



Be COVID Aware

Do not come onto school site if you have any Coronavirus symptoms, & get tested. Maintain social distancing at all times. The symptoms are:

- High temperature
- New, continuous cough
- Loss of or change to sense of smell or taste

Newsletter

7th May, 2021

office@stjamesvaschool.co.uk
head@stjamesvaschool.co.uk

Sunshine, clouds, rain, hail! Yes, it really is May!

We've had a great week in school and I continue to be so impressed with and proud of your children and their amazing attitudes towards school and their learning—they are working so hard! Everyone seemed to enjoy art day yesterday, using sculpture to express the values contained within our Rainbow Promise and developing key art skills. The stories behind their art work were incredible, showing deep reflection and understanding of our values.

Mr Tapley discovered a robins nest in the school grounds yesterday, which has generated lots of excitement. Ryu and Year 6 are currently working on setting up a camera so that we can track the progress of our eggs without disturbing the family, and yesterday I shared my own personal connection with robins. Robins are said to be messengers from people we love who have passed away, and there is also a story about how the robin got his red breast—a robin perched on Jesus' cross and drops of Jesus' blood fell onto it, making its breast turn red. True or not, robins give lots of people great comfort, so we're going to make sure we look after our robin family. I've set the children a home learning challenge to find out more about robins.

We've just signed up for a new Emotional Literacy programme called Making Me, following a recommendation from one of our parents (thank you!). This programme will help us to equip our children with skills and understanding to manage their mental and emotional needs as they move through childhood into adulthood. All staff have been trained this week, and we will start introducing some of the activities in the coming weeks, and we will hopefully be able to offer a parent workshop at some point in the future. Additionally, Mrs Wilding and Mrs Warren have received training in meeting the mental health needs of children. All this work will mean we are in a good place to support children as we move on from what has been a very strange and challenging time, and make sure we can help children to build back better from the world of Lockdowns.

Yesterday, I was asked to give a presentation about our approach to reading to colleagues from the Schools of Tomorrow organisation—another opportunity to share the good practice at St James'.

Thank you to all of your support this week with regards to the delivery driver who decided to park up on the zig zags and make his delivery whilst your children were leaving school—following your actions, I have received several telephone calls offering apologies, including one from the driver himself. I have accepted the apologies and believe that the situation has been considered very seriously—an important value here is forgiveness; we all make mistakes, it's what humans do, what is important is that we recognise these mistakes, learn from them, resolve to make changes and show humility by saying sorry. Your support was overwhelming—thank you for working with us to insist on making sure every child is safe.

On Wednesday/Thursday, our Muslim friends and families will be celebrating Eid—we wish you all much joy and love at this special time —Eid Mubarak!

As always, I wish you all a happy and peaceful weekend,

Maria & all the team at St James'

Parent Governor Election

Thank you to all of you who voted in this election. We had three strong candidates and we are so grateful to Graham, Louise and Phill for putting themselves forward for this important role to support our school in the coming years. Many congratulations to Graham, we are looking forward to working with you!



Get your child's voice heard and make a difference

The Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza, is launching a once-in-a-generation review of children's lives.

It's called 'The Childhood Commission' and it will identify the barriers preventing children reaching their full potential and propose policy solutions to address them.

At its heart is 'The Big Ask' – the largest ever consultation held with children.

In this survey the Children's Commissioner is asking children and young people what they think is important for their future and what is holding young people back. The Children's Commissioner will use what children and young people tell her to show the Government what they think and what they need to live happier lives.

It's an exciting opportunity to help us think big and it's a chance for every child in England to have their voice heard.

[Find out more and take part](#)



- Bring a sun hat to school—MAPAC sells these if needed. Ensure sunhats are named
- Apply long-lasting sun screen before school. Children should not bring sunscreen into school and staff can not apply sunscreen—we just don't have the logistical capacity to do this.
- Light, long sleeved 'cardigans' may be worn outside on the hottest of days
- Bring a water bottle to school (named)
- Children must wear appropriate footwear and socks—no flipflops/open toed sandals

Summer Term Dates Ahead
(COVID restrictions may apply)

27th May	Robins & Whinchats—African Animals Experience (in school)
31st May-4th June	Half Term
16th June	Welcome Meeting for Parents of children starting school in September
18th June	INSET School closed
2nd July	Sports Day (provisional date, at the moment, will confirm ASAP)
6th July	Y6 Transition Days for Lincroft and Sharnbrook Academies
13th July	Parents evening (drop in, to discuss end of year reports)
14th July	Moving Up morning—time in new classes
20th July	Proms in the Playground—whole school celebration 5pm
21st July	Leaver's Service 2.00
22nd July	Last day of term



He will cover you
with his feathers,
and under his wings
you will find refuge...
Psalm 91:4

Ms Soulsby's Rainbow Home Learning

To celebrate the discovery of our robin nest (with eggs!) and to help us look after the next and chicks when they hatch, I would like you to find out about robins and share your learning with me. You can present your learning any way you choose—presentations, an information booklet, a painting or other piece of art, a story or poem—be creative! You can either bring your learning into school and I will collect it from your classroom, or you can send it to me via Teams. I will share your work with the school via Twitter, the newsletter, in assemblies - let's become robin experts so we can really look after our new family!



