ST JAMES
Preparatory School

Year 3 Newsletter: Summer Term, Week 5

What have we explored this week?

We have been so proud of the way the children have settled back into the routines and rhythm of school. Last week was a magical blur of excitement, sunshine, joy and lifetime memories. We thoroughly enjoyed their company, and we hope that you enjoyed their tales from Dorset. We hope you enjoy a selection of photos below. We look forward to sharing many more photos and videos with you shortly.

In English, we have begun learning our new model text of 'Lucy Through the Wardrobe'. We have also been looking at enhancing our setting description by using new linguistic devices such as onomatopoeia.

In Maths, we started a new unit about money, looking at how to convert units of money between pounds and pence. Ms Foster's group have worked on time using Roman numerals.

In Geography, we have enjoyed exploring India and where it is in the world. In Religious Studies, we have begun delving deeper into the history of Buddhism and the 'Four Noble Truths'.

Things to Remember

- For this weekend's **English homework,** the children have been asked to continue learning our model text. For comprehension, some of the children have been asked to continue working in the *English Reading CGP* book (orange and white). They have been asked to complete the **second question set,** based on the text (Build Your Own Solar System) which can be found on pages 28-29. They should answer **question set 2 on pages 32-33**. Other children have been given an alternative to ensure that all the children have a homework that is tailored to suit them.

- On Friday, 23 May, a fund-raising day will take place for Masibambane College. We hope to raise enough funds to purchase a Jojo water tank for this school in South-Africa. Please may your child come to school with a few pounds in a named purse/wallet so that they can participate in the events taking place e.g. Bake sale, scooter-wash and Arts & Craft sale.

- 3PW Parents, please may we kindly request that your child come to school on Friday, 23 May with some items to sell at our class Bake-Sale. Please ensure that all donations are clearly labelled with a list of ingredients – and that nuts are not included. Donation suggestions include (home-made) cup-cakes, biscuits, fudge, and popcorn. All donations will be greatly appreciated!

- You are invited to come and join us for a 'family lunchtime' in the Refectory next week (either Tuesday 20th May or Thursday 22nd May) so that you can experience what lunchtime is like at St James and sample our delicious food. You can book for your preferred day via SchoolCloud.

- There will be a Book Look for all classes on Wednesday 4th June at 8am

- Parent Teacher Interviews for **3PW** will take place on **Monday 9th June** and for **3J** on **Friday 13th June**. Please book your appointment on SchoolCloud.

- Please note that if you wish to pick-up your child directly from Kings House from Games on Tuesdays, please do so **at 2:45pm**.

- We are pleased to announce that our Year 3 and Year 4 pupils will have the opportunity to take part in the *First Maths Challenge* this term. This national challenge provides an excellent introduction to the more advanced *Primary Maths Challenge*, which pupils can participate in during Year 5 and Year 6. The challenge will take place between **Monday 16th June and Friday 27th June**. Although participation is voluntary, we strongly encourage all pupils to take part, as it offers a valuable opportunity to develop problem-solving skills and mathematical thinking. To prepare, we highly recommend that pupils have a go at the past papers available on the official website: First Maths Challenge Past

Papers.All children who participate will receive a certificate in recognition of their effort and enthusiasm.

- 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!

- Times Tables Rockstars (TTRS) forms part of their weekly homework schedule on a Tuesday and a Thursday. **TTRS should 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 listen to your child **read aloud** as much as possible – ideally on a daily basis – and fill in the yellow reading record. *Oxford Reading Buddy* login details are stuck in their spelling books.

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