

February '23

Signs of Spring are all around and it's a joy start the term with so many smiles and enthusiastic faces. The lighter nights are a welcome blessing for the pupils as they begin to plan their evening adventures after school and the curriculum calendar is filling up fast.

Earlier this term, the pupils had a 'Senegal Week' where it gave staff and pupils the opportunity to celebrate and develop links with our link school West Africa. Claire Griffel, project co-ordinator, came into school to work with all the pupils on a range of activities including, poetry, research, drama and story writing. The Year 6 pupils polished their French and wrote pen portraits which will be shared with their peers in Senegal. The artwork produced from the week was outstanding and the displays in the classrooms certainly showcase some talented artists. Thank you to Ms Piper for organising the week and coordinating the work.

We have welcomed several visitors into school this term and it's a powerful tool to inspire and enrich learning. Dot Boughton, archaeologist, has been working with Butterfly and Swift class to bring the topic of Anglo Saxons to life. The pupils had a fantastic afternoon learning from a specialist and handling the artefacts was certainly a highlight. Members of the Lake District National Park joined us for a day and delivered Water Workshops to all of the juniors. It was fascinating to learn how this precious resource is looked after, stored, transported and cleaned.

The Ethos team have been hard at work planning a range of events to develop and embed our school vision. On valentine's day, pupils swapped their uniforms for something red and enjoyed a day celebrating Love. Our school vision encompasses Love for ourselves, family, neighbours, learning, the environment and the world. The focus for donations was Christian Aid's Earthquake appeal and school managed to raise a fantastic £170 – thank you to all who contributed.

Mr Hoare, our specialist sports teacher, has been hard at work preparing teams for the Key Steps gymnastic competitions. With help from parents and past pupils, the pupils learned floor routines, vaults and body management, including strength, flexibility, balancing and coordination skills. The competition was a huge success and all the teams progressed through to the next round. A huge well done to all involved! Teams are now busy preparing for festivals in dodgeball, athletics and tag rugby – it's all go, go, go!

Later this term, we are looking forward to Fairtrade Fortnight, Red Nose Day, Science Week, National Trust days on the Knott, and the fantastic Book Week, which will of course include dressing up for World Book day. We are planning to have local authors working with the pupils and a selection of special book readings from parents and governors.

Our 'stars' from St James' continue to provide wonderful weekly School Church sessions and we're particularly looking forward to another Easter 'Stations of the Cross' walk at the end of term. Members of the Christian community support school in a whole range of ways and we're very lucky to have such a special partnership. The Parish Magazine is always a wonderful opportunity to celebrate school life but I would also like to take the opportunity to thank all the members of St James' for their help, support and guidance.

"Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success." Henry Ford

Take care, Mr Sharp