



# ST JAMES

## Preparatory School

### Year 1 Newsletter: Autumn Term Week 8

#### What have we explored this week?

Welcome back to school life at St. James as we enter the colder months of the second half term. We have shared some wonderful holiday diaries with detailed pictures and careful writing. The creative models and pictures the children have produced linked to the Earth Day homework are delightful. Thank you for your support.

Here is a taste of the year one learning from this week:

*English* - In phonics, the children have focused on sounds **or/aw** and **eer/ear**

Our writing genre this half term is non-fiction instructional writing. We are creating instructions for 'How to catch a fairy' linked to the wonderful story of 'How to catch a star' by Oliver Jeffers. We made star catcher posters and models.



Some of the writing features include a title, a hook question, list format, time conjunctions and imperative verbs. Queen Bossy Boots commands everyone to do things using lots of imperative verbs such as **wait**, **give**, **move**, **put**, **take** and **get**. She never says *please or thank you!*

*Maths* - Our '**Star words**' this week- subtract, minus, take away

In Maths this week the children have practised reading word problems to understand how many to take away from the whole number. They learned to tell subtraction stories using the words **first**, **then** and **now**.

In Science, we have explored the question, how many seasons are there in the UK? What is the weather like today? What do we need to wear?

The children have been creating a self-portrait using pastels in Art this week..

The children were very excited by their first swimming lesson at St. James. They managed to confidently enter the pool and move through the water towards the other side. The children were supported by five swimming instructors and carefully put into different ability groups. The children will be supported to swim at a level where they can comfortably progress. We do not leave the pool until 2.30pm to school around 3pm so we apologise in advance if the children are few minutes late. We will speed up over the weeks but for now the changing is a slow process.

### Things to remember

- We are pleased to be launching ClassDojo for parents as a way of enabling quick communication between home and school. Please do read Mrs Wyatt's newsletter which has specific guidance about when to use ClassDojo to communicate and when an email to the school office is more appropriate. To connect to your child's ClassDojo account, please follow the link below:

1C: <https://www.classdojo.com/ul/p/addKid?target=class&class=CTUXPCA>

1L: <https://www.classdojo.com/ul/p/addKid?target=class&class=C6GGP76>

ClassDojo is also used to award and tally house points, so you will now be able to see when your child receives a house point and what it is for!

- For swimming, please bring a plastic bag for the wet costume or shorts after the lesson.
- We are all excited for Feel Good Friday on **Friday 15th November**. It will be all based on the theme of Buddies! We will spend some time together during the day, including lunch, playtime and a fun craft challenge. Additionally, we would invite the children to come to school wearing odd socks on this day! This will help us to celebrate difference - a theme we have been looking at in our PSHEE lessons. This will be a fabulous conclusion to our Anti-Bullying week.

- **Parent Teacher Interviews (PTIs):** You have the opportunity to book a 20-minute meeting with your Class Teacher to discuss your child's progress so far this term. Year 1's meetings are being held on **Friday 22nd November**. Please book your appointment if you haven't already on SchoolCloud via this link: <https://stjamesjunior.schoolcloud.co.uk/>
- A gentle reminder that all children should be wearing smart black shoes.
- If possible, please name absolutely everything as swimming often results in mixed up uniform. Thank you.

