

THE SCOOP

Issue 2 Friday 2nd October

Focus on: Co-operation

Black History Month for the whole of October

Mon 5th– 10th October Mental Health Awareness Week + National Thank A Teacher Day! PTA non-school uniform day “Wear something that makes you feel good” £1 donation

Virtual Literature Festival this week

Fri 9th Yellow Hello Mental Health Day – wear yellow today (or just yellow accessories or non-school uniform)

Mon 12th Sibling and Individual photos 9-3pm in the school hall – further information will follow

Tue 13th Reception welcome from Reverend Nick and the school 9-9:30 a video of the event will be sent to parents.

Thu 15th Reception Welcome with Reverend Nick at school tbc

Fri 16th - World Food Day

Sat 17th Child Poverty Day + Grammar Entrance Test day

Sun 18th Anti-Slavery Day

Tue 20th Class 6's assembly (remote)

Thu 22nd Harvest Festival today in bubbles! Please donate food items which will be taken to Cheltenham Foodbank – we will be thinking about what we have learnt about World Food Day, Child Poverty and Anti-slavery Day and linking to No Child Left Behind.

Fri 23rd Last day of term – finish at 2:50/3pm today + Deadline for PTA Christmas Cards submission

Sat 31st October closing date for secondary school choices

Back to school on Monday 2nd November—Parents' Evenings take place this week.



St James'

Church of England
Primary School

OCTOBER





We truly hope that you and the children have settled well into school again after a long period of absence. We have been positively surprised and impressed by how the children have come back; they have followed all the instructions given to them, have worked diligently and have, in most cases, worked hard over the lockdown period. Thank you!

This term is all about curriculum recovery—staff have been busy assessing the children and the gaps in learning as a result of the pandemic. They have used a variety of tools to do this and are still unpicking some elements in order to enable catch-up and move learning on. This may lead to tweaks and changes to our curriculum offer and more time spent on particular elements. Phonics is one of these areas where we will undoubtedly provide additional support and teaching at times, particularly this term.

We are truly missing not interacting with you in the usual way and are trying our best to share elements of our school day with you. Mrs Hobbs' class assembly was a highlight this week—she put together a wonderful assembly for the parents which will also be viewed by children across the school. Please remember if you DO NOT want your child to be filmed please let our admin team know. The video is uploaded to our school Youtube channel but can only be accessed with the link (and with Youtube content safeguards in place for working with children) and will be taken back down shortly. It is the easiest and quickest way to get large videos to you at the moment. We have also welcomed back 'Open The Book' who are leading a fortnightly worship to one year group bubble at a time, which is recorded and shared across the school only. It was lovely to welcome them back this week.

We continue to follow our risk assessment for all parts of school life and so we are still unable to sing, worship collectively and join bubbles together—this means that the use of video between year groups is important to keep our school family together.

The current climate and approaching winter will undoubtedly lead to a variety of different national and local measures - individuals and groups from our school community are likely to be asked to get a test, and to isolate. This week we have published our commitment to remote learning which will be followed by a few more documents over the next week—these will introduce you to Microsoft Teams, enable you to access our remote platform via a school email address for each pupil within the school, make you aware of the dangers of the internet for pupils and how to safeguard them and share our curriculum priorities which will be threaded through the work set for children.

Finally I want to promise you that we are making our school as safe as possible and mitigating against risks; the school staff and governing body are committed to ensuring that whilst the children continue to thrive, experience new and challenging things and re-connect with our school family—we continue with additional daily cleaning, sanitising, handwashing, maintaining our bubbles and acting swiftly if anyone has symptoms.

Lisa Harford—Headteacher

A busy few weeks at school!



Class 5 assembly Thursday 1st October 2020

Mrs Hobbs, Mrs Cornwell, Miss Ladley and Mrs Faulkner created a wonderful class assembly for parents to watch this week. This was also shared with the children in class who thoroughly enjoyed it! We are now looking forward to the other class assemblies due before Christmas.

MakeMUSIC
gloucestershire

BRASS LESSONS GO DOWN A TREAT WITH YEAR 6!



The school has committed a significant amount of money to ensure that all children from Year 1 to Year 6 have a chance to learn a musical instrument. We kick started this with year 6 who were transfixed by the pure talent demonstrated by their new music teacher. Working with Make Music Gloucestershire we are encouraging all children to have a go and experience something new. Risk Assessments and safe practice are a priority. Take a look here at a video showcasing the opportunities we are offering: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=__IWgiS8Pbo&feature=youtu.be



What a wonderful day we had on European Day of Languages!

We had a blast last week when we all dressed up to celebrate the diversity that exists across Europe. It was also a chance to launch our new approach to languages in the juniors and showcase our German skills. Children worked hard extending their German vocabulary and all shared information on the country that they dressed to represent; a great opportunity to learn from our peers and wear our favourite football team's kit! Thank you for supporting us!



A busy few weeks at school!

