



# ST JAMES

Preparatory School

Reception Newsletter: Spring Term, Week 2

What have we explored this week?

Last week's and this week's Phonics sounds:



Please do use the Phonics keyrings to recap the purple sounds and begin to learn the green sounds. Also use tricky word bookmarks to recap Phase 2 and begin to learn Phase 3 tricky words.

Have a go at reading the sentences from this week:

/j/ j

Jess and Jill get on a jet.

Jack stuffs a jam bun in his jacket.

/v/ v

Val is a vet and she has seven pets.

Vic has a big red van and a red vest.

In English, we began learning our new story of the Baby Bumblebee. The children enjoyed our creative hook where they got to hunt around the school for a special golden key to unlock a box given to us by a bee. It contained a special gift of honey and they got to enjoy it on bread. We also learnt how to draw a bee.



Here is what happened on our journey as well as the story we are learning:

1. Early one morning, a box and letter appeared in RB Class. The letter said to find a box.
2. Unfortunately, the box was padlocked. Miss Baillieux found a key, but the padlock would not open.
3. Next, we asked Miss Laird to help, but the padlock would not open.
4. Then, we asked to Mrs Clark help, but the padlock would not open.
5. After that, we asked Pat to help, but the padlock would not open.
6. Finally, we asked Carl to help, and TA DAH! The box opened.
7. Inside we found some delicious honey for our class.
8. We snuggled down to eat the honey together and learn a new story.

### **The Sleepy Bumblebee**

One sunny day, Mr Bumblebee woke up and looked out of his hive.

Unfortunately, he could not sleep because all the dogs were barking.

“Oh no!” buzzed Mr Bumblebee, “I can’t stand this!”

After that, he went to sleep on a poppy but he could not sleep because all the children were singing.

“Oh no!” buzzed Mr Bumblebee, “I can’t stand this!”

After that, he went to sleep near a pond but he could not sleep because all the ducks were quacking.

“Oh no!” buzzed Mr Bumblebee, “I can’t stand this!”

After that, he went to sleep on a willow tree but he could not sleep because all the monkeys were munching bananas.

“Oh no!” buzzed Mr Bumblebee, “I can’t stand this!”

After that, he buzzed off back to his hive but he could not sleep because –  
the dogs were barking,  
the children were singing,  
the ducks were quacking,  
and the monkeys were munching.

But just then –  
the monkeys chased the ducks  
and the ducks chased the children  
and the children chased the dogs  
and they all ran away!

So Mr Bumblebee fell fast asleep!

*Four leaf clover – my story is over.*



In Maths, we have been focusing on our number skills to 10, developing the children's understanding of numbers' cardinal values - how many items the number represents. We have been subitising 10 by looking at the amount on tens frames, using lots of different objects. Using tens frames is helping us to subitise and the children are learning to lay objects out in the same formation even if they do not have a tens frame with them.









We began looking at numbers to 10 and thinking about number bonds. The children are becoming aware, for example, of the numbers that add together to make 8. They made butterflies using dot markers, trying to make sure that they only used '8' dots, whilst deciding how many to put on each side.



Topic this week taught the children all about World Religions Day which is on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January. We spent time learning about six main religions and found similarities between them. We even had an assembly on Tuesday where Mrs Jessup told us all about her travels around the world and about different religions she has encountered.

### Main Religions

 Christianity	 Judaism	 Hindu Dharma
 Buddhism	 Sikhi	 Islam

### One World

Did you notice that the religions have some similarities?

- They all have a holy book or sacred texts.
- They all have a place of worship.
- Many involve the love of a higher being or god.



The children made some religious buildings during their Play and Explore time as well as some colouring to linked to faith symbols to reinforce what they have learnt.



We have been having lots of fun practising for our Chinese New Year class assembly.



We had a lovely Buddies session this week where the Year 4 children showed Reception their iPads. They used them to read their assembly lines and practise them together. It was a session filled with teamwork and support, as well as lots of resilience whilst we worked out how to use the iPads.



## Things to Remember

- We have a Reception Class Assembly coming up on Tuesday 28th January all about Chinese New Year. You are invited to watch the performance during the assembly time slot, which is 8.25am - 9.00am.
- We sent home laminated assembly lines in your child's folder. Please make sure you practise them daily so that your child is confident to speak during the assembly. We will also be practising in class. I have sent them digitally to you on Class Dojo, too.
- Houses Feel Good Friday - Friday 24th January:

On Friday 24th January, we will be having our first Feel Good Friday of 2025 with a colourful houses theme!

All children in the Prep School are invited to come to school in their house colour - no uniform! They should bring a donation of £1 or more to our school charity for the year - Under One Sky - if they would like to come in non-uniform. Donations of hats, scarves, coats and gloves are also warmly welcomed for Under One Sky.

Reminder - Canterbury is green, Salisbury blue and Winchester red.

We will also be having the first 'Great Houses Bake Off' and all children are invited to bake something in their house colour. If they want to take part, children should bake 3 small cupcakes/cookies/biscuits in their house colour. These should have no nuts and a clearly labelled list of allergens, along with their name and class on a label.

All entries will get 10 house points and the winners for each house and overall will get lots more!

On the day, the children will also be having a playtime with their house and having a house meeting. We are looking forward to celebrating together!