



# The St. James' Journal

## Newsletter

6th March 2026



### MR LEEMING'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents/Carers,

The highlight of our week has been our World Book Day celebration which included:

- children choosing a book to take home from our "Rivers of Books",
- reading activities in class and in assembly
- the sale of Wonderlicious Chocolate bars - some of which included Golden Tickets!

The atmosphere was warm and cosy as children arrived dressed in their pyjamas, ready to curl up with a good book and enjoy a day dedicated to reading for pleasure. A massive thank you to "Friends" our amazing PTA for organising the river of books and the chocolate bars.

Reading is one of the most powerful gifts we can give our children. It strengthens imagination, builds vocabulary, and opens doors to new ideas and worlds. When children read regularly, they develop confidence in their learning, empathy for others, and the ability to think creatively. Moments like World Book Day help nurture a lifelong love of reading by showing children that books are not just tools for learning—they are companions, adventures, and sources of comfort.

Let's keep making time in our busy lives to prioritise reading. Enjoy a good read this weekend!

### Collective Worship *Your word is a lamp for my feet, and a light unto my path"*

Psalm 119:105

We looked at the Bible and what makes it so special. We learned that it is the best-selling book of all time and sold 396,000 copies in the UK last year – more than any other book!



#### Update us

Have you moved or changed your contact details recently?

Please inform the office asap.

#### Attendance

It is vital that your child is in school on time every day.

The class with the best attendance this week was:



**HAWTHORN & WILLOW**





Our Spring **Parents Evening** will take place on  
**Monday 16th & Monday 23rd March, 3.30pm - 6pm KS2 Hall**

**Birch Class Only: Monday 23rd 3:30pm—6pm & Tuesday 24th March 3:30—5:30pm**

A booking link has now been sent out. If you are having problems making a booking please contact the school office on 01200 423599 and an appointment will be made for you.

**Scholastic Bookfair** will be in school from Wednesday 11th March until Tuesday 24th March, every afternoon after school in the Junior Hall from 3.20 and during both parents evenings. Every book you buy will earn free books for our school.

**World Book Day:** We have all had a lovely day, thank you Friends for the hot chocolates.

Look out for the book tokens that the children will have brought home!

If you haven't had chance to donate yet, there is still time. The link will stay live for a little while longer. **Please use the link [here](#) to make a donation on line:**

<https://superkind.org/campaign/clitheroe-st-james-pyjama-book-party>



## Golden Ticket

Pupils who go **over and above** to demonstrate our school values will be awarded a 'Golden Ticket' and will be placed in the draw for prizes at the end of term. The following children have been awarded a Golden Ticket:



