



# NEWSLETTER

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Issue no.19

10th February, 2012

The Value of the month  
for February is

Co operation

## ST JAMES' CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

### REMEMBER! NEW END OF DAY TIME FROM MONDAY 20th FEBRUARY 2012

3.15pm

Start of day remains unchanged. All children enter the school at 8.45am or as soon after arrival, but the register is not taken until 8.55am.

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been a short spell since Christmas but an exciting and crucial one for St James'. The words "Her Majesty's Chief Inspector is of the opinion that the school no longer requires special measures." have never sounded so good and have told us that all the hard work that has been carried out, and that continues, is taking the school in the right direction.

Attached to this Newsletter are a few extracts from the full Section 5 Report. The full report is now on St James' school website ([www.sjps.org.uk](http://www.sjps.org.uk)) and it will be posted on the Ofsted website ([www.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports)) within the next 5 working days – this will be 23<sup>rd</sup> February due to half term. Your child also has a letter from Mark Mumby HMI detailing some of his recommendation.

Many thanks on behalf of all staff for your kind wishes, cards, flowers, chocolates, cakes and drinks!

A few other things that have been going on recently ...

#### Class 4 Gospel Singing at The Courtyard

It was a sheer pleasure on Monday evening to be in the audience and watch our children taking parting this excellent performance. The enjoyment was clear from the faces during the performance and afterwards. They put on an excellent performance and were perfect ambassadors for St James'. They made us all very proud and were also very proud of themselves. What a great experience for them.

#### St James' Choir

Our choir joined the congregation at St James' Family Service on Sunday morning and sang 'their little hearts out!' As always, we were made to feel very welcome by everyone there (lots of lovely cakes afterwards!). Altogether a great experience – thank you children – for giving up your Sunday morning and thanks to your parents for making this possible.

#### GB v France – Blind Football

A group of us (43) went to watch this event last Saturday afternoon. Unfortunately, there were no goals scored but we were, once again, in awe of the courage and commitment of these lads who do not allow their disability to prevent them from representing their country in a sport they enjoy.

#### Governors

In my haste to let you know of the outcome of our recent inspection, I missed out on paying tribute to the hard work of the members of the governing body. Many of them are new to the Governing Body and now have an excellent grasp of all aspects of leading our school. We meet at least once each term and these meetings can be very challenging for me! They question me on all aspects of school leadership including pupil progress data, levels of attainment for all children, current and future financial issues, staffing levels etc. They listen to me and support me when making important decisions and I thank them for all of this.

#### E-safety for parents of pupils in C5 and C6

I was surprised that out of 51 pupils, only parents of 4 pupils attended this. Mark Sanderson, ICT Consultant, did a fantastic presentation of how to manage the hazards of children on line and how to work with your child to ensure their safety. He very kindly left some handouts. Should anyone want any of this information please contact the school office. Those who did attend very much valued the information.

#### Communication

We are very close to making a final decision on the provider of the parent-school emailing and texting service. In fact, this may be the very last paper Newsletter! Thank you to those of you who responded to our questionnaire. We will let you know when things are definitely likely to change.

#### New time for end of school

Please remember that after half term, school will finish at 3.15 pm for all pupils. Start of school remains the same – entry to school from 8.45 am onwards – your child needs to be in school by 8.55 am.

Have a good half term break,

Kind regards,

K Weston

#### 'NEAR MISS' IN ST JAMES' CHURCH CAR PARK

Could you please ensure that you do not allow your child to run into the car park at St James' Church either on the way to school or after school. There was an occasion last week where a child ran in front of a member of staff's car when she was arriving for school— please remember that it can be difficult to see a small person when you are in a car. Luckily no one was hurt this time but we obviously don't want this to happen again.

Thank you for your support.

#### St James Breakfast & After School Clubs

If you have not already done so, please see Miss Cope for a new booking form and information of new club times.

#### School Closure –Be Prepared!

We have estimated that there are enough members of staff to walk to school and ensure children's safety. Please remember therefore, that St James will **almost always be open** so send your child to school. In snowy conditions **ALWAYS** send your child in wellies and warm clothes (a change of clothes, especially spare socks and gloves is always useful!) so that we can all enjoy any snow we get. There could be difficulty in getting hot meals delivered so a packed lunch is a good idea as a precaution.

### SCHOOL TERM DATES

**Half Term** - Mon 13/2/12– Fri 17/2/12

**Term Ends** - Fri 30/3/12

**Summer Term starts** - Weds 18/4/12

**Half Term** Mon 4/6/12 - Fri 8/6/12

**Summer Term Ends - Fri 20/7/12**

Good Friday - Fri 6/4/12

Easter Monday– Mon 9/4/12

Early May Bank Holiday- Mon 7/5/12

Spring May Bank holiday - Mon 4/6/12

Diamond Jubilee Holiday - Tues 5/6/11

### Wiggly Squiggly Storybooks

#### Family Friendly Workshops based on drawings of Edward Ardizzone

Tues 14/2/12

Woolhope Room - Hereford Library

10.30-12.00

Tel 01432 383600

Tickets £1 per person from the Library.

