



NEWSLETTER Term 3: 17th January 2025

<https://sjm.academy>

Telephone: 01323 730255

Email: office@sjm.academy

Upcoming Whole School Dates

January	Monday 6th : First day of term 3 Friday 24th : INSET DAY
February	Tuesday 11th : Parent Consultations 3.30-6pm Thursday 13th : Parent Consultations 3.30-6pm Friday 14th : Last day of term 3

Whole School Reminder:

NO NUTS are to be brought in to school. Thank you.



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back and Happy new year!

It has been wonderful to welcome the children and staff back and we are now back in the swing of things. The children have shown their usual enthusiasm towards their learning, and we are particularly impressed with the high level of engagement in the online platforms like TT Rockstars.

Thank you for your support in this.

Year 1 and Year 2 were also in for a treat today, with their learning about animals being supplemented by a visit by Jaws and Claws who provide a hands-on animal-based workshop. The children were incredibly attentive and asked such good questions, showing great curiosity about each animal.

We saw an Australian blue tongued skink (see image) - which was a first for me - learning never ends!



Attendance

We really want all children at school **on time**, as the start of each morning is crucial. This is when we take the registers, do our check-ins, sort out meals and share the plans for the day. When children know what is happening, they feel safe and reassured. Please help us to give your child the best possible start by ensuring that they are in on time.

Developments to the RE curriculum

We have been working with the leaders of another DCAT school to develop our RE curriculum further. We really want to increase the children's understanding of the Christian faith and build an understanding of other cultures and beliefs.

Please have look at our updated curriculum here: [Religious Education – St John's Meads C of E Primary School](#)

Have a lovely weekend all...

Mrs Byrno



Attendance

Our whole school attendance is currently **95.49%** which is up from last years at the same point which was 94.77%. It is great to see all of our lovely children in school everyday.

This term, one of our key areas of focus will be addressing lateness, as we've noticed a rise in the number of children arriving late each day. As adults, we all know how stressful it can be to arrive late for work or an appointment—often feeling uncomfortable and playing catch-up. The same applies to our children when they arrive late to school. They can feel like they're already behind, missing out on important activities, and are not fully engaged with the class, who are already settled.

Please remember that the school doors close at 8:50 AM, and all children should be in by this time.

If you are experiencing any problems with getting your child to school on time, please talk to their class teacher.



St Wilfrid's Hospice

Thank you

Our Christmas Jumper Day raised **£132.54** thanks to your donations.

St. Wilfrid's Hospice says thank you very much!

Competition still open: Design Our Vision and Values Poster!

In line with our commitment to celebrating and promoting our new core values that guide our school community, we are inviting students to design a logo (or logos) that represent the key values of our school.

The winning design(s) will be featured in our school materials and help visually reflect the values we hold dear; **Love (for God and each other)**

Independence

Generosity

Honesty

Teamwork



How to Participate:

Students are encouraged to create one or more logos that best represent the school values. Designs can be hand-drawn, digitally created, or a combination of both.

Designs can be sent into the school office at office@sjm.academy or handed into the children's class teacher.

Deadline for submissions: Friday 31st January at 9am

Please encourage your child to be as creative and imaginative as possible! We look forward to seeing the wonderful designs that represent the heart and spirit of St Johns Meads.

Thank you for your support, and we can't wait to celebrate the artistic talents of our students!



Mental Health

As part of our ongoing drive to educate and support our school community about mental health and emotional wellbeing at St Johns, we introduced the concept of **Growth Mindset** in our Worship this term. Growth mindset is the belief that abilities and intelligence can be developed with dedication, effort, and perseverance, rather than being fixed traits.

What is Growth Mindset?

In simple terms, growth mindset is the idea that **“I can improve through effort.”** It encourages children to embrace challenges, learn from mistakes, and keep trying even when things get tough. With this approach, students come to understand that learning is a journey - one where persistence, resilience, and a positive attitude are key.

