



ST JAMES

Preparatory School

Year 3 Newsletter: Autumn Term, Week 13

What have we explored this week?

And there we have it! Can you believe we are already at the end of the first term of the school year? It has been such a fun term, and the end of this Autumn Term is particularly colourful and joyful at St James.

It was fantastic to see so many of you at Monday's *Book Look*. It is a joy seeing the children share their work with pride.

House Netball was an exciting event! The children loved representing their houses and playing in friendly but competitive matches, earning a victory for Canterbury. Speaking of Canterbury, they were also victors of this term's house competition. This earned them a Christmas party which celebrated their great work.

In Maths, we continued to work with the multiples of 2, 3, 4, 5 and 10 - as well as the commutative law to help us recognise number relationships.

In English, we completed our *Hot Task*. The children showed a strong understanding of *Explanation Texts*, and we enjoyed reading their writing, where they used clear structure and insight to explain and develop their ideas.

Wednesday's Christmas lunch and jumper day was a vibrant affair, with much laughter and delicious food had by all. The children loved pulling crackers and wearing festive outfits!





Our Carol Service on Thursday was a more formal occasion, and we were so proud of the singing and poetry recitation on show. The children have worked so hard in assemblies and Music lessons to prepare for this event and we hope that you enjoyed being together as a community to mark the end of term.

Things to Remember

- Wellbeing Update from Mr Jones:
 - If your child wishes to apply to join our next group of **Wellbeing Ambassadors**, they should write a letter, using the template given out this week. Deadlines for applications is Friday 17th January.
 - We invite all parents to complete the following Wellbeing survey. We are so keen to hear your thoughts once again on the wellbeing provision on offer at St James. Please use the following link:
<https://app.awardplace.co.uk/stakeholder-evaluations/user-survey/674dbf2243252>
- The children are all looking forward to a well-earned break. They have worked very hard this term and deserve some rest. However, we do have a few suggestions of English and Maths activities they could complete over the break.

The following activities are recommended for Maths:

- Times Tables Rock Stars - Many children are doing an outstanding job of learning and practising their times tables and division facts. Please continue to play in Garage mode with an aim of getting the times tables to green! Children are welcome to play in other modes too, but please keep the key focus on Garage mode.
- National Oak Academy - If there are any maths topics that you would like to explore or revise, then please use the lessons available on this site: <https://www.thenational.academy/teachers/key-stages/ks2/subjects>
- Power Maths Books- These are workbooks which link with our curriculum and teaching style. You can purchase 3A to consolidate previously learnt topics. However, families that would like additional work are welcome to work through 3B or 3C in addition to 3A. Be aware that some topics in 3B and 3C are yet to be formally taught in class. [Power Maths Pupil Practice Book 3A | Shop | White Rose Education](#)
- If you fancy a challenge, then have a go at DecemBAR! A set of challenges designed to encourage problem solving using drawings of bars to represent mathematics. The questions get progressively more challenging. <https://whiteroseeducation.com/resources/decembar>
- Nrich is a fantastic site for reasoning and problem-solving challenges. <https://nrich.maths.org/parents/primary>

The following activities are recommended for English:

- In the final week of term, we collect all reading books in for an inventory, but your child will never be short of a book to read because this wonderful resource is always available for you:

Please log in to *Oxford Reading Buddy* with the sign-in card which has been stuck into the back of your child's spelling book. There are so many books available, and your child can choose a buddy and show you how to click on the prompts and questions as they read the book. *Reading Buddy* is a good model of how to support and encourage children's comprehension skills as they read. For more detailed information, go to this address and choose Parent Support: <https://support.oxfordreadingbuddy.com/> or look at the introductory video found here: <https://www.oxfordreadingbuddy.com/uk>

Top Tips for enjoying books during the Holidays

Book Sharing

Children learn so much from sharing books with adults. Not only are they **learning vital skills** for later reading and writing, but sharing books also helps with talking, listening, and communication skills, as well as encouraging imagination, curiosity, and arousing emotions.

Read to your child

Your child will learn a lot about how language works from speaking and listening. However, the type of language we use in writing is often different from that in speech. Reading regularly to your child, especially books that they cannot yet read on their own, is a great way of improving their vocabulary and their understanding of language.

Talk about books, stories, words, and pictures

Talking about books is a useful habit to get into. Talk about the characters and what happens in a story, or what specific bit of information was most useful, and ask your child for their opinions too. Let them tell you if (and why) they don't like a book. Part of growing as a reader is learning that it's okay *not* to like books sometimes!

Asking your child open questions can help them to think about what they're reading. Try to ask questions that begin with 'how' and 'why'. See if your child can go back to the text and pictures to tell you how they know the answer.

Talking about what is happening in a picture, what the characters might be thinking, or what might happen next all help to develop reading skills too.

- When your child reads an online book, please note down the name of the book in their reading log as normal. This also applies to any Quizzes completed.

Finally, we would like to thank you for your kindness and generosity this festive season. Your gifts and thoughtful messages are gratefully appreciated.

*We wish you a restful, peaceful and very Merry Christmas -
as well as a prosperous and Happy New Year!*

