



St James and St John CE Primary School

*'I have come that they may have life and
have it in all its fullness' John 10:10*

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Friday 6th October

School Contact:
office@stjstj.co.uk

02075040535

Open 8:30am to 12 noon
and 2pm to 4:30pm

Our Value this half term, is Fellowship!

We care for one and other because good relationships make for good learning!

*"Greater love has no one than this that he lay down his life for friends. You are my friends if you do
what I command you"*

John 15:13-14 (Jesus' words at the Last Supper)

The first half of the autumn term has truly provided plenty of opportunities for Year 4 to live life in all its fullness! We really enjoyed our evening trip to The Lyceum Theatre to see The Lion King and each week, the class have just been thrilled ahead of their Thursday swimming lessons. Through it all, the class has really demonstrated joy, perseverance and, in particular fellowship, the focus school value, in all manners. From warmly welcoming new members of class to bringing in donations for the Harvest Collection - the past few weeks in year 4 have been especially full of fellowship.

In Maths, we have been working through the early units on place value. The class has been incredibly keen to secure a firm understanding of the fundamental mathematical concept. I have seen instances of outstanding collaborative learning and I have heard particularly fantastic discussions between pairs of children about how to work through questions based on ordering 4 digit numbers.

In Science, we are beginning to ask the scientific question: *What happens to our food once we eat it?* Naturally, our investigations involved eating food! Starting with the teeth, we explored the different types and the function of each. Let's hope that strikes don't affect our journey through the digestive system as our investigations continue.

In English, we have been reading through *Odd and The Frost Giants* by Neil Gaiman which tells the story of a boy named Odd and his meeting with Gods of Norse Mythology Loki, Thor and Odin. The class have thought carefully about sophisticated manners in which to describe these characters and have worked together to compile an extensive list of descriptive language with the aim to feature some in their recounts.

In Reading, Year 4 has been navigating through the text: *The Undefeated*. The poem written by Kwame Alexander tells the story of the overlooked and unafraid figures from black history. To offer some context, we listened to 'We Shall Not Be Moved' by Mavis Staples and discussed the history of segregation in America. With such background knowledge, the class provided really rich answers to the 2d inferential questions.

Miss Ilyas
Year 4 Teacher

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR VISION AND VALUES HONOREES FOR THIS WEEK

	Attendance	School Vision Award	School Values award
Nursery		Maria	Hannah
Reception	93.9%	Alexey	Filip
Year 1	98.5%	Elliot	Fabio
Year 2	97.9%	Grayson	Aisha
Year 3	98.0%	Talal	Oscar
Year 4	93.2%	Logan	Seba
Year 5	97.3%	Georgia	Matt
Year 6	96.1%	Ermuun	Aura

EXTENDED SCHOOL – 8am to 6pm

Breakfast club: Our breakfast clubs runs from 8am to the start of the school day from Monday to Friday. Please get in touch with the school office to book.

After school care: LET's LEAP after school care is available from 3:15pm to 6pm from Monday to Friday. You can book by logging on to <https://letsleapsportsacademy.co.uk/>

After school clubs: All after school clubs run from 3:30 – 4:30pm. You should collect from the red doors (not the main office).

GETTING IN TOUCH

Please use the main school office as your first point of contact either by phone or by email.

Email: office@stjstj.co.uk Telephone: 0207 504 0535

You can also email class teachers via class email addresses, which teachers check at least twice per week.

Nursery – Miss Silva nursery@stjstj.co.uk
Reception – Mr Peters reception@stjstj.co.uk
Year 1 – Miss Vibert year1@stjstj.co.uk
Year 2 – Miss Halim year2@stjstj.co.uk
Year 3 – Mr O'Donoghue year3@stjstj.co.uk
Year 4 – Miss Ilyas year4@stjstj.co.uk
Year 5 – Miss Hubbert year5@stjstj.co.uk
Year 6 – Mr Pearson/Mr Habib year6@stjstj.co.uk

FREE SCHOOL MEAL APPLICATION

Westminster now has an online application process for families wanting to complete the Free School Meal application process. This will make the process of applications for families easier and reduce significantly the waiting time on applications.

The system can be accessed through this link.

www.westminster.gov.uk/education/free-school-meals

If your application is successful, your family will receive an email advising you of your eligibility, and the start date.

