



Newsletter – 1st April 2022

Dear parents,

We have a large newsletter today – at least you have Easter to overcome any lingering newsletter fatigue.

We have come to the end of another term at school and now the year really seems to be flying by. Lots has been happening in school recently, which we are pleased to share with you in this newsletter. I hope you enjoy reading about it as much as we enjoyed being a part of it.

I would like to thank the whole staff team for their efforts, as always, but make a particular mention this week to Mrs King who spent a lot of her own time organising all of the resources and planning all of the activities for RE day. The children and adults had loads of fun. At Mrs King's request I spent some time running around the school in a yellow chicken costume – one highlight of the day was being asked by a child why I was dressed as a duck.

New sponsorship deal

I am proud to announce the school has signed up to a new sponsorship deal with a (soon to be named) multi-national fast-food chain. The last few details are still being worked out, but the key changes agreed so far are:

- From September 2022 the school uniform will change to grey overalls and a baseball cap
- The school curriculum will focus on company relevant topics such as the science behind the sesame seed bun.
- The school sign will be replaced by a large yellow letter.
- All school meals will be served in a paper bag and eaten directly from the plastic tray.

Miss Hayward and I look forward to welcoming you back after the Easter break in our new staff uniforms, complete with name badges, aprons, baseball caps and hairnets.

Compulsory 1st April item now done and dusted (apologies for post midday timing), the remainder of the newsletter is 100% fact (or at the very least in the mid 90s).

Thank you from me

I would like to say a very heartfelt “thank you” to those parents who made a contribution to our gift cards and wrote such lovely comments. This was so generous and such a lovely gesture that I became quite emotional reading your lovely messages yesterday.

It has been a challenging two years which have been made significantly easier and more rewarding due to your constant support. We would all like to say how touched we were and lucky we are to work in this community.

16th April marks 10 years since I started as headteacher of St James' CE Junior School. I feel very privileged (and unworthy) to be the headteacher of such a special place and to work alongside such amazing children, colleagues and parents each day. I know the admin team have sent you their thanks separately, but they are immensely grateful and very touched too.



Thank you from Miss Hayward

Please can I say a massive 'thank you' to all those who wrote such kind words and contributed to the gift voucher that I was given yesterday. It was completely unexpected (and undeserved!) and your thoughtfulness and generosity means a lot - it made my day reading all the lovely messages. I feel immensely privileged that I get to spend each day working with such an incredible group of children, staff and parents - we have a very special community here at St James' and I feel honoured to be part of this.

Having been on the gate this morning, wrapped in hat, scarf, mittens and big coat, I'm considering spending some of the money on a heated body warmer! Thank you again. I hope everyone has a joy-filled Easter break and that the Easter bunny is kind to you all.

Mrs Waters and Mrs Sweatman

We are sadly saying "goodbye" to two members of the team who have been with us for a very long time.

Mrs Waters has been at the school in one form or another since 1988 (when the world was in black and white), working at both schools and most recently as a play therapist and group teacher.

Mrs Sweatman has worked with us for 27 years in the infant department, most recently as one of the teachers in Ash class.

Both have always put the children first in everything they have done and been passionate about teaching. I would like to publicly thank them for so many years of dedicated service to the school and the community and wish them well in their retirement. We enjoyed their last assemblies on Thursday where they took the retirement challenge of competitive jigsaw completion (genuinely nail biting). They were both a credit to retired folks everywhere.

Ukraine Fund Raiser

Thank you to everyone for your contributions. Altogether from the non-school uniform day, cake sale and park walks £3180 was raised for RefugEase.

The class winners of the park walk were Rabbits in the infants who walked 48.35km (presumably not each), and Owl class in the juniors who walked 73.6km.

Thanks again for all those who took part, baked, bought, walked, donated and most of all helped to organise.

I have included some links below for those of you who would like to find out more about the charity RefugEase and the work that they do, as well as two other links provided another parent about the wider & vital work to support refugees.

[Kent Refugee Action Network \(kran.org.uk\)](http://kran.org.uk)

[RefugEase - Building Futures After Escaping Conflict](#)

[ABOUT US - The Worldwide Tribe](#)

COVID rules

From today the rules have changed again. If a child has a high temperature or feels too unwell to come to school they should stay at home until they feel better and their temperature has returned to normal. Once they feel well enough, they can return to school. The guidance for isolation for those testing positive has now been



removed and people are now just recommended to stay at home for 5 days. Quite how anyone will test positive when there are no tests means that this is a bit of a moot point.

