

Friday 18th September

NEWSLETTER



"A warm smile is the
universal language of
kindness."

This Week at James Dixon



Our award winning swimmer in Year 6 has smashed it once again winning a medal in Kent County Amateur Swimming Association the Female 11 & Under Freestyle Relay! 🙌

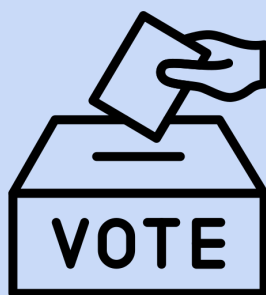


Term Dates 2025

			
Term Starts	Tuesday 1st September	Monday 4th January	Tuesday 13th April
Half Term	Monday 19th October to Friday 30th October	Monday 15th February to Friday 19th February	Monday 31st May to Friday 4th June
Term Finishes	Friday 18th December at 2:00pm	Thursday 25th March at 2:00pm	Thursday 22nd July

Pupil Leadership

This week we had the Pupil Principal hustings. Twelve short-listed Year 6 pupils gave their speeches to the rest of the school. Years 3-6 were then able to vote for their two favourite candidates. They then met our local MP Liam Conlon and were interviewed by Mrs Aldred and Mrs Treleven. Stay tuned to find out who your 2026-2027 Pupil Principals will be!



Friday 18th September 2026

Curriculum Focus - Design and Technology

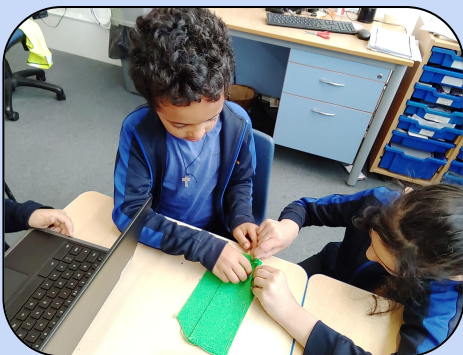
At James Dixon we follow the Primary Knowledge Curriculum for our Design & technology lessons in KS1 & KS2.

Every year the children will do units focused on improving skills in cooking, sewing and building.



In the cooking units of work children need to independently prepare recipes such as apple crumble, ratatouille, meze and gingerbread.

They learn to cut, measure and mix ingredients.



In the sewing units skills such as threading a needle, embroidery stitching and applique are taught from Year 1 to Year 6.

Children must also independently plan their own designs before evaluating the finished product.



Our building units see children taking on challenges such as cam toys, water walls and moving playgrounds.

They must use their design skills to think about the materials and tools they will need.



Are you a parent or carer who can sew? We need your help! Sign up using the link below to help with our DT sewing units.

<https://forms.gle/9TdB38M3QBFuhsqn8>



Year 6 - Horniman Museum



On Friday 11th September, Year 6 went on their first trip of the year. They took the train to visit the Horniman Museum.

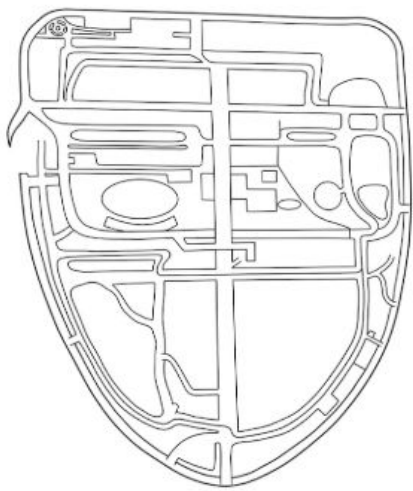
Whilst they were there they took part in a workshop where they were investigating evolution.

They got to take part in three different activities, one thinking about the evolution of birds and their beaks, one looking at and learning about fossils and the other about habitats and animal characteristics.

It was a very informative and interesting trip!

Year 3 - Crystal Palace Park

In Year 3, we have been studying maps, symbols and keys. During our visit to the park, we added symbols to our maps of the park.



We think that we definitely earned an early lunch!



What visit would be complete without going to the playpark?



Liam Conlon MP visits JD!



