

The week ahead @ Saint James

“Be strong and courageous and do it!” 1 Chronicles 28:20



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Issue 129

Tues 17 th Dec	Wed 18 th Dec	Thurs 19 th Dec	Fri 20 th Dec
Year 5 & 6 Carol Service at church 5.00pm	Christmas lunch & Christmas jumper day	Class Christmas parties	Last day of term

Collective Worship



This week's theme:

Responsibilities

This week's bible story:

Zaccheus

Luke 19:1-10

A message from the Senior Leadership team

With so much happening in school, we've decided to make next week's newsletter a bumper issue where we celebrate all these wonderful activities and events. However, this week the 129th edition of the newsletter breaks with our usual format to summarise some of our experiences and feelings as a staff.

A heart-felt message to our wonderful parents

Being a parent is the hardest job,
So often a joy, yet sometimes a slog.
Your child is more precious than the rarest jewel,
How do you entrust, their care to a school?

You pour over OFSTED's comments in their latest report,
'Outstanding' for us – nothing else, is a thought!
The pursuit for 'Outstanding' and here's our confession,
Has caused many a teacher to leave the profession.

It doesn't tell the full story, of life everyday
So in this poem, we will, if we may.
To educate your child is a priority we share,
As well as to respect, to love and to care.

Many different jobs, and these are just some,
An actor, social worker, first-aider, a mum,
A carer, personal trainer, social worker, a preacher,
Lots of different jobs – on top of 'just a teacher'.

We'd like to share something, get it off our chest,
Things aren't always perfect but we'll try our best.
You may not always agree with what we decide,
But everything's approached with our eyes open wide.

With frustrating regularity, you may hear a child's name
Can they really behave like that? You exclaim!
A pain in the playground, disrupting the class,
And generally being a pain in the... backside

We feel your anger, your disappointment, your frustration,
You let us know through eloquent dictation.
We'll always strive hard to meet every child's need,
It's challenging and difficult, that we concede.

For some children its obvious school is quite hard,
They resist help, they disrupt, they put up a guard.
It's children like this, for this we are sure,
That are in need of our unwavering love, all the more.

Teaching them this has been our duty we thought,
On top of the curriculum that needs to be taught.
These pressures we imagine pervade the whole nation.
Do these children really meet their Age Expectation?

It's not politically correct, to admit what we see,
The greatest challenge of Covid is its legacy.
Consigned to the history books, this period of time?
Consequences still live on! Our teachers all chime.

That period is history, it may well appear,
But cohorts of children missed a valuable year.
Of which to learn how to be with their friends,
Resolve disputes themselves, compromise, make amends.

No one starts teaching for riches and glory.
Just opportunity to impart on each child's life story.
With ideals and principles, they enter their classes.
Education so much more than, how many SATs 'passes'?

Educate the whole child their CV declared,
Enriched with experiences carefully prepared.
Learning that's fun, inspirational and clever,
With experiences that last with the children, forever.

The difficulty doing this, makes us aggrieved,
Although we hope we have shown, it can be achieved.
Enjoyable and purposeful, those are our aims,
So, children fondly lookback on their years at Saint James.

To do this we need our teachers to last,
The burnout for teachers is incredibly fast.
Not just our problem, its country-wide,
Much more must be done, that's what we have cried.

No one completes their college degree,
To chuck it all in, in year number three.
The reasons for this are many fold,
Curriculum, stress, parents are some we've been told.

We've no magic wand, no simple solution,
Many factors make their contribution.
We all play a part, in this we're correct,
So, from now on let's give all teachers respect.

At the station you queue and may have a long wait,
Just to discover that your train's running late.
Before you shout and exclaim with sarcastic laugh,
A sign warns you, 'No, don't abuse our fine staff'!

So next time you write an email heading our way,
Take time to reflect on what you might say.
Don't get us wrong, for you we are here,
Just ensure we still are, this time the next year!

So as term does end and presents are sought,
Here's an observation, a comment, a thought.
Instead of the generous gifts we are bought,
Can we ask from you, just a little support

And so we return with a hopeful heart,
To the sentiment we shared with you at the start...

Being a parent is the hardest job,
So often a joy, yet sometimes a slog.
And in this poem, our truth we did tell,
As many of us are parents *as well!*