



Dates for the diary

9 th June	Phonics screening this week for all Year 1 and some Year 2 children Class photos all day
10 th & 12 th June	Year 5 parent consultations
17 th June	Sports Day – see below
18 th June	Smartphone free childhoods meeting (7pm)
24 th June	New entrant parents' welcome evening
27 th June	Own clothes day for Summer Fair contributions
7 th July	Maple class consultation 1
8 th & 10 th July	Parent consultations (except Year 5)
12 th July	Summer fair
21 st July	Year 6 leavers' service at the church 2pm (all Y6 parents welcome)
1 st September	INSET day
2 nd September	First day of the school year for children in years 1 to 6.

Friday 6th June 2025

Welcome back to the final term of the school year, and this is the busy one with lots to pack in. It does not seem long ago since your children arrived at the start of September – it is incredible how quickly the children have grown and developed even over the space of just one school year.

I know many of you are itching to find out more about Sports Day, so there is important information below. If you are itching for any other reason, you will need to look elsewhere for relief. If the weather is bad, we will unfortunately have to postpone the event. This is never a popular decision, so before you decide to form an angry mob and turn up at the school office brandishing pitchforks, torches and gesticulating wildly at a weather app on your phones, please remember that however fantastic this is to watch as a parent, it is primarily an event for the children; it really is nicer and far safer for the little ones when it is not lashing down with rain. If we do need to postpone, we may have to make the decision based on one of those weather apps (universally agreed to be total rubbish, but all we have to go by).

Sports Day

Again, keeping in mind that this is weather dependent, the plan is for the infant events (Reception to Year 2) to run in the morning and the junior events (Years 3 to 6) to run in the afternoon. In between we will have a picnic on the field and parents are invited to stay.

Infant parents can arrive from 10am and we will start shortly afterwards. Lunch will be from 12 until 12:45 and the junior events will run from 1 until 3.



Parents with only junior children can arrive at midday if they would like to join the picnic, or 12:45 if they can only make the events.

The kitchen is offering a special Sports Day menu – please see the attached flyer. They need final numbers by Tuesday next week so please book your child's lunch asap via forms on ParentMail.

Year 1 marvellous middle

On Wednesday morning Year 1 immersed themselves in African culture as part of their "Journey to Africa" topic. Mr Wyke's wife sent us a message in Creole and kindly lent a selection of beautiful clothes from Sierra Leone, which everyone enjoyed trying on. We listened to some traditional Ghanaian drumming music, as well as a current Sub-Saharan band that combines traditional drumming with electric guitars. Inspired by what they heard, the children enjoyed creating their own music on a range of drums and other percussion instruments from Botswana. We loved learning about the Welly Dance from South Africa and had lots of fun putting together our own dances and trying out our moves in our wellies. As many African cultures use beaded necklaces and bracelets with different complicated patterns, we made our own beaded bracelets to take home to help us to remember our marvellous African morning.



Mrs Ledger

Anglo-Saxon Day

Year 4 enjoyed having Ash visit us and leading us through an exciting day of games and activities. The children enjoyed learning to advance in battle- including the shouts used, holding replica weapons, being in 'ships' trying to cross the sea and laying our own queen out for burial! They also wrote their names in Runes and dressed their teachers as rich Saxons.



Mrs Jones



Plans for Tunbridge Wells Shopping Centre

After receiving a suggestion from one of our Year 6 pupils, our children were invited to work alongside the council to come up with some ideas for the refurbishment of the Royal Victoria Shopping Centre. They created mood boards and worked really well as a group to come up with some innovative ideas.



Anna Holland

Summer fair donations

There will be an own clothes day on Friday 27th June.

In exchange, please donate what you can to the following summer fair stalls. Your donations help to make the fair a success and raise money for the school.

1. **Bottles** - alcoholic and non-alcoholic bottles accepted for the bottle tombola stall
2. **Teddies** - these can be new or pre-loved (please wash)
3. **Jam jars** - filled with sweets (NO NUTS), small toys and/or craft items
4. **Pre-loved toys** - toys, games and puzzles (in good condition)
5. **T shirts** - any size new or second hand (please wash), either white or in a light plain colour

On the 27th June there will be five named tables in the car park for dropping off your summer fair donations.

PTA AGM

The PTA's annual general meeting will be online on Tuesday 8th July 6pm to 6.30pm.

A Teams link will be circulated via the PTA WhatsApp a few days beforehand. The main purpose of the meeting is to agree the previous year's accounts and reaffirm membership of the committee.

If you would like to join the PTA WhatsApp to receive information on upcoming events, including the Teams link for the AGM, use this link <https://chat.whatsapp.com/CzBebwwPDc1B9eA87EuByn>

Application window for September 2025 Kent tests (11+)

Applications for the Kent Tests need to be made through the KCC website between 2nd June and 1st July.

Kent have changed their system for applying for special arrangements for those children who may otherwise struggle to access the tests fairly. Kent have moved the deadline for schools to submit evidence to match the closing date for parents. As you will appreciate, this gives us very little time (or no time at all for later applications) to submit an application to KCC for consideration.



Therefore, if you have a child who you feel may need special arrangements for the 11+ and you are going to make an application please email Penny Wardell (pwardell@st-james.kent.sch.uk) as early in June as possible.

Car park safety/closure

I mentioned this in my last newsletter, but it did not seem to make much difference, so I am just repeating for those parents who are using the school carpark.

We are getting some dangerous situations after school with parents collecting from after school clubs while others are walking through the car park. Please remember that this is a staff car park – we have had a few near misses recently and will need to keep the car park closed until after all sports clubs have finished if this is the only way of keeping the pedestrians safe. After school there is always plenty of parking in the bays outside.

Book Fair

A huge **THANK YOU** to everyone who attended the Book Fair last term and purchased books. You helped raise just under **£500.00** in rewards which we will be able to spend on books for classrooms. We are extremely grateful for your generosity and support.

Key Stage 2 Accelerated Reader Challenges

❖ Winners for Term 5 2025:

Highest Individual Word Count	Highest Class Word Count	Highest Individual Number of Quizzes Passed	Highest Class Quizzes Passed
Naomi in Dormouse Class 1,888,854 words	Osprey Class 6,947,899 words	Naomi in Dormouse Class 62 quizzes	Swift Class 293 quizzes

In addition to Osprey, two other classes read more than **six million** words last term. They were:

- **Dormouse** Class – **6,315,185** words
- **Swift** Class – **6,224,274** words

As well as Naomi, these children also read more than **one million** words last term:

- **Isabelle W** in Osprey Class – **1,310,311** words
- **Kate** in Dormouse Class - **1,265,230** words
- **Jessie** in Nightingale Class – **1,114,520** words

❖ Winners for this week (6th June 2025):

Highest Individual Word Count	Highest Class Word Count	Highest Individual Number of Quizzes Passed	Highest Class Quizzes Passed
Kate in Dormouse Class 951,892 words	Dormouse Class 2,063,100 words	Kate in Dormouse Class 21 quizzes	Stoat Class 53 quizzes



These classes also read more than **one million** words this week:

- **Osprey** Class – **1,253,540** words
- **Kestrel** Class – **1,094,812** words

A massive well done to all classes and children for their achievements last term and this week.

Mrs Simpson

Kindest regards,
John Tutt