Mr Melia invited our local MP Liam Conlon to spend the morning in our school - his first school visit of the year. He joined us for Reading Achievement Assembly and talked to the children about the power of reading and his favourite childhood books - Peter Rabbit.

He then spoke to all of our Pupil Principal candidates about leadership and politics and encouraged them to continue their leadership journey. Liam said he was really impressed with the way they all spoke and has invited them for a tour of Parliament so watch this space!

Free Parent Workshop

A Peaceful School Run

Getting children to school on time can feel like the most stressful part of the day. There is so much to do in such a short period of time, when children might not be ready for it. In this free workshop, you'll discover simple ways to make your school runs feel like teamwork, not a battle:

- **Create small moments of connection while still getting things done**, so that you start the day feeling closer.
- **Support your children with the big emotions that mornings can stir up**, so that emotions feel less overwhelming and you can start the day with more calm.
- **Encourage your children to take a more active role in getting ready**, which not only builds their independence but also gives you more breathing space in the morning.

You'll leave the workshop with practical steps to make your school runs more peaceful and more connected.

Online workshop via Zoom

[Follow this link to register for the workshop](#)



The workshop will be delivered by Una Archer, MSc. She uses a tried and tested attachment-informed framework to help parents feel more confident and navigate the challenges of parenting in a more connected and peaceful way. To find out more, visit www.helpyourchildthrive.co.uk



Exciting Writing!



Last week, I challenged the children to imagine a mysterious box left outside the classroom door... and I was so impressed by the brilliant ideas that came back!

Here is the very first featured response.

Our First Featured Writer

Amber G from Resilient Class

The Ancient Music Box

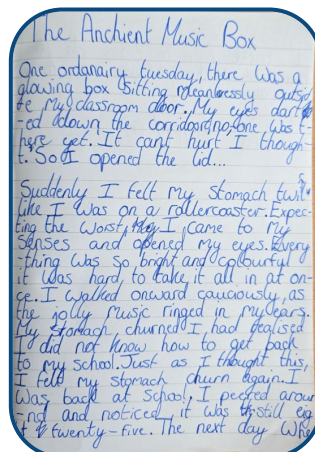
One ordinary Tuesday, there was a glowing box sitting meaninglessly outside my classroom door. My eyes darted down the corridor, no-one was there yet. "It can't hurt," I thought, so I opened the lid...

Suddenly, I felt my stomach twirl like I was on a rollercoaster. Expecting the worst, I came to my senses and opened my eyes. Everything was so bright and colourful it was hard to take it all in at once.

I walked onward, cautiously, as the jolly music rang in my ears. My stomach churned; I had realised I didn't know how to get back to my school. Just as I thought this,

I felt my stomach churn again. I was back at school. I peered around and noticed it was still 08:25.

The next day, when I came back to class, the music box was not there; maybe never to be seen again...



Inspired by last week's writing challenge



Why this writing shines



Great imagination



Clear description



Interesting vocabulary



A strong sense of mystery



More brilliant writing coming soon!

Keep writing - your work could be featured here next week.

Sustainability

World Cleanup Day - 20th September 2026

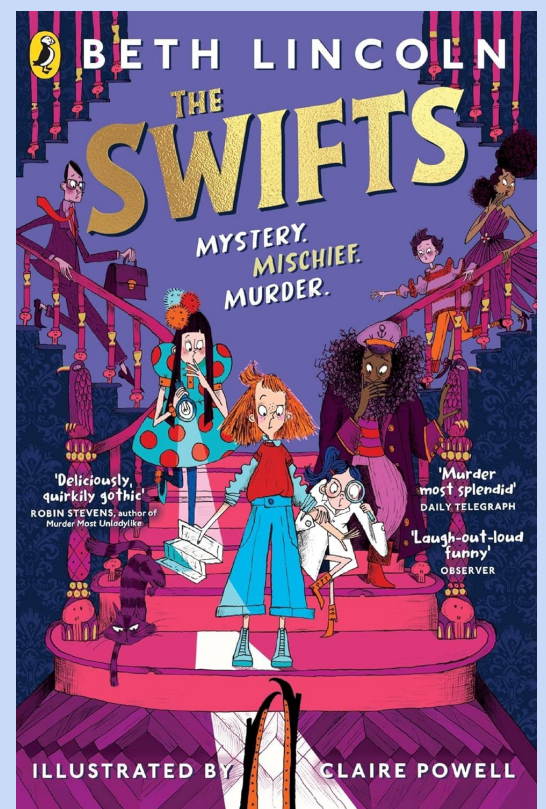
A single plastic bottle left in a park can take over 450 years to break down, breaking into tiny pieces that harm local wildlife.

