



# St John & St James' C of E Primary School

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## Term Dates for 2021-22:

### Autumn 2:

Monday 1st November to  
Thursday 16th December

*INSET: Friday 17th Dec*

### Spring 1:

*INSET: Tuesday 4th Jan*

Wednesday 5th January to  
Friday 11th February

### Spring 2:

Monday 21st February to  
Thursday 31st March

### Summer 1:

*Bank Hol: Mon 18th Apr*

Tuesday 19th April to  
Friday 27th May

*Bank Hol: Mon 2nd May*

### Summer 2:

Monday 6th June to  
Wednesday 20th July

*INSET: Thurs 21st Jul*

## Christmas Performance

Due to new government guidelines and advice from Public Health England, it is with great sadness we have had to cancel our whole school Christmas performance in church.

This decision wasn't taken lightly, as we know how much the children enjoy performing and we love having the whole school community coming together to celebrate important events throughout the year. We would like everyone to be well over the Festive break and celebrate Christmas with family. Reducing the number of contacts helps reduce the spread of Covid.

The children have been incredible during rehearsals, learning their songs and actions. Class teachers will record classes singing their songs and upload onto their class seesaw.

I would like to say a BIG thank you to our children for their continued resilience and excellent attitudes to their learning and the ongoing changes.

## COVID Reminders

As we come near to the end of term, and with rising Covid cases, and a new variant, please can we ask that you follow guidance on facemasks and social distancing regarding coronavirus.

All parents are being asked to wear a face mask in the playground when picking up children and at the gates during drop.

If your child is feeling unwell please keep them at home. If they have Covid symptoms they must get a PCR test. Please inform the school office immediately.



## Wellbeing Tip

Top tips for play:

- See what's catching their attention, help them explore in their own unique way
- Messy play can be the best play - it can help children understand how to cope with messy feelings and tolerate difficult situations.

## Online Safety: What We Teach The Children At School

I can recognise that information can stay online and could be copied.

I can describe what information I should not put online without asking a trusted adult first.

I can explain how information put online about someone can last for a long time.

I know who to talk to if something has been put online without consent or if it is incorrect.



## SJSJ Home Readers Award



Congratulations to our home readers; David, Jemimah, Dominic, Maria Siena, Ava O, Keila, Khadija, Asiya, Harrison, Lacey, Alayna, Surayah, Malikah, Zi Ting, Amayah and Khalid

As part of their reward for terrific home reading every night, they were invited to a lovely afternoon tea party with Mrs Smith.



## SJSJ PTA

Can you spare an hour to sing carols and raise money for the PTA's Summer School Trips Appeal? Everyone is welcome! Carol sheets will be provided. We will be keeping a distance between singers and singing outside (so remember to wrap up warm!).

Please email [stjohnandstjamespta@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnandstjamespta@gmail.com) if you would like to join us. The dates and times are;

**THIS Saturday 11th December at 2pm** (until 3pm/3.30pm)

**Venue:** The Narrowway (meet outside Marks and Spencer)

(Awaiting confirmation from the Police/Hackney Council for this one, but it is very likely it will go ahead so if you can join us, please email the PTA)

**THIS Sunday 12th December at 2.30pm** (for about an hour)

**Venue:** Tesco, Morning Lane (meet in the foyer)

**Friday 17th December at 4pm** (for about an hour)

**Venue:** Tesco, Morning Lane (meet in the foyer)

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Thank you all very much for making the bake sale such a success. It raised a fantastic £134.

The PTA is so grateful to everyone who donated cakes, helped set up, helped on the stall and, of course, came to buy tasty treats!

You have helped to get this year's fundraising efforts off to a great start. We have raised over £700 since the start of term through the cake sales, Bag2School and the Christmas raffle, so there's £1,700 to go!

Thank you all very much!

## Netball Competition

Congratulations to our netball team who placed 3rd in the Young Hackney netball finals.

All members of the team showed great sportsmanship and resilience.



## Christmas Celebrations At SJSJ



### Tuesday

**1.45 – 2.30** Year 3 and year 4 disco

**2.40 – 3.30** Year 5 and year 6 disco

Children to come to school in normal school uniform and bring along their disco clothes in a bag. They will get changed at school. We will be selling party snacks for 50p. They will only be able to buy one snack so please don't send them to school with more than 50p.

