The St. James' Journal

Newsletter

13th November 2026



MR LEEMING'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents/Carers,

This week, our children were fortunate to take part in **Prayer Spaces** (see photos on page 7), led by volunteers from **St James' Church** and **The Grand Theatre**. Through a range of creative, interactive and reflective activities, children were encouraged to explore their thoughts, feelings and beliefs in a calm and welcoming environment. The sessions provided valuable opportunities for reflection, discussion and spiritual growth, as well as precious moments of peace and collaboration.

On Monday, **Alder Class** enjoyed an exciting and memorable trip to **Clitheroe Castle**. The children had a fantastic time learning about the castle's rich history, and taking part in a range of engaging activities. They represented our school brilliantly throughout the visit, demonstrating excellent behaviour, enthusiasm and curiosity. It was a wonderful opportunity to bring their learning to life.

On Thursday, we were proud to host a professional development event, welcoming colleagues from local schools to participate in a writing moderation session. Working alongside other professionals helps us to continually refine our practice and ensure that we provide the highest quality education and learning experiences for all our pupils.

As always, we are incredibly proud of our children. Their positivity, kindness, curiosity and determination to grow both academically and personally make our school a truly special place. They continue to impress and inspire us every day, and we thank them for being such wonderful ambassadors for our school community.

Over the half-term break, Mrs Tyson celebrated her wedding, and we are thrilled to share our **congratulations** with her. We wish her every happiness in this exciting new chapter. She will now be known as **Mrs Mosby**.

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

Collective Worship

This week, our collective worship has focused on the theme of peace and on remembering and honouring those who have made, and continue to make, sacrifices in conflicts around the world.

On Wednesday, we came together as a school at 11:00am to observe a two-minute silence as a mark of respect and remembrance. I also had the privilege of accompanying members of our School Council to Clitheroe Castle, where they represented the school by taking part in the town's civic act of remembrance. The children conducted themselves with great maturity and respect, and were excellent ambassadors for our school community.



Pantomime Trip - 10th December

The whole school will be watching this years pantomime—**Once Upon a Time at Clitheroe Castle** on Thursday 10th December.

The cost will be £10.00 per child and will include a drink and snack at the interval. Please complete the online form and make payment by 5th December.

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:

Emilia M (Hawthorn), Behram K (Chestnut)

Jason J (Willow), Elowyn & Ella-Rose (Rowan)

STARS OF THE WEEK

Acorn
Aayat

Willow
Joshua M

Hawthorn
James P

Alder
Darcie B

Sycamore
Esemae

Ash
Grace W

Birch
Harry D

Chestnut
Lola S

Rowan
William W

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



Alder Class visited the castle and took part in an enrichment trip, re-enacting the Battle of Hastings and learning about weaponry from the Anglo Saxons, Vikings & Norman period.









Sycamore had a brilliant Science lesson creating our own periscopes this week. We thought about how light travels and how using mirrors for reflection we could see round corners or from a higher point, just like submarines!

This week in Hawthorn we have become archaeologists researching ancient civilisations, we have dug for artefacts and even had a go at making our own.





Birch Class loved the Prayer Spaces this week. They had time to think about the soldiers who fought in the war and to reflect on their own gifts they have to bring to the world.

Ash & Oak children had a lovely Autumn afternoon in Forest School making popcorn & then enjoying eating it with a good book!





Chestnut Class had a wonderful time enjoying the prayer spaces.

Everyone enjoyed some time to be relaxed and reflective!





Willow class have been using our new orienteering resources in Maths this week to find one more and one less.







Rowan Class loved exploring the prayer space this week. They have also learnt how light can be reflected in Science. They made periscopes to enable them to see over walls and around corners!

















Acorn Class: We have been very creative and inspired by Autumn.

Our wonderful school ambassadors with our very own Councillor Mary Robinson on remembrance day.





Being creative at our Prayer Spaces reflective activities.





