



St. James' Church of England Primary Academy

NEWSLETTER

Term 4 – 2024-2025



MESSAGE FROM MISS CORDINGLEY

As we wrap up Term 4, I am delighted to share some highlights from what has been a fun-packed term!

Year 5 and Year 6 Visit to Hever Castle

The children had an amazing time exploring Hever Castle. The visit was both educational and enjoyable, providing a wonderful opportunity for the children to learn about history in a hands-on environment.

Author Visit for Key Stage 2

We hosted a delightful poetry and story afternoon for Key Stage 2 when A.F. Harrold, an extraordinary fellow, kept us all amused and ensconced with his captivating performances. The children were inspired and engaged, making it a memorable event for everyone involved.

New Lunchtime Rota

After listening to the children and making a few amendments, our new lunchtime rota seems to be going very well. All year groups are playing together more and making friends across the school. The different areas mean they play somewhere different every day, which has led to far fewer incidents and issues for us as staff.

Goodbyes and Welcomes

This term, we say goodbye to Ms. Summers, our Home School Support Worker. She will be replaced next term by Mrs Weston, who has worked many years in a junior school and already runs various programmes to support children. We look forward to her expert advice and contributions.

We also bid farewell to Mrs Sanders, our CEO of the Trust, who retired in Term 3. Our Trust, made up of four small schools in Medway, has been led by Mrs Sanders since its formation. She has guided us through challenging times, especially during COVID, and we wish her all the best in her well-deserved retirement.

Mr. Hulme joins us to continue holding the baton and we are excited to see his leadership in action.

As we approach Easter, a time that brings us the hope of new beginnings, we reflect on the growth and achievements of our pupils this term. We hope everyone has an amazing Easter, filled with joy, renewal and quality time with loved ones. Enjoy the break and come back refreshed and ready for the new term!



” Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. ”

1 Peter 1:3

The Garden of Gethsemane

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

MESSAGE FROM OUR GOVERNING BODY

Spring has finally sprung just in time for the Easter holidays where a rest is just what is needed after this busy term.

We would like to thank all the parents who attended the recent Attendance Q&A Workshop as well as the second successful coffee afternoon. The feedback has been really positive with everyone having come away with useful information.

As Governors, this term we have been in school attending these workshops as well as a couple of us undertaking Safer Recruitment training in order to further our knowledge and understanding of these areas so we can support the school to the best of our abilities.

We know Term 5 is very busy with various assessments happening for example, Year 6 SATs and Year 1 Phonics Screening Check, so we really do hope you and your children have an enjoyable and restful Easter break.

We look forward to welcoming you back in Term 5 on Tuesday 22nd April.



LEARNING THIS TERM

Clownfish Class and Anemone Class

Our topic this term was Who Can Help Us? We did our research using some books and started by looking at the people in our own lives and at our emergency services. The children loved recreating the uniforms in our creative area, with a focus on making sure we had the right uniform for the jobs they do.

We then went to the dentist and used the props to show us how we clean our teeth properly and for the right amount of time.

Our parents came in for the reading session and the children enjoyed sharing their learning environment with their families.



Seahorse Class



The children have enjoyed exploring their topic of Who Can Help Us? We have looked at many different job roles in society such as dentists, vets, opticians, doctors and nurses. The children have enjoyed being able to share their own experiences of when they have seen some of these people in their own lives and finding out about more about their jobs. We have had role play areas set up to help us reenact some of what we have learnt and explored these further.

We have started to notice the changing of the seasons by watching the blossom that is starting to grow on our trees and the plants that are starting to grow. To support them with this interest we have started to sow seeds and have some plants growing in the classroom ready to go out later. The children are enjoying watching their growth over the last week - it seems that they are growing even more each day!

Each morning the children are coming in to look and draw their plants and are working hard to use their phonics to label their diagrams, as well as their Maths skills to measure how tall the plants have got with our cubes.

Jellyfish Class

This term has certainly flown past and the children have all been engaged and produced some wonderful work.

In Maths, they have been working hard to use their place value knowledge and applying this to length and height, mass and volume. The children have particularly enjoyed using the balance scales and measuring jugs.

During English, they have written their own narratives on how to grow a dinosaur and were fascinated to learn about Mary Anning and write a diary about her famous discovery. The children have also created dinosaurs with moving parts in DT, focussed on the Easter story in RE and looked at which animals are herbivores, omnivores and carnivores in Science.



Orca Class



We continued our topic Creak, Crack, Crash but with a different focus. Our journey did not need us to go millions of years into the past, we only had to travel a few hundred years to the late 1700s. We started off with exploring fossils and how they were made and were given the opportunity to create our own fossils out of salt dough, we all had a great time!

