



## Newsletter – Friday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear parents,

This newsletter is strictly business – no flannel. I'll try and write some flannel next week. Right...let's get down to business.

### Optional later start Monday 12<sup>th</sup> July

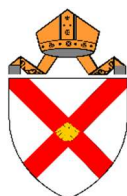
You may have heard that England are playing a football match on Sunday evening, which could go on until well past 10:00 or 10:30pm. As the children may never get the chance to see England in another final, you have the option of bringing them in a little later on Monday morning. We will keep the registers open until 9:30am to give the children an extra half hour or so in bed. This is completely optional – gates will still be open at 8:40am as usual.

**If children arrive after 9am, they will need to go through either the main KS1 entrance or the main KS2 entrance. Miss Hayward will man the KS1 entrance and I will man the KS2 entrance. After 9:30, any children will need to be signed in to the main office as the registers will be closed.**

### Classes for next year & move up mornings

This morning the children attended the first of two “moving up” mornings where they met their new teacher. The children will be having another morning next week on Tuesday. The details for the new classes are set out below.

Current Year Group	Current class	Next year's class
Year R	Cherry (Miss Smith)	Chestnut (Mrs O'Loan)
	Oak (Mrs O'Loan)	Beech (Mrs Shortland and Mrs Mill)
	Maple (Miss Coward)	Ash (Mrs Piper and Mrs Sweatman)
Year 1	Chestnut (Miss Greenfield and Mrs Ravenscroft)	Rabbit (Mrs de Lucy and Miss Stock)
	Beech (Mrs Shortland and Mrs Mill)	Hedgehog (Mrs Williams)
	Ash (Mrs Piper and Mrs Sweatman)	Squirrel (Mrs Clarke and Mrs Belfield)
Year 2	Rabbit (Mrs Dennett)	Badger (Mrs Simpson and Mrs King)
	Hedgehog (Mrs Williams)	Deer (Mrs Naismith)
	Squirrel (Mrs Clarke and Mrs Belfield)	Fox (Mrs Oakley)
Year 3	Class mix 1	Dormouse (Mr Wyke)
	Class mix 2	Stoat (Mrs Jones)
	Class mix 3	Vole (Mrs Featherstone)
Year 4	Dormouse (Mr Wyke)	Swift (Mrs Sparks)
	Stoat (Mrs Jones)	Chaffinch (Mrs Schone)
	Vole (Mrs Featherstone)	Nightingale (Mr Pritchard)
Year 5	Swift (Mrs Sparks)	Osprey (Mr Hodges)
	Chaffinch (Mrs Schone)	Kestrel (Mr Stevens)
	Nightingale (Mr Pritchard)	Owl (Mrs Holland)



## Staffing changes

We say “goodbye” to three members of staff at the end of this year. Lauren Wagstaff is one of our Teaching Assistants, working in Year 2 this year, and is leaving to spend more time running her business. We wish her well and thank her for the fantastic service she has given the children. Mrs Ravenscroft has worked at St James’ for many years, most recently teaching in Year 1. She is moving away with her family, so we would like to thank her and wish her good luck. We are really going miss them both and have been fortunate to have been lucky enough to have worked with two such talented people.

Mrs Waller has worked at the school since 1867 and is retiring (for the second time). I cannot begin to list everything she has done for the children of St James’ over many years, so we will say a very fond farewell for now and then probably welcome her back again in a few weeks. We all love you, Mrs Waller!

Miss Greenfield is beginning her maternity leave at the end of term, so I hope she enjoys the rest and relaxation ahead. Miss Greenfield is our Assistant Headteacher, Year 1 teacher and is always completely amazing - we will miss her hugely.

Miss Stock returns from maternity in September and will be teaching in Year 2 alongside Mrs DeLucy who also joins us in September.

We have some new TAs starting with us in September. Miss Swaffer will be working in Year 3, Miss Ball will join Year 6, Mrs Adams will split her time between Year 2 and Year 5, and Mrs Baker will join the Reception team. We are delighted to welcome to them to the St James’ family and look forward to working with them.

Mrs Dennett will not be class based next term as she will begin her own maternity leave in October; she will support with groups and in classes across the school until then.

With the number of teachers going on maternity leave recently, it seems clear that some members of the team really need to work on their social distancing.

## Phase Leaders

As Miss Greenfield begins maternity leave shortly, our leadership team will become even smaller in September. We have therefore appointed phase leads across the school. They will each look after one of the four phases at St James’. As always, parents’ first point of contact will be the class teacher, but if after speaking to them you wish to speak to someone else, they will be your second point of contact. I would like to offer the new phase leads our congratulations and look forward to working with them next year.

Phase	Phase Lead	Email address
Early Years	Lucy Coward	lcoward@st-james.kent.sch.uk
Key Stage 1 (Y1 & 2)	Jo Mill	jmill@st-james.kent.sch.uk
Lower Key Stage 2 (Y3 & 4)	Kate Jones	kjones@st-james.kent.sch.uk
Upper Key Stage 2 (Y5 & 6)	Anna Holland	aholland@st-james.kent.sch.uk

## September drop off and pick up

Although we still do not know for sure which guidelines will be in place for September, we will aim to return to a more normal system for the beginning and end of each school day. Timings and locations are set out below. If we need to change any of these before September, I will write to you towards the end of the summer holidays.

