



Newsletter

8th February, 2019

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This Week at St James'...

Another lovely week at St James' and a great end to Term 3.

On Tuesday, our gymnasts in Years 1 and 4 took part in a huge event at Lincroft School, where they showcased their skills in many different ways, including a floor based routine. They did incredibly well, and were placed third, and we are all very proud of their achievements!

Tuesday was also Safer Internet Day, and Mrs LeNette led a special assembly aimed at helping our children understand how they can best help themselves stay safe on the internet. The role of social media platforms is very much in the news at the moment, highlighting the pitfalls and dangers of unregulated use of the internet—it is our advice that children in primary school do not make use of social media, which includes WhatsApp, Instagram, Snapchat, X-Box etc and that where parents do decide to allow this, they monitor use very carefully. I am horrified to hear reports of some of our children sending messages from social accounts in the very early hours of the morning (3.00am!) from their phones or games consoles—please find some time over half term to check out your child's use of the internet. <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/2019> has lots of useful advice and tips, and links to other helpful places.

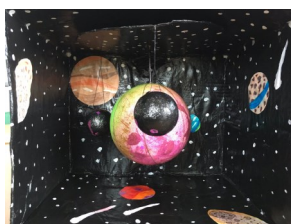
Thank you for your very generous donations for our charities this week—we know we've raised at least £400 for Lulu's appeal, and will be counting up all the final donations in due course and will let you know—but thank you so very much for your generosity!

Today is the last day of term, although tomorrow some of us will be on duty as St James' children form the Guard of Honour at the Bedford Blues game vs London Irish—we hope to see Mr Tapley playing, and are looking forwards to a great game!

I wish you all a very happy and restful half term break,

Maria & all the team at St James'

Dear Children...

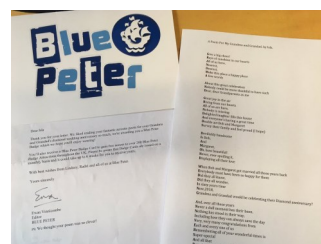


Daisy, you've had such a great week (and term!) - I can not tell you how impressed all the staff are with the way in which you support younger children around school, and your work with the gymnastics team was so greatly appreciated—thank you!

Isla has also had a fantastic week—she received a Blue Peter badge for her fabulous poem which she wrote for her grandparents' Diamond Wedding Anniversary (it gave me goosebumps!). Well done! I also loved Holly's Home Learning project this week, which showed a great deal of concentrated, hard work—brilliant! I was disappointed to have missed Year 6's fashion show, where they showcased their Home Learning projects where they had to 'make do and mend', using old clothing to create new—reports are that there was a great deal of creativity and skill on display—well done!

You've all worked really hard this term, and you deserve your half term break. Enjoy your time away from school (but keep up a bit of reading and Mathletics, please!), and stay safe. We're looking forwards to seeing you back in school on Monday, 18th February.

Ms Soulsby



Step into the NHS Competition

The NHS are running a competition for children with prizes of Amazon Vouchers. All of us have used the NHS at some point, so this is an opportunity to say 'thankyou' to all the amazing people who work for the NHS.

Children are invited to say thank you in whichever way they choose—through art (paintings, collage) or by writing a story, letter, playscript. You can choose. You can work on your own or join up with friends. Entries should be handed in to Ms Soulsby by **8th March**.

There is a Youtube video if you want more information:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sgaWNNKudokQ&feature=youtu.be>



Twitter users.....Follow St James': [@StJamesHead](https://twitter.com/StJamesHead) for regular school updates

What parents need to know about AGE RATINGS

If you have children, it is understandable to have concerns about the films and TV shows they watch, as well as the games they play. In this guide, we take a look at the two official ways you can assess if a particular title is suitable for your child. Both the BBFC and PEGI have search facilities on their websites that can be used to look up individual titles so you can check their ratings.

