



# Bramble's News



Being the best we can be

16<sup>th</sup> September 2022

## A message from Mrs Gynn

A lot can change in just one week at St James. It is incredible to see how all of the children are now used to their new classes and know exactly what to do.

Children in Poppy Class are being so brave saying bye-bye to their grown-ups and already forging lovely friendships. It has made me smile a lot to see them come into the hall at lunchtime and sit so nicely to have their lunch.

Children in Reception are learning their first sounds. Please look out for the videos posted by the staff - they will help you practise with your child.

In our key stage one classes, children are now fully immersed in our big question. Year 2 have made me feel so proud as they left the school earlier this week to go on a community walk. They got to know Daventry really well so that they can help Paddington find his way around.

Our week began with a wonderful teddy bear's picnic. It was so exciting to meet everyone's teddy and of course, Paddington had pride of place.

Library time has started across the school. Key Stage 1 have enjoyed choosing their own books. All classes have their own slot for library time. Please make sure children have their books so that they can swap them.

We have also welcomed a brand new sports coach who has made PE lessons really exciting and a new education mentor. I am sure the children will tell you all about them.

Hope you all have a lovely weekend. Please remember that it is an extended weekend. School re-open on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September.

## Communication:

**Class Dojo** - Please sign up if you have not already done so. We are trying to aim for



We currently have only 3/7 classes with 100%. The majority of our communication is via this app; you will miss vital news without it.

**Website** - lots of information about our curriculum can be found in addition to other information.  
[www.stjamesinfant.com](http://www.stjamesinfant.com)

## Curriculum Information:

We want you to feel part of your children's learning because together we can make sure that they can all be the best that they can be.

To help you we have a variety of videos on our school website. These are replacing 'curriculum information evenings' because most parents have told us that it is easier to watch a video than it is to arrange the childcare required for you to attend a meeting.

In addition, we shall be sending out knowledge organisers and a class newsletters very soon. They provide details of the expectations for the term. I do hope you find them useful. Please let us know.

If you have any questions after watching the videos, please message your child's class teacher who will respond.

Some handy tips for you to keep your children safe. Please do share with them.



**Online Safety Tip: Keep personal information professional and limited.** You would not hand over purely personal information to strangers, even one stranger, so please do not hand it out to millions of people online. No one should know your address.



**Safeguarding Safety Tip: Keep your children safe away from home by: talking to them about what to do if they got lost, about the dangers of traffic and about 'stranger danger'. Your guidance can help your child keep themselves safe. It will also help build their self confidence and independence.**

We have a strong reading curriculum at St James, please see below for one of the reasons why.



**Did you know that children (and adults) who read for pleasure have higher self-esteem, cope better in difficult situations and have better sleeping patterns? Please read regularly with your child; at least 3 times per week.**



#### Improving school attendance: support for schools and local authorities

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-attendance/framework-for-securing-full-attendance-actions-for-schools-and-local-authorities>

The Department of Education (DfE) have made attendance a focus for this academic year because the pandemic has led to renewed concerns about absence from school and its potential impact on attainment and wellbeing. Please see the document listed above for details.

It states that children can only miss school if either:

- They are too ill to go in
- Advance permission from school has been given.  
(Please remember that permission cannot be given for holidays.)

If you take your child out of school without permission any one of the following could happen:

- a Parenting Order is issued
- an Education Supervision Order is issued
- a School Attendance Order is issued
- a fine (sometimes known as a 'penalty notice') is given



**Our school's current attendance = 95.2%**

This means that we have already fallen below our target of 96%.

There is time to improve this - if those children already on our attendance tracking list come into school regularly.

Thank you to those parents who ensure their children are in school and on time.



# What will be happening in our school?

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## Open events

If you have a child who is due to start school in September 2023, we will be hosting some open events during October. It will be an opportunity to visit the school and ask questions all about starting school for the first time.

If you have a child who is due to be turning 3 years old and needs a Pre-School place, please do come along and visit too.

Details of days and times will be advertised soon. Please look out for them and tell friends.

