



NEWSLETTER

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Parents' Evening

We will be holding our Spring Term parents' evenings during the week beginning 1st February. More information will be sent to you nearer the time.



Happy New Year to all our families. We have lots of exciting things planned for this term and I wanted to give you plenty of notice so that you can update your diaries.

'Share A Story' Sessions

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

We have just received confirmation that local library staff are able to join us at St James for a special event on Thursday 14th January. Between 2.30 pm and 3.15 pm this Thursday every child in the school will listen to an adult reading a story to them and the other children in their class.

We would like to invite parents (and grandparents) to come into school to listen to a story with their child. If you are able to join us, please arrive at the main school door at 2.20 pm.

Attendance

The children's attendance over the past few weeks has been very good—thank you for your help with this.

If your child is ill and unable to attend school, please make sure that you ring the school office on the first morning of absence. If you do not notify us that your child is not able to attend, we have no option but to give them an unauthorised absence mark. Please remember that we are unable to authorise absence for holidays taken during term time. Penalty notices will be issued by the Local Authority for absence due to a holiday.

A request to parents

If you have a concern or a worry regarding something that has happened in school or an event/ visit that we are planning, please come and speak to me about it.

World Book Day

On Friday March 4th, we will be celebrating World Book Day by asking all the children to come to school dressed as a character from a book. In addition parents will be invited to come into school to read with their child on this day.

More information will follow nearer the time.



Easter events

Information about our Easter events will follow after half term.

Year 6 SATs

The Year 6 SATs take place this year during the week beginning 9th May. It is essential that year 6 children are in school during this week as well as in the weeks leading up to the SATs. This ensures they can prepare for the tests as best as possible. Mr Jowett and I will be meeting individually with the parents of our year 6 children shortly regarding their maths and literacy targets and preparation for the tests.

In addition there will be SATs information meetings for year 6 parents on Tuesday 2nd February—information will follow in a separate letter from Mr Jowett.

Science Week

The week beginning Monday 14th March is Science Week. During this week all the children will be involved in a number of different science activities.

Is Reading a Pleasure?

Many of our children read their home reading books most nights and we are delighted with their efforts and your support with this. However, the aim for all of our children is that they become 'avid readers'. We want them to become engrossed in reading a book, taking it to bed with them instead of watching the TV as they fall asleep, hurrying home with you so that they can read the next few pages. Because they enjoyed reading a book so much, we want them to go to the library so that they can borrow a similar book, maybe by the same author. They will be able to talk about the characters in the book and predict what will happen.

Reading can take us on a journey into another world, it develops our imagination, our vocabulary and our ability to write wonderful stories. We want this for all of our children and have therefore made a commitment to ensure all of our pupils have the opportunity to 'read for pleasure'.

We are working closely with the library service and an organisation called Reading Matters, and with them we have organised the following events to take place this term:-

- Training for volunteers who will become reading mentors who then volunteer to work in school every week, introducing the children to fun reading activities.
- Developing further our own school library by training our very own year 5 and 6 librarians.
- Mrs Ketley and Mrs Hudson are running 'Chatterbooks' clubs on lunchtimes that 20 of our children have already signed up for.
- Six year 5 children attended training last week to become reading leaders—they will read with other children across the school— sharing their own love of reading.
- Share a story sessions are taking place in every classroom this week.
- 'Reading Together' workshop for parents on 10th February.

If you want to know more about any of the above activities or events, please speak to your child's class teacher, Mrs Dobson or myself. Together we can lead our children into the amazing world of reading for pleasure.

DATE	EVENT
Thursday 14th January	Share a Story Session for children and parents/grandparents
Week beginning 1st February	Parents' Evenings
Tuesday 2nd February	SATs information meetings for year 6 parents at 2.45 pm or 5.00 pm
Wednesday 10th February	9.00 Matters Workshop for parents who have expressed an interest 10.30—year 5 children visiting Ings Library to watch a production of Tom Palmer's Last Try
Thursday 11th February	Year 2 children visiting Wilberforce House Museum
Friday 12th February	3.15 pm School closes for the half term holiday
	HALF TERM
Monday 22nd February	School reopens to pupils—breakfast club from 7.45 am
Friday 4th March	World Book Day Celebrations
Week beginning 14th March	Science Week
Wednesday 16th March	9.00 am—Year 4 class assembly
Thursday 17th March	Year 1 children visiting the Streetlife Museum
Friday 18th March	Special RE day for all children
Wednesday 23rd March	9.00 am—Year 2 class assembly
Thursday 24th March	School closes for the Easter Holidays