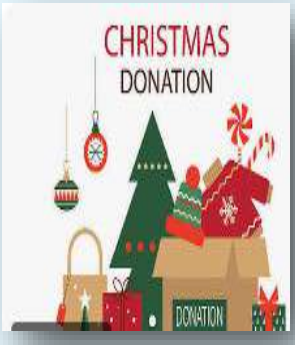


Dates for the Diary

Wed 18th Nov	Full Governors meeting (5pm for 5:30pm start)
Fri 20th Nov	Non Uniform day in exchange for a Jarbola. Prizes for best decorated jars.
Thurs 26th Nov	Last day to bring in shoebox appeal boxes
Fri 27th Nov	Friends Christmas Fair, 3:20pm
Mon 30th Nov	Friends Christmas Wreath Workshop, 7:30pm - 9pm, KS1 Hall
Mon 30th Nov to Thurs 3rd Dec	Friends Storytime & Crafts with Santa, 3:15pm to 4:30pm
Wed 2nd – 4th Dec	Robinwood trip Year 6
Thurs 10th Dec	Panto trip – The Grand AM "Once Upon a Time at Clitheroe Castle"
Fri 11th Dec	Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas lunch
Tues 15th Dec	Nativity Performance, at Church 2pm
Wedns 16th Dec	Nativity Performance, at Church 3:45pm
Thurs 17th Dec	Christmas Service at Church, 9:30am, all welcome
Fri 18th Dec	Last day of term, school finishes at 2pm
	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY (Mon 21st Dec—Fri 1st Jan 2027)
Mon 4th Jan 2027	School opens at 8:40am

Please note these dates/times may be subject to change as necessary

Friends Christmas fair - Friday 27th November



Donations needed - Friends would love any donations of wine, raffle and tombola prizes, pre-loved uniform, toys & games in good to new condition (especially for our Teddy Tombola!) or unwanted gifts, and cakes & bakes for our cake stall! All baked items need to have an ingredients list included please.



Do you have some spare time on an evening or on the day?
Please get in touch, we need lots of hands on the day but also have things like wrapping that could be done at home to help!

SHOEBOX APPEAL

We are collecting Shoe boxes again this year for children in Ukraine that will not receive much this Christmas. The shoe boxes will be distributed by International Aid Trust.
See full information and instructions for packing a shoebox here:
https://internationalaidtrust.org.uk/shoeboxes/preparing/

Please bring your shoes boxes into school by Thursday 26th November 2026

Join in the fun >>

FILL A BOX OR TWO



1) **Gift wrap the box and lid separately**
   - Use an elastic band to keep the box together.
2) **Fill out the label (overleaf)**
   - Choose the age and gender of the person you want to receive your shoebox.
   - Fill out the label overleaf and stick it onto the top of your shoebox.
3) **Fill your shoebox with appropriate gifts**
   - Don't wrap individual items.
   - See below for a list of suitable/unsuitable gift ideas.

IDEAS FOR WHAT TO INCLUDE

TOILETRIES	✓ Toothbrush ✓ Toothpaste ✓ Soap ✓ Flannel or sponge ✓ Comb ✓ Hair bobbles ✓ Roll on deodorant ☒ No sprays ☒ No medicines, vitamins or tablets
TOYS	✓ Small toys ✓ Cuddly toys ✓ Balls ✓ Skipping rope ✓ Games ✓ Small jigsaws etc ☒ No guns or war toys
CLOTHES	✓ Socks ✓ T-shirts ✓ Hats ✓ Scarves ✓ Gloves ✓ Underwear ✓ Babygro (for little ones)
STATIONERY	✓ Pens ✓ Pencils ✓ Crayons ✓ Eraser ✓ Sharpener ✓ Notebooks ✓ Colouring books ✓ Scissors *(round-ended safety type for children)*
PRACTICAL	✓ Plastic bowl & cup ✓ Cutlery ✓ Safety Pins* ✓ Mini sewing kit* ✓ String* ✓ Wind-up torch* ✓ Plasters* ☒ No matches **For teens & adults*

Did you know... It costs us £2 to collect, store, transport and distribute each shoebox? In a time of increasing costs, your contributions are very welcome. Please do not put money inside or attached to boxes. Donations can be made through our website or by cheque.

Storytime & Crafts with Santa - Treat your child to a very special afternoon they won't forget! Our magical experience includes a story read by Santa, large craft linked to the story, festive biscuit decorating and yummy hot chocolate all enjoyed with the jolly fella himself. Suitable for all ages, there'll also be a little extra something to take home!

Runs straight after school from 3.15-4.30pm on Monday 30th November to Thursday 3rd December (Mon, Tues, Wed & Thurs) - your child will be collected from class to attend, then unless booked into Jimmy's please pick them up at 4.30pm from the main reception.

£6 per child, limited spaces available each day - book your place(s) now for a festive after-school adventure they won't forget! **https://www.pta-events.co.uk/stjamesfriends/**