A great day of Circus Skills for Y1

Year 1 welcomed Thomas Trilby to share the fun of the circus! This was to kick start their topic for the term. They performed their juggling skills brilliantly. Well done Year 1.



Children's Mental Health Week

This week signals the start of Mental Health Week. Mrs. Allen has worked hard to provide resources, assemblies and support for children's mental health.

On Monday 5th the PTA mufti day supports this by asking children to wear something that makes them happy (£1 donation) and on Friday 9th its wear yellow day (anything yellow will be great, socks, tops, hairbands, shoes, gloves or even decorate an item of clothing) to support this worthwhile cause. A donation will be split to our own mental health bookshelf and resources and Yellow Minds.



Mrs Allen—Y5 Teacher and PSHE Lead

The Victorians visited Y2!

Not only were we visited by none other than Queen Victoria a few weeks ago; we also took part in a Victorian workshop to help us learn about the past in a brilliant way! I think everyone took away some new knowledge and skills and enjoyed every minute!



PE with our coaches Natalie, Callum, Ethan and Ryan

The children are totally enjoying working with coaches again this year! Thank you Cheltenham Town and Move More!

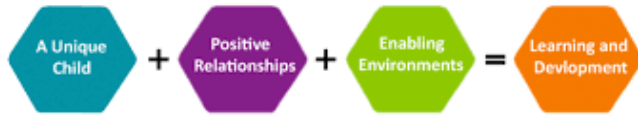


RECEPTION PARENT INFORMATION

On Monday 28th September Mrs Price and the team sent out our presentation to help guide you through your journey in Reception. This will be followed up during parent contact week (Week Beginning the 12th October) with any questions that you have. Reception have all started brilliantly.



The early years foundation stage



A warm welcome from Mrs Wood!

Mrs Wood—Pastoral Support

Mrs Wood, our pastoral worker is available to talk with parents and children in a bid to support their mental health and wellbeing. She is one of our Mental Health Champions alongside Mrs Allen, Mrs Dove, Mrs Smith and Mrs Harford. Mrs Wood is available from Tuesday to Friday and can be contacted on:

kwood@st-james-pri.gloucs.sch.uk

From the office

Please return any outstanding forms to us as soon as you can. Remember to ring in your child when sick and let us know what is wrong with them. This is important as we track school illness with a view to knowing when to let PHE know and also ensures the safety of staff if they are pregnant.

Please ensure all items of clothing and water bottles are named, this helps the staff return lost items easily.

Please note that there are some date changes in the Date in The Diary for you.

Please help us by...

Labelling everything!

With children wearing their PE kit to school every week it would be helpful if parents could spend two minutes checking that their child's hoodies/sweatshirts, in particular, have their name written on them. This is the lost property that we collected from lunchtime today that wasn't named—we delivered all named clothes, water bottles, pots back to their owners!

The job is taking a lot of time—please help us by naming everything!

All unnamed lost property is being given to the PTA every few weeks.

Anything without a name is being left on the far gate/fence for parents to collect—this includes smaller jumpers too that could belong to younger pupils.



Not Bringing Dogs into the Carpark!

With our use of the far gate for drop-off and collection of junior pupils we have noticed a larger number of dogs in this area. Please could you refrain from bringing them into the carpark. We have a number of children and adults that are scared of dogs and whilst we love seeing them, appreciate that they may cause anxiety to others.

Tape over earrings before coming to school

We have a no earring policy at school because they pose a risk to children's health and safety during PE, playtimes and lunchtimes and when using a number of our resources, particularly our EYFS and Y1 outdoor areas. If at all possible, please refrain from having your child's ears pierced. If they are pierced we would like them covered for their entire time in school. Please ensure that your child's ears are covered with tape if they have earrings in. Staff will remind you of this. Thank you

Inconsiderate Parking and Driving

As a school we are becoming increasingly frustrated by **parents' poor driving skills** and views on safety, particularly as it is our own school community they are putting in danger! We have asked time and time again for parents to park lawfully and to refrain from obstructing driveways or other cars! Last week we needed an ambulance at school for a staff member, luckily it was during the day but if it was at drop off or collection they would not have been able to reach us! This morning I have had to leave the gate to stop parents driving onto site; stopped families with small children when cars were reversing—**all too dangerous**. There are no additional parking spaces available when it rains! Please park away from school, safely and legally and walk. There is no other option that keeps everyone safe. Many of you have emailed me with your concerns, local residents and local councillors have also been in contact, taking up precious time for staff when we are totally over stretched keeping everyone safe. Parking enforcement came out last week and they issued 1 ticket and a warning to cars parked on double yellow lines. **Please can our school community get behind this please... Parking Enforcement urge you to email in directly to Highways: <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/highways/parking/>**

Vehicles causing an obstruction, preventing emergency access, parking on the pavement or blocking driveways are parking illegally. Report these instances to **101@gloucestershire.pnn.police.uk**. Parking on zigzag lines, double yellow lines etc please make a parking enforcement request to: **<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/e-forms/parking-enforcement-requests/>**

