



newsletter

December 2023

Inspiring and Growing for Fullness of Life



Merry Christmas

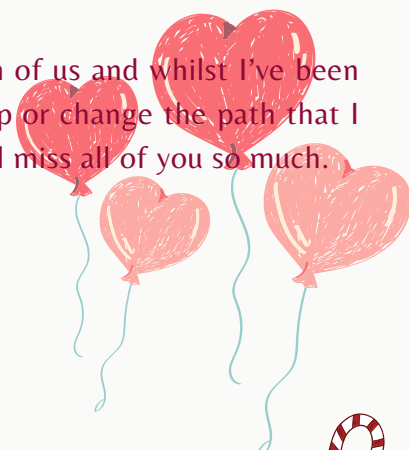
This is the last letter of 2023 and my final newsletter as the head of St. James'.

I have been here as headteacher since 2014 and I have loved every minute of my time. It is a vibrant, fun-filled school that reaches out to celebrate everyone's uniqueness and individuality. Our recent OFSTED inspection highlighted the exceptionally talented team, the brilliant pupils and the committed parents. Whilst the report (which is written in a formal and scripted way) shared the bare bones of what OFSTED saw, what it didn't share was their views on how well we support all pupils through their academic journey; how the school works exceptionally well in partnership with others and how dedicated our team are to ensure continued success for all. The inspectors recognised how special our school and community were and were rightly, moved.

Leading a school is a challenging job, a lifestyle choice, that consumes so much of us and whilst I've been kept awake at night, worked all day and all night at times; I wouldn't ever swap or change the path that I have taken. It has been a joy to lead such a wonderful team and school and I will miss all of you so much. Thank you St James' for being the most amazingly, wonderful place to be.

Lisa Harford

Headteacher



Design & Technology Week



Dart joins us in Year 6!

Mrs Avery's dog Dart joined us for the afternoon!

We all enjoyed it!



Year 5 Trip to the Mosque

Year 5 visited the mosque as part of their unit of work entitled 'What is it like to be a Muslim in Britain today?'

We were spoken to by Imam Hassan; he explained the importance of the 5 pillars of Islam, and how they create strong foundations for living a good life. The children listened to the call for prayer before being taught 'Wudu' - the act of preparing for prayer. They also dressed up in traditional cultural dress.

Everyone found the experience really interesting and informative; adults and children alike.



FOCUS ON CLUBS

In code club this term, we have looked at a variety of devices and technologies, creating pictures with probots, flying drones, VR and even creating lego models that we could code to do different actions.

Code club!



Thank you Mrs Earle

CHRISTMAS FAIR 23





ST. JAMES' GOT TALENT



WOW!

Governor News



Introducing a new governor – Jill Arnold

“I’m delighted to have been appointed as a governor to St James’ Primary School. I live locally and have two grown up daughters and three young grandchildren. I am looking forward to working with other governors to help the school to ensure that your child continues to receive high quality educational provision. My entire career has been spent in education, as a teacher, a primary school headteacher and then as one of Her Majesty’s Inspectors. I have subsequently continued to work with schools and governing bodies as an independent consultant. I hope to draw on my experiences to make a positive contribution to the work of the governing board at St James’ Primary.

Could you be one of our new parent governors?

Final reminder for applications to be a parent governor. Parent governors play a vital role on our governing body, holding the unique position of having a parental viewpoint of the school. It’s a rewarding role where you also get to support our school to improve further.

If you would like any further information do get in touch with the Chair of Governors.

