



Dates for the diary

8 th October	Carrot Wood this week for Year 3
10 th October	World Mental Health Day
15 th and 17 th October	Parent consultations
22 nd October	Year 2 Harvest church service 2pm – Year 2 parents welcome to attend
23 rd October	PTA disco
24 th October	Last day of term 1
25 th October	INSET day
28 th October	Half term week
4 th November	First day of term 2
5 th November	PTA AGM (change of date)
17 th December	Year 3 Christmas church service 2pm – Year 3 parents welcome to attend
20 th December	Last day of term 2
6 th January 2025	INSET day
7 th January	First day of term 3

Friday 4th October 2024

Welcome to the latest bi-weekly controlled release of school news.

With the depressing state of the real news at the moment, I strongly advise you to avoid it at all costs and be gently reassured by the soothing balm of school news. Hopefully, at some point in the future, all news will be this way. Until that time, please read on and just pretend that the whole world is gently bobbing along the stream of time with not much more to worry about than choosing an outfit for a non-school uniform day or wondering how three labelled jumpers can possibly go missing in one week.

We had our first school tour this week for prospective parents as the annual cycle of school life rolls on for another year; our new reception children have only just started and we are already meeting the potential parents for next year.

Our new MP, Mike Martin, came to visit on Thursday and had a quick walk around the school. Our previous MP was always supportive of the school in its times of need and I am delighted to say that Mike is determined to be there for us too whenever a helping hand is needed; it was good to meet him.

Driving on the pavement

Seems odd to have to point this one out, but some people are mounting the curb to park or just deciding to shortcut around traffic by using the pavements near the school; some of the latter are St James' parents. Not sure much more needs to be said on this but, just in case it does, please do not drive on the pavement or mount the curb when driving or parking near the school. It seems to be a key symptom of motonormativity (better



known as “car brain”) to fail to accept that when driving a car we are in charge of more than a ton of potentially deadly metal, and more likely to kill or injure another human being than at any other time of the day – in 2022 there were 123,326 injuries caused by driving of which 1700 people were killed. Please remember that small children are the norm near a school, so if you drive to/from school please do so with the potential risk you pose to others foremost in your mind, and park and drive legally, carefully and respectfully.

School information

If you have moved house recently (or in the last 6 months) or changed your mobile number, email address etc please let the office know. Wherever possible, please make sure we have at least two emergency contacts on file.

Communication with teachers

If you wish to email your child's teacher, please use the class email address which all have the same format: Nameofclass@st-james.kent.sch.uk. For example, to contact Oak Class the address is oakclass@st-james.kent.sch.uk, for Cherry Class it's cherryclass@st-james.kent.sch.uk and so on. Teachers are not able to read or respond to any email sent during the school day as their focus is on the 30 children they have in class. Therefore, if the message is urgent, e.g. you need to pick them up early for an appointment or they are going home with another parent, please call the school office on 01892 523006. We try to discourage lengthy email communication and so, for anything longer than a quick message, teachers are always happy to speak face to face. This is best at the end of the day as they are settling their class during drop off time. If you are at all concerned about anything, please feel free to get in touch so that the concern can be quickly nipped in the bud.

Secondary applications

Secondary applications must be made online by the 31st October. Oversubscription criteria and other information for all local secondary schools are available on the KCC website.

Voluntary contribution

The school gratefully accepts voluntary donations which are used to pay for special activities and ‘extras’ for the children; payment can be made on Iris Parentmail +Pay and we suggest £15 per family per year. I will reiterate that this is a voluntary donation, and no parent should feel under any pressure to contribute, although of course this is greatly valued by the school.

Sport news

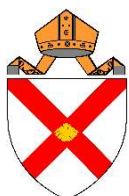
Yesterday, our football team played Southborough and drew 1:1 after a tight game. We could have been 3 goals up in the first half if their goalkeeper hadn't managed to save 3 goals stuck on target. Even after going 1:0 down we fought well and received a penalty as a result of a hand ball. We scored from this and the final score was 1:1.

It was a lovely game, played in a competitive but friendly spirit by both sides and our team shows lots of exciting promise.

Mrs Naismith

World Mental Health Day

World Mental Health Day is on the 10th October and promotes positive mental health for children. If you wish, your child is welcome to come to school with a yellow accessory or item of clothing (hair band, t-shirt, jumper etc), although in full school uniform excepting that item. We will not be collecting any donations in school, but please click on the link if you wish to donate to the Young Minds charity.



Key Stage 1 Collins Big Cat e-book library

Unfortunately, we are experiencing many difficulties setting up staff and pupil accounts for our digital subscription to the Collins Big Cat e-book library. These problems are due to Collins upgrading and streamlining their service over the Summer which are beyond our control.

The Collins Hub assure us they are working on this to resolve the problems and we hope they will be rectified as soon as possible. Your child's class teacher will notify you once this is the case.

Please accept our sincerest apologies for the delay with this and thank you for your patience.

Key Stage 2 Accelerated Reader Challenges 4th October 2024

Many congratulations to our overall winners in the last two weeks:

- **27th September 2024**

Highest Individual Word Count	Highest Class Word Count	Highest Individual Number of Quizzes Passed	Highest Class Quizzes Passed
Isabelle W in Osprey Class 350,267 words	Osprey Class 1,277,183 words	Hela in Swift Class 30 quizzes	Swift Class 161 quizzes

- **4th October 2024**

Highest Individual Word Count	Highest Class Word Count	Highest Individual Number of Quizzes Passed	Highest Class Quizzes Passed
Naomi in Dormouse Class 492,435 words	Dormouse Class 1,178,384 words	Lucie in Swift Class 30 quizzes	Dormouse Class 161 quizzes

I'd like to give a special mention to the following classes who also read more than one million words this week:

- **Stoat Class - 1,076,680** words
- **Osprey Class - 1,042,694** words

Mrs Simpson

Kindest regards,
John Tutt