## STARS OF THE WEEK



### Acorn

Ivy & Jeslyn

### Ash

Penny & Louis

### Birch

Amelia & Erin

### Chestnut

Tanya & Raven

### Rowan

Jaxon & Beth

### Oak

Daisy D & Laiba

### Willow

Ruby & Pawel

### Hawthorn

Zachary & Jessica-Rose

### Alder

Cali & William

### Sycamore

Rose & Stanley

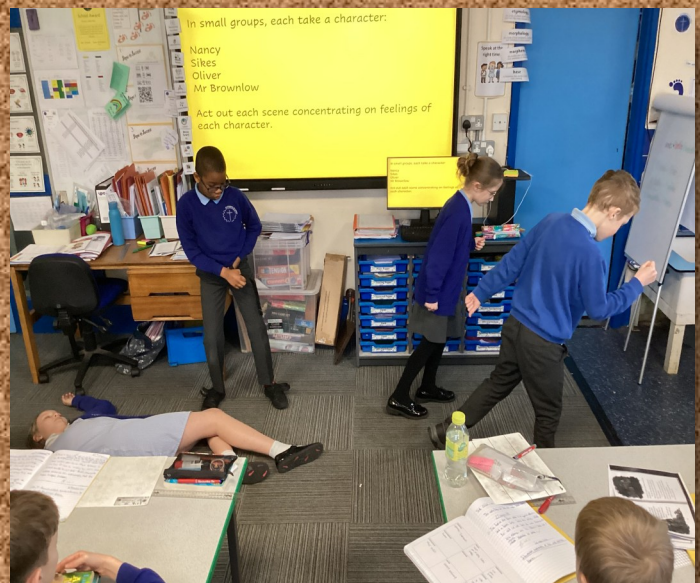
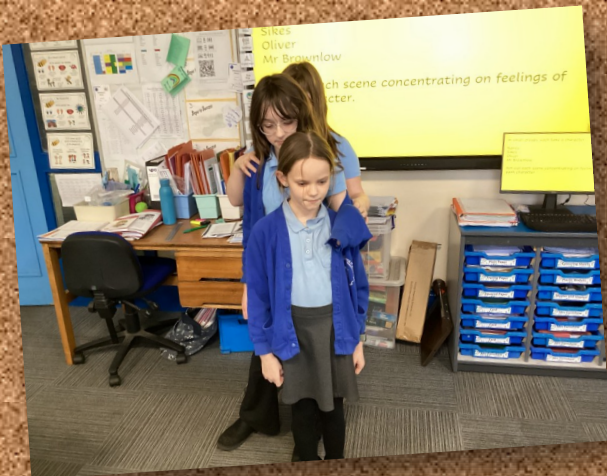
**CLASS NEWS:**  
There has been a lot of exciting learning going on this week.....



Hawthorn Class have had lots of reading fun this week! We loved coming to school in our PJs!



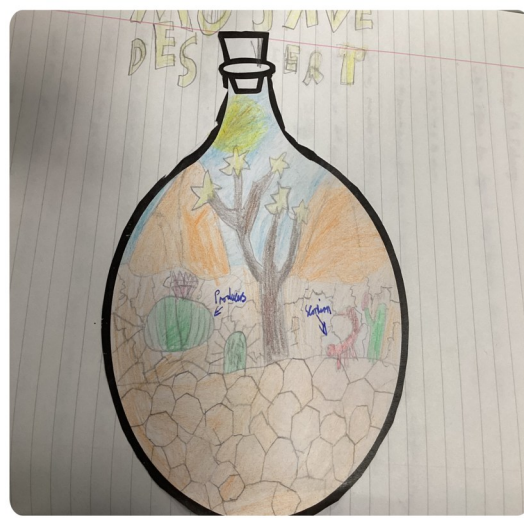
**Alder Class:** This week, we have used drama to learn about characters feelings and thoughts at a point in the story. They acted out different parts of the story of Oliver Twist.





Willow class have been learning about the lifecycle of a butterfly as part of their RE work.

Rowan Class: WOULD YOU WANT TO LIVE IN A DESERT? To complete our Geography unit, Rowan class considered this question and created a piece of writing (A Biome in a Bottle) inspired by the book 'An Ecosystem In A Bottle' by Rachel Ignotofsky.



**Threats**  
There can be lots of threats in the desert. Such as cactuses are like big walls, snakes are poisonous or worse dead! etc.

**Area**  
Here is plants like cacti or cactuses, you can also find some trees. In the Mojave Desert there are...

**What is a biome?**  
A biome is a large space like the Mojave Desert. It has a lot of plants, animals and plants and it could be anywhere on the planet, where ever.

**Location**  
The location of the Mojave Desert is mainly California but spreads out between the west and spans over 300,000 square miles.

**Climate**  
The climate in the Mojave Desert there are warm days and cold nights. It is approximately 22°C - 28°C of a normal day. The hottest months is July for the Mojave.

**Fun fact**  
The Mojave is 25 billion years old. It was a good place for rock climbing, camping and lots more.

**MOJAVE DESERT!**

**What is a desert?**  
A desert is a biome which has low vegetation and has lots of sand. Deserts are very dry and hot because of how low chance of rain could be!

**Landscape!**  
In most deserts you will have a high chance to spot a military base because of how spacious deserts are, military bases are usually spotted in the desert.

**Threats: Vegetation**  
There are lots of plants in the desert but it's all very thin and are cactuses. One of the plants in a desert is the Joshua tree, which is a large cactus that is normally spotted in national parks in the desert.