Year group	Drop off time	Finish time	Location
R	0845 - 0900	1510	Early Years entrance
1	0845 - 0855	1515	KS1 main entrance
2	0845 - 0855	1515	Year 2 gate



3	0845 - 0855	1520	Year 3 exit
4	0845 - 0855	1520	KS2 playground gate
5	0845 - 0855	1520	KS2 playground gate
6	0845 - 0855	1520	KS2 playground gate

### Year 6 Panto and leavers' service

As bubbles officially end on 19<sup>th</sup> July, we are able to give our Year 6 children a proper send off this year. Year 6 parents should already have been contacted by the Year 6 team about booking tickets for the panto. We will also be holding a Leavers' Service at the church on Tuesday at 2:30pm. Year 6 parents only are invited to come along with a maximum of 2 adults per Year 6 child. Only the Year 6 children will be at the church; the rest of the school will be having end of term assemblies in the school halls (two year groups at a time with bubbles distanced by 2 metres).

### September INSET

This year we have just one INSET day in September, so the children return to school on 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

### Sports Day

We were fortunate that Thursday remained dry(ish) and we could run our Sports Day. Thank you to Mr Hodges for organising the juniors and Mrs Dennett for organising the infants. It was a lovely day and wonderful to see the whole school enjoying themselves so much.

### Shrublands Court parking

We have had more complaints from residents of Shrublands Court about anti-social parking. Please do not park on double yellow lines or across people's drives, even if you "will only be a few minutes". I will put some sociable parking reminders under the windscreen wipers of offending cars and have also been in contact with the parking enforcement team who have agreed to make random visits and issue tickets for illegal parking. We take maintaining a good relationship with our neighbours very seriously. If parking is becoming difficult, you may find it easier to park further away and/or walk, enjoying the health benefits and opportunities for conversation at the same time.

### Test and trace

If one of your children develops COVID symptoms within 48 hours of the end of term and then tests positive, please email the school office: [office@st-james.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-james.kent.sch.uk). I will monitor emails for the first six days of the summer. If your child develops symptoms after 48 hours (ie after 3:30pm on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July) you should not contact the school but work with the Test and Trace team.

The current guidance is that from 16<sup>th</sup> August, children (and double vaccinated adults) will not need to isolate if they are a contact of a person testing positive, and isolation instructions will be handled by the Test and Trace team, not schools.

### Ofsted Parent View

Ofsted are restarting routine inspections from 1<sup>st</sup> September, and we are expecting a visit early in the school year. As a part of the inspection, Ofsted will want to know your views as parents and they do this by consulting their Parent View website. Parents can grade the school on a number of criteria and leave comments too (which we do not see). I would be very grateful if parents can take a few minutes to log onto the site and leave their honest feedback before the end of the school year. Either or both parents can give their views (via separate logins). The link is below:

### [Ofsted Parent View](#)

This will be the first inspection for the amalgamated school, and the first for either school since 2017 (the juniors). As the junior school closed as a part of the amalgamation process, the outrageously outdated 2008 Infant school



report is still the most recent and therefore gives us our current grade. Back in 2007/8 a number of local schools were judged as outstanding and only us and one other has missed more recent inspection.

### Swift Awareness Week

Its Swift Awareness Week! And thanks to the generosity of our school community, and discounts from Peak Boxes who are making our beautiful nesting boxes, we have ordered and will soon be taking delivery of six quadruple boxes each with room for four pairs of birds to raise their chicks. We will also have a sound system to play the sound of swifts calling (or “shrieking”) to let the swifts know that this is a good place to come and set up home. Hopefully we will have a busy swift colony next summer!



### Key Stage 2 Accelerated Reader Challenges

Well done to all children for their fantastic enthusiasm and achievements with reading so far this term. All class teachers have been impressed and it is such a joy to see. Many congratulations to this week’s winners for their achievements.

Highest Individual Word Count	Highest Number of Quizzes Achieved	Highest Class Word Count
<b>Divit</b> in Fox Class	<b>Divit</b> in Fox Class	<b>Chaffinch</b> Class
<b>1,288,378</b> words	<b>47</b> quizzes	<b>5,000,539</b> words

Please continue to encourage your children to read.

Ms Simpson

### Dates for the diary

13 <sup>th</sup> July	Second move up morning
19 <sup>th</sup> July	New reception children visiting (am) Year 6 afternoon and evening performances
20 <sup>th</sup> July	New reception children visiting (pm) Year 6 leavers’ service (Year 6 parents only invited) Year 6 evening performance
21 <sup>st</sup> July	End of term
1 <sup>st</sup> September	INSET day
2 <sup>nd</sup> September	First day back for children (Years 1 to 6) Early Years stay and play (am)
3 <sup>rd</sup> September	Early Years stay and play (pm)
9 <sup>th</sup> September	11+ Kent Tests
21 <sup>st</sup> October	Last day of term 11+ results sent to parents



22 <sup>nd</sup> October	INSET day
31 <sup>st</sup> October	Deadline for secondary school applications
1 <sup>st</sup> November	1st day of new term

Have a lovely weekend and thank you all, as always.

John Tutt  
July 2021

