



Newsletter – 24th February 2023

Dear parents and carers,

I hope you all had a lovely half term. Spring is now in the air which means the rain and wind lashes your face in a slightly milder way. Apparently snow or sleet is forecast next week (according to Kent Live it seems to have been forecast every week since August), so the usual protocols apply if it is heavier (or slushier) than expected.

I hope you have not been too inconvenienced by the shortages of fresh fruit and vegetables; I can't imagine that your children have been overly worried about getting less of the green stuff on their plates.

Road safety person update

I have completed KCC's road safety person application and they have replied to tell me what happens next. They are sending someone to do a survey of the road. The decision will be made based on the business of the road. The survey will take place towards the end of March – they have apologised for the delay but due to lack of staff that is the earliest they can manage. Once they have visited, looked at the road (presumably holding clip boards and wearing high viz) they will give us the next steps.

Solution to anti-social parking

I have hired a monster truck to physically drive over any illegally parked cars. Please be reassured that it is an official KCC "school patrol" monster truck, and the driver will always try to ensure that there is nobody sitting inside the badly parked car during the actual crushing. In the interests of health and safety I have asked the monster truck drivers to be considerate and refrain from sounding loud musical horns or firing flames from their exhausts when near the school.

Please park legally and responsibly in the roads around the school. I have (again) contacted the parking enforcement team and asked them to step up their patrols around the school. Please be kind and considerate to our lovely neighbours and leave the roads and pavements safe for the children.

Before anyone complains, I did make that bit up about the monster trucks. It is, however, a very compelling idea.

Maths information session for parents reminder

Our Maths team, led by Simon Wyke, will be leading a session in the junior hall to talk you through how we teach Maths at St James' from Reception through to Year 6. This will take place after school on Wednesday 8th March – please come to the junior hall (via the main school entrance) for a 3:30pm start. All welcome.

Teacher strikes by members of the National Education Union (NEU)

Please read the letter I sent out yesterday as it includes all the information about the impact of the strike next week. I do apologise for the disruption this will cause, but I also reiterate that I do support all of the teachers here whether or not they are taking part.



Reception news

The eggs that reception found before the half term break have still not hatched! The children have been busy thinking about what may be inside the eggs, and have been sharing lots of fact books to help them decide what may be inside. On Wednesday, the children discovered footprints in the class, so are wondering if it could be a dinosaur, but they are still not sure, so they are busy thinking about how to look after the egg until it hatches.



School uniform

Over the last few weeks and months we have seen increasing diversity in what can be described as a school shoe. If I am honest, I have been less strict than usual as I understand how tight money is at the moment for many people. However, please ensure your children are wearing appropriate black shoes to school that support their feet appropriately. Footwear needs to be designed for children to be active and run around safely – boots are not appropriate. I would also argue that sandals are also not adequate at this time of year. Most shoe shops (including discount chains) do offer a hybrid black shoe shoe/trainer that would be appropriate if a standard school shoe is too expensive.

Please can you also ensure that children are not wearing makeup or nail varnish and are dressed in school uniform. We may get to the point of calling parents to collect their children to remove it if it continues.

I am going to leave the wider issue of hair styles to someone with greater expertise, but long hair (shoulder length or longer) needs to be tied up no matter the gender of the child.

If you are struggling to afford items of school uniform, please come and speak to me or a member of my team and we will do our best to help and this will stay completely confidential.

Term dates

Term dates for 2023 – 2024, including INSET days, are now on the school website.

Key Stage 2 Accelerated Reader Challenges 24.02.23

There were so many fantastic achievements with reading last term. A huge well done to all the children for their enthusiasm to read as many books as possible and complete quizzes on them.

Here are **last term's overall winners**:

Highest Individual Word Count	Highest Class Word Count	Highest Individual Number of Quizzes Passed	Highest Class Quizzes Passed
Divit in Chaffinch Class 1,817,486 words	Chaffinch Class 8,222,382 words	Divit in Chaffinch Class 41 quizzes	Deer Class 215 quizzes



Here are **this week's overall winners**:

Highest Individual Word Count	Highest Class Word Count	Highest Individual Number of Quizzes Passed	Highest Class Quizzes Passed
Divit in Chaffinch Class 385,531 words	Chaffinch Class 1,292,073 words	Jessie in Badger Class 13 quizzes	Deer Class 46 quizzes

Keep reading! Keep quizzing!

Ms Simpson

Dates for the diary

Here are some dates for the remainder of the term ahead.

2 nd March	NEU planned strike day
3 rd – 7 th March	Book fair KS2 hall after school
6 th March	World Book Day (rescheduled due to planned strike)
8 th March	Maths information session for parents after school
13 th March	Shared science learning – 2pm (parents welcome to attend) - moved due to strikes
15 th & 16 th March	NEU planned strike days
28 th March	Year 5 led church service – Y5 parents welcome to attend
29 th March	Easter RE day
31 st March	Last day of term
17 th April	Children return to school
	Year 6 leave for their residential week
1 st May	Bank holiday
2 nd May	INSET day – school closed for children
8 th May	Bank holiday (coronation)
9 th May	Year 6 SATs week begins
29 th May	Half term week begins
5 th June	Children return to school
1 st September	INSET day
4 th September	Children return to school
New Reception children stay and play	
Kindest regards,	
John Tutt	