RATINGS FOR FILMS, TV & MUSIC VIDEOS

Since 1912, the BBFC (British Board of Film Classification) has informed UK residents of the age suitability of films, TV and music videos - providing parents with the information needed to assess whether or not it is appropriate for their child's age. This applies to cinema releases, DVDs and streaming video services such as Netflix.

WHAT ARE THE BBFC RATINGS?

BBFC ratings are broken down into seven age categories:

- U** Universal: suitable for all ages
- PG** Parental Guidance: Suggested
- 12** Suitable for people aged 12 and over
- 12A** Suitable for people aged 12 and over, accompanied by an adult
- 15** Suitable for people aged 15 and over
- 18** Suitable for people aged 18 and over
- R18** Adult: content only available in specially licensed cinemas and specialist retailers

WHAT ELSE CAN BBFC REVEAL?

Accompanied with the age suitability rating, BBFC also provide an additional warning regarding the content and what to expect, such as swearing, sexual content, violence and anything you may consider to be inappropriate for your child. In addition to this, the content is also rated in three levels: frequent, mild or strong.

LIMITATIONS OF BBFC RATINGS

It's important to note that there is no obligation on streaming video services to use or display BBFC ratings. Due to this, we advise that you check the rating online before your child streams the content. It may also be a good idea to watch the content first yourself or discuss it with other parents to help you decide whether or not it is suitable for your child.

RATINGS FOR GAMES

PEGI (Pan European Game Information) is a content rating system that ensures all video games are labelled with a minimum age recommendation. These age recommendations are based on the types of content featured within a game. With each game, PEGI also provides a content descriptor that indicates the potential issues and concerns, including sex, violence, bad language and drugs.

WHAT ARE THE PEGI RATINGS?

PEGI ratings are split into age restriction and content descriptors. Additional content descriptors help parents and children to understand the type of content featured within a particular game, including sex, fear, bad language, discrimination, gambling, drugs, violence, and in-game purchases. In combination, the two different ratings can provide a good level of information to help make informed decisions regarding the suitability for your child.

PEGI age ratings are broken down into five categories:

- 3** www.pegi.info
- 7** www.pegi.info
- 12** www.pegi.info
- 16** www.pegi.info
- 18** www.pegi.info

PEGI content descriptors are broken down into eight categories:

- Violence
- Bad Language
- Drugs
- Discrimination
- Sex
- Gambling
- Violence
- Bad Language

LIMITATIONS OF PEGI RATINGS

It's possible for young people to buy games online without a required proof of age, opening them up to age-inappropriate content without your knowing. We advise that you regularly monitor your child's gaming activities and maintain a honest and healthy dialogue with them about the online world.

PARENTAL CONTROLS

It is a good idea to put in place parental controls for all online accounts which your child may use to purchase or download online games e.g. The App Store, Google Play Store, Playstation Store and Microsoft Xbox Store etc.

Source: www.bbfc.co.uk

Source: www.pegi.info

National Online Safety

A whole school community approach to online safety

www.nationalonlinesafety.com

Email us at help@nationalonlinesafety.com or call us on 0800 368 8061



Our Book Week starts **Monday 4th March**, with the whole school sharing some 'Sustained, Quiet, Uninterrupted, Independent, Reading Time (SQUIRT)'. During the week each class will be celebrating the work of a different Children's Laureate and will be involved in a variety of 'booky' events, such as:

- 'Book Off' challenge
- Story writing masterclasses
- Author & illustrator masterclasses
- Quizzes
- Drama activities
- Shared story reading sessions

World Book Day is on **Thursday 7th March** and children will be able to come to school dressed as their favourite book character or their school uniform. Each child will receive a £1 book token which they can take to a local bookseller and can use it to pick one of TEN (exclusive, new and completely free) books. Or, if they'd rather, they can use it to get £1 off any book or audio book costing over £2.99 at a participating bookshop or book club (terms and conditions apply).

There is an Open Afternoon on Thursday from 2:00-3:30pm where we hope that parents/carers will join us for some shared reading and other 'booky' activities.