Why is it Important?

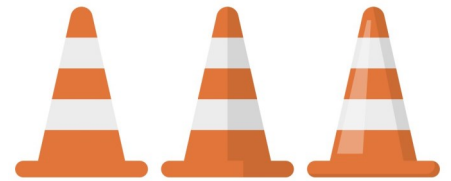
Encourages Resilience: When children understand that failure is not the end, but a stepping stone to success, they are more likely to keep going even when faced with obstacles.

Fosters a Love for Learning: With growth mindset, children see challenges as opportunities to grow, not as something to fear.

Builds Confidence: As children start to see their progress through hard work, they gain confidence in their abilities.

Important Guidance for Car Drivers

We are very lucky that our school is in one of the most desirable areas of Eastbourne: The seafront and the Downs are in easy reach, our neighbours are nice, and the roads are quiet... except during school-run time.



Please follow the advice and guidance below, and we can keep our children safe, and our neighbours happy.

There is an unofficial one-way system in operation during the school day. Please enter at the bottom of the hill in Rowsley Road, drive up to the top and then along Combe Lane (the road with the garages), and then down Edensor Road. **Driving the route in the opposite direction will cause traffic jams.**

If you are parking your car in one of the roads around the school, please do so with regard to the Highway Code. In relation to the roads around the school, the following must be observed:

Rule 238 : You **MUST NOT** wait or park on yellow lines during the times of operation shown on nearby time plates.

Rule 243 : **DO NOT** stop or park near a school entrance, and **DO NOT** stop or park in front of an entrance to a property.

A link to the Highway Code section on waiting and parking is here :

[The Highway Code - Waiting and parking \(238 to 252\) - Guidance - GOV.UK](#)

Where possible, school staff are parking their cars in Combe Lane, which means there are more parking spaces available in Rowsley Road for parents to use during school-run times. **However, please only park in actual parking spaces.** The spaces in front of driveways are often used by children crossing the road because it is the only space where they don't have to walk between tightly parked cars.

If you can't find a space in near the school, you may have to park in Wellcombe Crescent and then walk up to the school.

The final and most important point with regards to driving and parking near the school is that there are almost 200 children that arrive and leave around the same time. Please drive with consideration for them, and park so that there are plenty of safe spaces for them to cross the roads.

A couple of minutes' walk from a less convenient parking space may save a child's life.

Highlights from Year 2

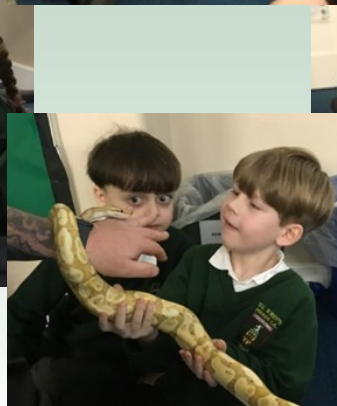
It has been a busy start back to term in Year 2 and we have been up to lots of different exciting learning.

In science we have been exploring animals and their habitats. We learnt about what makes something alive or not and went outside to explore things we could find.

We demonstrated our school value of **Teamwork** by working in small groups.



Linking to our topic we also had a visit from Jaws 'n' Claws. The children were all so brave and loved it!

