



## Newsletter 5 – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2019

Dear Parents,

We have had a busy two weeks since we returned from our half term break. Year 2 are back from Carrot Wood and have had an amazing time. Thank you to all of the members of staff and parent helpers who came long to support the trip. It has been much appreciated.

Christmas starts early in schools, so be prepared for plenty more action over the rest of the term. I have included some relevant dates at the bottom of this newsletter.

### Website issues

As you may have seen, our website is not working as it should be at present and people are currently working on fixing it. You can access the website by typing <https://st-james.kent.sch.uk> into the address bar. If you prefix it with "www" that will not let you in at present.

### Congratulations to Mrs Piper and Mrs Oakley

As you may already know, Mrs Oakley (Deer class) and Mrs Piper (Rabbit class) are both expecting babies in the New Year. We are all very pleased and excited for them both. Please be reassured that plans have been made to cover those classes and we will let parents know the arrangements shortly.

### Mrs Dennett

Mrs Dennett is one of our Year 3 teachers and an Assistant Headteacher at the school. She is sadly going through some difficult personal matters at present and will be stepping away from her Assistant Headteacher post for a temporary period. Mrs Wardell will take over the leadership of years 2, 3 and 4 until Mrs Dennett is ready to return to her duties. Any queries within this phase should be directed to Mrs Wardell during this time ([pwardell@st-james.kent.sch.uk](mailto:pwardell@st-james.kent.sch.uk)). I am sure that you will join me in wishing Mrs Dennett well.

### Times Table Rock Stars

Next week is Rock Out 2019, an exciting competition which is all done online via [play.ttrockstars.com](http://play.ttrockstars.com). For every correct answer to a multiplication or division question, your child will earn their class a point. Winning classes in the school and in the country as a whole will be the ones with the highest average. Please see the attached letter for further information.

### Odd Socks Day for National Anti-Bullying Week

On Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November children are invited to come to school wearing odd socks – the crazier the better! This is to launch National Anti-Bullying Week and celebrate that we are all unique.

### Remembrance

To support the British Legion, we are still selling poppies and various other items including reflectors, wristbands, ruler slap bands and zip pulls. For children in years R to 2, please can money could be sent in with their child in a sealed envelope so that the children can then choose what they want. Please give generously and encourage your children to understand that the poppy box is not like a shop, but that they receive one token (a poppy etc) for a donation. Donations need to be made by the end of Monday 11<sup>th</sup> please. We will be observing a silence at 11am.



### **Chaffinch Class Assembly – Wednesday 13th November**

This will start at 9.10am so parents are welcome to join us straight after drop off in the morning.

### **Applications to St James' Primary School**

The online application window for entry here in September 2020 opened on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November and closes on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January. Please remember to complete our own Supplementary Information Form which is available from either the infant school office or the website.

### **St James' Church Christmas Fair – 30<sup>th</sup> November**

We support the church fair every year by running a toiletries stall. We would be very grateful if you could please donate any relevant items that we could sell by bringing them to the school on 29<sup>th</sup> November. Typical examples are soaps, shampoo, bubble bath, cleansing wipes, moisturising cream etc.

### **Book fair**

The book fair will be coming to St James' next week. It will be after school in the Junior library so please come along. All money raised will go towards buying books for the school. More information on dates and times will follow soon.

### **Parking**

This is a perennial issue. Please can parents respect double yellow and zig-zagged lines outside the school and also respect our neighbours in Shrublands Court by not parking where they shouldn't, particularly across people's drives. We have had more complaints recently. The overwhelming majority of parents live within easy walking distance of the school and I would encourage parents to take advantage of the opportunities for conversation, exercise, and setting a good environmental example that walking to school provides.

If you are picking up from an after school club and using the school car park please park in a designated bay and do not block in other cars. If there is no space within the car park without blocking others in, please park outside the school. Some parents and members of staff have been blocked in and unable to leave for a significant amount of time.

### **Wonder Lights**

This is a 'light up your front window' community event to be held on 24 November (between 5 and 8pm); it's really easy and fun for kids to be involved in (and free!). This year's 'light up your window' event should be better than ever. Last year over 50 houses took part in this neighbourhood exhibition of light. Simply illuminate your front window with lanterns, stencils, sculptures or even a disco ball! Then take a stroll and discover the magic that others have created.

To find out who's already signed up, to get inspiration and to add your house to the map visit

[www.wonderlights.info](http://www.wonderlights.info)

### **A message from Malawi**

As you may know, Miss Cota left our school in 2018 to work in a school in Malawi. She came to visit us last summer to tell us all about it and to raise some money for new benches for the children to sit on during their lessons.

Miss Cota has now sent us some pictures of the benches paid for with money raised through St James' and other friends. The children are delighted and very grateful. However, it is only about a third of what they need. If parents would like to donate further, please contact Angie Pierce in the infant school office.

Thank you to all those who have generously supported Miss Cota's fundraising. I have included a picture below.





## Dates for the diary

Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	Remembrance Day
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> November	Parent consultations – Early Years and Key Stage 1 in the Infant Hall and Years 3 to 6 in classrooms
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> November	Chaffinch Class Assembly 9:10am. Parents welcome. PTA meeting 2pm in the community room
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Parent consultations – Early Years and Key Stage 1 in the Infant Hall and Years 3 to 6 in classrooms
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	Secret present room donations and non-school uniform day
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> November	Sharing Learning - EYFS and KS1 2.30pm
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> November	Sharing Learning - EYFS and KS1 8.30am until 9. The Big Sing at the Assembly Halls (KS2 choir) 7:30pm
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> November	PTA Sponsored Bounce
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> November	Flu immunisations
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> November	Christmas Story Day
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> November	Donations of toiletries please today for the St James' Church fair
Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup> November	St James' Church Christmas Fair
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	Secret Presents Room open Disco for Years 3 to 6 after school
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Infant Christmas Play (morning) – toddlers welcome to this one Year 4 Christmas Play (afternoon)
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Infant Christmas Play (morning) Year 4 Christmas Play (afternoon)



Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Infant Christmas Play (morning) Infant Christmas Play (afternoon)
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Lunch Class Parties Disco for Years R to 2
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Infant Church Service 2:15pm Christmas Raffle prize draw
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Junior Church Service 2:15pm
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Last day of term
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January	INSET day for staff
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January	First day back for children
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	Disco for Years 3 to 6
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Disco for Years R to 2
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Easter Egg Bingo for Years 3 to 6
4 <sup>th</sup> July	Summer Fair
10 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 leavers' party

Have a lovely weekend.

John Tutt  
November 2019