**2.30 – 3.30** Nursery, Reception and year 1 and 2 class party and visit from somebody special.

### Wednesday

**9.15 – 10.00** Whole School Christmas Performance. Teachers will record classes and upload to see-saw.

**11.30 – 1.30** Whole School Christmas lunch in year groups.

If your child is usually packed lunches they are more than welcome to have a school Christmas dinner. Please ring the office so we can update your parent pay account so you can pay for the meal.

### Thursday

**12.00** Whole School breaks up for the Christmas holidays. Please make sure you are on time to collect your child/ren promptly.

## Christmas Jumper Day

Check out some of the jazziest jumpers the children have worn to Save the Children and raised an amazing **£188.00** to help protect the magic for children around the world. All money raised is going to Save The Children charity. Thank you





## Winter Reading Challenge



The banner features a blue background with a green L-shaped line. At the top left is the school logo. The title 'Winter Reading Challenge' is in large white font. Below it is a 'WILD WORLD Heroes' book cover showing five diverse children in winter gear. The dates '1st December 2021 - 16th January 2022' are in white. Logos for 'THE READING AGENCY', 'Hackney', and 'HACKNEY SCHOOLS GROUP BOARD' are also present.

The Reading agency is running an online **Winter Mini Challenge** to motivate children to read at home which is a smaller version of the Summer Reading Challenge. Hackney libraries are supporting this by having paper copies of the reading records/certificates for pupils in all their libraries.

### Winter Mini Reading Challenge:

Taking part in the Winter Mini Challenge is simple. Read at least three books between 1st December and 16 January and add them to your online profile at [wintermini.org.uk](http://wintermini.org.uk) to earn fun digital rewards! They can be any books you like including ebooks and audio books. You'll find loads of other great stuff on the website too, including games, book reviews, reading activities and content from the best children's authors and illustrators around. For parents there is a Home Zone and Library Zone. The Wild World hero characters are there to help as is the summer reading challenge list of books linked to nature and the environment.

Or you can pop in to any Hackney library to join in person. They have activity sheets and your very own reading passport to record the books you have read plus all children completing the challenge will receive a certificate!

A reminder to check <https://hackney.gov.uk/libraries-whats-on> as many libraries are holding Christmas activities. You can follow them on twitter on @Hackneylibs and facebook @HackneyLibraries.

## Amazing work...

As part of this terms RE topic 'Celebrations' **Nursery** went on a trip to TESCO to buy ingredients to make and bake a celebration cake. Before they went they discussed what a recipe was and made a shopping list for the ingredients they will need to purchase on their trip. The children made predictions with what they thought might happen when the batter was put into the oven and some of the children guessed the cake batter will get bigger (rise). The class had lots of fun baking the cake and enjoyed eating it.

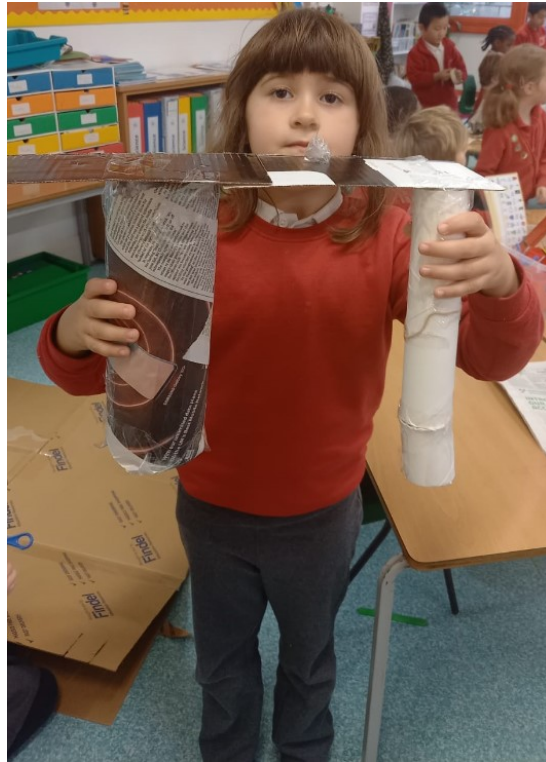


This week in **Reception**, the class were able to visit St John's church. Most of the children had never been before so it was an exciting time of exploring the main sanctuary, prayer chapel and even having a cheeky practice of their Christmas songs. In RE they have been learning about the Nativity story and how they prepare for Christmas. The children have been using their class Nativity story to act out what they have learnt. They learnt Advent is about preparing to celebrate remembering the birth of Jesus. The class have spent time wondering about how Mary, Joseph and other characters in the story prepared for baby Jesus to be born.



