



**St James the Great Catholic Primary School**

7<sup>th</sup> January 2026

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. These journals are checked weekly and it is important that children are reading for at least 10 minutes **every day**. Please remember that the children will be taking a reading comprehension SATS paper in May 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.**

This term the children will be going out on trips, in areas of study such as History and Art. We will also be attending a performance of 'Frozen' at Sacred Heart to see some of our past pupils shine in their new secondary school, allowing Year 6 to get an idea of what they may be part of in September. Further information about these trips will be sent out 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

K Boam

<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>	<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. <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.
<b>English</b>	<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.
<b>RE</b>	<b>Please see attached sheet.</b>
<b>Science</b>	<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.
<b>History</b>	<b>Crime and Punishment</b> We will be investigating how crime and punishment have changed over time, linking back to prior learning about the Romans and Anglo-Saxons. We will discover how the police were established and will be taking a trip to the Tower of London to be shown how crime and punishment has changed in our very city.
<b>Computing</b>	<b>Film-making</b> The children will be creating, filming and editing a shadow puppet version of a well-known fairy tale.
<b>Art</b>	<b>Chromatic- Collage and Watercolours.</b> We will be learning about how art can be used in a variety of ways, from charity fundraising to acts of protest. We will explore using collage and watercolours to create a variety of pieces in the hopes of creating ‘Art for change’.
<b>PE</b>	<b>PE and Dance</b>
<b>Music</b>	<b>Brass Instruments</b>
<b>MFL</b>	<b>Mandarin</b> A specialist Mandarin teacher will be giving the children weekly Mandarin lessons and this term will be learning about Chinese mythological creatures .