



Newsletter – 7th July 2023

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome to the penultimate newsletter of the school year. Strap yourselves in for an emotional roller coaster as we take you on a compelling journey through a series of increasingly emotive items including (but not limited to) parking, vaping and building work. If, after all that, you still have any emotional energy left, we conclude with the transformative “dates for the diary”.

Proactive luck management

I thought I would let you know that I have put several measures into place to change the school’s luck, and I think you will agree that these have already born fruit with the weather for our Sports Day and the lovely Summer Fair last weekend. These measures have been worked upon by the school’s leadership team and are part of a planned and sustained approach to “luck management” going forwards. In brief, these steps are as follows:

1. A consistent, whole school approach to the saluting of solitary magpies has been introduced.
2. We have carried out a streamlining and overall reduction of staff “lucky” items (including “lucky” items of clothing) to minimise the risk of, for example, one broken zip triggering an unfortunate cascade of events.
3. I have shaved off my beard, deciding to try a “reverse Samson”.

Parking outside the school

We have asked TWBC to assist with reserving the bays outside the school for coaches for the next couple of weeks. While we await a solution we would be very grateful if the bays nearest the school could be kept empty for our coaches. I realise that technically there are no bays at present as the road has been resurfaced – I hope you are enjoying the road’s new glass-like perfection (while dodging the flying pieces of gravel).

Start of the school year September 2023

I hope to have a schedule of works to share with you by the week commencing 17th July and this will give us a better understanding of what I can expect over the summer and what we can all expect at the start of the new school year. However, 4th September will remain a Planned Closure day for the school as, whatever the outcome, there will be a fair bit of reorganising to do at the start of term as most staff will not be allowed on site during the summer holidays. Reception’s stay and play will go ahead as planned on the 4th.

Vaping

Please do not vape on the school grounds. Stealthily holding the vaping thing inside your palm does not disguise the huge cloud of exhaled butterscotch-angel-delight flavoured “smoke” that others around you have to breathe in.

Summer fair cake tins

Please come to the office to collect your cake tin if you brought one to the summer fair.



Orchestra Workshop

On Thursday 29th June, we took 13 musicians to Skinners for an orchestra workshop. There were over 90 children there from 10 different local primary schools. The children had the opportunity to practise their instruments with support from teachers and students at Skinners as well as musicians from Kent Music. Staff told me that our St James' children were very polite and hard-working and were very impressed with their abilities. The children then all came together to perform for parents and they all sounded incredible! A huge thank you to the children who have been practising their music for the last few weeks - you have made us very proud!



St James' church holiday club

Please see the flyer attached to this email for more information.

Summer Reading Challenge 2023

On Monday, children in school were visited by a librarian from The Amelia Scott to learn about this year's Summer Reading Challenge.

The Challenge starts tomorrow, Saturday 8th July, and continues through to September. All children aged 4 - 11 years can join in with it. It is completely free for them to join and they can take part by visiting their local Kent library or online.

This year's theme is "Ready, Set, Read!" and it is being delivered in partnership with the national children's charity the Youth Sport Trust. The aim of the Challenge is to keep children's minds and bodies active this summer and throughout the school holidays, by encouraging them to focus on reading, sport and play. As children read more books, they will receive free incentives to encourage them to keep going and, ultimately, they will be awarded a medal.

There will also be exciting activities during the holiday at The Amelia Scott in which all children can get involved linked to this year's Challenge.

For more information and to explore the "Ready, Set, Read!" book collection for this year, please visit

<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>

Happy Summer Reading everyone!

Ms Simpson



Key Stage 2 Accelerated Reader Challenges – 07.07.23

This week, we congratulated the following children in each year group:

Year 6

Highest Individual Word Count	Highest Class Word Count	Highest Individual Number of Quizzes Passed	Highest Class Quizzes Passed
Seth in Osprey Class with 131,216 words	Osprey Class with 172,807 words	Alenna in Kestrel Class with 3 quizzes	Kestrel and Osprey Classes with 3 quizzes

Year 5

Highest Individual Word Count	Highest Class Word Count	Highest Individual Number of Quizzes Passed	Highest Class Quizzes Passed
Divit in Chaffinch Class with 262,645 words	Chaffinch Class with 1,556,322 words	Divit and Samuel C in Chaffinch Class and Jasper in Swift Class with 4 quizzes each	Chaffinch Class with 37 quizzes

Year 4

Highest Individual Word Count	Highest Class Word Count	Highest Individual Number of Quizzes Passed	Highest Class Quizzes Passed
Shameta in Dormouse Class with 144,805 words	Dormouse Class with 766,656 words	Sophie in Dormouse Class with 5 quizzes	Dormouse Class with 25 quizzes

Year 3

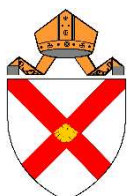
Highest Individual Word Count	Highest Class Word Count	Highest Individual Number of Quizzes Passed	Highest Class Quizzes Passed
Cavanagh in Badger Class with 94,371 words	Badger Class with 145,330 words	Cavanagh in Badger Class with 4 quizzes	Badger Class with 13 quizzes

Year 2

Highest Individual Word Count	Highest Class Word Count	Highest Individual Number of Quizzes Passed	Highest Class Quizzes Passed
Daisy in Hedgehog Class with 95,218 words	Hedgehog Class with 177,538 words	Daisy in Hedgehog Class with 6 quizzes	Rabbit Class with 37 quizzes

Well done to all children and classes for keeping up with their reading and quizzing!

Ms Simpson



Dates for the diary

10 th July	Move up morning – children meet their new teachers – letter to follow Monday
11 th & 13 th July	New Entrant stay and play
13 th July	Matinee and evening Y6 production
14 th July	Mov up afternoon
17 th July	Year 6 evening production
18 th July	Year 6 leavers' church service 2:00pm start – Year 6 parents invited
19 th July	Reception led church service 2:15pm start – Reception parents welcome to attend
21 st July	Last day of term
1 st September	INSET day
4 th September	Planned Closure day – see above Stay and play - Reception
5 th September	Children return to school today

Kindest regards,
John Tutt

