



Newsletter 1 - Friday 5th September 2019

Dear Parents,

A very warm welcome to you all at the start of this new academic year and to the first ever St James' CE (Aided) Primary School newsletter. This newsletter includes plenty of information, so could be a good opportunity to use those souvenir fridge magnets from wherever you went this summer if you wanted to print it out. I hope that you have had an enjoyable and restful summer whether or not novelty magnets came into your possession, and that you are looking forward to the new school year as much as we are.

Our schools were officially amalgamated on 1st September and a lot of work has been done over the summer to integrate the systems at both schools. However, we are still working through teething troubles so please bear with us for the first couple of weeks as we sort those out.

We are delighted to welcome all the new children to the school and some new members of staff. In Year 1 Holly Shortland has returned from maternity leave and is teaching Beech Class while in Year 2 Jo Starritt has joined Hedgehog Class as a TA. We also have a new Year 5 teacher in Nightingale Class, Barry Pritchard. We welcome them to our school community.

Our school has a new website which goes live on Monday morning; the URL is above. We are still busy populating it, but we hope that you find it easier to navigate and more user friendly than the two websites it replaces.

This term, to celebrate our togetherness, we are learning about St James' as our school topic. Each phase will be looking at different aspects of St James', so together we will be finding out about who St James' was, about our local area and our school community.

We have divided our school into three phases, each led by a member of our school's Senior Leadership Team. The school's leadership structure is set out below:

John Tutt – Headteacher

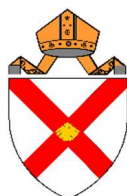
Lucy Hayward – Deputy Headteacher & Upper Phase Leader (Years 5 & 6)

Christina Dennett – Assistant Headteacher & Middle Phase Leader (Years 2, 3 & 4)

Sarah Greenfield - Assistant Headteacher & Lower Phase Leader (Reception and Year 1)

Penny Wardell - Assistant Headteacher & Special Educational Needs Coordinator

Our classes now all have names – we have set them out below for your information:



Phase	Year	Class name	Teacher
Lower Phase	R	Maple Class	Sarah Greenfield (M T W) Lucy Coward (Th F)
	R	Cherry Class	Adele Smith
	R	Oak Class	Jane O'Loan
	1	Beech Class	Holly Shortland (W Th F) Jo Mill (M T)
	1	Ash Class	Susan Sweatman
	1	Chestnut Class	Lizzie Russell
Middle Phase	2	Rabbit Class	Rachel Piper
	2	Hedgehog Class	Tricia King (Th F) Julie Simpson (M T W)
	2	Squirrel Class	Rachel Raistrick (M T W) Miranda Belfield (Th F)
	3	Fox Class	Michael Hodges
	3	Badger Class	Christina Dennett (W Th F) Becky Clarke (M T)
	3	Deer Class	Vicky Oakley
	4	Vole Class	Helen Featherstone (4 days) Gill Waller (1 day)
	4	Stoat Class	Kate Jones
	4	Dormouse Class	Fiona Schone (4 days) Gill Waller (1 day)
Upper Phase	5	Swift Class	Liane Sparks
	5	Nightingale Class	Barry Pritchard
	5	Chaffinch Class	Simon Wyke
	6	Osprey Class	Anna Williams
	6	Kestrel Class	Jez Stephens
	6	Owl Class	Sophie Stock

Meet the teacher

This is a chance for you to meet your child's teacher and find out about class routines, ask any questions you may have or just to have a glance around the classroom. They will be group meetings so no need for an appointment – just come along at the end of the school day.

Monday 16th September – Year 1

Tuesday 17th September – Year R (at 11:45 and 15:00 after each session) and Year 3

Wednesday 18th September – Year 2

Thursday 19th September – Year 4

Friday 20th September – Year 5

Monday 23rd September – Year 6



Swimming

We start swimming lessons next week. Year 6 begin on Tuesday (Owl and Kestrel classes) and Year 4 begin on Friday (Vole and Dormouse classes). The schedule for the year is as follows:

	Term 1 Dates	Term 1	Term 2 dates	Term 2
Tuesday	September 10 th , 17 th , 24 th October 1 st , 8 th , 15 th (6)	Owl	October 29 th	Osprey
		Kestrel	November 5 th , 12 th , 19 th , 26 th December 3 rd (6)	Chaffinch
Friday	13 th , 20 th , 27 th September 4 th , 11 th , 18 th October (6)	Vole	November	Stoat
		Dormouse	1 st , 8 th , 15 th , 22 nd , 29 th December 6 th (6)	Deer

	Term 3 dates	Term 3	Term 4 dates	Term 4
Tuesday	January 7 th , 14 th 21 st 28 th February 4 th , 11 th (6)	Swift	February 25 th	Vole
		Nightingale	March 3 rd , 10 th , 17 th , 24 th 31 st (6)	Dormouse
Friday	January 10 th , 17 th , 24 th , 31 st February 7 th , 14 th (6)	Fox	February 28 th ,	Owl
		Badger	March 6 th , 13 th , 20 th , 27 th (5)	Kestrel

	Term 5 dates	Term 5	Term 6 Dates	Term 6
Tuesday	April 21 st , 28 th May 5 th , 12 th , 19 th (5)	Stoat	June 2 nd , 9 th , 16 th ,	Swift
		Deer	23 rd , 30 th July 7 th (6)	Nightingale
Friday	April 17 th , 24 th May 1 st , NOT 8th 15 th , 22 nd (5)	Osprey	June 5 th , 12 th , 19 th ,	Fox
		Chaffinch	26 th July 3 rd , 10 th (6)	Badger

ParentPay

Hopefully you have now been able to access ParentPay for paying for school meals. We will let you know when it goes live for paying for swimming and outings. Please contact the school office if you have had any difficulty.



Year 6 secondary school applications

Yes, Year 6 may have only just started the year but it is already time to begin applying for secondary school. Applications can be made from now until 31st October on-line at www.kent.gov.uk/ola. If you need further information on secondary admissions please visit www.kent.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions. Please let us know that you have applied and the schools applied for by forwarding us your confirmation email.

Year 6 11+ Kent Tests

If you have registered your child for the Kent Tests they will take place on Thursday 12th September. The tests will run for most of the school day. They begin with the English and Maths Tests, followed by a break and then the Reasoning Tests. After lunch they conclude with the Writing Test. Children should come to school at the normal time and will leave at the normal time at the end of the school day. No special equipment is required, although your child is welcome to bring in their own pencil for the morning tests and their own pen for the afternoon.

Governors needed!

Hopefully you will have received a message from the school governors earlier this week. If you would like to volunteer to be a parent governor, please let us know by no later than Friday 13 September. Please include a short statement setting out your reasons for wishing to become a Governor, and the skills and experience you would be able to bring to the role. If there are more than three candidates, and we have to hold an election, this statement will be made available to all parents, so please be sure only to include material that you would be happy to see circulated more widely. If you would like any additional information, please feel free to get in touch with me or with Rev Jim Stewart (JPStewart4@gmail.com) or Stephen Pollard (sjp29mpr@gmail.com).

How to get in touch

Please speak to your child's teacher in the first instance if you have any questions, worries or concerns, and if you feel you need to speak to somebody else afterwards you can speak to your child's phase leader. If you have any questions or concerns regarding Special Educational Needs, please contact Penny Wardell.

John Tutt
September 2019

