John Tutt B.A. (Hons)
Head Teacher
Tel: (01892) 523006
E-mail: office@st-james.kent.sch.uk
Website: www.st-james.kent.sch.uk

St. James' C.E. (Aided) Primary School
Sandrock Road
Tunbridge Wells
Kent
TN2 3PR

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

11th November	Sharing learning (2:45pm) Y1 to Y6
12th November	Sharing learning (8:45am) Y1 to Y6
2nd December	PTA Wreath Making
3rd December	Parent Rep Meeting - 9am
4th December	PTA Christmas secret present room
8th to 10th December	Infant nativity performances to parents
10th December	Reception Christmas singing performance 2.45pm - 3.10pm
11th December	Flu vaccinations
15th December	Year 3 church service (2pm start) – Y3 parents welcome to attend
16th December	Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper day
17th December	RE day
18th December	Last day of term
4th January 2027	First day of Term 3

Friday 6th November 2026

Welcome to a Bonfire Night special edition of the St James' newsletter, which has a more flammable vibe than usual. If printed, this newsletter will need to be sealed inside an old biscuit tin before being taken into the garden and set alight to the "ooh's" and "ahh's" of the assembled spectators - just like you may remember from those health and safety videos from the 1980s. Remember never to return to a newsletter which has been lit but has failed to explode.

Last night was the free bonfire night at Goldsmiths Rec in Crowborough which, for me, was a race against time after the parent consultations here at St James'. Luckily, I live right next to the venue, so it was just a hop out of the back gate and into the field to catch the spectacle. As with every bonfire night the routine was the same: a countdown from 10 followed by an awkward delay; someone talking on loudspeaker that nobody could understand; and accompanying music that wasn't quite in time to the fireworks. Then the walk home, followed by a shoe inspection before entering the house, just in case that mushy sensation underfoot wasn't mud. Pure magic.

Please read on for a shorter but no less vibrant dose of school news.

Parent Rep Meeting
I would like to invite all parent representatives to our first Parent Rep Meeting of the year on Thursday 3rd December at 9am. This is an opportunity for the Parent Rep from each class to share your experiences, offer suggestions, and discuss ideas that will help us continue to improve our school. If there is anything you would like

to raise, please speak to your Parent Representative who can raise this at the meeting on your behalf. As always, thank you for your support and feedback - this is truly appreciated.

Miss Hayward

Community Larder – Harvest festival donations

Wow ! Wow ! Wow ! What an amazing amount of harvest food you donated for the Community Larder.
It was such a wonderful amount and so generous of you and your families.
It will make a huge difference to us in the coming winter months, providing food for many people. We usually have about 95 visitors coming every Friday to choose their bag of food, and lots of them have families at home, so you are all helping hundreds of people.

Apart from foods such as you have donated, we collect lots of food from supermarkets that would otherwise go into landfill because of short dates. So, the larder helps prevent food waste as well as helping feed people.
Liz Johnson (St Matts Community)

Poppy Appeal

We still have items available should children wish to bring in some money for a donation. However, the slap bands have sold out.

Sustainability Survey 2026

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council wants your views on issues that affect everyday life, including energy bills, local green spaces, transport and water usage. The survey takes around 10-15 minutes and will help shape future council priorities and activities around climate change and sustainability.

They want to hear from our community. Please take part and share your views and share with your friends and family.

Take part using this link before 30 November: https://talkingpointtunbridgewells.uk.engagementhq.com/twbc-climate-action-short-survey-2026

Key Stage 2 Accelerated Reader Challenges

The winners for the last week of Term 1 (**23rd October**) were:

	Individual Highest Word Count	Class Highest Word Count	Individual Most Quizzes Passed	Class Most Quizzes Passed
Year 6	**Kate** in **Osprey**	**Osprey**	**Kate** in **Osprey**	**Osprey**
Year 5	**Jarvis** in **Swift**	**Swift**	**Jarvis** in **Swift**	**Swift**
Year 4	**Oscar Cz** in **Stoat**	**Stoat**	**Zebedee** in **Dormouse**	**Dormouse**
Year 3	**Arthur** in **Deer**	**Deer**	**Elia** in **Deer**	**Deer**

There was a phenomenal amount of reading during Term 1 throughout Key Stage 2 and here are last term's overall winners from each year group:

	Individual Highest Word Count	Class Highest Word Count	Individual Most Quizzes Passed	Class Most Quizzes Passed
Year 6	**Kate** in **Osprey**	**Osprey**	**Naomi** in **Osprey**	**Osprey**
Year 5	**Abbie** in **Swift**	**Swift**	**Danielle** in **Chaffinch**	**Swift**
Year 4	**Gianna** in **Dormouse**	**Dormouse**	**Gianna** in **Dormouse**	**Dormouse**
Year 3	**Athena** in **Badger**	**Badger**	**James** in **Fox**	**Deer**

- Every class read more than one million words.
- A special mention for **Osprey** as they read more than 11 million words!
- Eleven children were word millionaires.
- **Kate** and **Naomi** in Osprey were word multi-millionaires.

This term the challenges continue. Here are this week's overall winners (**6th November**):

	Individual Highest Word Count	Class Highest Word Count	Individual Most Quizzes Passed	Class Most Quizzes Passed
Year 6	**Kate** in **Osprey**	**Osprey**	**Naomi** in **Osprey**	**Osprey**
Year 5	**Jarvis** in **Swift**	**Swift**	**Jarvis** in **Swift**	**Swift**
Year 4	**Oscar Cz** in **Stoat**	**Dormouse**	**Gianna** in **Dormouse**	**Vole**
Year 3	**Athena** in **Badger**	**Badger**	**Lucas** in **Badger**	**Badger**

- A special mention to Osprey as they read more than one million words this week.

Well done to everyone for their reading achievements so far. Please keep it up!
Mrs Simpson

Have a great weekend.

Kindest regards,
John Tutt