**Cool places**  
The Mojave desert is not too hot and is an amazing place. It has lots of things like a salt flat, sand dunes, mountains, rivers, and natural arches.

**Activities**  
There are many activities you can do in a desert like: go sand dune bashing, military, camping, rock climbing, etc. It's a great place to visit and explore. You can also see some of the most beautiful wildlife in the world.

left behind hidden underground water reservoirs and rich minerals that can be found throughout the desert.

During the rainy season, the Mojave is home to a variety of plant life, with cacti, shrubs and colourful flowers flourishing. But in the summer, you can see why European settlers called it 'the land God had forsaken'. This desert is home to the hottest, driest place on Earth: Death Valley. There, temperatures regularly reach 49°C (hot enough to melt the tins right off your feet) and it boasts the world record temperature of 57°C.

How can anything live in such heat? Desert plants and animals have adapted to survive on occasional winter rainstorms and by finding underground aquifers. A few animals, like the kangaroo rat, do not drink water at all and get their hydration from the food they eat. Other animals avoid the hot sun by leaving their homes only at night, like coyotes or jackrabbits. The Mojave Desert's unique elevations and hidden water sources make it home to some of the most beautiful wildlife in the world.

In the ecotone of the Mojave Desert and the Great Basin is the world's rarest fish, The Devils Hole pupfish is found only in Devils Hole, an aquifer so deep that earthquakes on the other side of the world cause the water to ripple.

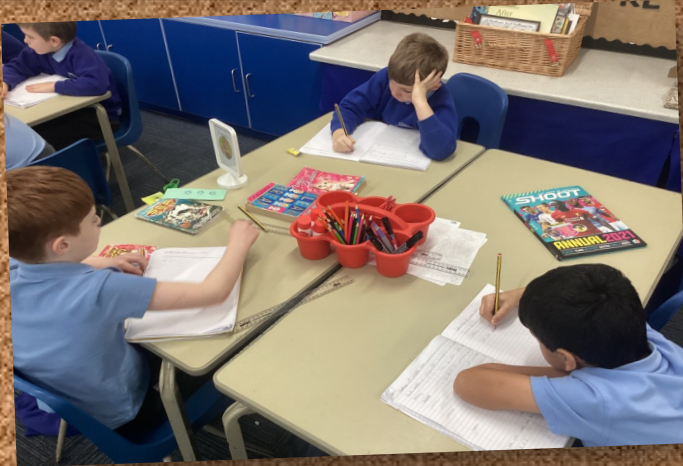
The desert tortoise stores water in its bladder during the rainy season and uses it to survive the dry parts of the year. (Like a camel, but slower!)

So-called 'walking stones' are found in parts of the Mojave. They leave trails across the flat surface of dry lake beds, seeming to have moved on their own. In reality, ice sheets break apart and are blown by the wind, pushing the rocks across the clay lake beds.

