



# St James Class Newsletter

## Spring Term 2026

### *English – Reading, Writing & Spelling*

The main texts for this term will be “Hidden Figures”, “The Man who Walked between the Towers”, “Tuesday” and “Wonder” alongside the film “Eight Days to the Moon and Back”. We will be focusing on use of language, learning about similes and personification. We shall be writing first person accounts including diary entries, non-chronological reports and a news broadcast!

Spellings will be practised within the school daily, but we encourage children to practise them at home also as they will be demonstrating their learning through dictation. Spelling assignments will be posted on ‘My Child at School’ so that you can help support with this.

### *Maths*

The units for the Spring Term include: multiplication and division then fractions. Mrs Paul will move onto converting units.

There will be a daily arithmetic session in which children will practise and rehearse number facts and calculations. It is vitally important that children know all their times tables so that they can re-call them with speed and accuracy. We will, of course, work on this at school but any support that you can give at home would be greatly appreciated. ‘Hit the Button’ (Free if you type into Google) is great for practising tables individually and ‘TT Rockstars’ is good for building speed and accuracy in tables. Maths Infinity will support children with other areas of their maths learning.

### *Science*

In the first half term, we will be moving onto the topic of Earth and Space. We will be researching how our understanding of the Earth’s place in the solar system has changed over time, facts about the solar system and our moon, and why we experience day and night.

In the second half term we will be focusing on the topic of Animals and Humans. We will be looking at animal gestation periods, prenatal development as well as growth and development of children including puberty.

Throughout our Science topics we will also look at the impact of famous scientists within the topics taught.

### *Other Curriculum Subjects*

**Our topic is: Local study on Bishop’s Itchington and surrounding areas**

**In History:** The children will be learning about the history of key buildings: their origins, purpose and impact on the lives of people in the village. They will investigate why the village is situated in this location, how it has changed and developed over time, making links to prior learning about the Industrial Revolution. They will identify and explore the lives of significant people who lived in and shaped the village.

**In Geography:** As geographers, children will be learning more about the location of the village, the local canal network, which links to our previous topic on Industrial Revolution, the geographical features of the quarry that determined the location of the village and the development of industry

in the local area; they will develop map reading skills including use of the 6-digit referencing of Ordnance Survey maps and learning to draw scale maps.

**RE:** In RE, we will be studying the religion of Buddhism focusing on what a Buddhist believes, their rituals, where they worship and their relationship with Buddha.

**PSHE:** Mrs Paul will continue the Jigsaw curriculum exploring future Dreams and Goals: jobs and careers; lifestyle aspiration; how to get there; how their own aspirations compare with children from other cultures and, importantly, where and how to get support for their future ambitions.

**PE:** Outdoor PE will be on Mondays with Mrs Daly: the first half term will be netball followed by football. Indoor PE will be with Mrs. Saunders on Fridays when we will continue to focus on teamwork. We then move onto rhythmic gymnastics incorporating some circus skills too.

**Art & Design:** As artists, children will study how to use different methods with oil pastels and wet media including sgraffito and scumble techniques. We will evaluate a variety of artists who are inspired by 'Space' focusing on aspects they like or dislike to then inform their own artwork. Pupils will create their own 'Space' artwork using a variety of wet and dry media to create texture.

**Design & Technology:** After a visit to the 'Mad Museum' we will launch into our 'Technical Knowledge' topic on Mechanisms – Moving Toys. We will learn how to use cams and how mechanisms can be used to produce movement.

**Computing:** Spring 1 will be selection in physical computing – exploring conditions and selection using a programmable microcontroller. Spring 2 will be fact file databases – using a database to order data and create charts to answer questions.

**Music:** The Warwickshire Music Service will continue to come in every Wednesday to teach the children a progression of skills in playing the violin.

**Spanish:** children will consolidate the foundations of Spanish they learnt before Christmas. They will continue to learn to read, write and say, with developing pronunciation and spelling accuracy, simple words, phrases and sentences in Spanish through interactive activities, games and songs covering units of work including: All About Me; Classroom Instructions and Equipment; Colours. Children will incorporate all their learning into contextual scenarios.

## **Homework**

**Reading** – 5 times a week is the expectation. Even though the children can read independently, it is greatly beneficial if you could still read with your child, weekly, with lots of discussion around the meaning of new or unfamiliar vocabulary.

**Spelling** – Spelling Shed assignments will be set on a Tuesday. Children will be expected to access spelling Shed 5x a week. If your child does not have access to a device please make us aware so we can send home paper copies of this work.

**Maths** – Year 5 will now have individual logons to access assignments linked to their learning in class. These will be set on a Friday as a recap of the weeks learning.

*If you do have any worries or concerns, please do speak to us. You can make an appointment via the school office or contact us on the 'My Child at school' app. Many thanks.*

***The Year 5 Team: Mrs. Saunders, Mrs. Paul and Mrs. Cartwright***