With World Cleanup Day happening this weekend, take a pair of gloves or a litter-picker on a walk or to the local park. Challenge yourselves to spot and safely pick up five pieces of plastic litter to bin or recycle.



Book Recommendation

The Swifts is a delightfully eccentric middle-grade mystery. Named from the dictionary at birth, every Swift's name defines their destiny. When mischievous Shenanigan attends a chaotic family reunion, an arch-uncle is attacked, turning the gathering into a crime scene. Packed with clever wordplay and sneaky twists, this whimsical whodunit proves you can write your own story. Hilarious and sharp, it is an irresistible read for young mystery lovers.



Composition of the Week



[Click here to listen](#)

Black Pumas - Colors

Genre: soul/rock/gospel blend

Composed in: 2019

The song was written as a celebration of life, nature, and togetherness. The song starts with "I woke up to the morning sky... baby blue." It teaches us to look outside and enjoy the simple things. The song is also a metaphor for people and unity. "All my favorite colors," is referring to how diverse, unique and special we are.

There are many reference to colours in the song, how many can you hear?

Online Safety



Supervised accounts

A parent-managed version of YouTube that allows you to control the content your child can access.

You can select one of the following options:

Explore - Generally for viewers aged 9+.

Explore more - Generally for viewers aged 13+

Most of YouTube - This setting includes almost everything except for videos marked as 18+.

Find out
more
here

Weekly Attendance

Every School Day Matters

96%

Class	Attendance %
Curious	97%
Imaginative	97%
Innovative	90%
Adventurous	95%
Confident	96%
Honest	96%
Respectful	100%
Energetic	95%
Expressive	98%
Reflective	96%
Resilient	92%
Kind	94%
Considerate	96%

Next week's Achievers

Learning Behaviour

Adventurous	Johaán
Confident	Ellie
Honest	Aya
Respectful	Aaliyah
Energetic	Micah
Expressive	Aisha
Resilient	Lourenco
Reflective	Princess
Considerate	Monroe
Kind	Yunus
Colourful Class Star of the Week	Liam & Layla-Jayne

James Dixon
Primary



Dates for Your Diary

Monday 21st Sept.

Year 4 Energetic Class Swimming

Nature Makers Club 3.00 pm

Drama Club Year 1-3 3.00 pm

Football Club all years 3.00 pm

Mini Athletics Rec-Year 2 3.00 pm

Tuesday 22nd Sept.

Year 5 trip to Horniman Museum

Year 4 Energetic Class Swimming

Athletics Club Year 3-4 3.00 pm

Drama Club Year 4-6 3.00 pm

Wednesday 23rd Sept

Year 4 Energetic Class Swimming

Cheerleading Club Year 2-6 3.00 pm

Gymnastics Club all years 3.00 pm

Robotic Club Year 1-6 3.00 pm

Thursday 24th Sept

Year 4 Energetic Class Swimming

Achievement Assembly 10.10 am (invited parents only)

Creative Writing Club Year 3-6 3.00 pm

Taekwondo club all years 3.00 pm

Steel Pans Club Year 3-4

Friday 25th Sept.

Year 4 Energetic Class Swimming

Dance Club all years 7.50 am

PTA Free Uniform Event 3.00 pm

Monday 28th Sept

Year 2 trip to Betts Park

Year 4 Energetic Class Swimming

Nature Makers Club 3.00 pm

Drama Club Year 1-3 3.00 pm

Football Club all years 3.00 pm

Mini Athletics Rec-Year 2 3.00 pm

Tuesday 29th Sept

Year 4 Energetic Class Swimming

Athletics Club Year 3-4 3.00 pm

Drama Club Year 4-6 3.00 pm

Wednesday 30th Sept

Year 4 Energetic Class Swimming

Cheerleading Club Year 2-6 3.00 pm

Gymnastics Club all years 3.00 pm

Robotic Club Year 1-6 3.00 pm

Thursday 1st Oct.