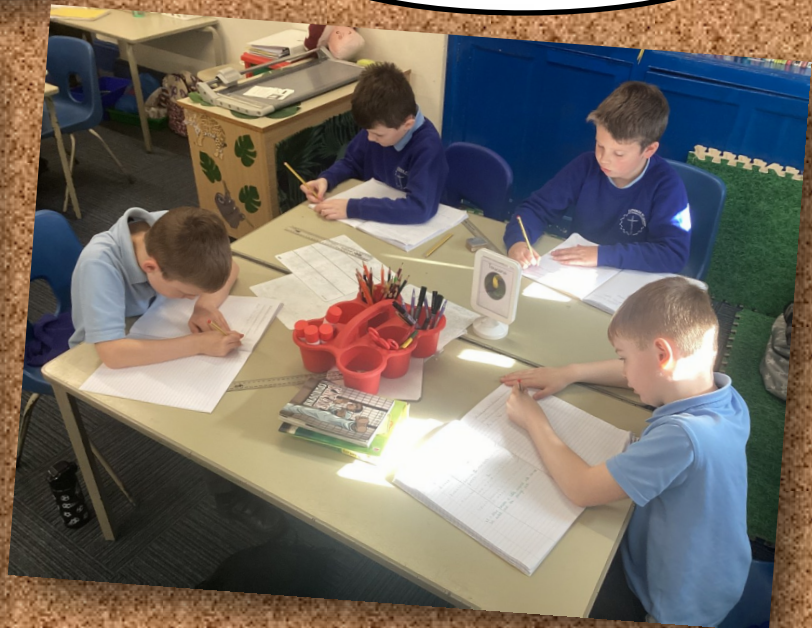


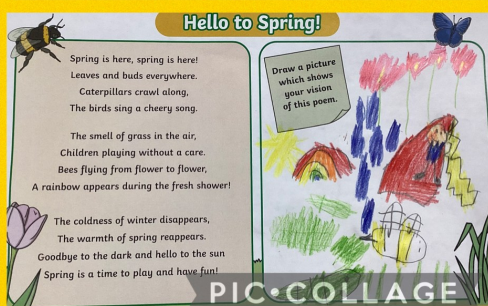


Chestnut Class were given the opportunity to visit Clitheroe Castle Museum. They had a fantastic time listening to author Susan Brownrigg talking about her latest book 'Off the Rails' and learning about The Rainhill Trials. Then, they had a session on Railway Safety; staying safe on trains and near the railways. Finally, they had a 'Whistlestop Tour' of some of the exhibits in the Castle Museum. It was a wonderful day out, we are very grateful to Susan Brownrigg, Community Rail Lancashire and Clitheroe Castle for such a great learning opportunity.



Birch class love writing!





In RE Ash Class have learnt how a butterfly's life cycle symbolizes the life of Christ:  
 The caterpillar stands for Christ's life on earth. The cocoon stage portrays Christ's burial and then the butterfly emerges and this is the final stage, as in Christ's resurrection, a symbol of Easter.



In Oak Class we have been learning about Spring in RE and Science and we went for a lovely walk looking for signs of Spring. We have also started our new Geography topic where we have started to learn the names of the seven different continents and where they are in the world.





Sycamore had a brilliant morning reading with children from Ash & Oak as part of our World Book Day celebrations. The older children listened to the Year 1&2s read and also shared some of their favourite books with them.



Acorn Class have been cooking up a feast this week! Our learning has been linked to our new story "Chapatti Moon" We have had fun grinding and pounding spices and herbs and making delicious chapattis with Mrs Zulfi.

This year, let Friends help surprise that special someone...

# Mother's Day Gift Bags

Who wants to treat their Mummy/Mum, Nana, Aunty, Grandma or Mother figure in their life to something special this Mother's Day?

Let Friends help! Our gift bag contains a potted plant, craft to make & gift (suitable for all ages), a written keepsake to personalise, card to colour and other treats to spoil that special someone, whilst helping raise funds to support school too!

Gift bags will be delivered & handed out in class on Friday 13th March, ready for Sunday 15th.

**£5.50**  
each

*Sibling bags* **£2**  
(Extra craft, written keepsake & card)



**Order online at PTA Events by Tues 10th March**

Cash orders taken via the school office - put £'s in a sealed envelope with your child's name & class, and 'Mother's Day bag' written on.

Please use the following link [here](https://www.pta-events.co.uk/stjamesfriends/index.cfm) to pre order your Mothers Day Bags:

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/stjamesfriends/index.cfm>

Orders need to be placed by weekend to buy them!

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March, last



St James' Church invites you to...

# POPCORN

A friendly, fun-filled space for families to explore Bible stories together.



Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March

Refreshments, Songs, Bible stories and craft  
Popcorn cafe with drinks and after school snacks from  
3.30pm

Songs, Bible stories, craft and fun activities from 3.50pm  
St James Church, Clitheroe

[www.stjamesclitheroe.co.uk/popcorn](http://www.stjamesclitheroe.co.uk/popcorn)

## MOTHERING SUNDAY

9.30am & 11.15am  
with Archdeacon Jane

St James' Church  
St James' Street  
Clitheroe