



Dates for the diary

28 th March	Second hand uniform sale 8:45 to 9:15am
31 st March	Year 6 residential week
1 st April	Year 5 led church service 2pm – Year 5 parents welcome to attend
4 th April	Last day of term
7 th April	Easter holidays begin
22 nd April	First day of term (Tuesday)
12 th May	Year 6 SATs week
20 th May	Year 4 led church service 2pm – Year 4 parents welcome to attend
26 th May	Half term week
2 nd June	INSET day
3 rd June	First day of term 6
9 th June	Class photos
8 th & 10 th July	Parent consultation evenings
21 st July	Year 6 Leavers' Service 2pm – Year 6 parents welcome to attend
22 nd July	Last day of the school year
1 st September	INSET day
2 nd September	First day of the school year for children in years 1 to 6

Friday 21st March 2025

As you know, we have had a higher than usual number of children absent with sickness and diarrhoea, although thankfully we seem to be past the peak in cases that we saw last week. Thank you for your support in minimising the spread by keeping children at home for the full 48 hours after the last episode. We have increased cleaning, ventilation and are encouraging children to wash their hands more frequently.

Many children, especially in the younger year groups, seem to be complete strangers to soap. We get through far less soap in the youngest year group toilets than anywhere else. We will be reinforcing the importance of handwashing and giving frequent reminders, but would be grateful if you could too. It only takes one little hand to spread infection over a wide area and this has a huge impact on the community.

Sometimes it can be hard to see a lighter side to diarrhoea (except perhaps in colour), but if you are unlucky to come down with a bout of norovirus, why not ask a friend to gently rock your sick bed from side to side to give you the closest thing to a "once in a lifetime" cruise ship experience you can get on dry land.

Emergency contacts

If children become ill during the school day they need to be collected as soon as possible; sometimes, when called, parents are unable to come to the school to collect their children for some time. I do appreciate how difficult this can be – I have had to rush out from work to collect one of my children from school. However, I also accept that it kind of goes with that whole "parent thing" - please do not get cross with the person calling. You



have a right, enshrined in law, to take time off work for emergency dependent care. It is important that we always have a contact who can come to school in a reasonable amount of time (30 minutes or less).

If both parents work too far from school, then please make other arrangements in case of emergency. This can be a relative or friend. Please let the office know if you need to update your details or add contacts.

Harrison school lunch price rise

Harrison Catering are increasing their prices from 1st April for children in the juniors (Key Stage 2 – years 3 to 6) from £2.65 to £2.74.

Term dates for 2025 to 2026

These are now on the school website, including the INSET days. Hopefully you will have received a separate email earlier in the week. Other than our INSET days, which are determined by the school, term dates are published years in advance on the KCC website.

Animal workshops for science week

To celebrate Science Week, the KS1 classes were visited by an animal workshop. We met some interesting animals and could hold or stroke them if we wanted to. The biggest was the 3-metre long Burmese Python, which can open its mouth twice as wide as its body to eat its prey. We met a Little Owl that is active in the day and asleep at night. Charlotte the Tarantula injects her prey with venom. She has eight eyes but can't see, hear or taste very well. Her feet felt sticky if you were brave enough to hold her on your hand! Luckily, Flower the skunk was happy to be stroked and did not let out her spray – if she had, it would have lasted for 2 weeks!



Mrs Ledger and Miss Coyne



Kent Emotional Wellbeing Team NELFT

Our Emotional Wellbeing Practitioners Angela and Vikki came into school yesterday to lead introductory assemblies in both key stages. They talked to the children about what wellbeing means and how to recognise that someone has good wellbeing or that they are struggling. They finished the assemblies by sharing some strategies to support with managing emotions. See if your children can show you these actions!



There are leaflets in the foyer to tell you more about the Emotional Wellbeing Team. If you would like more information, please contact me on senco@st-james.kent.sch.uk

Mrs Wardell

“Books are transformative magic” – Cressida Cowell

World Book Day £1 books and tokens

The World Book Day £1 tokens are valid to use in participating retailers until this Sunday, 23rd March 2025. They can be used in exchange for one of the World Book Day free books that may still be available or used to get £1 off ANY book or audiobook costing £2.99 or more.

This year, Accelerated Reader have created fun, mini quizzes (three and five-question versions) for nine of the World Book Day £1 books. They are accessible on Accelerated Reader’s Take the Quiz microsite using this link [TTQ – Take the Quiz 2025](#) . They are free to do, so no subscription is required.

Key Stage 2 Accelerated Reader Challenges

Here are the overall winners of our reading challenges for the week ending 14th March:

Highest Individual Word Count	Highest Class Word Count	Highest Individual Number of Quizzes Passed	Highest Class Quizzes Passed
Kate in Dormouse Class 451,279 words	Dormouse Class 1,306,224 words	Kate in Dormouse Class 18 quizzes	Dormouse Class 69 quizzes



A special mention also for **Osprey** Class who read **1,193,484** words last week.

Spending time reading everyday helps children grow a love of reading. Thank you for encouraging and supporting your child with their reading.

Mrs Simpson

Kindest regards,
John Tutt