We explored the book *How to Grow a Dinosaur* and enjoyed writing our own narratives. To finish off our term we enjoyed a visit to the beach to give us the inspiration to write our own diary entries. This linked beautifully to our History lessons where we learnt about the very famous fossil hunter Mary Anning who was struck by lightning as a baby and survived! She discovered the first Ichthyosaurus and Plesiosaurus.

Starfish Class

In English we have been developing our writing skills focusing on diary entries, thinking about why diaries are so important and useful. We have been looking at the style of diary writing and have created our own entry as a character from the book *'The Tin Forest'*. We have written descriptively with emotion and feeling and have produced some amazing work.

In DT this term we have created mood boards thinking about colour and textures that are in keeping with the rainforest theme. We have developed our skills in sketching and used pastels to create colourful images that focus on specific sections of an image.

We have focused on the shapes that we created and have transferred these as a repeating pattern onto fabric. We have created a 'batik print' and we are really pleased with the end result of colourful and repeated natural fabric design.



Sea Turtle Class



In English the children have been producing pieces of work all themed around the book 'The Tin Forest'. This has been leading up to the final piece of work, writing three diary entries as a character from the book as they create a forest made entirely from upcycled materials. It has been exciting to see how the children imagine a forest could be made using items that others consider rubbish!

In Maths, we have been looking at parts of a whole. This has included a lot of work on fractions and decimals. In Science we have been learning about living things. I'm sure your children have told you already about the two life size skeletons we produced with bones and organs!

Lastly, in DT we have been putting together some of the skills we learnt last term to create a pattern on fabric. This has all been on the theme of rainforests. The children really have been creative.

Dolphin Class

Term 4 has flown by with the highlight being our visit to Hever Castle. The children thoroughly enjoyed exploring and learning about real Tudor artefacts, as well as immersing themselves in a workshop and becoming Tudors for a short time! The recounts written after the visit really showed how much they enjoyed it.

In Maths we have mastered decimals and percentages and our Science learning has helped us understand humans and other animals. This term our class has excelled at their gymnastics work and we have seen them refine their performances, challenging themselves to achieve great things. Keep up your reading and times tables practice this Easter break but of course we hope that you have a lovely time with your families.



Stingray Class



Easter is arriving and that can only mean one thing - our Tudor project has come to an end! Year 6 have absolutely loved working on the Tudors and have gained plenty of knowledge on this era of history - this was highlighted on our visit to Hever Castle where the guides were impressed with the facts that they could recall.

In Maths we have covered shape, percentages and statistics and the children have worked hard to use and apply their new skills.

We have created some excellent written work this term too from a time travelling story of Henry VIII turning up in our classroom to a non-chronological report exploring the gruesome ways that Tudors dealt with crime and punishment



Attendance Matters

EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS!

We continue our commitment this year to ensure that all children achieve their full academic potential and believe that good attendance means good learning.

Thank you to those parents who joined our Attendance Q&A Workshop – we hope you found it useful and informative.

Attendance to Date - 94.5%
School Target - 97%

TERM 4

Whole School – 95.3%	Year 3 – 96.6%
Year R – 96.0%	Year 4 – 95.1%
Year 1 – 96.4%	Year 5 – 96.0%
Year 2 – 92.5%	Year 6 – 94.8%



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date	Event	Audience
TUESDAY 22ND APRIL	START OF TERM 5 – CHILDREN RETURN TO SCHOOL	
Tuesday 22 nd April	Visit to Riverside Country Park	Farm to Fork Group
Thursday 24 th April	Outdoor Learning Sessions at Grain Beach	Year 4
Monday 28 th April	Visit to Wingham Wildlife Park	Key Stage 1
Thursday 1 st May	Outdoor Learning Sessions at Grain Beach	Year 4
MONDAY 5TH MAY	MAY BANK HOLIDAY – SCHOOL CLOSED	
Wednesday 7 th May – Wednesday 14 th May	Book Fair (<i>Information to follow</i>)	
Thursday 8 th May	Outdoor Learning Sessions at Grain Beach	Year 4
Monday 12 th May – Thursday 15 th May	Key Stage 2 SATS Tests	Year 6
Monday 19 th May at 3.15pm	Secondary School Transition Meeting	Year 5
Wednesday 21 st May	SJPA Disco (<i>Information to follow</i>)	
Thursday 22 nd May	Outdoor Learning Sessions at Grain Beach	Year 4
Thursday 22 nd May at 2.45pm	Celebration Worship	Year R and Key Stage 1
Friday 23 rd May	Visit to Grain Library	Year 4
Friday 23 rd May at 2.45pm	Celebration Worship	Key Stage 2
FRIDAY 23RD MAY	END OF TERM 5	



Wishing you a restful Easter Break and we look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Tuesday 22nd April 2025

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