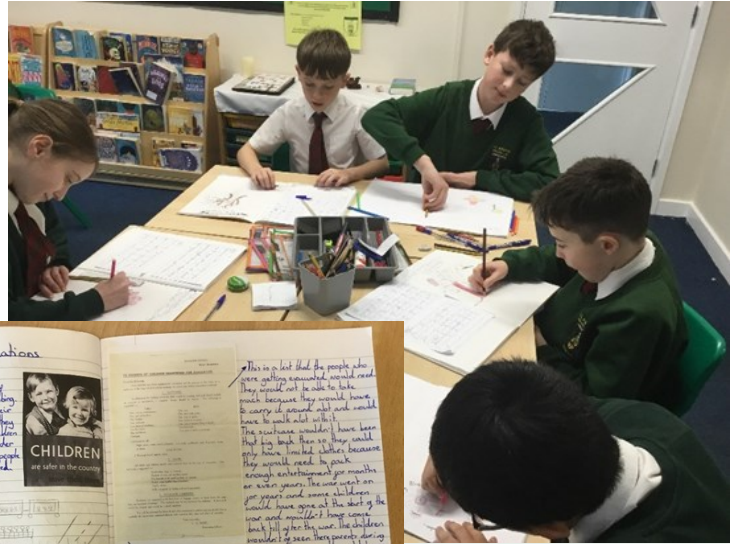


We have also played lots of circle time games and took part in activities in PSHE surrounding friendships and making positive choices.



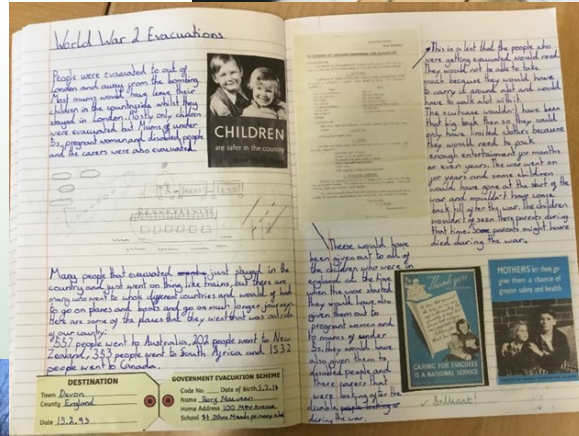
Highlights from Year 6

YEAR 6 have had a brilliant start to term!



We have been learning all about World War 2 in history and English.

We are loving this topic and have enjoyed seeing medals and photos sent in from home.



We love going to the field (sorry about the mud everyone!) and had great fun creating keep fit challenges this week.



We been listening to music with Mrs White and creating images inspired by what we've heard and how it makes us feel.





Should I keep my child off school?



Yes

Until...

Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek



SCAN ME

Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minfec>.

Lunch and Learn Online Workshops and In-person Family Hub Workshops with 'Me & My Mind'

Do you want to learn about children's mental health and how you can support your child with their wellbeing? If you do, these FREE webinars or our in-person small group workshops may be for you!

Lunch and Learn Webinars

How to support your child with worry and anxiety

Thursday 27th February 2025, 1pm, to 2pm

Wednesday 11th June 2025, 1pm to 2pm

How to support a worrying child with transition to secondary

Wednesday 21st May 2025, 1pm to 2pm

Small group in-person sessions

Supporting primary school children with anxiety and worry

Wednesday 2nd October 2024, 10am to 12pm @ Sidley Family Hub

Tuesday 8th October 2024, 10am to 12pm @ Uckfield Family Hub

Monday 27th January, 10am to 12pm @ Hailsham Family Hub

Thursday 30th January, 10am to 12pm @ Devonshire Family Hub

Wednesday 5th February, 12pm to 2pm @ Sidley Family Hub

Monday 10th February, 12:30pm to 2:30pm @ Peacehaven Family Hub

Monday 10th March, 12:30pm to 2:30pm @ Lewes Family Hub

Tea/Coffee and biscuits will be available, and we will be providing activities to make some items to take home with you to do with your child/ren

For more info and to book scan the QR code or visit:



www.tickettailor.com/events/mentalhealthandwellbeingineducation

If you have any questions, please email
mhst.parentteam@eastsussex.gov.uk



SLIME FEST WEEKEND

Sovereign Harbour Community
Centre

Easter Island Place,
Eastbourne
BN16 6JH

**SATURDAY, 25TH JANUARY
&
SUNDAY, 26TH JANUARY**



info@tydol.co.uk /
07702491466

SUITABLE FOR
AGES 5-14

£15
REGISTRATION
PER CHILD

Slime Fest Weekend - Calling all Slime Lovers!

