



# ST JAMES

Preparatory School

## Year 3 Newsletter: Autumn Term, Week 8



### What have we explored this week?

We very much hope you enjoyed your half-term break. The children have returned full of vigour, and we were impressed with the 500-word stories that many of them wrote over the break.

This week was particularly action-packed! Our Netball fixture on Tuesday was a huge success and we were proud of the improved positional awareness and skills that the children showed. 3PW loved their extra Art lesson on Wednesday, which linked to our Ancient Egyptians unit of study.

In Maths, we began a new unit on *Multiplication and Division*. We have looked at how we can use our improving understanding of number facts to share or group numbers. As always, using concrete materials helps the children to deepen their understanding.



In English, we began our new unit entitled, 'Why are Dragons Afraid of Mice'. It is a non-fiction unit, which encourages the children to use subheadings to organise and then explain their ideas. We began with our 'Cold Task', which required the children to write a piece explaining why pixies are purple - inspired by a clip from a Harry Potter film.

In History, the children enjoyed solving a puzzle based on the River Nile - and in Science, we began our new topic *Rocks, Fossils and Soils*.



Yesterday's first Swimming lesson of the year was a huge success, and we were pleased that the children enjoyed returning to the pool.

### Things to Remember

- This weekend's English homework can be found in the *English Reading CGP* book (orange and white). The children have been asked to complete the **first part only**, based on the text which can be found on pages 10-11. They should answer question set 1 on pages 12-13.
- 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:

3J: <https://www.classdojo.com/ul/p/addKid?target=class&class=CUSXZAK>

3PW: <https://www.classdojo.com/ul/p/addKid?target=class&class=CZ69S2Q>

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!

- Year 3 are progressing well in Sanskrit. At present, for any homework set they are asked to continue systematically with the exercises in their text-books. These exercises allow them to practise what they have been learning in class. They should not spend more than 15 minutes on homework. Parents do not need to help at all. If pupils are finding it difficult, they should have a go and then put it away. The Sanskrit teacher will help the next day. The most important thing is for them to enjoy what they are doing, and to bring their book back to school!
- **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 3'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/>
- We have reminded the children that Times Tables Rockstars (TTRS) forms part of their weekly homework schedule on a Tuesday and a Thursday. Ms Foster has stipulated that **TTRS must be played in Garage Mode only** for 2 x 5-10 minute sessions. If you have any questions about our online platforms, please do get in touch via the school-office. Login details for this platform and others have been stuck in their spelling books.
- Please ensure you are listening to your child **read aloud** as much as possible - ideally on a daily basis, filling in the yellow reading record. *Oxford Reading Buddy* login details have also been stuck in their spelling books.
- 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.