Art Day

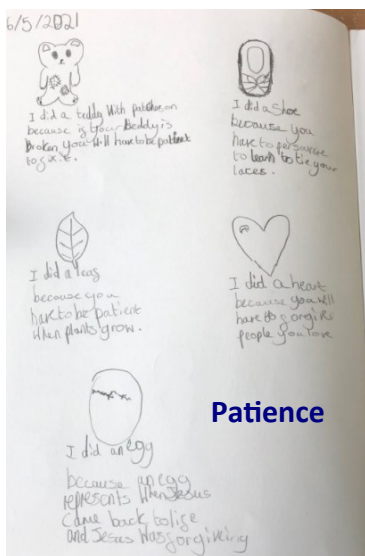
Using Sculpture to express the values of our Rainbow Promise



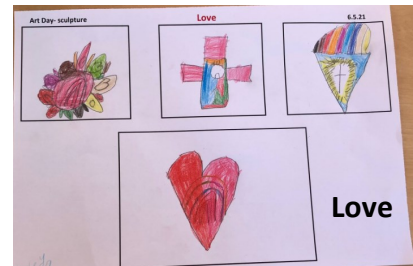
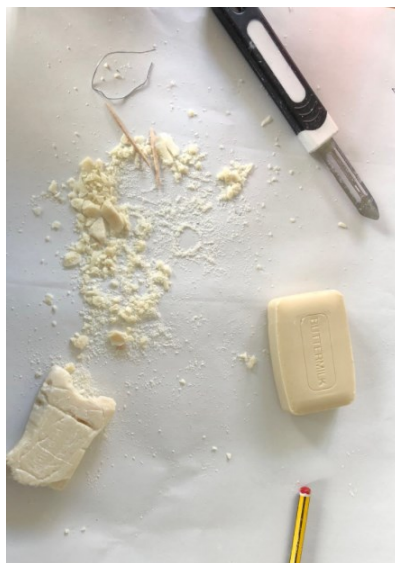
Koinonia



Hope

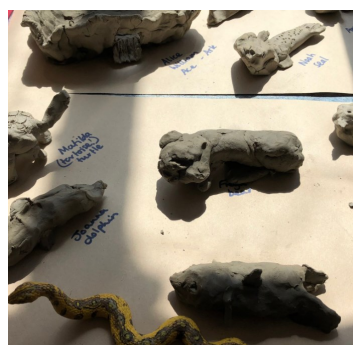


Patience

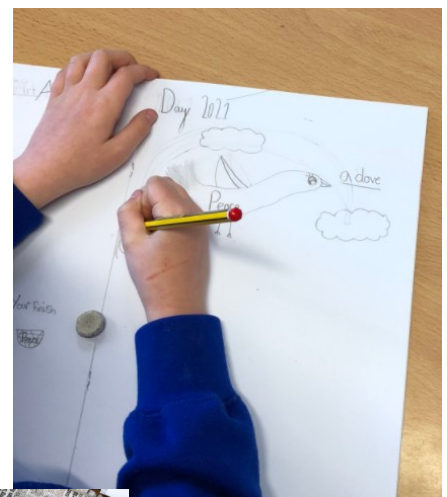


Love

'every block of stone has a statue inside it and it's the sculptor's job to discover' Michaelangelo



Noah's story—the animals



Peace

"This sculpture is someone giving a flower to someone else. The rainbow also reminds us when God sent the rainbow to show his promise. At St James' we give each other flowers to spread joy."



WELCOME TO MAPAC

We are delighted to be working with your school who have entrusted us with providing your children's school uniform.

1. HOW TO REGISTER & ORDER

- CLICK THE UNIFORM LINK FROM YOUR SCHOOLS WEBSITE...or...
- Visit www.mapac.com/education/parents or search online for 'Mapac find your school'.
- Use the 'LOGIN/REGISTER' tab at the top of the page and fill in your details (even if you don't need to order straight away, it means you'll start receiving Mapac updates and offers!)
- Once on your dedicated school page, simply add everything you need to your basket, register (if you haven't already) and then check out.

2. ORDERING GUIDE

Under normal circumstances we aim for all orders to be sent out within 10 working days. During our busier periods (especially over the summer) or if anything unexpected occurs, it can take a little longer, so please allow us some extra time to get your order to you.

Delivery to your home / work year round!

or

FREE delivery to your school

(This service will not operate during any school holiday this includes the 6 week summer holiday – order cut off date is 29th June for last delivery in to school on or around 16th July. Our aim will be to resume from 17th Sept for a first delivery into school on or around 1st Oct)

IMPORTANT SUMMER ORDERING INFORMATION

**To receive your order before the start of term
please order by 2nd August.**

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to call or email us. We are happy to help!

Linked to art day—you might be interested in this petition calling for the Government to stop a proposed 50% funding cut for the arts in Higher Education:

<https://www.campaignforthearts.org/petitions/stop-the-50-percent-funding-cut-to-arts-subjects-in-higher->