This week for their STEAM topic, **Year 1** have been asked to design a bridge for the three billy goats gruff. The bridge had to be 20cm in length, be able to withstand the weight of the three goats and fit into a countryside setting.

Have a look at Elisa making her prototype model.



This week Mr Elf had a great time reading to his friends! He knows how much they love reading in **Year 2** and he decided to join in on the fun. He was reading the story, Bricktropolis





**Year 3** were in their teams planning their colourful, magnetic maze games for their STEAM project this week. They're very excited about it and they've come up with some very creative ideas!



In science this week, **Year 4** continued to develop their knowledge of circuits and electricity by exploring a range of complete and incomplete circuits. They were able to given very clear explanations and describe what they would do to fix a broken circuit. Scan the QR codes below and explore the images to see what they got up to!





**Year 5** have been working on their STEAM project this week, where they got to make moving toys! STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths. In this lesson, they focussed on Art and the children worked in partners to create appealing designs for their moving toys (which was also one of the design criteria of their product). They worked superbly in partners, working collaboratively, sharing resources and communicating effectively, as well as solving a variety of problems as they arose in their project. Well done year 5!



**Year 6** have loved their STEAM work this week. They used their science topic about light to build on their prior knowledge and make periscopes! They learnt about light reflection and refraction and used their mathematical understanding of angles and parallel lines to produce their final products. They then evaluated their final piece and thought about how they could improve their work if they had another opportunity to do this project.



## Christmas Panto

The children were lucky enough to have the panto come to SJSJ this year. They watched the story of 'A Christmas Carol' by the Hobgoblin production company.

*"It was really good, I liked that Mr Scrooge shared out his money"- Jonah (Year 2)*

*"The panto was very funny, it made me laugh" - Eliana (Year 2)*

*"The actors really engaged with us and I found it really funny" - Zi Qi (Year 6)*

*"Thoroughly enjoyed the Panto, they got us all standing on our feet to take part in it too!" - Elif (Year 6)*



## Español at SJSJ



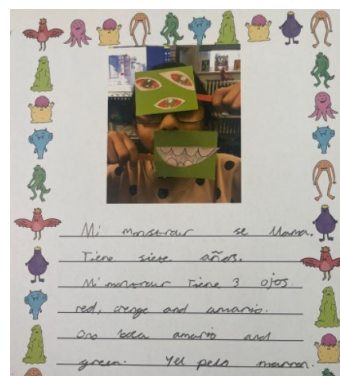
This week's phrase of the week is: **¿Cuántos años tienes?** (How old are you?)

Scan the QR code to hear the correct pronunciation:



In Year 3 this half term, the children have been using rhymes and games to help them learn and recall the name of body parts and facial features in Spanish.

This week, they have combined all of their learning to create and describe their very own monsters! Take a look...





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## Important Dates

Details of Event	Time	Date
PTA Raffle Draw	9.00	13.12.2021
Christmas Disco's and Santa Visits	Various	14.12.2021
Whole school Christmas Lunch	Lunchtime	15.12.2021
<b>Early finish for the Christmas Holidays</b> <b>All children must be collected promptly at this time</b>	<b>12.00</b>	<b>16.12.2021</b>

## Gold Award

Name	Year	Reason
Ted	Year 1	For brilliant engagement in the STEAM lessons.
Miss Forman's Reading Group	Year 1 and Year 2	For an amazing effort in reading this half term. You are all superstars!
Oceane	Year 2	For making amazing progress in maths.
Orlando	Year 2	For amazing reading and speeding through.
Neemasusan	Year 2	For an excellent attitude to learning.
Anna	Year 3	For brilliant teamwork for the STEAM project.
Connie	Year 3	For a fantastic adventure story.
Dominic	Year 3	For an exciting adventure story.
Evar	Year 3	For great ideas and enthusiasm for the exciting STEAM project.
Chelsy and Ryan O	Year 4	For amazing effort in their assessment this week showing resilience and always trying their best.
David	Year 4	For amazing effort with home reading.
Illiana, Paul and Sonny	Year 5	For getting 100% AR tests in a row.
Johanna and Kwame	Year 6	For sensible, mature and enthusiastic approach to all their learning.