



Dates for the diary

27 th May	Half term week
3rd June	INSET day
4 th and 6 th June	Parent consultations – Year 5 only
17 th June	New reception parents' welcome evening
18 th June	Sports Day (Infants morning, Juniors afternoon – please see message below)
29 th June	Summer fair
2 nd & 4 th July	Parent consultations (all years except Y5)
10 th July	Summer disco
22 nd July	Year 6 leavers' service (2pm start)
23 rd July	Last day of the school year
2 nd September	INSET day
3 rd September	First day of the new school year
9 th September	Early Years start part time
16 th September	Early Years start full time

Newsletter – Friday 10th May 2024

What age do your children need to reach before it becomes socially acceptable to compete with them?

My ribs hurt this morning. Long story short, my youngest son (14) is becoming a stronger and stronger cyclist and I am having to work harder to keep up, let alone stay ahead. Last night we were in a race together; towards the end he cramped up and was reduced to pedalling on one leg – seeing my chance I almost ruptured a lung to overtake him while he bravely clipped back in and tried to ignore the pain to hold me off. No chance - I sailed past him just a few hundred metres from the finishing line. Part of me feels very slightly guilty, the other part knows (nervously) that this will spur him on to be even quicker next time – and hydrate properly before starting. You be the judge...bad dad?

In school news, there is a piece on our international day below - I would like to thank Mr Pritchard, Mrs Featherstone, Mrs Shortland and Mrs Crane for all their hard work organising the day, give my own thanks to the wonderful parents who gave up their time to share some of the priceless diversity in our community.

Update on the after school club update – updated!

This has been quite a journey over the last couple of weeks with Ofsted registration swinging from days away to months away and then back again. I am pleased to confirm that, following an Ofsted visit to the school this week, St James Out! (the exclamation mark is part of the name) have now received their thumbs up and have full registration.

As you will appreciate, it will take some time now to recruit and get things ready to go, so the school will be managing wrap around care for the first two weeks after the half term break.



If your child currently uses St James' After School Club and you have not yet heard from us, please contact the office as soon as possible to ensure you have the option of continuing childcare during the interregnum. The new club will be in touch soon with more information. Childcare vouchers will be accepted by the new club.

Schools Rebuilding Programme

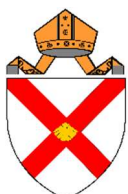
As you will know our school is on the list of those to be rebuilt. I recently attended a DfE meeting where we were given more detail. We will find out in July whether our school is in phase 2 or 3. Phase 2 will be completed between 2025 and 2027 and phase 3 will be completed by 2030. It is therefore entirely possible that your child will have left St James' by the time the work starts. We will get around a year's notice before work begins, so there will be no repeat of the late night ParentMails from this time last year. The programme will cover the entire school other than the two newer buildings we have, but the extent of the work will not be decided upon until the team is sent to survey the site and begin drawing up plans. Children will be educated on site during the construction phase.

Whether the election outcome will change this "timetable" remains to be seen – it may well be that the youngest children here may be doing their A Levels before anything meaningful happens.

Tree planting

Last week, the final new trees were planted on site. A beautiful row of pear trees now stand along the back of the Year 4 and 5 classrooms with a couple on the edge of the Infant field. In years to come they will hopefully provide lots of welcome shade and even some tasty pears. We hope the children will help us to look after them, especially over the summer, watering them abundantly.

Many thanks to the Kent Tree Plan team, Katherine, Lindsay and Danny for their hard work and help in this project and to the children from Stoat, Badger, Chaffinch and Swift who braved a hot sunny day to do the digging!



11+ registration opens soon

If you would like your child to sit the 11+ Kent Tests then you will need to register them online. Registration opens on 3rd June and closes on 1st July. Children who are not registered will not be able to sit the tests; however, parents who have registered their children can change their minds at any time, so if in doubt it is best to register them. Children need to sit (and pass) the tests in order to access a place at a grammar school.

Registration is via the KCC website: [Kent Test - Kent County Council](#)

If you were not at the meeting on Wednesday please note that you need check that you receive a confirmation email after registration. If you do not, you will need to check you have completed it correctly. You also need to ensure you choose the right St James' – our DfE number is 886-3322 our our URN is 118725.

International story and culture morning

We want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all of the parents who contributed to our school-wide International Story and Culture Morning on Monday. Your time, effort, and enthusiasm made the event a resounding success.

The children were captivated by the stories and traditions from around the world. They eagerly participated and showed genuine curiosity, which is a testament to the engaging and educational nature of the presentations. Seeing their eyes light up as they learned about different cultures, traditions, and cuisines was heart-warming.

The adults in school also had a wonderful time, and many expressed how much they enjoyed the diverse perspectives and the sense of community the event fostered. The willingness from the parents to share their cultural heritage enriched the children's learning experience and brought our school community closer together.

Thank you once again for your incredible support and for making this event so memorable. We look forward to many more opportunities to celebrate our diverse and vibrant community together.

Kind regards,

Mr Pritchard, Mrs Featherstone & Mrs Shortland



Sports day

We have decided to organise Sports Day a little differently this year. We will be carrying out the teamed sports activities over the week prior to sports day, as part of our day to day learning. On Tuesday 18th June we will have the races, for which we would love parents that can to join us. The KS1 races will start at 10.30am on the Infant field. You are then invited to stay for a picnic lunch with your children, before the KS2 races on the Junior in the afternoon.

Safe use of the pavements

If you have dropped off your child and walking away from the school, please consider letting families with young ones approaching school walk on the inside of the pavement. It is always great to catch up with friends at drop off, just to keep our little ones as far from that horrid traffic as possible.

Resources for children

If you have any of the toys below that your children have outgrown, and they are in good condition, we would be grateful for the donation. We are looking for:

- A toy Hoover
- Shop items (a till, trolley, basket etc).
- Toy food
- Dressing up clothes (Doctor/nurse set etc)
- Ironing board (does anyone actually iron clothes these days?)
- Pegs/washing line
- Kitchen items (cooker, saucepans etc).

Book Fair

A huge **THANK YOU** to everyone who attended this year's Book Fair and purchased books. Your generosity helped raise just over **£984.00** for our school to spend on free books with Scholastic. We are absolutely thrilled about this and truly grateful for all your support.

Key Stage 2 Accelerated Reader Challenges

Here are the last two week's overall winners:

- **16th May 2024**

Highest Individual Word Count	Highest Class Word Count	Highest Individual Number of Quizzes Passed	Highest Class Quizzes Passed
Isabelle W in Swift Class 335,209 words	Kestrel Class 1,183,757 words	Fabian in Badger Class 12 quizzes	Badger Class 72 quizzes



- **23rd May 2024**

Highest Individual Word Count	Highest Class Word Count	Highest Individual Number of Quizzes Passed	Highest Class Quizzes Passed
Hanako in Swift Class 346,079 words	Kestrel Class 1,598,358 words	Lucie in Dormouse Class 9 quizzes	Badger Class 66 quizzes

Keep Reading over the half term holiday!

Mrs Simpson

Kindest regards,

John Tutt

