

# SPRING TERM

## St James the Great Catholic Primary School

12<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back! I hope you had a restful and happy Christmas and New Year.

The children have come back with a positive attitude and have already begun to work hard. Thank you for the support you gave the children with their homework over the Autumn Term. We will be continuing in the same way this term: a set of spellings, a reading comprehension, some SPaG practice and Maths practice will be given out on Fridays, to be returned on Tuesdays.

**Reading is fundamental to your child's learning.** It is incredibly important always, but particularly in your child's SATS year, to read consistently with your child. Children should be encouraged to read out loud to you or an older sibling **every day**, which **must** be reflected in their reading journals. Please remember that the children will be taking a reading comprehension SATS paper which is timed- children should be encouraged to read not only at a steady pace, but to extract key information quickly and efficiently.

PE sessions will continue on Thursdays, for which the children will need their **full and correct PE kits**, as well as on Fridays, when we have our Dance lessons with Natasha. Also, please remember that the children need their instruments in school on Fridays, and that these must be taken home on Fridays as well.

There will be a parent workshop on the **30<sup>th</sup> January 2024**, focusing on the upcoming Maths SATS reasoning papers. A letter will be sent out closer to the time to remind any parents that would like to attend. This term the children will be going out on trips, two this half term being to the Docklands Museum and the Science Museum. I will send out further information about these trips closer to the time.

I have outlined the main areas of learning for this half term over the page. If you have any questions or concerns, please make an appointment for either before or after school.

Best wishes

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<b>Mathematics</b>	<b>Number and Calculations</b> <b>Geometry and Measurement</b> <b>Statistics</b> <b>Algebra</b> <b>Ratio and Proportion</b>
<b>Reading</b>	<p><b>Hans Christian Andersen</b> – We will be looking at Fairy Tales, exploring use of language and making comparisons of setting, language and character across stories of the same genre.</p> <p><b>When the Stars Come Out</b> – We will be using a non-fiction text all about different aspects of the night to build up our familiarity with a range of technical vocabulary and retrieving and organising information when it is presented in tables, diagrams and infographics.</p>
<b>English</b>	<p><b>Grimm Tales:</b> We will be using the Philip Pullman version of <i>Grimm Tales</i> to learn about some of the language and plot features of traditional fairy tales before writing our own fairy tales in the week before Half Term.</p>
<b>RE</b>	<p><b>Please see attached sheet.</b></p>
<b>Science</b>	<p><b>Light:</b> We will learn about light, how we see, shadows, reflection and refraction. We will learn how light travels and how this enables us to see objects and find out about mirrors and the angles of reflection and incidence. We will work scientifically and collaboratively to investigate refraction, carrying out some experiments into the effects of bending light. Finally, we will create shadow puppet shows, using what we have learned to create a range of effects with light and shadow.</p>
<b>Geography</b>	<p><b>Mexico</b>  We will be using maps to learn about the physical of Mexico, focusing on landmarks, climate zones and differences between urban and rural areas. We will also be investigating aspects of Mexican culture and comparing life in Mexico to our own lives here in London.</p>
<b>Computing</b>	<p><b>Film-making</b>  The children will be creating, filming and editing a shadow puppet version of a well-known fairy tale.</p>
<b>Art</b>	<p><b>Chinese Nature Paintings</b>  To coincide with Chinese New Year, we will be looking at Chinese nature paintings, and using watercolours to evoke a similar mood in our own paintings, building up our colour-mixing and colour-matching skills to create a range of carefully chosen shades and tints.</p>
<b>PE</b>	<p><b>PE and Dance</b></p>
<b>Music</b>	<p><b>Brass Instruments</b></p>
<b>MFL</b>	<p><b>Mandarin</b>  A specialist Mandarin teacher will be giving the children weekly Mandarin lessons.</p>