Parents of Year 2 children

Please remember that you need to apply for a year 3 school place on the County website

[www.westnorthants.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/admissions)

## Other Dates:

19.9.22 - School closed - National Bank Holiday

21.9.22 - International Day of Peace

22.9.22 - Flu vaccinations for the whole school

28.9.22 - Library is open -

Do come in between 8.45 a.m. - 9.00 a.m. to choose a book for your child. Mrs Finch will be in the library to help you. Just like the town library, you can loan the book for a week and then come back and swap it.

The library will be open every Wednesday, every week.

28.9.22 at 3.15 p.m. - Book Sale

All books 20p. All books brand new.

Come along and see what you can find - they will be in the reading nook in the playground.

30.9.22 - MUFTI Day (non-uniform day)

These days are held on the last Friday of every month. A donation of 50p - £1.00 should be given to the Friends of St James if your child does not want to wear uniform. All proceeds help the Friends fund raising which benefits all children.

1.10.22 - Black History Month begins - this national celebration aims to promote and celebrate the contributions of those with African and Caribbean heritage to British society and to foster an understanding of Black history in general.

4.10.22 - School photographer to take individual photographs of all children

7.10.21 - Census Day - please ensure that you book a cooked lunch for your child on this day. Please remember if you do not, it will lose vital funding for the school.

10.10.22 - Mental Health Awareness Day

12.10.22 - Walk to School Day - Please do your best to walk to school on this day. Children will receive a sticker for doing so.

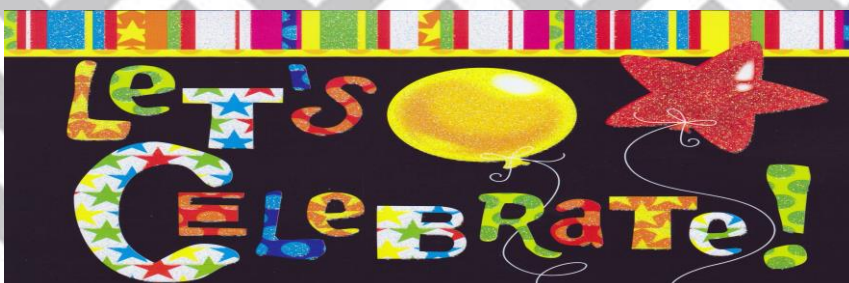
19.10.22 - Harvest Festival - more information to follow.

21.10.22 - Term 1 ends. Children break up for a week's holiday.

31.10.22 - Term 2 starts

1.11.22 at 3.30 - 5.30 p.m. & 3.11.22 at 5.30 - 7.00 p.m. - Parent's Evening via telephone - more information to follow.

4.11.22 at 2.00. - 3.15 p.m. - Parents' Open Afternoon - more information to follow.



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Certificates have been awarded  
to:

Let's  
Investigate

World of  
Words

Express  
Yourself

Being Your  
Best

Wow!

Fantastic  
maths or  
science  
work  
Great  
reading,  
writing,  
speaking and  
listening or  
drama work  
Wonderful  
art, design  
technology,  
music or P.E.  
work

Diva -  
Buttercup  
Class

Elsie -  
Dandelion  
Class

Jude H -  
Daisy  
Class

Alice -  
Bluebell  
Class

Stanley -  
Snowdrop  
Class



Attendance Cup

Snowdrop Class - 99.4%  
Wow! Well done!

Our value for  
September is:



Teamwork -  
inclusion



Values:

Inclusion

Integrity

Initiative

Inspiring



We celebrated with:

Lilly, who is now 4!

George and Regan, who are now 5!

Ellie, who is now 6!

Gabriela, who is now 7!

Happy Birthday to you



We also  
celebrated with  
☺:  
Mrs Robinson



Bramble's Rule

For next week;

Children who wash their hands  
for 20 seconds.

Please practice at home.

Look at how amazing  
our school was last  
week:



288 messages

163 stories shared

2,177 skills celebrated

100% positive feedback