Join us for our very first Slime Fest Weekend!! 75 Minutes of pure Slime Bliss and Satisfaction!!!

This awesome activity will provide sensory exploration and creative fun for children in a supervised environment. All children will learn all the tips and tricks to create, play with and add fun ingredients to slime, including paint, glitter, shaving foam, mix-ins and scents. There will be a Slime Parade and a Hot Chocolate / Biscuit treat at the end.

Every child goes away with two sets of Slime they've customised themselves.

Parents are welcome to stay if they want. Only 1 parent permitted to attend per child (if required) however workshop is fully supervised if adults wish to leave their child. We empower and encourage children to do as much as they can themselves!

****All our Activity Mentors are professional, and Enhanced DBS checked****

- AGES: 5 to 14 - DURATION: 1hr 15mins - DATE: Saturday, 25th and Sunday 26th January 2025
- TIME: There are 3 time slot options each day: 10:30am – 11:45am, 12pm – 1:15pm, 1:30pm – 2:45pm
- PRICE: £15 per child - VENUE: Sovereign Harbour Community Centre

INCLUDED: Hot Chocolate and Biscuits (please let us know if your child has any allergies) All materials.

Kids go away with two sets of slime and great memories!

Book Now: <https://eequ.org/experience/10349>. For further information, email info@tydol.co.uk Tel: 07702491466

St. John's Meads pupils can claim 10% OFF using discount code: TYDJAN10



Half Term Activities

Monday 17th February - Friday 21st February 2025

CAMPS – Monday 17th February-Thursday 20th February

A perfect mixture of Structure, Open Play, Fun & Games and Crafts. For School aged children. Children will have the opportunity to work on all Pieces of apparatus throughout the day Please make sure the children bring a packed lunch (NO NUTS PLEASE)

Member: £27.50 Non-Member: £32.50
Annual Holiday Membership is £30.00 per child and can be purchased if your child attends regularly and you would like to pay the member's rate. Please note sessions are Non-Refundable



Booking Open
EXCLUSIVE SCHOOL DISCOUNT 10% using code FEB10 for Camp sessions ONLY

1066 Gymnastics, Unit 3a Brett Drive, Bexhill on Sea
East Sussex, TN40 2JP 01424213779

PLAYGYM – Friday 21st February

These sessions are non-structured, and you must stay with your child/children throughout the session. A coach is present for safety.

9:30am-11:00am- Ages 6 & Under
11:30am-1:00pm – Ages 10 & Under
1:30pm-3:00pm – SEN Session
£8.50 per child

Forward Drive
Free Community Cricket

FREE Cricket ✓
Meet new friends ✓
Qualified ECB Coaches ✓
Come and "Have a go" ✓
Clubmark Approved ✓
Equipment Provided ✓
Be happy, be healthy ✓
be active! ✓
Join in and have FUN ✓
For primary age boys and girls ✓
Sponsored by Eastbourne Cricket Club ✓



Eastbourne Cricket Club

WANTED

WOMEN & GIRL CRICKETERS

Eastbourne Cricket Club Women's & Girl's Section is looking for new players with or without experience interested in hardball or softball cricket. We can offer age group cricket for Girls from U11–U16 as well as Women's cricket U15+ and adults. We also have an U5–U10 mixed softball programme called Forward Drive for younger players. We have a winter indoor training programme, which is available now with a professional coach, and regular informal games to help your development and get you ready for the start of the season. So, no matter what your level of experience there will be plenty of opportunity to learn to play, improve your existing skills and be part of the team. Our Women's 1st XI cricket team are also keen to meet local adult women cricketers who would like to play in the new Sussex Women's Premier League this coming season, so if you're a local cricketer currently unaffiliated or playing for a club without a Women's team or are thinking of returning to cricket, please get in touch and come to our training sessions, no obligation and a taster session is free of charge.

