



St James' Church of England Junior School

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"With exploring minds, and faith, we achieve our challenging goals."

Newsletter Issue no.21

w/e 26th Feb 2021

Welcome to this week's newsletter

PUPILS OF THE WEEK

The children (and parents) have been continuing to work extremely hard on Seesaw this week. Here are our Pupils of the Week-

Upper School— Eren A, Jack H, Maisie P, Alfie H, Alisha M, Lilly C,
Melissa S and Rosa F

Class 4 - Harrison S & Erin S

Class 5 - Danny M & David M

Class 6 - Joseph M, Naomi S & Amelia D



Good Afternoon,

School Reopening—The very exciting news was announced on Monday of the plan to reopen schools on Monday 8th March. From the sample of parents and children I've spoken to since, this is very much welcomed. Following the headlines on Monday, the detail and guidance of how to open safely has now been issued. Looking through the guidance, I am reassured that the safety procedures we established in Autumn term will be reintroduced. These will be very familiar to the children and transition should be easier this time around. That said, we recognise that family situations and children's feelings about returning about school may not be unanimously positive and want to gauge how this lockdown has impacted in students. We have attached a form, similar to the one completed in September, asking for details that can be shared with class teacher.

For planning purposes, I can already share that pick ups and drops off will be the same as before Christmas—

	Drop Off	Collection
Lower School (Year 3 & 4)	8.40 a.m.	Class 4—3.00 p.m., Class 5—3.05 p.m., Class 6—3.10 p.m.
Upper School (Year 5 & 6)	8.50 a.m.	Walkers—3.10 p.m. & All Other Classes 3.15 p.m.

Both the school kitchen and our EBASC will re-open as normal from 8th March. We will ensure menus are on the system by Wednesday 3rd for meal pre-orders and bookings for EBASC can be made by emailing the [office](#).

For all other details, we will be sending out communications during next week following the release of Local Authority Risk Assessments. It goes without saying, that it is imperative that information sent out is read carefully so as to preserve the safety of our school and to allow us to stay open. Looking forward to March 8th already but in the meantime keep giving your all with your remote learning.

IMPORTANT NOTE FOR CHILDREN ATTENDING SCHOOL HUB—In order to prepare for the safe return of all children from the 8th, school will close at 12 p.m. on Friday 5th March. This is to allow time for the staff to prepare classrooms and the building.

Please note that due to some staff being in school, staff training and preparation for next week we will not be able to run the Zoom clinics between 10.30-12.30 next week.

Reading Bingo —This week, we were able to deliver the prizes for the reading bingo. You will remember that before half-term we ran a reading bingo challenge with children being encouraged to get involved with some weird and wonderful activities including reading to pets, reading outside and reading with a funny hat on amongst others. Lots of children entered the competition and we were finally able to deliver the prizes to the doors of our class winners Tilly, Alfie, Ellis, Anya, Harry and Jay. You will notice from the pictures that a fallen tree tried to stop our path to Jay, but he was able to join me at the damaged tree where we had a mini celebration. Well done to all winners and all those who joined in the fun. Keep on reading!!

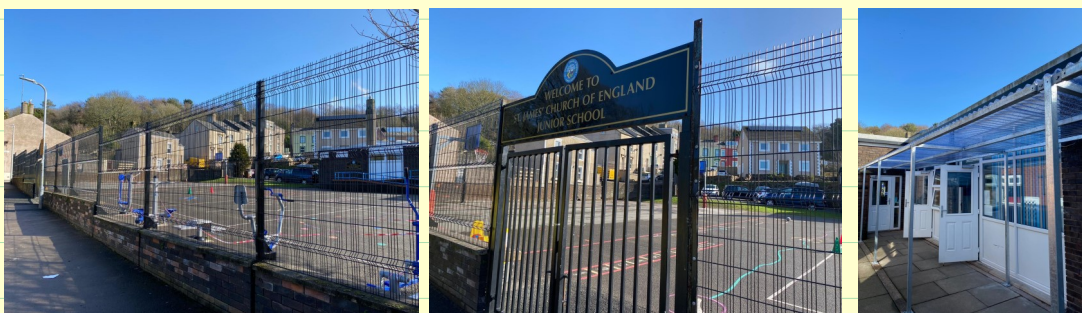


World Book Day—Next Thursday (4th March) marks the events of World Book Day. My mind immediately goes back to last year when we held lots of fun activities in school. This was only 2 weeks before we had to close the school for our first lockdown. That said, this week is all about celebrating brighter news and we would like to acknowledge World Book Day again in a virtual sense. We will be setting some Seesaw tasks around the theme of books and ask that children get dressed up for their zooms if they so wish. No real pressure for elaborate costumes however, a set of pyjamas, would be a suitable costume to celebrate books such as ‘The Midnight Gang’ by David Williams or other ‘bedtime’ stories. Staff will be joining in the fun so watch out for what costumes they will be wearing and children (and staff) in our hub will also be joining in the fun so look forward to seeing some costumes in school.

SOS... calling out for any parent scientists/engineers/mathematicians/technicians—It is exciting that we are starting to think about teaching and learning in school once more. National Science week is to be held across the week of school reopening. This may come a little early for our plans as I’m sure we will need a little time for children (and staff) to adjust to our new term. Instead we would like to host a science week at the end of March., week beginning 29th March. As part of our programme of activities we would be keen to hear if any parents who work in STEM roles (Science Technology, Engineering, Mathematics). We aren’t allowed any visitors on site but would hope to acquire a pool of people who could speak to the children through video conferencing about their jobs, ideally with some interactive element to the presentation (it helps to keep the children engaged!). If you would be interested in speaking to the children over the week beginning 29th March, or would like to find out a little more about what is expected, or even know of someone not linked to the school directly who might be able to help us, please get in touch via the [school email](#) or call the office number.



Some spring cleaning ... - While we have had less little feet wandering about the place, we have utilised this time to do a bit of spring cleaning on site. You may notice we have replaced our rather tired fence along the perimeter of the school with something much more eye-catching and our beaten up weather shield in our courtyard has also been replaced. Special thanks to the workers at O’Connors Fencing and McGrady’s Engineering for helping us brighten up the place.



School Janitor—Our school janitor unfortunately left us for a new job in January. He had been with us for two years and was the first time we had someone in this role. It made a huge difference to the school, completing routine maintenance and improvement projects and ensuring that the building was in tip-top condition. We would like to try and find someone within our community with a similar set of skills; great general DIY, basic plumbing and great problem solving, to help us in the future. We are looking for someone self-employed, who would be able to invoice us for the time spent on site, at an agreed hourly rate. We would like someone who is local and able to come to site at short notice in the event of an emergency but would otherwise agree dates in advance to work around other commitments – we would anticipate approximately 10 hours per month would be required. If you or anyone you know would be interested in working with us in the future, please contact [Mrs Maiden, School Business Manager](#).



Nearly new uniform—Part of the reopening guidance indicates the expectation for children to return in school uniform. If your child has outgrown their uniform, we have a good deal of stock of nearly new uniforms that have been donated by previous families. If you do require any additional items please contact the [school office](#).

Looking forward to seeing you all on the 8th March already!

Mr A Beattie
Head Teacher

