



### Dates for the diary

Remember that term dates and other dates are available on the school website.

1 <sup>st</sup> October	Sharing learning Years 1 to 6 (2:45pm until the end of the school day)
2 <sup>nd</sup> October	Sharing learning Years 1 to 6 (8:45 until 9:15am)
8 <sup>th</sup> October	Carrot Wood this week for Year 3
11 <sup>th</sup> October	PTA AGM – straight after school – all welcome.
15 <sup>th</sup> and 17 <sup>th</sup> October	Parent consultations
22 <sup>nd</sup> October	Year 2 Harvest church service 2pm – Year 2 parents welcome to attend
24 <sup>th</sup> October	Last day of term 1
25 <sup>th</sup> October	INSET day
28 <sup>th</sup> October	Half term week
4 <sup>th</sup> November	First day of term 2
17 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 3 Christmas church service 2pm – Year 3 parents welcome to attend
20 <sup>th</sup> December	Last day of term 2
6 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	INSET day
7 <sup>th</sup> January	First day of term 3

### Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Once again we seem to have a lack of news. Things have definitely been happening all around me, and doing so on a daily basis – but there is a fine line between a newsworthy and non-newsworthy event. A lack of news is always a concern, as we clearly have a blockage, and there must be a growing mass of important facts backed up somewhere which will at some point break – leading, of course, to a school news Tsunami. In order to prevent the news pressure building up, we will continue to release news in a safe and controlled manner at a regular two-weekly interval.

In assembly this week I talked about the times, as a child, when you are bought items that are too large for you while being reassured that “you’ll grow into that”. Children walk to school with almost every item of clothing being a bit too large – trousers turned up, overhanging coat sleeves turned in and shoes (supposedly professionally fitted, certainly extortionately priced) with more than adequate toe-wriggle room.

The phrase “grow into it” is just as apt in a metaphorical sense as we progress into new challenges in life; it always takes some of us longer than others to settle into new jobs or roles. To most of us, a new job often seems too big for us and we hope we will grow into it; I certainly felt that way when I started at St James’ more than 12 years ago. Making it worse are those other people who exude self-confidence (or self-delusion), who always have something to say in meetings and look as if they belong in that role right from the start. Clint Eastwood (aka Dirty Harry) once said: “A man’s got to know his limitations,”; most of us dwell on them a little too much, and those



that do not perhaps should a little more. If that is how we feel as adults, it is easy to transpose these feelings onto our children, when to them school is just something new and exciting.

It is with enormous pleasure that we have seen the new Reception children making such a wonderful start; we are hugely grateful to our parent community for choosing our school to begin that life changing journey. It is a privilege to watch your children growing into our school, while we adapt to them and their individual needs. We are proud to work with your children and in partnership with you for these precious seven years.

Clint Eastwood's phrase does not apply to these children – they have no idea what their limitations are; in truth they have none. Thank you for helping us to make the start of our school year such a success.

### **Sharing learning for Years 1 to 6**

This is a chance for you to come into school and have a look through your child's books. The dates for this term are at the top of this newsletter. Parents can come to one, both or neither. Reception will have a session later in the year.

### **Early Years**

The reception team are really proud of how well the new children are settling into school life at St James'. They are becoming more and more independent with organising themselves and learning the school routines. Tiredness may quickly start to kick in as the children reach the end of their first full time week at school, so lots of rest and early nights over the next few weeks will certainly help them and you!

### **Coats**

Harking back to my last newsletter and the limitations of forecasting, please ensure your child has a coat every school day.

### **We need you...**

We are looking for any parents who are in a rock band or can play rock guitar/ instruments to help us relaunch Times Table Rock Stars. It would involve playing in school one afternoon to pupils in KS2 whilst they play the Times Table Rock Stars game on iPads.

Please email Mr Wyke if you are interested and can help.

[swyke@st-james.kent.sch.uk](mailto:swyke@st-james.kent.sch.uk)

### **Year 1**

Year 1 have been investigating using their different senses in their Science learning this week. They were very enthusiastic in their explorations of a carousel of items they could see, hear, taste, touch and smell. The children described the different tastes of strawberries, lemons and crisps and drew pictures of the senses they were using. Eating the slices of lemon was surprisingly popular so may be one to add to your five a day!



### Forest School news

Year 5 Chaffinch were excited to find a hawkmoth caterpillar on Thursday, living on the Rosebay Willowherb growing next to the KS2 steps leading up to the field. This is one of the areas we have been letting grow wild, encouraging the astonishing variety of plants and wildlife that are found on our site, and we're delighted at it's success.

Good spotting, Chaffinch class! Watch out for the beautiful big moth it will become in the spring!



Mrs Hadley

### September drop off and pick up timings

I am including these as we have a fairly significant number of children arriving late each day. It is important that your child is in on time each day as otherwise they start school unsettled or miss some of the early morning teaching sessions.

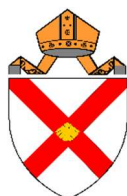
Year group	Drop off time	Finish time
R	0845 - 0855	1510
1	0845 - 0855	1515
2	0845 - 0855	1515
3	0845 - 0855	1520
4	0845 - 0855	1520
5	0845 - 0855	1520
6	0845 - 0855	1520

### A message for parents of children with SEND

Kent County Council (KCC) is seeking views on how the Specialist Teaching and Learning Service (STLS) might fit within new ways of working that are being introduced as part of the ongoing changes in Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) services in Kent. STLS have supported us at St James' with advice on provision for children with SEND over many years and we have found them to be a really valuable resource. The results of the consultation will decide the future of STLS. If you would like to give your views, please follow the link below.

[Specialist Teaching and Learning Service | Let's talk Kent](#)

Mrs Wardell



## Key Stage 2 Accelerated Reader Challenges 20<sup>th</sup> September 2024

The Accelerated Reader Programme keeps our children reading and taking quizzes and develops their understanding and a life-long love of reading. Our school reading challenges have begun in earnest this year and it always gives us great pleasure celebrating the children's reading achievements. Here are each week's overall winners so far this term:

- **6<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

Highest Individual Word Count	Highest Class Word Count	Highest Individual Number of Quizzes Passed	Highest Class Quizzes Passed
<b>Sasha</b> in Chaffinch Class <b>906,077</b> words	<b>Chaffinch</b> Class <b>1,655,471</b> words	<b>Lucie</b> in Swift Class <b>10</b> quizzes	<b>Osprey</b> Class <b>28</b> quizzes

- **13<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

Highest Individual Word Count	Highest Class Word Count	Highest Individual Number of Quizzes Passed	Highest Class Quizzes Passed
<b>Isabelle W</b> in Osprey Class <b>561,505</b> words	<b>Osprey</b> Class <b>1,197,115</b> words	<b>Lucie</b> in Swift Class <b>32</b> quizzes	<b>Swift</b> Class <b>140</b> quizzes

- **20<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

Highest Individual Word Count	Highest Class Word Count	Highest Individual Number of Quizzes Passed	Highest Class Quizzes Passed
<b>Leo B</b> in Dormouse Class <b>305,285</b> words	<b>Chaffinch</b> Class <b>945,433</b> words	<b>Hela</b> in Swift Class <b>18</b> quizzes	<b>Chaffinch</b> Class <b>88</b> quizzes

Thank you for your continued support with reading - every word and quiz truly counts!

Mrs Simpson

Kindest regards,

John Tutt

