



Pupil star of the week

LL: AM: Eleanor for being a competent learner. She joins in with circle times and has some fantastic ideas.

LL: PM: Alex for trying hard with new words and communicating these to friends and adults in the room.

CC: AM: Esme- For always being ready to lend a hand and care for our environment

CC: PM: Noah- For his amazing work in PE and showing courage when trying new things

BB: Nazsh for trying really hard in phonics and always being ready to learn.

SS 1: Junaid - For making such a positive contribution to our class community on our trip to Nell Bank. You were a star and a great role model for everyone.

SS 1/2: Harley Mulqueen - for being a confident communicator and contributing to our class community by taking turns, sharing ideas and thinking about how he can positively influence others. Well done Harley.

DD 2: Joseph- For showing great maturity and showing that he cared to lots of children in our class by helping them create their own wooden Christmas trees- it was wonderful to see!

BB 3/4: Riley - for really showing that he is a knowledgeable expert and becoming more independent with his work. He has made much better behaviour choices this week and has volunteered lots of positive knowledge to whole class discussions. A really great week! Well done Riley!

WW 3/4: Riley: For showing great maturity and showing that he cared to lots of children in our class by helping them create their own wooden Christmas trees- it was wonderful to see!

OO 5: Hawa Hussain for always being a positive role model, showing she cares and helping others in the classroom without being asked too. Well done :)

SS 5: Andrew Gatenby, for his change in attitude to his learning. He has been able to have a large period at school and that means he has been able to settle in and have a good go at everything. His answers in WCR have been great and his Maths is coming along. The only thing we need to do now is to read more at home. He's not an expert learner yet but is he becoming one! Well done!!

LL 6: Alex - For showing he cares, by helping a number of children in our class community, and being a confident communicator in Whole Class Reading discussions.

MM 6: Kaiden: For showing that he is becoming an independent learner and always perseveres even if something doesn't work the first time. Kaiden shows great determination in all of his learning.





What we've done this week

Lively Ladybirds: We have started looking at the story Dear Santa and have been predicting what Santa has had in his presents. We are also becoming more confident in phonics, recognising sounds and rhymes.

Curious Caterpillars: This week we have been learning about Stick Man and the problems that he faces one day when he goes out for a jog.

Brilliant Butterflies: This week we have been learning about length. We have been measuring different objects using non-standard units and ordering objects by their length.

Swooping Starlings: We had a super time at Nell Bank getting muddy, exploring the outdoors and learning about badgers.

Successful Swans: This week we have had an amazing time exploring the great outdoors at Nell Bank

Daring Ducklings: We have had Mr Hepp in this week to create 3D Christmas trees! Children used a hammer and nail and a drill to create their masterpieces! They were amazing and so grown up!

Blissful Badgers: What a week! We have made lots of connections between our learning in different subjects this week by recalling knowledge and using the correct vocabulary. Badgers' learning is definitely entering their long term memory. Well done Badgers!

Wondrous Whales: For showing Mr Tolson how well we remembered our previous learning. We were able to talk about what we had been learning in Science and remembered key vocabulary, especially our Science Word of the Week.

Omniscient Otters: We have had a brilliant, fun packed week this week. Our class 'grotto' has gone down a treat, we had the joy of Alex Fellowes drama workshop and made Christmas decorations, all alongside working hard in all our curriculum areas! A fantastic week!

Super Seals: Great work from Seals. Highlight for me was the enthusiasm and interest they showed in Bessie Coleman. The first African American to gain a pilot license. Her resilience to adversity shows what can be done even when people are against you. A great example for any person, young or old. Stay safe!

Leaping Lions: I have been impressed with our discussions and debates in Whole Class Reading, the way in which we have used language to describe settings and characters and our calm enthusiasm on our Christmas decoration afternoon to mark the start of Advent.

Magnificent Monkeys: This week I have been very impressed with the way that the children have been using their writing targets in all areas of the curriculum. We have had some fabulous writing about pilgrimages and the circulation system.



Important Notices

1. Please remember to arrive at the allocated time and make sure you bring your children to the classroom door. I have noticed some pupils are walking down unsupervised
2. The gates open just before 8.30am and just before 2.55pm so please do not come down any earlier.
3. As we enter Tier 3 in West Yorkshire here are the guidelines you must follow: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tier-3-very-high-alert>
4. It is vital that you social distance from people on school grounds and just outside- keeping your distance from other people is the best way to stop the virus spreading.
5. Masks- thank you to everyone who is wearing one. I really appreciate your support and help with this.
6. If you are needing support with food over the Christmas holidays please complete the form we sent home and we will help you with this.

Christmas Information and Dates:

What will happen with Christmas cards?

Due to Coronavirus, any Christmas cards must be in school by Wednesday 9th December and we will keep them and quarantine them until Wednesday 16th. We can then distribute these cards to children around the school.

How are we working with Thornton Church?

We have organised for year group bubbles to visit the church on Monday 14th December. The times for this are above. We have worked with the church to ensure that class bubbles will sit separately and walk up to church separately too.

We are also lucky to have the church donating a Christmas tree to school and they will provide free Christmas Activity packs to go home over the holidays.

Rooted In are also supporting us and providing blank Christmas cards which we can use and send to the elderly to support them at this very difficult time of year.

Classroom Songs:

Each class will be singing and recording a song in their own bubble. This will then go onto a CD which we will be available to buy so you can listen at home. It is a lovely enterprise project but also a way to capture the importance of community at this time for year

Event	Date
Advent Children and staff- Decorate Classrooms PM	Tuesday 1 st December
Christingle Day	Monday 7 th December
Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day £1 donation- Children can wear non-uniform and their favourite Christmas Jumper!	Friday 11 th December
Carol Service at church	Monday 14 th December Y3/4 10.00am Year 5 11.00am Year 6 2.00pm
Santa and Reindeer come to visit!	Tuesday 15 th December
Christmas Dinner Day- payable on ParentPay	Wednesday 16 th December
KS1 church visit	
Christmas parties in classrooms pm	Thursday 17 th December
Non-uniform Day- wear something festive!	Friday 18 th December



Head Teacher's comment

The Christmas season has begun at St James and what a week it has been! It always amazes me at this time of year how our community comes together for the greater good.

My highlights this week have been:

1. Watching Year 1 and 2 make their Christmas Trees with Hepp DT. Watching you sand, drill, hammer and saw was an absolute joy- you should be very proud.
2. Our Year 1 and 2 pupils also went to Nell Bank and used the book Tidy and explored this outside- the music you produced was stunning!
3. The 'Otters Grotto'- if you get a chance go have look!
4. It was great to see Year 5 showing us all their drama skills on Monday as they looked at Alien Invasion- some very talented pupils.

Our Christmas Tree has gone up and we had our December 1st Christmas afternoon where we decorated our classrooms to celebrate the start of Advent.

Advent is a particularly important time of year for St James and a chance to think about how we treat others and bring peace to our daily lives. It is a celebration of Jesus birth and also a reminder to us that if we try and live a peaceful life we can achieve success.

We have a very busy few weeks coming up with lots of events which are listed in the notices section.

I would like to say a special thank you to Squirrels as for the last 2 weeks your home learning has been amazing. Many of you have worked every day and done so well. Thank you to all the adults at home too for making this possible.

I wish you a peaceful and happy weekend and as we move into Tier 3 let us continue to support each other as best we can.

Mr Tolson

#staysafe

Photos from this week

