



Dates for the diary

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

14 th October	Year 4 led Church Service 2pm (please note change of date) – Y4 parents welcome Harvest donations this week please
17 th October	Last day of term 1
20 th October	Half term week
27 th October	First day of term 2
28 th – 31 st October	Carrot Wood this week for Year 3
4 th November	School photographer in today
6 th November	Flu immunisation for whole school
4 th & 6 th November	Parent consultations
14 th November	Parent Workshop - Supporting your Child with Worries and Fears
8 th – 10 th December	Year 1&2 nativities
12 th November	Sharing learning (2:45pm until the end of the school day)
13 th November	Sharing learning (8:45 until 9:15am)
19 th November	School discos
16 th December	Year 3 Christmas church service 2pm – Year 3 parents welcome to attend
18 th December	Last day of term 2
19 th December	INSET day
5 th January	First day of term 3

Friday 10th October 2025

Welcome to the third school newsletter of the year – as always proudly non AI. We probably have a few years ahead of us before the tech billionaires manage to completely impose AI overlords on us, so let's make some hay while that sun still shines – all generic, inaccurate or misleading drivel in this newsletter will be proudly human in origin.

The Tutt family waved our middle child off to university at the end of September (an emotional time for Sarah and me), so we are now reduced to one moody teenager in the house. The mystery of why an entire week's worth of food shopping was only lasting us for three days also seems to have been solved. Other riddles remain, such as why it is impossible for a teenager to walk into a kitchen without opening the fridge before grunting with disappointment, only to do the exact same thing half an hour later.

This newsletter contains more than the average about driving safely and parking responsibly, so readers beware.

Flu vaccinations

All children are offered a flu vaccination at school – getting your child vaccinated is important to keep them well, but also for the safety of the wider community and for children who are immuno-suppressed. These take place



via a painless nasal spray on 6th November; I do hope that you register your child. I had a very bad case of flu last year (if you have not had the flu, it is completely different from a cold and utterly debilitating) so had a vaccination yesterday.

Any absences on the 6th November or the following days due to fictional reasons (i.e. vaccine related reasons that have not been put into writing by a GP or hospital consultant) will be marked as unauthorised.

Harvest

We have our Harvest church service on Tuesday next week, led by Year 4 (Year 4 parents and carers are welcome to attend). We are collecting again for our local food bank, so please send your child in with whatever tins/cans you can afford to spare.

Cycle to school week

Next week is cycle to school week – something I aim to celebrate. I hope that many of you will too.

Driving within the school car park

Please remember that this is a staff car park. We are close to closing it to all parents due to the number of near misses while children are leaving clubs and some of the speeds people are reaching. We request that there is no movement at all within the car park between 4:20 and 4:35, as so many children are leaving clubs at that time and trying to cross the driveway to leave.

If you are collecting from a club after school, please walk to the gate to collect the children so you can escort them across the carpark/driveway.

Dressing up clothes

We would like to set up a playtime dressing up box for our EYFS and KS1 children to use at playtime. If you have any old dressing up clothes for children at home that you would like to get rid of, maybe your child has had a growth spurt or changed which superhero they like to dress up as, we would love to give these a new home. Please drop any donations off to the office whenever you can. Thanks in advance.

Shrublands Court

Miss Hayward and I have spent some time in Shrublands Court recently during the morning drop off. I have been shocked by the number of St James' parents parked where they should not be – to be honest I have been embarrassed. Many of these parents live less than half a mile away (some literally a few hundred metres away). There was an altercation between a parent and a resident this week – this is not an acceptable thing for our children to have to witness.

If you live less than a mile from the school, and you or your child does not have a valid medical reason, you should be walking or cycling each day and leaving the car at home. This is better for your child and our environment.

I have asked Tunbridge Wells Council to begin more regular patrolling – as you may have noticed, Shrubland's Court residents also appear to have made the same request.



Forest School update



Thanks to the school's amazing efforts last year with the Great Athletes sponsored event, we now have a fantastic shelter over the Infant fire pit and are already enjoying the benefits of this. It will be of enormous help when we do finally get rain and throughout the winter time.

Well done to everyone who took part and raised so much - this will be enjoyed for many years to come.

Forest School team

Sporting news

We had two home football matches this week, so two reports to share. The first match was the Girls' football team against St Mark's on Monday:



St James' girl's football team played their first game of the season against St Mark's on Monday, running out as 5-0 winners, with goals from 5 different members of the team. The whole team played amazingly, displayed brilliant teamwork and impeccable behaviour on and off the pitch. Well done girls!



The second match was on Thursday when the Boys' football team played against Southborough:



The Boy's football team drew 0-0 against a very strong Southborough team. St James had the best of the chances, but just couldn't manage to get past Southborough's goalkeeper. Well done to the whole team on a great start to the season!

Mr Fern

Key Stage 2 Accelerated Reader Challenges

"There are many ways to enlarge your child's world. Love of books is best of all." (Jacqueline Kennedy)

Enlarging your child's world through books is so easy. For example, join the local library and then your child can travel to anywhere in the Universe, as well as places that are in their imagination!

Here are our most recent overall Accelerated Reader winners for the last two weeks.

➤ Winners for week ending 3rd October 2025:

Highest Individual Word Count	Highest Class Word Count	Highest Individual Quizzes Passed	Highest Class Quizzes Passed
Nico in Dormouse Class 231,404 words	Osprey Class 913,333 words	Ben K in Osprey Class 27 quizzes (2 books; 25 articles)	Owl Class 92 quizzes (61 books; 31 articles)

➤ Winners for this week (ending 10th October 2025):

Highest Individual Word Count	Highest Class Word Count	Highest Individual Quizzes Passed	Highest Class Quizzes Passed
Dylan in Swift Class 289,030 words	Dormouse Class 1,430,162 words	Reuben V in Fox Class 16 quizzes	Fox Class 101 quizzes



Many congratulations to all our winners. Every word read and quiz taken really does count so please keep reading!

Mrs Simpson

Have a lovely weekend.

Kindest regards,
John Tutt