Reception

Reception have enjoyed learning about space this term and ended the topic with a space themed morning by training to be real astronauts! Training included completing an assault course, recreating moon landings and undertaking science explorations. Thankfully all have completed their training program and are ready to blast off to the moon.

Easter RE day in Reception focused on Palm Sunday by acting out Jesus arriving in Jerusalem, opposites (as parts of the Easter story are sad and happy), followed by new life with real chickens and tadpoles. The children even enjoyed hot cross buns for their snack!



Lower Phase Fantastic Finish

Year 1 and 2 have had a wonderful day enjoying all things to do with space. We have loved seeing all the children dressed up in their space-themed costumes! We have decorated biscuits to make them look like planets, taken part in astronaut training and made space communication devices. It has been a lovely end to our topic.

Year 3 and 4 Roman topic

Year 3 and 4 enjoyed our fantastic Roman day to finish our topic. We had great fun making Roman Honey Oat biscuits, mastering mosaics, painting shields before ending the day with a Roman banquet where the children were delighted to be allowed to lie down to eat. The children all looked amazing in their Roman costumes (and so did the adults).



Forest School news

Everyone has made an incredible effort to help us plant as many of the over 500 trees we received as has been humanly possible, before the Easter holidays. These were provided by the Woodland Trust, the Sussex Lund grant and kindly gifted by Rain or Shine Forest Pre-School. The children have gone out with their classes, spent time in break and lunchtimes and during their Forest School sessions, digging holes, carefully planting and naming their trees and we hope they get to enjoy them for many years to come.

Mrs Greenaway and Mrs Peet also planted out the gorse and blackthorn whips on the bank on the school drive and we hope these will thrive and give us a beautiful display of blossom next year. Please do continue to keep children off of this area, so that they don't get prickled and we all get to enjoy them in bloom next spring. Thank you!



Mrs Hadley

Sports update from Mr Hodges

Football: Last Wednesday, the St James A team took part in a tournament at Boys' Grammar. We finished 1st in our group, beating St Matthew's 3-0, St Barnabus 2-0, Langton Green 1-0 and drawing 1-1 with St Peter's. In a tense quarter final, we defeated Pembury 1-0 thanks to a rocket free kick from Mohammad. The team will now play in a finals day at the Culverden Stadium in May against the other winning teams. It was a super afternoon in the sunshine and a brilliant effort from the whole team to get through.

Hockey: On Monday, we had two teams of Year 5 and 6 children participating in a tournament at Hawkenbury Recreation Ground. Unfortunately, it wasn't our day and both teams failed to get through from a tough group. The children all represented the school fantastically and continued to enjoy themselves despite results not going their way. A huge thanks to Vicky Dennett for helping out and running Hockey Club this term.

Swift boxes

Here are some pictures of the swift boxes, generously donated by the school community, beautifully decorated by years 2 and 3, and kindly mounted in what we hope is an ideal spot by Mr Fleming. We just have to watch out in about a month for the return of the swifts and hope they decide they would like to live in them! We were able to buy six boxes, each of which has room for four nesting pairs, and Peak Boxes (for free) added in a recording box that will play swift cries to help attract the swifts so they can find our boxes more easily. Thank you St James!

Mrs Featherstone





House points

Congratulations Calverley House who had the most house points this term. They can come to school in non-school uniform on the first Friday and get to have a picnic in their park as a treat.

Message from the PTA

A huge thank you to all the parents who worked so hard today on the Easter Bunny hunt. The children had a lovely time (even in the snow) and it was great to see so many excited faces. Well done to all the bunny hunters and congratulations to the class champions!

Our next PTA meeting will be on Tuesday 26 April at 9am - please come along to help plan the summer fair.

If you are a year 6 parent, please get your hoodie order in as soon as possible if you haven't already done so.

And finally, a date for your diaries - the summer fair will be on Saturday 16 July from 2-5pm. Make sure you save the date, and please let us know if you have any great ideas for your class's stall.

Happy Easter!

Key dates for this term

1 st April	Last day of term 4
19 th April	First day of term 5
20 th April	Easter church service 9:30am (whole school so no parents this time – drop off to school as usual)
22 nd April	Non-school uniform and picnic for Calverley House
9 th May	SATs week (Year 6)
27 th May	Last day of term 5
6 th June	INSET day
7 th June	First day of term 6
4 th July	Year 6 residential
13 th July	Sports Day whole school (provisional)



16 th July	PTA summer fair
21 st July	Last day of term 6
2 nd September	First day of new school year

Thank you all, as always.

John Tutt
Headteacher

