



## Newsletter – 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021

Dear parents,

It seems as if it has been a very long half term indeed, but the break has finally arrived. I would like to thank the whole team for all of their hard work and dedication since September.

Thank you so much for all of your Harvest donations; it was lovely to see that the St James' community generosity is as strong as ever. We celebrated Harvest this week in both school halls, including the highly addictive "vegetable game" and the tower of pea and ham soup. It was also wonderful to welcome Reception to their first ever Collective Worship in the school hall – they did so well and made all of their teachers very proud indeed.

All of your donations are going to the food bank for the benefit of those in our town in need.

I hope that you have a good half term break, and find plenty of time to rest, as well as time to stock up on petrol, children's Christmas gifts, pigs in blankets and polyester slacks.

### COVID cases in school

Once cases within a class reach a certain threshold (usually more than 3 children absent with positive test results) we take further measures to stop further spread within the school which stop that class mixing with others while indoors. Therefore the children will eat lunches and have assemblies in their classrooms. We will continue to send letters home to let parents know when there are positive cases and then again once these cases reach a certain threshold. Please note that it is extremely unlikely that we will be asked to send a class home, even if the majority are absent with COVID.

### Parent consultations

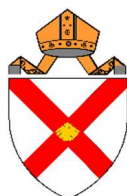
We are holding parent consultations in the week commencing 8<sup>th</sup> November. We plan to hold these in person rather than via Teams, although we will keep you posted and may change this at short notice. Appointments should be made via parentmail and the booking can be made from 4pm today.

Please arrive no more than 5 minutes before your appointment and we ask that you leave as soon as your last appointment is finished to minimise crowding within the school; I have asked teachers to ensure they are very prompt with their timings to avoid any queues outside classrooms, so please do not be offended if some teachers use sand timers or similar to help them keep on time. Consultations will be in classrooms and not in the school halls. Teachers will maintain a safe distance and classrooms will be well ventilated and so please wrap up warm.

### Secondary applications and 11+ results

Secondary applications must be made online by the 1<sup>st</sup> November. Oversubscription criteria and other information for all local secondary schools are available on the KCC website.

11+ results were emailed after school yesterday. Please email your child's class teacher if you have any questions and they will do their best to help you or refer you to me for a call. If you have questions about scores and the thresholds required for certain schools, these should be directed to the secondary schools. Please note that no particular score is required for either Weald, TWGGS or TWGSB; if the child has a "G" or grammar assessment then eligibility will be predominantly based on the distance to the school.



If your child took the test but was not “grammar assessed” and you would like to consider a parental appeal for a grammar place, you need to include the grammar school(s) you wish to appeal to as your last choice(s) on the list. There is then nothing to do until March when the school offers are sent out; we are always happy to explain this process to you.

### **Midday Supervisor vacancy**

We are currently looking for a Midday Supervisor to join our team. The post is for five days a week and if you are interested please contact Angie Pierce for more details. Details of the vacancy are on [www.kent-teach.com](http://www.kent-teach.com) and applications should also be made through the website.

### **International languages day**

We would like to celebrate our wonderful international community of families at St James'. It has been a very long time since we have been able to do this, and we are inviting everyone to take part in our **International Story Day** on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> November. It is a chance for you to bring into school a story in your home language, or from a culture you have a connection with, to read to the children. You could even pair up with a friend. Any props or artefacts, or even songs, that you would like to share as well would be very welcome!

Please contact me with any suggestions or questions. I am looking forward to hearing from you!

Helen Featherstone ([hfeatherstone@st-james.kent.sch.uk](mailto:hfeatherstone@st-james.kent.sch.uk))

### **Horton Kirby visit**

Year 3 and 4 enjoyed their trips to Horton Kirby where they investigated how fast the water flowed in different parts of a river. They also enjoyed a big game of Pooh Sticks! The children were excited to be allowed to stand in the river which filled their boots up.



### **Parenting workshop**

Please see the attached letter regarding a parent workshop.

### **Year 1 Trip to Hilbert Park**

We had the most wonderful morning exploring one of our local parks. We compared the different areas within the park and enjoyed collecting autumn items. We also kept our eyes peeled for any bears!



### Year 1 wanted items

If you have any unwanted Playmobil characters or other small figures (people, animals) we would love to have them. We are also after clothes for our role play areas, ideally not costumes but accessories like hats, scarves, jackets, wigs and so on. Thank you!

Well done to our Reception children!

Well done to all of reception for completing their first half term at school. They have all done an amazing job settling into school life, leaning new routines and making new friends. They have spent time exploring the school environment and have ended this term by exploring the woods and having a Teddy Bear's Picnic. The reception team are all very proud of you, we wish you all a happy half term and we look forward to seeing you in the new term after a well-deserved rest.



### Remote learning reminder

If your child is isolating due to a positive test, but is otherwise well, then please contact your class teacher so that we can set work for them so they do not fall behind. If your child is unwell, then getting better is the only thing they need to worry about; school work can wait.

The teachers' email addresses are the class name followed by the word "class", followed by the usual school email address. For example, Dormouse's email address is [dormouseclass@st-james.kent.sch.uk](mailto:dormouseclass@st-james.kent.sch.uk) and Chestnut's is [chestnutclass@st-james.kent.sch.uk](mailto:chestnutclass@st-james.kent.sch.uk).

### Reporting a pupil absence from school

A number of parents have left messages on the school absence line informing us that their child is 'unwell' or 'under the weather.'

Please can all pupil absence messages left on the school absence line have the following clear details:

- 1 Pupils name and class
- 2 Reason for absence e.g. cold
- 3 Clear details for absence - symptoms of illness - e.g. High temperature, cough, rash

### Accelerated Reader

Our Key Stage 2 weekly reading challenges using Accelerated Reader have continued this term and we have been celebrating the individual children and classes that achieve the highest scores in these.

This week's and this term's winners are:

Highest Individual Word Count	Highest Number of Quizzes Achieved	Highest Class Word Count
Lily in Kestrel Class	Isabelle in Deer Class	Kestrel Class



1,579,997 words	63 quizzes	8,649,259 words

A big well done to all children. Keep Reading!  
Ms Simpson

**Dates for the diary**

- 22<sup>nd</sup> October INSET day
- 1<sup>st</sup> November 1st day of new term  
Deadline for secondary school applications
- 3<sup>rd</sup> November PTA sponsored bounce
- 5<sup>th</sup> November Applications open for entry into YrR 2022
- w/c 8th November Parent consultations
- 15<sup>th</sup> November Braiswick Photography in to take individual photographs – whole school

Thank you all, as always.

John Tutt  
October 2021