Why Women and Girl's Cricket?

- One of the fastest growing sports in the world
- Women's Cricket is now a professional sport which means at the higher levels it could be a paid career
- Sussex has an enviable Women and Girl's development pathway
- Opportunity for all abilities
- Develop individual performance and skills in a team sport environment
- Meet new friends and have lots of fun

For more information or to book a taster session please email:

juniors@eastbournecricket.club



You can go with i-go!

The FREE leisure discount card for children and young people with disabilities or special needs in East Sussex



Ready to make the most of your free time?

Get an i-go card and enjoy exciting offers from our i-go partners including leisure centres, days out and entertainment. We have offers at over 90 venues already and the list is growing all the time!

Who is it for?

i-go is for 0-25's with disabilities or special needs who live in or receive in education in East Sussex.

Planning an activity

You'll also get accessibility information about each venue or activity to help you plan your visit.

Who is it for?

The i-go website shows you all our current offers, as well as time limited offers and events that may be coming up in the future.

You can search for an activity in lots of different ways including date, place, type or accessibility.



i-go is run by East Sussex County Council and is our Children's Disability Register.

Your anonymised information can help us plan services and hold consultations.

How to apply

You can apply online at www.igo.eastsussex.gov.uk

For a paper application form please contact us on 0345 60 80 192

Helpline: 01273 772289

Email: sendiass@amazesussex.org.uk

Helpline opening hours

Monday to Friday, 9.30am to 2.30pm

We can call you back at other times too.

If you need any extra assistance to communicate with us, let us know.

About Amaze

Amaze is a Sussex-based charity that has been working with parent carers of children and young people with additional needs in Brighton and Hove for 20 years. We now also work directly with older children and young people and offer some services across East and West Sussex.

Amaze is a parent-led organisation, managed by a board of trustees made up of parents and professionals. We get funding from local authorities and health services, as well as from charitable trusts and through our own fundraising. To find out more, visit our website.

Amaze

01273 772289

info@amazesussex.org.uk

www.amazesussex.org.uk



Amaze SENDIASS

Special Educational Needs and Disability Information, Advice and Support Service



for families in East Sussex

Join your local parent carer forum

Are you a **parent or carer** of a child or young person age 0-25 with a special educational need or disability?

What is a parent carer forum?

East Sussex Parent Carer Forum is a parent-led organisation working to ensure that every parent carer in East Sussex feels that their **voice, views, and experiences matter** and contribute towards developing and improving services that impact the lives of our children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

Who can join?

Parents or carers with a **child or young person age 0 to 25 with an additional need or disability** are welcome to join. You must either live in East Sussex or your child/young person must be using East Sussex services. Your child or young person does **not** need a clinical diagnosis in order for you to join.

How?

We work by reaching out to hear your **views, representing your experience and expertise** and making recommendations for service improvement to decision-makers from the local authority and the Clinical Commissioning Group in all areas of education, health, and social care.

You can **join the forum** and share your views by completing the [membership form](#) on our website. You can comment on our [Facebook page](#), reply to [tweets](#), take part in polls and surveys, or become an ESPCF representative.

Why?

We are **stronger together**. By coming together, sharing our experiences, feeding back to those who shape services, and monitoring and recording our work, we have the strength to drive real change.

So what happens?

You can opt to receive our updates and [newsletters](#), join our [Facebook group](#), be invited to [events](#) (virtual for now). If you wish, it's an opportunity to **share your experiences and shape services**.

Making contact with other parent carers with similar experiences can be really beneficial and is a lovely supportive part of being a member - but it is entirely optional.

"I was actually taken aback on how much my opinions were taken on board. It was really refreshing, as a parent/carer, to feel **listened to and valued.**"

Erika Freeman, ESPCF representative

Where?

 www.espcf.org.uk

 info@espcf.org.uk

 0300 770 1367

 www.facebook.com/EastSussexParentCarerForum

If you have any accessibility needs, please let us know