



Newsletter 1st July 2022

Dear parents,

We have a very busy three weeks coming up, so please read on to get the details. There is a lot of outdoor stuff including Sports Day and the Summer Fair, so let's hope for continued good weather. With Sports Day we will need to be led partly by the forecast and partly by common sense – the field becomes very slippery when wet (to quote Bon Jovi) so a dry day is necessary.

On the subject of forecasts, these are clearly inaccurate at best and sometimes deliberately misleading. There have been a number of occasions when I have been lured outside with no raincoat (the forecast giving just a vanishingly small 1% chance of precipitation) to then be soaked in a downpour when walking/cycling miles from anywhere in just a thin jersey. I am looking out of the window now at grey threatening clouds when the forecast on the web is cheerfully showing me a bright yellow sun.

Therefore, please do have some sympathy if we make a call on the weather and get it wrong – our default is to go on if at all possible – but please do understand if we need to reschedule.

I will be away next week with Year 6, so the school will be left in Miss Hayward's very capable hands.

Message from the PTA

Just two weeks to go until the summer fair. Thank you for all the hugely generous donations for the fair and to all the parents who stayed to help sort them. If you missed the drop off, you can also bring donations on Friday 15 July.

Next week we will also be taking donations for the summer fair raffle - look out for a message from your class reps.

Don't forget the discos for reception through to year 5 on Thursday next week. We still need a few extra helpers for years 2&3 and 4&5 - just let your class rep know.

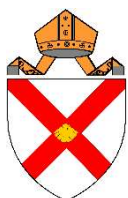
Thank you for your continuing support.

Sports Day

This has been scheduled for Wednesday 13th July. In the morning, parents of children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are welcome to come in and watch. We will open the gates from around 9:10am to give us a chance to register the children. Activities take place on the infant field.

In the afternoon, parents of children in years 3 to 6 are welcome to come and join us – gates will open from just after 1pm and events take place on the junior field.

All parents are welcome to stay for a picnic lunch on the fields with their children. Those children whose parents cannot make it will eat a picnic with their classes. Children from across the school are welcome to join their parents. The school kitchen will prepare a packed lunch for those parents who would like the school to provide a meal that day.



Designated safeguarding leads

Our designated safeguarding leads (DSLs) are trained to support children, staff and families with any aspect of safeguarding, child protection or other concerns they may have. At St James' Lucy Hayward is the lead DSL, and the deputy DSLs are Penny Wardell, Sarah Greenfield, Sarah Moriarty, Angie Pierce and me (John Tutt). Angie is also our Family Liaison Officer (FLO) and is ready to help parents with any concerns or worries they may have, including signposting support for them.

Church services

Years R to 2 will hold their end of year church service at 2:30pm on Monday 18th July at St James' church. The Year 6 leavers' service will take place from 2:30pm on Wednesday 20th July.

Year 6 productions

Year 6 will send more information separately, but the dates are Monday 18th July (2pm and 6pm) and Tuesday 19th July (6pm).

Year 6 residential

Year 6 are away next week in Derbyshire. I will be accompanying them, so Miss Hayward will be in charge that week. I hope the children are as excited as the staff are!

Staffing news

We are very sorry to be saying "goodbye" to Mrs Raistrick who has been working at the school for many years. She is moving on to work at a school in London; we thank her for her many years of service and wish her well for the future.

Clare Ball and Holly Shortland are starting their maternity leave at the end of this term. We wish them well and look forward to seeing their new arrivals after the summer holidays.

Transition

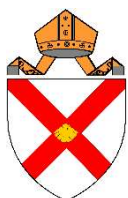
The week after next, the children will visit their new class and meet their new teachers for a transition afternoon. We will also share the class arrangements with you. The transition sessions are a great way to introduce the teachers and children to each other and to alleviate some of the anxiety (some anxiety towards the end of the summer holidays is very normal – us teachers have it too!) the children might otherwise have over the summer. Separately, new teachers will meet with existing ones for a thorough handover.

Swimming Gala

Last Wednesday, our Year 5/6 swimming squad took part in the annual Swimming Gala at St John's Leisure Centre. We were extremely competitive in all our races, with some excellent finishes including 1st places for Cleo and Lizzie in their backstroke events. Our girls' relay team finished 3rd, the boys' team finished 2nd and we again finished 2nd in the mixed medley - with Lucy nearly pipping the winners in the final leg. In the diving, Riyad came second overall in the boy's competition, and Caitlin produced some outstanding dives to win the girl's category (we have now won this four years in a row!). A special shout out for Jasper, who, despite only being in Year 4, came 3rd in the 50m open final, competing against Year 6s. We came 2nd in our league overall and only lost out to an exceptionally strong Langton Green squad. A huge effort from all the children involved who made us very proud on the night and represented our school fantastically, as always.

COVID-19 guidance

The current guidance recommends that children are not tested for COVID-19 unless directed to do so by a medical professional.



Children with symptoms should continue to attend school unless they feel too unwell or have a high temperature. If they have mild symptoms (sore throat, runny nose etc) they should attend school as usual.

If children are tested and are positive, they should stay at home for 3 days and then return to school as long as they feel well enough to do so and do not have a high temperature.

We will let you know if this guidance changes again – hopefully not sooner than the next newsletter. I will put the links in the main email to you.

MSporti summer camp

Please note the Msporti Summer Camps are filling up.

If you would like your child to attend, you will need to email Carl Roberts - carl@msporti.co.uk

All Pupil Premium children are entitled to one free week, paid for by St James' school - Please email Penny Wardell to approve before contacting Carl – senco@st-james.kent.sch.uk

Dates for the diary

4 th July	Year 6 residential
7 th July	Discos years R to 5
12 th & 14 th July	Parent consultations (except Y5)
13 th July	Sports Day whole school (weather dependent)
16 th July	PTA summer fair
18 th July (w/c)	Year 3 trips to Carroty Woods this week
18 th July	Year 6 productions (afternoon and evening)
18 th July	Infant church service (afternoon) & Year 6 evening production
20 th July	Junior church service (afternoon) – Year 6 leavers'
21 st July	Last day of term 6
2 nd September	First day of new school year

