



Dates for the diary

22 nd July	Year 6 leavers' service (2pm start)
23 rd July	Last day of the school year
2 nd September	INSET day
3 rd September	First day of the new school year
9 th September	Early Years start part time
16 th September	Early Years start full time

Newsletter – Friday 12th July 2024

This is a brief penultimate newsletter for this academic year with just a couple of important news items. We are fast approaching the end of the school year, and time seems to have put its foot onto the accelerator. Once again I would like to thank the PTA for their extraordinary fundraising efforts – we are immensely grateful to them and to all of you who have contributed through school events. Thank you!

RAAC update

A while ago I wrote to you about the school being placed into the Schools Rebuilding Programme (SRP) due to the presence of RAAC across much of the junior building. The RAAC has been mitigated through strengthening works and detailed structural surveys which take place three times per year, however these are not a permanent solution.

We have now been told that we have been placed within Group 2 in the SRP. Group 2 schools will hear from a DfE project manager after April 2025 when site surveys and planning work will begin. This will take up to a year to complete, so no actual work is likely to begin until around April 2026. Building work will take around a year to complete, but could be quicker or longer depending on its extent.

Until the surveys have been completed, we will not know the scope or extent of the work that will be carried out, or how the ongoing education of the children will be managed to keep disruption to an absolute minimum. The work could just involve the junior building, it could include the infant building as well or it could encompass the entire site. We are also unsure whether a new government will have any impact on the suggested timetable, which is already fairly woolly.

Whatever happens, I am determined that the children will be educated on our St James' site throughout the building work and that we remain together as a school – I want no repeat of children being bussed across the town. Obviously, I cannot make any guarantees as some of these decisions will be in the hands of others, but that will be a non-negotiable as far as I have the power to push it.

Once I have more information I will of course share it with you.



Key Stage 2 results

Year 6 took their externally marked SATs in May, and the results were sent to the school this week. If I am honest, I am immensely proud of our Year 6 children, regardless of any test outcomes; they have been a truly special group of children. Needless to say, our results this year have reflected their attitudes to learning, hard work and the skill of their teachers. The overall outcomes are below for our school and these are compared with results nationally. Our outcomes for children achieving the “higher standard” are also impressive; for example in Reading 47% of the children achieved the higher standard compared with 28% nationally. Congratulations to every child for being themselves and always trying their best.

Subject	Percentage of pupils achieving the expected standard		Average scaled score	
	School	Nationally ¹	School ²	Nationally ³
Reading	90%	74%	109	105
Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling	80%	72%	106	105
Maths	82%	73%	106	104
Writing	90%	72%	N/A	N/A
Science	89%	81%	N/A	N/A

PTA Announcement

We are excited to share some fantastic news! Thanks to the incredible support from our school community, we have successfully fulfilled Mr. Tutt's request for iPads. Mr. Tutt requested 60 iPads, 30 for infants and 30 for juniors at the beginning of this academic year, specifically the iPad Gen 9.

This achievement is particularly significant given our busy year, filled with organising, revamping, and creating new events. None of this would be possible without the dedication and generosity of all of you, whether through volunteering or consistently supporting our events financially.

We are thrilled to announce that we are able to provide 105 iPads in total!

These are all iPad Gen 10s instead of the originally requested Gen 9s.

In addition to the iPads, we will also be providing the necessary charging cables, licensing, and cases

We are incredibly proud of our school community for coming together to provide our children with these valuable tools and the opportunities they bring. Thank you all for your unwavering support!

Watch out for our breakdown of how we raised this amazing amount in our end of term newsletter!

Best regards,
Chris, Suzy and Steph

What an achievement!

Have a lovely weekend – I'll write again before the end of term.

Kindest regards,
John Tutt