Where an application cannot automatically be approved as additional information may be needed, you will receive an email advising you, and inviting you to upload certain benefit information for checking.

Once this has been checked and a decision made, this information will be sent to the school through the daily update.

AUTUMN TERM DIARY DATES

We are hoping that many of you will be able to join us in school or in church for our events this term.

There are several opportunities to pop into school to find out more about different areas of the curriculum. At our monthly parent coffee mornings across the road at the Lancaster Hall Hotel there is always an opportunity to chat with a member of the school's leadership team and find out more about a particular subject.

Autumn 1

10th October – Come in and ...visit our maths lessons (*Year 1 to Year 6*) 8:45am – 9:30am

Join your children's class for a short maths lesson and then please stay to ask the class teacher any questions you have.

12th October – Parent and Carer Coffee Morning @ Lancaster Hall

17th October – Come in and.....Watch the Year 3 Class assembly for parents and carers 9:15am

Come and find out what Year 3 have been learning about so far this term

23rd October – HALF TERM (school closed)

Autumn 2

30th October – START OF TERM (school open)

30th October – 3rd November – Coding Week

31st October Come in and.... visit a computing session as part of our school
“computing week” 8:45am – 9:15pm (*Year 1 to Year 6*)

31st October and 2nd November – Come in and.... meet your child’s class teacher to find out about your child’s learning.

Progress meetings for parents – please book an appointment to come and meet your child’s class teacher and take a look at their books.

If you’d like a “remote” meeting over a video call or a phone call, please let your child’s class teacher know.

16th November – Parent and Carer Coffee Morning @ Lancaster Hall

5th December – Come in and.... Watch the Year 6 Class assembly for parents and carers 9:15am

Come and find out what Year 6 have been learning about so far this term

8th December – PFA Christmas Fair

14th December – Parent and Carer Coffee Morning @ Lancaster Hall

18th December – EYFS Christmas Show

19th December – Y1 – 3 Christmas Show

20th December – Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper Day

21st December – Nativity Service St James’ Church (10:30am)

21st December – School closes early for the end of the long term: 1:15pm on the EYFS site and 1:30pm on the main site.

Friday 22nd December to Friday 5th January – Christmas Holidays

ATTENDANCE

School attendance is central to raising standards in education and ensuring all pupils can fulfil their potential. **The government has set a target of 95% attendance for all pupils.** This rate allows for periods of illness or circumstances when absence from schools is unavoidable. We want your child to attend school regularly as this supports their learning. If your child is not well or if you have a planned reason why your child cannot attend school, please inform the school office at the earliest opportunity.

Some key attendance facts:

- Attending 90% of the time or less will have a serious effect on learning.
- One day's absence every two weeks will give 90% attendance.
- Up to the age of 16, 90% attendance will mean losing over a year of school!

The school can only authorise any absences in the following circumstances:

- Genuine illness
- Dental/medical appointments (these should be made out of school hours where possible)
- Close Family bereavement
- Recognised religious observance
- Examination

What is NOT acceptable?

- Caring for a parent or sibling
- Going shopping
- Day trips
- Birthdays
- Bad weather
- Family holidays will not be authorised

PUNCTUALITY

What are the different types of lateness?

- 1. Late before register closes** your child is a few minutes late.
- 2. Late after register closes** this counts as an unauthorised absence and will show on your child's attendance record. Your child is likely to have missed the start of the lesson.

Top Tips for improving punctuality!

- Make sure you know your child's timetable – work together to make sure they have everything ready the night before e.g. books, PE or swimming kit, uniform!
- Get your child into the habit of doing their homework in the evening – instead of in the morning at the breakfast table.
- Make sure your child has a good bedtime routine so they get plenty of rest and don't struggle out of bed in the morning!
- Try to ensure your child has a good breakfast to set them up for the day – we have a super breakfast club you could use if you need to be at work early.
- If you are finding it difficult to get your child to school on time, talk to a teacher and ask for help!

October 2023

Children and Young People's Newsletter

 **mind**
Brent, Wandsworth
and Westminster



Happy October everyone! In this edition we are going to be focusing on World Mental Health Day and how we can talk about our mental health before taking a look at our 4 brand new SEND Parent workshops!

