



### Dates for the diary

13 <sup>th</sup> May	SATs week Book fair in KS2 hall
21 <sup>st</sup> May	Year 4 led church service (2pm)
22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Transition to secondary talk in KS2 hall for Y5 parents (6pm)
27 <sup>th</sup> May	Half term week
3 <sup>rd</sup> June	INSET day
4 <sup>th</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> June	Parent consultations – Year 5 only
17 <sup>th</sup> June	New reception parents' welcome evening
18 <sup>th</sup> June	Sports Day (Infants morning, Juniors afternoon)
29 <sup>th</sup> June	Summer fair
2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> July	Parent consultations (all years except Y5)
10 <sup>th</sup> July	Summer disco
22 <sup>nd</sup> July	Year 6 leavers' service (2pm start)
23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Last day of the school year
2 <sup>nd</sup> September	INSET day
3 <sup>rd</sup> September	First day of the new school year
9 <sup>th</sup> September	Early Years start part time
16 <sup>th</sup> September	Early Years start full time

### Newsletter – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Dear parents and carers,

You probably appreciate that I am still reeling from the blatant character assassination by Miss Hayward in the last newsletter, backed up by a number of parents telling me on the gate that they are “now on Miss Hayward’s team”. What was most shocking was that I had only been away for one week – St James’ was possibly about 48 hours away from a full-blown coup d’état.

#### Sunshine!

Spring has arrived – three hot and sunny days followed by a thunderstorm. It would be a good idea to give your child a hat to bring to school and apply some suncream to noses etc before they leave the house. Some children have been coming to school in sunglasses. UV light causes damage to the eyes so we can see why parents might give their children a pair to bring to school. We are fine with children wearing sensible sunglasses (after all, many children wear glasses all of the time to support their vision), but we will remove them if any safety concerns arise – you would be surprised how some children can turn even a humble pair of sunglasses into a dangerous object.

#### Dogs on the gate

Please do not leave your dog on the gate if it barks or becomes agitated. Some children get frightened by dogs, and some headteachers find the incessant barking annoying. Sometimes people would like to ask/tell me something or there may be a child needing help, and having continual barking in the foreground does make this harder.



Putting my “empathy cap” on for a moment, I appreciate that dog owners have a different “take” on their animal’s behaviour to other people, and will often try to explain their pet’s inner thoughts to excuse their behaviour. Examples include: “he’s not aggressive, he just hates other dogs/people/all forms of life” or “he’s actually really soppy” (while it’s foaming at the mouth and straining at the lead to take a bite). My personal favourite is that yell of “he’s just playing!”, as a large out of control animal comes barrelling towards you.

### **Dropping children off**

Please do not drop off children younger than Year 5 at the lower gate, but instead walk them to their entrance gate inside the car park. We cannot supervise them safely in the car park, and cannot guarantee spotting a child absconding through the front gate as Miss Hayward or I are often speaking to parents and so not paying full attention to the arrivals and departures.

### **The sum of all fears**



A dog driving a car that has parked on the pavement in the school minibus space, photographed by Mr Wyke out of the photocopy room window and kindly sent to me this afternoon. I do not think I need say any more.

### **After school club update**

The new provider (who will be known as St James Out!) have said that Ofsted registration could be completed very soon and that they are just awaiting a visit to the school premises as the final step. The club will run from 7:30 in the morning and finish at 6:15 in the evening and will operate a flexible online booking system. Pricing will depend on how long your child is at the club. The new provider will provide more details soon.

We all know Ofsted (they can’t be reasoned with; they can’t be bargained with; they don’t feel pity, or pain, or remorse), and although we hope registration will be complete by the end of this term, the school may have to fill in a gap after the half term break.



Just to be clear the school will continue to provide Wrap Around Care for those children currently attending the existing club (if necessary) at the existing times after the half term break. Once the new providers are up and running, the club will open to new children at the new timings.

### Transition to secondary school talk

If you have a child in Year 5 (or Year 4 if you would like a head start), then at 6pm on 22<sup>nd</sup> May I am giving a talk in the KS2 hall about the transition from primary to secondary school. The aim of the evening is to make the choices you have clear, describe the process for making an application and explain the 11+ processes. This will also give Y5 parents some information prior to their meetings with their teachers at the beginning of June. It should be finished by 7pm, but those who have had enough are welcome to leave at any time before that.

### PTA news

We had an anonymous donor that donated £750 - their workplace then donated £1456.48!

Copier King is kindly sponsoring £1000, for our summer fair activities, inflatables, rent-an-event equipment and the circus! Tickets for the circus skills workshop and inflatables are available now.

The following tickets can be ordered at [stjamespta.co.uk](http://stjamespta.co.uk):

Legoland - (deadline 14th May)

Joseph & the amazing technicolour dreamcoat (deadline 17th May)

### Book Fair



The Book Fair has arrived in school. There are hundreds of the best new children's books to browse and choose from. If you visit and wish to buy books, you may purchase as many books as you like, but there is a special offer of **3 books for the price of 2**. The cheapest of your three books will be absolutely free!

It is open on **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May, Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May and Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May** from **3:20 – 3:50pm** in the **KS2 Hall**. We look forward to seeing you there.

### Key Stage 2 Accelerated Reader Challenges

We are super proud of the children's reading achievements last term (Term 4) - every class in Key Stage 2 read over one million words. A special mention to Stoa Class who, like Kestrel, read over five million words last term (**5,230,876** words).

Belated "Congratulations" to the overall winners who were:

Highest Individual Word Count	Highest Class Word Count	Highest Individual Number of Quizzes Passed	Highest Class Quizzes Passed
<b>Mayenna</b> in Kestrel Class <b>1,300,106</b> words	<b>Kestrel Class</b> <b>5,892,283</b> words	<b>Raffi</b> in Badger Class <b>67</b> quizzes	<b>Stoa Class</b> <b>435</b> quizzes

In addition to Mayenna, these children also successfully read over one million words in Term 4:

- **Dylan** in Badger Class - 1,107,329 words
- **Ella M** in Osprey Class - 1,003,452 words



This term, we continue to encourage every child to read. Here are this week's overall winners (**10.05.24**):

Highest Individual Word Count	Highest Class Word Count	Highest Individual Number of Quizzes Passed	Highest Class Quizzes Passed
<b>Divit</b> in Owl Class <b>370,480</b> words	<b>Owl Class</b> <b>988,673</b> words	<b>Raffi</b> in Badger Class <b>14</b> quizzes	<b>Badger Class</b> <b>93</b> quizzes

Thank you for all your support with reading.

Mrs Simpson

Kindest regards,

John Tutt

