



ST JAMES

Preparatory School

Year 3 Newsletter: Autumn Term, Week 9

What have we explored this week?

Feel Good Friday was such fun! The children loved wearing odd socks, in a nod to our Anti-Bullying week theme of *Celebrating Difference*. All children had an extended *buddy-time*, with a craft activity and playtime. The pupils always look forward to spending time with their buddies and it is wonderful to watch these relationships flourish.

In Maths, we continued our new unit on *Multiplication and Division*. We have looked at how we can use our existing times tables knowledge to help us with other number facts. We have spoken to the children about the importance of regular practice at home on their recall of their times tables. The online platform, *Times Tables Rockstars* is part of their weekly homework timetable on a Tuesday and a Thursday.

In English, we began learning our model text-map of, 'Why are Dragons Afraid of Mice'. We have also used the story of 'Zog' to help us extend sentences using conjunctions which link our ideas together.

In our new Geography topic, *The River Nile*, the children enjoyed conducting research using evidence packs. Who knew that the Nile runs south to north, and that it spans across 11 countries?!

In Religious Studies (RS), the children began developing their understanding of the Nativity by performing small plays of the Annunciation. There were many glorious Angel Gabriel's, humble Mary's and obedient Joseph's!



Things to Remember

- We are excited for our trip on **Monday 18th November** to the British Museum. The school will provide the lunch for this trip so there is no need to send anything in other than a snack to supplement the lunch, should the children wish to bring one with them. As always, please ensure it is a healthy snack and nut-free. The children should come to school in school uniform. We will be back in time for clubs and normal dismissal time.
- 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 **second part**, based on the text which can be found on pages 10-11. They should answer question set 2 on pages 14-15. They have also been asked to begin learning the first part of our model text - 'Why are Dragons Afraid of Mice'.
- **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 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 last week'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!
- 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.