

Year 2 Newsletter: Spring Term, Week 9



What have we explored this week?

We have been doing many activities to celebrate British Science Week. The theme is TIME and we started the week with a fun and informative assembly from our Science Coordinator, Mr Edwards. He told us about the BSW National Poster Competition, and every pupil has created their very own, unique poster on the theme of TIME. During our workshop about dinosaurs, we explored how fossils are made and the way they can tell us so much about the past.

Last but not least, the Natural History Museum was a real highlight of British Science Week. We were challenged to take on the role of scientists as we helped experts to explore the oceans on their adventure into the deep. This immersive show highlights the importance of the oceans and demonstrates why it's never been more vital to help protect this amazing habitat.

Things to Remember

- We have a lot to look forward to between now and the Easter holidays, so we thought we would let you know the key Parent/Grandparent dates in advance:
 - Monday 18th March – Book Look Morning (8:15am-9am) – if you have children in different classes in the Lower School, staff will be on hand to escort you around so you can see all of your children’s brilliant work
 - Wednesday 20th March – Year 2 Shakespeare Festival Performance (9am)
 - Wednesday 20th March - Internet Safety Workshop (8:15 to 8:45) led by Ms. Foster. This session will aim to equip parents with tools to navigate the digital world alongside their children safely.
 - Tuesday 26th March – Easter Service, St Mary’s Church (9:15am)
 - Wednesday 27th March – Grandparents and Friends Morning (<https://stjamesjunior.schoolcloud.co.uk/>) and End of Term (11:30am pick-up)

As part of Grandparents’ Morning, we will be holding our annual Easter Hat Parade. The children are invited to make an Easter-themed hat or headdress to wear on the day. As we are an eco-friendly school, we would like the children to reuse or upcycle items for their creations. Children must still wear full school uniform and bring their hats in on the day. As this is a fundraising event, please bring £1.

A bake sale will take place after the parade, in the courtyard, where monies raised will be shared between the three charities St James Prep supports – The Daisy Trust, St Vincent’s School for the Sensory Impaired and Other Needs and Rossholme School in Kenya.

- As usual, this week’s homework is in the yellow folder. Pupils have been given until Wednesday 20th March to complete all tasks as best as they are able to. The Spelling and Maths tasks should take 20-25 minutes. This week, the English homework is to polish our lines for the play. Mrs Cook has asked everyone to know their cues and their entrances as well as their line. Thank you, parents, for helping with this.
- May we ask parents of children who are expected to be absent on a Friday to email the school office with a request for homework to be sent directly to the school office. If your child is absent due to illness, we will ensure they are issued with the correct homework upon their return to school. This is to ensure that your child is given sufficient time to recuperate and that parents are not disturbed over the weekend with requests for copies or photos of homework sheets. It also ensures the correct homework is given to each child, as it is adapted to suit them. In the meantime, absent children can always do

plenty of reading, or use our excellent online resources (TTRS and Oxford Reading Buddies).

- Please do ensure you are listening to your child read aloud as much as possible – ideally on a daily basis, filling in the yellow reading record. We would encourage quality reading of 10-15 minutes (including discussion) rather than lengthy sessions of page turning! Even though your child may not finish a book every night, they always need to bring their reading book and reading record to school every day.
- Some children are using Times Tables Rockstars (TTRS) regularly and we are already seeing the benefit in class. We are going to be giving extra House Point rewards to pupils who do this, so please do encourage your child to use this excellent resource. Ms Foster has stipulated that each week **TTRS must be played in Garage Mode only**, for 2 x 5 minute sessions. If you have any questions about our online platforms, please do not hesitate to get in touch via the school office.