



Newsletter – 12th May 2023

Dear parents and carers,

We have a short newsletter this week, pared down to just the most essential school news. I am not even going to comment on the all-too-easy target of the random roadworks appearing, causing chaos, then disappearing at will in the roads around the school.

Instead I want to begin by saying how proud we are of how well the Year 6 children handled their SATs this week. There has been some coverage of the tests in the press this week, accompanied by the usual lazy clickbait adjectives (furious, shocked, dismayed, shaken etc). As a school we try to keep everything as low key as possible. We know that every child in Year 6 did their best, and that is all we would ever expect. Thank you, Year 6 – we think you are all brilliant.

I am sure you will not be surprised that my feelings towards SATs pretty much match those towards Ofsted. Education cannot be simplified into one-word descriptors; similarly a young child's journey through their most formative years cannot be broken down into a set of statistically measurable numerical outcomes.

Hopefully, one day, the children's happiness, confidence, celebration of the joy of diversity, ability to think critically, love of learning and readiness to thrive in their next phase of education will take the places they deserve as the true determiners of a school's success. For the team at St James', they already do.

Ofsted ParentView

I realise that I did not give the link for ParentView in the last newsletter, so I have included it in the email. Please ensure you choose the right St James' to comment upon by checking the address.

New after school club

We have a new club starting after half term. An email has already gone out, although the correct day for the club is Thursday (I think the email said Wednesday). If demand is high, they have said that they can look at opening another club.

Coronation Celebrations

On Saturday 6th May 2023 King Charles III became the 40th British monarch to be crowned at Westminster Abbey. To commemorate this national event the children at St James' have been taking part in coronation related celebrations - from artwork to baking and singing to parading!

In Reception, the team dressed up and decorated their classrooms with bunting, the children spent time decorating biscuits in red, white and blue, and even went on a coronation parade through the school with musical instruments they'd produced!





Year 1 crafted mosaic patterns inspired by the Cosmati Pavement inside Westminster Abbey, where the Kings and Queens are coronated.



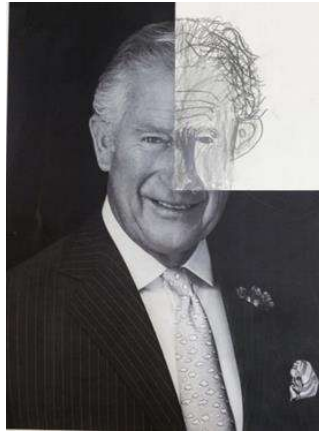
Year 2 wrote letters of recommendation to King Charles with suggestions of how he can best use his time as monarch. They also created fabric tiles inspired by coronation symbols and regalia.

Year 3 have been busy decorating biscuits with their designs for new soldier outfits. They have also been creating golden carriages using sponges!

Inspired by King Charles' love of gardening and the environment, Year 4 have created portraits of King Charles III using an array of natural objects collected from outside.



Years 5 and 6 have also celebrated the coronation through Art and have used missing piece art to create unique sketches of our new King.



The whole school was invited to make crowns to wear to school on Friday 5th May. The children produced some beautiful, unique and impressively designed crowns, which were worn throughout the day!



Nicki Palmer

Swifts

We are thrilled to have spotted that swifts are back in Tunbridge Wells again this week, after their marathon non-stop flight back from Africa where they spent the winter. Keep your eyes peeled in case any of them decide to make their home in one of the beautiful swift nesting boxes mounted on our "tower" by Mr Fleming last summer. We are keeping our fingers crossed that there will be some baby swifts starting their lives at St James' this year!

Mrs Featherstone

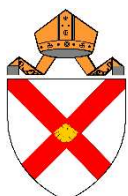
Parent Rep meeting

I would like to hold a Parent Rep meeting after the half term break – apologies as I meant to schedule one closer to Easter. I have scheduled the 16th June for the next meeting to give some notice, so I hope this date is okay. We will meet after drop off.

Midday Supervisor

We are still looking for someone to join our team of Midday Supervisors to help and supervise the children at lunchtimes. This is for 10 hours per week Monday to Friday. If you are interested then please contact Mrs Pierce who will be able to tell you all about the role.

Dates for the diary



Here are some dates for the remainder of the term ahead. If you visit the calendar on the school website, the diary dates can now be imported into Google calendars.

24 th May	Year 5 secondary transition meeting for parents (no children please)
29 th May	Half term week begins
5 th June	Children return to school
16 th June	Parent Rep meeting
6 th & 8 th June	Year 5 parent consultations
28 th June	Sports Day
4 th & 6 th July	Parent consultations (except Year 5)
21 st July	Last day of term
1 st September	INSET day
4 th September	Children return to school New Reception children stay and play

Kindest regards,
John Tutt