If you would like any ideas or inspiration on the best books or dressing up, please visit: <https://www.worldbookday.com/>



The Children's Laureates have been:
Quentin Blake, Anne Fine, Michael Morpurgo, Jacqueline Wilson, Michael Rosen, Anthony Browne, Julia Donaldson, Malorie Blackman, Chris Riddell, and the current one is Lauren Child.

From Dawn Until Dusk

At breakfast and afterschool club this term children have enjoyed doing a wide variety of games and activities including, chalk art, Chinese lanterns, paper penguins, making flapjacks, ice hands and plenty of other games and activities.

After half term we will be having the Harry Potter theme box along with other fun activities and games. We have also welcomed Jessica into our team this term, whom is a qualified early years practitioner, and with whom the children are enjoying plenty of craft activities.

The club generally has spaces available most days, especially Friday afternoons, so if you require any sessions please pop in and see us.

Keep an eye on our pavement sign for upcoming theme nights etc.

Cathy, Sharon and Jess.



'Church' with a difference!

Be creative
Have fun
Hear bible stories
Sing songs
Tea for the children!

Biddenham
Tuesday 19 February
Tuesday 19 March
4.30pm - 6.00pm
St James's Church Barn, Biddenham

Kempston
Sunday 24 February
Sunday 24 March
4.00pm - 5.30pm
All Saints Church Hall, Kempston

For children of all ages
(accompanied by an adult)

Free - No need to book - Just come along!
Everybody Welcome!

St James's Church, Biddenham
All Saints Church, Kempston

Important Dates for the Term Ahead

Date & Time	Event	Classes Involved	Staff Lead	Special Notes
Sat, 9th Feb 12.30pm	Honour Guard at Bedford Blues	Selected children	GH, MS	Information about this has been sent home
11 th -15 th Feb	Half Term	Whole school		
Fri 22nd Feb	Swimming lessons start	Years 4 & 5	GH	A separate letter will be sent home
Fri 22 nd Feb, 2.30pm	Y3 Class Assembly	Y3	GH	
Weds, 27 th Feb 5.00pm Hall	Phonics Information for parents		CD, NB	Primarily for Reception and Year 1 parents, but all interested parents are welcome to attend
Fri, 1 st March, 2.30pm	Y2 Class Assembly	Y2	SBG	
Weds 6 th March	Multi-Sports	Y3 & 4	SBG, LR	A letter will be sent home in due course if your child is participating in this event
Thurs 7 th March	World Book Day Open Afternoon from 2.00pm	Whole school	WL	
Fri 8 th March, 2.30pm	Y1 class assembly	Y1	NB	
w/b 11 th March	Science Week	Whole school	TKL	
Tues 12 th March 4.00-7.00	Parent/Teacher meetings	Whole school	Class Teachers	
Thurs 14 th March or Thurs 21 st March	Football game	Y5	TKL	A letter will be sent home in due course if your child is participating in this event
Thurs 14 th March 4.00-6.00	Parent/Teacher meetings	Whole school	Class Teachers	
Fri 15 th March	Red Nose Day	Whole school	IL	
Mon 18 th March – afternoon & early evening	Big Spring Sing Up at the Corn Exchange	Y6	IL	
Fri 22 nd March, 2.30pm	YR Class Assembly	YR	CD	
Mon 25 th March	Class Photos	Whole school	DS	
Tues 26 th March	Girls Football	Y 5 & 6	TKL, IL	A letter will be sent home in due course if your child is participating in this event
Weds 27 th March 5.00pm	KS1 SATs Information for parents	Y2	SBG	Primarily for Y2 parents, but all interested parents are welcome
Fri 29 th March 3.00pm	Book Blink	Whole school	Class Teachers	Please aim to be finished by 3.30pm
Thurs 4 th April	Multi-skills	Y1 & 2	NB, SBG	A letter will be sent home in due course if your child is participating in this event
Fri 5 th April 2.00pm	Easter Service	Whole school	TKL	
8 th -23 rd April Easter Holiday	23 rd April is an INSET Day Children return to school on Weds 24 th April			

Children return to school Monday, 18th February