Year 4 Energetic Class Swimming

Achievement Assembly 10.10 am (invited parents only)

Creative Writing Club Year 3-6 3.00 pm

Taekwondo club all years 3.00 pm

Steel Pans Club Year 3-4

Friday 2nd Oct.

Year 1 trip to Betts Park

Year 4 Energetic Class Swimming

Dance Club all years 7.50 am

Monday 5th Oct.

Nature Makers Club 3.00 pm

Drama Club Year 1-3 3.00 pm

Football Club all years 3.00 pm

Mini Athletics Rec-Year 2 3.00 pm

Tuesday 6th Oct.

Year 4 Expressive Class trip to Stambourne Woods

Athletics Club Year 3-4 3.00 pm

Drama Club Year 4-6 3.00 pm

Wednesday 7th Oct.

Cheerleading Club Year 2-6 3.00 pm

Gymnastics Club all years 3.00 pm

Robotic Club Year 1-6 3.00 pm

Thursday 8th Oct.

Harvest Festival

Reception to Crystal Palace Park

Friday 9th Oct.

Dance Club all years 7.50 am

PTA Autumn Bake Sale 3.00 pm

James Dixon Primary



TIMES TABLES ROCK STARS DAY

WHEN:

Friday 9th October 2026

WHAT:

Times Table Rock Stars Day

WHY:

Dress as a Times Table
Rockstar for the day and
take part in fun times tables
games!



JAMES DIXON PRIMARY SCHOOL
PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION



JAMES DIXON COMMUNITY UNIFORM EXCHANGE PROGRAM

FREE UNIFORMS AVAILABLE

FRIDAY 25 SEPTEMBER AT 3PM

FIND US AT THE PTA STALL

PLEASE DONATE ANY OUTGROWN UNIFORMS TODAY!
BRING THEM TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE BEFORE THE
EVENT

DONATIONS TO THE PTA WELCOME, CASH OR CARD.



@jamesdixon.pta



James Dixon
PTA Forum



Autumn Bakesale

FRIDAY 9 OCTOBER

From 3:10pm at PTA Stall
All items are 50p or £1



We take cash or card



Feel free to decorate for Halloween/Autumn!



Label your bakes if gluten free,
dairy free, halal or vegan



Please bring your NUT FREE bakes to the
school office in the morning

We need lots of baked donations please



NO
TRICKS



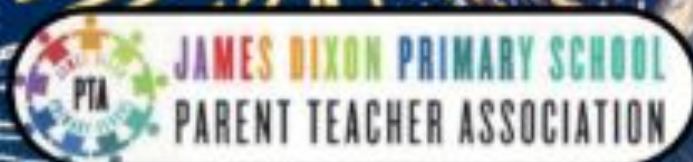
JUST
TREATS



@jamesdixon.pta



James Dixon PTA Forum



FIREWORKS

at James Dixon Primary School

Saturday 7 November

Professional Fireworks Display
Provided by

FF

FRONTIER FIREWORKS LTD

BOOKING SITE



Display at 7:00pm

Gates open at 5:30pm

No admission after 6:45pm

Event ends at 8:00pm



A choice of light wands and glow sticks will be on sale.

A variety of Food Trucks, plus Coffee Van and Ice Cream Van
offering tasty food & hot drinks to buy.

No alcohol, No parking and No sparklers on site.

Please see full admission details on the booking site:

<https://www.ticketsource.com/james-dixon-primary-school-pta/t-njmrgt>

Book your tickets this summer to gain Early Bird prices.

Available until 5pm Wednesday 30 September 2026 or when they sell out.

Volunteers receive a free ticket for themselves and one child. To Volunteer, please
contact the PTA by email by Thursday 15 October 2026. These places go quickly!