World Mental Health Day

World Mental Health Day is celebrated on the 10th October every year and is all about raising awareness of mental health and driving positive change for everyone's emotional wellbeing. It's also a chance to talk and think about mental health, how we look after our own mental health and how we can be there for others if they are struggling with their mental health. Talking is one of the best things we can do when looking after our mental health. However talking can be quite a challenging thing to do and sometimes it can be difficult to know where to start. We have come up with some tips and tricks of how you can start that conversation with somebody else and for yourself.



1. Find a good space to talk without distractions

If you're worried about someone, try to find a place where you know you can have a conversation where they feel comfortable and you know you won't get distracted. Make sure to give them your full attention. It might help to switch off your phone.

2. Listen and ask questions

Listening can be one of the most valuable ways to be there for someone. Show them that you're actively listening by facing them, making eye contact, and not interrupting. Questions can help you clarify what they mean and also show that you're actively listening. But make sure the questions are relevant to what they're saying, and not changing the subject.

3. Ask how you can help

Ask how you can help or make suggestions, rather than telling them what to do next. They might want support with going and talking to a teacher, help at school, or just for you to keep things normal and chat about what's going on in your life.



Who can I talk to?

When it comes to talking about our own mental health, it can be difficult to know who exactly we can talk to. This is where you can use 'My Hand Network'. This exercise helps us to create our own support network using just our hands. Each finger represents a person, so when you are feeling anxious, low, or any other negative emotion, you can look at your hand and think about who you can go to for support.



1 Minute of Mindfulness

Whenever you go to pass through a door and enter a new space take a minute to check in with yourself, breath and slow down. Give yourself a chance to notice how you're feeling before entering that new space - especially if you're going into that room to do something difficult or challenging. We call this a Door Reset.

New SEND Workshops for Parents/Carers

As part of our work with the SEND and Inclusion Hub in Wandsworth, we are pleased to announce 4 brand new workshops, working with parents and carers of children with special educational needs and disabilities. These workshops aim to discuss specific challenges, help with coping strategies as well as raise awareness and education surrounding mental health and the challenges children with additional needs might face.

The four workshops focus on:

Helping your young child sleep

Wellbeing of parents/carers of children with additional needs

Encouraging positive behaviour in children

Supporting your child with anxiety

If you want to find out more about these workshops, please speak to your class teacher, SENCO or Designated Mental Health Lead.

Autumn Term Forums

See below the dates and times of this Autumn Term's Forums. The forums are a great way to share your experiences and contribute to the future development of our service. For more information or to show your interest regarding the forums, contact our Whole School Approach Advisors: [Isaac \(isaac@bwwmind.org.uk\)](mailto:isaac@bwwmind.org.uk) and [Iris \(iris@bwwmind.org.uk\)](mailto:iris@bwwmind.org.uk).

Staff Forum:
22/01/2024
@4:30pm

Parent and Carer's Forum:
15/11/2023
@4:30pm

CYP Forum:
16/11/2023
@4:30pm

Meet Our Team Corner

In this issue I am happy to introduce **Cherie**. She is an **Educational Mental Health Practitioner** in the Mental Health Support Team.

Meet Cherie:

I was born in Hong Kong and moved to the UK when I was 13. I did my undergraduate in Psychology and postgraduate degrees in Child Studies and Mental Health Studies in London. I was always passionate about mental health. I was working with adults with complex mental health needs in the NHS for over a year, but I wanted a new challenge and work with children, and then I ended up here in BWW Mind! As a clinician, I learnt that prevention is key. It is important for children and young people to access mental health support from a young age, where they learn key skills to look after their wellbeing and know how to access help if they need it. I have recently completed my training as an Educational Mental Health Practitioner at UCL, I look forward to supporting and working with more children, young people, and parents this year!

A few things Cherie likes:

I've got 2 golden retrievers at home, which means I spend a lot of my time looking after them and giving them lots and lots and lots of attention. If I'm not spending time with my dogs, I'll either be cooking or baking in the kitchen, I've brought a lemon drizzle cake into schools before! One of my biggest accomplishments is that one of my retrievers is a therapy dog!

Cherie's perfect day:

My perfect day would start by waking up by the beach, and then going on a lovely hike with my dogs. After that, we will head off to a busy food festival, trying lots of different cuisines for lunch. With a full belly, I would want to relax at a spa, with a couple of treatments included! And lastly, my evening will be cosy, I would want to stay at home with my dogs, we'll put a movie on and order a takeaway!



Thank you for reading!