For 5 years and above.

Children must be supervised by a parent/Carer

### Dates for your diary

23/2/12 - C3- Ukulele lessons begin

27/2/12 - C5 to visit the Record Office

27/2/12 - SATS Information evening KS1- 7pm

28/2/12 - SATS Information afternoon KS1 - 14.15pm

29/2/12- Parents' meeting for Croft Farm (class 5 parents)

12/3/12 - C2 - Road Safety Talk

12/3/12 - C5 visit Museum & Resource Centre leaving 12.45pm

13/3/12 - PTFA Meeting 6.30pm

14/3/12 - C5 Dance Festival - Aylestone @1pm

16/3/12 - C5/C6 visit Rockets &Space Workshop at Cathedral School

23/3/12 - Second hand Uniform Sale afterschool in playground

30/3/12 - Easter Hats Competition

23/4/12 - 25/4/12 - C5 Residential visit to Croft Farm

17/5/12 - SATS Week C6

1/6/12 - Diamond Jubilee Street Party

2/6/12 - Castle Green Summer Fair

11/6/12 - 13/6/12 -C6 visit Malvern Residential Centre

13/6/12 - Bags to School Collection - morning

23/6/12 - Summer Fete

26/6/12 - C5 - Moving Targets Performances, The Courtyard

### Edward Ardizzone (1900-1979)

#### Artist & Illustrator

A Monnow Valley Arts Touring Expedition

Hereford Museum & Art Gallery

Broad Street

Hereford

Open 10-5pm Tues to Sat until 14/3/12

Admission Free

### C5 - Croft Farm Residential Visit & C6 - Malvern Residential Visit

Pease keep sending in your payments for the above visits, if you have not yet paid in full!

There will be a meeting for Class 5 parents on Wednesday, 29th February at 7.00pm to discuss the Croft Farm trip (letter to follow after half term)

### CAR BOOT SALE—SATURDAY 3RD MARCH

#### St Thomas Cantilupe School

10.00am—12.30pm (gates open 9.00am)

Load your car—£5 per car at the gate

Buyers enter free Refreshments available

Fund raising in aid of FLICK project to complete refurbishment of St Peter's Church

Contact Jenny 01432 870802 if you need further information

### Book Bags

We have noticed that our reading books are starting to get damaged when our children are taking them home to read and therefore we ask that they are carried to and from school in a book bag. To ensure that your child's books are kept in good condition we will give a free clear plastic book bag to every child who does not already own one. The bag can be collected from the school office. These bags are not very robust so if you do need to replace it we can sell you another one which will cost 50 pence. If you would prefer you can purchase a blue nylon school bag from the Uniform Shop for £5.99

## Extract from Ofsted Inspection Report— January 31st/ February 1st 2012

### Key findings

- This is a satisfactory school. In accordance with section 13 (4) of the Education Act 2005, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector is of the opinion that the school no longer requires special measures.
- The school has improved considerably as a result of the high expectations of what can be achieved and the clear direction provided by the headteacher. She has established an effective leadership team who work together very well to drive forward school improvement. The team is relatively new but has already proved that it has the ability to continue to improve the school.
- Since the last inspection, the quality of teaching has improved and it is now consistently satisfactory or better. It is good in the Early Years Foundation Stage. A particular strength is the teaching of early reading skills (phonics) to the youngest pupils.
- Pupils make satisfactory progress and attain standards in line with the national average by the time they leave the school. In the most effective lessons, pupils make good progress as a result of high expectations and challenging work. This is helping to plug gaps in pupils' learning and enable them to make up for inadequate teaching in the past. However, a small minority of older pupils still have gaps in essential basic reading skills.
- Procedures to keep pupils safe are robust. Pupils cooperate well and mostly have good attitudes in lessons. However, when lessons are less engaging, pupils quickly drift off task and their learning slows. Most pupils play well together, although there are only limited activities for them to participate in at breaktimes. As a result, a few pupils become isolated and find these to be lonely times in the day.

Schools whose overall effectiveness is judged satisfactory may receive a monitoring visit by an Ofsted inspector before their next section 5 inspection.

### What does the school need to do to improve further?

#### **Increase the proportion of good and better teaching in order to enable all pupils to make at least good progress and attain standards above the national average by:**

- ensuring that all lessons have clear learning intentions which meet the individual needs of the pupils
- making effective use of assessment to plan learning activities which
- challenge pupils, especially the most able, throughout every lesson
- having high expectations of pupils' learning and behaviour in every lesson so that no learning time is lost.

#### **Ensure that all pupils have well-developed reading and spelling skills appropriate to their age by:**

- improving the subject knowledge of teaching and support staff in the teaching of reading and spelling
- identifying pupils who have gaps in their learning with regard to reading and spelling, and ensuring that these pupils receive the support they need to catch up.

#### **Increase the opportunities for pupils to develop their sporting and social skills at breaktimes and outside the school day.**

For a copy of the full report go to: [www.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports) or St James' school website [www.sjps.org.uk](http://www.sjps.org.uk)