussions and inspired amazing writing, from vivid setting descriptions to persuasive letters that showcased our growing skills.

We have explored transient art discovering how nature can inspire creative expression. Using a variety of found natural materials, the children created astounding pieces that were open to interpretation and sparked wonderful conversations.

The children have been working hard in Maths showing great determination as we tackled some tricky concepts, including rounding numbers and interpreting intervals on a number line.

Their effort and resilience have been impressive!

Dolphin Class

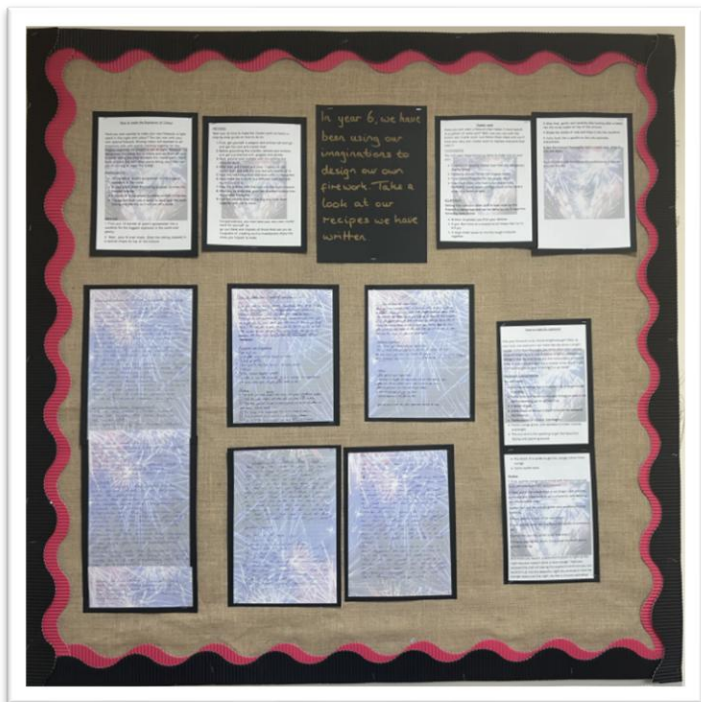
This term, we have been diving into the fascinating world of China and the children have explored its diverse landscapes, rich culture and dynamic economy. Using computers for research and publishing, they have created vibrant posters showcasing some of China's most iconic tourist attractions. Inspired by their findings, they then brought these landmarks to life through beautiful watercolour artwork.

In English, they have been captivated by The Firework-Maker's Daughter, following the courageous journey of Lila as she pursues her dream of becoming a firework-maker. Drawing inspiration from the story, the children crafted their own imaginative journey tales, filled with adventure and heart.

In Art, the class embraced the beauty of Japanese cherry blossoms by creating stunning Sakura trees using paper collage techniques adding a delicate and colourful touch to their classroom display.



Stingray Class



What a fantastic start to the year it's been for Year 6 - they have shown such enthusiasm and maturity already and we've been so impressed by their hardworking attitudes and positive energy in everything they do.

In English, they've written imaginative stories and some wonderfully creative recipes – full of flair and personality! Their ideas have been thoughtful and original and it's been a joy to read their work.

Maths has seen us tackling the four operations with confidence. The perseverance and resilience shown when solving tricky problems has been outstanding – they're really pushing themselves and supporting each other brilliantly.

Our topic on China has sparked lots of curiosity and lovely ideas. From Geography to culture, the children have asked great questions and shared insightful thoughts – it's clear they're enjoying exploring the world around them.



Attendance Matters
EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS!

Attendance to Date - 95.8%

School Target - 96%

TERM 1

| | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Whole School – 95.8% | Year 3 – 93.6% |
| Year R – 98.3% | Year 4 – 95.4% |
| Year 1 – 98.3% | Year 5 – 95.5% |
| Year 2 – 95.6% | Year 6 – 95.4% |

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

| Date | Event | Audience |
|---|---|--------------------------|
| Monday 27th October | START OF TERM 2 - STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY | |
| Tuesday 28 th October | Children return to school | |
| Tuesday 28 th October | Science Day | |
| Monday 3 rd November | Swimming at Strood Sports Centre | Year 5 |
| Tuesday 4 th November | Mini Youth Games Basketball Tournament | Selected Pupils |
| Monday 10 th November | Swimming at Strood Sports Centre | Year 5 |
| Monday 11 th November | Remembrance Service in St. James Church – <i>Year 5 parents welcome</i> | Year 5 |
| Monday 17 th November | Swimming at Strood Sports Centre | Year 5 |
| Monday 24 th November | Swimming at Strood Sports Centre | Year 5 |
| Monday 1 st December | Swimming at Strood Sports Centre | Year 5 |
| Tuesday 2 nd December | SJPA Christmas Bingo (<i>information to follow</i>) | |
| Friday 6 th December | Visit to Great Ormond Street Hospital (<i>information to follow</i>) | Year 6 |
| Tuesday 9 th December 9.15am | Christmas Nativity Play (<i>information to follow</i>) | Year R / Year 1 / Year 2 |
| Wednesday 10 th December | SJPA Santa Breakfast (<i>information to follow</i>) | |
| Thursday 11 th December | SJPA Santa Breakfast (<i>information to follow</i>) | |
| Friday 12 th December | SJPA Santa Breakfast (<i>information to follow</i>) | |
| Friday 12 th December | Christmas Jumper Day (<i>information to follow</i>) | |
| Wednesday 17 th December 9.15am | Christmas Carol Service (<i>information to follow</i>) | Key Stage 2 |
| Thursday 18 th December 2.45pm | Celebration Worship | Key Stage 1 |
| Friday 19 th December 2.45pm | Celebration Worship | Key Stage 2 |
| Friday 19th December | END OF TERM 2 – SJPA Hot Chocolate Sale after school | |



Wishing you a restful October Break and we look forward to seeing you on
Tuesday 28th October 2025

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