



Dates for the diary

19 th – 21 st May	Book fair after school (see below)
20 th May	Year 4 church service 2pm (all Y4 parents welcome)
26 th May	Half term week
2 nd June	INSET day
3 rd June	First day of term 6
w/c 3 rd June	Year 4 multiplication checks this week
4 th June	Secondary transition talk for Year 5 parents (6pm)
9 th June	Phonics screening this week for all Year 1 and some Year 2 children
10 th & 12 th June	Year 5 parent consultations
17 th June	Sports Day (weather depending)
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 16th May 2025

I hope you have not been too inconvenienced by the recent spate of roadworks in the town. We are beginning to reach that long anticipated situation where all traffic across the town simply stops moving permanently; average speeds at rush hour must be slower than walking pace.

Despite, this it is wonderful to see the consistent optimism among the car driving community, who cheerfully get in their over-sized vehicles to do the same journey every day, then seem surprised and disappointed to immediately join a very slow queue. Always undaunted, while sitting in traffic, some drivers randomly blast a car or van horn, or angrily shout out of the window, perhaps hoping that Sandrock Road will immediately clear and turn into one of those magically empty highways you only ever see in car adverts.

The school year has not only put its foot on the accelerator, but seems to have faulty brakes, as we are now charging towards the summer holidays at breakneck speed. Let's use this latest chunk of newsworthy events as a metaphorical hand brake to give us a chance to take it all in before the summer holidays are upon us – just 8 weeks left to go. After reading this newsletter, please be prepared to be overwhelmed by a rare condition known as "school news overload". Symptoms include hyper awareness of upcoming school events, overuse of



WhatsApp and a profound understanding of "Hey, What's Going On?" – an issue that the 4 Non Blondes have been earnestly singing about since 1992, but that we have definitively solved in 2025.

Application window for September 2025 Kent tests (11+)

If you have a child in Year 5, please take a look through the attached flyer about the Kent tests which take place in September. Applications 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.

If this is not clear, I will explain it in more detail at the information evening on 4th June.

SATs week – Year 6

Our Year 6 children have completed their SATs this week and, as always, have made us super proud. Thanks to all them for meeting each and every challenge with such good humour.

Car park safety/closure

Please, keep all toddlers and school children under close supervision while in the car park and do not let them play around the cars. We have had young ones climbing or running where it is unsafe with nearby parents completely oblivious.

We are also 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.

Year 1 topic update



As part of their "Journey to Africa" topic, Year 1 have been tracking the epic migration made by swifts from central Africa to their nesting sites in the UK. Did you know they have been around since the time of dinosaurs and do not stop flying for up to four years until they make their first nest? Mr Fleming has switched on the St James' swift call so we can try to tempt some of this year's swifts to make a nest in one of the nesting boxes up on the chimney of the KS2 building. Once swifts make a nest, they keep returning to the same one each year so it would be wonderful to welcome some resident swifts. In the meantime, we have all been super excited this week to see that there are currently two eggs and two swifts looking after them in the nesting box at the Oxford



Museum Tower swift project. We will be checking in on them daily to see when the swift chicks hatch out and fledge from their nest. If you would like to watch along too, you can see them on the swiftcam at: [Swifts in the tower | Oxford University Museum of Natural History](#)

Mrs Ledger

Accounts of Swift Class's High Weald Walk

On Tuesday 13.5.25, Swift class went on a walk through Dunorlan Park. We walked past the woods and down roads. Our walk was about three miles and by the end our heels were hurting and our legs were tired. On the walk we were crossing roads perfectly and representing our school. We had one or two breaks to eat our snack and before you ask, yes we did put our wrappers in our bags and washed our hands before we ate. On the walk down the river was a breeze. On the way along we saw a heron so we stalked it for a second, waiting for it to catch a fish and eat and, just as we started to give up hope, it caught one and gobbled it down in one gulp. We thought it might even catch more but it didn't so we stopped for our first snack and were greeted by some hungry ducks. After that, we set off again and on the way there we played a game called 'deer', where you have to hide when the leader says 'deer' and stay completely still so she wouldn't see us and lose a life we had three lives and if we lost all of our lives we were out. None of us got out. On the way back we saw the heron again but he had had his lunch so we got back to school with blistered feet.



Rory Stoner

On the 13th of May 2025 Swift class went to Dunorlan park, Hawkenbury recreation grounds and Hawkenbury park. We walked one mile up to Dunorlan. We did a nature walk and spotted a few squirrels, a heron and some goslings. Then we walked two miles to Hawkenbury where we rubbed some flowers on a piece of paper to create nature art. Then we sat down to have a snack and looked at our map to see where we were. We learnt how to use a compass and a map. Our instructor, who was called Rachel, taught us all about wildlife and how more and more animals are getting extinct. After a while, we went to the woods and played a game called 'deer'. We went in a line behind Rachel, and she would call out 'deer', then we would get off the path and stay still. Thank you, Mrs Williams, Will and Rachel for this lovely opportunity.



Hela Khaled



Plea for Early Years

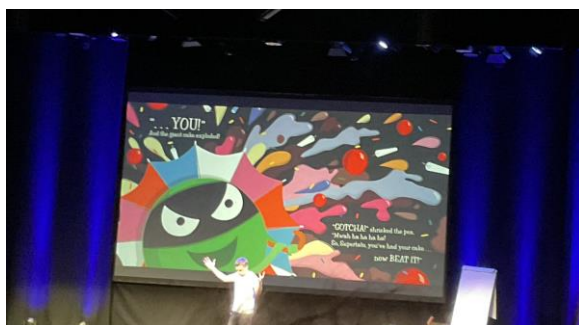
If anyone has any old board games they no longer require, such as Twister, Guess Who, Kerplunk, Snakes and Ladders or Orchard board games that would be suitable for Early Years, we would love to take them off your hands.

Mrs Coward

Supertato!

Last Friday Year 1 went on a trip to the Assembly Hall as part of the Tunbridge Wells Literary Festival. They were treated to a fun talk by Paul Linnet, who writes and illustrates the Supertato series of books with Sue Hendra. Although Sue was not there, she did have a Supertato drawing competition with Paul by video. Her picture was much better but Paul was blindfolded! Paul told us all about how his love of reading started when he was at primary school and how he came up with the Supertato characters. Everyone loved the funny tales, Paul's telling of the new "Supertato [Happy Birthday](#) Nitwit" story and the finale song where Paul jumped off the stage and moved through the audience with his guitar asking for children to shout out names of different fruits. The children did brilliantly on the walk to and from the theatre and were a credit to St James' during the whole show.

Mrs Ledger



Key Stage 2 Accelerated Reader Challenges

Each week we celebrate with the classes and individuals who are the overall winners of our reading challenges. A huge well done to our recent winners:

- Winners for the week ending 9th May 2025:

Highest Individual Word Count	Highest Class Word Count	Highest Individual Number of Quizzes Passed	Highest Class Quizzes Passed
Naomi in Dormouse Class 329,796 words	Swift Class 875,872 words	Naomi in Dormouse Class 14 quizzes	Stoat Class 56 quizzes

- Winners for the week ending 16th May 2025:

Highest Individual Word Count	Highest Class Word Count	Highest Individual Number of Quizzes Passed	Highest Class Quizzes Passed
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Dasha in Kestrel Class 559,013 words	Swift Class 2,309,711 words	Naomi in Dormouse Class 14 quizzes	Dormouse Class 81 quizzes
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In addition to Swift Class, these classes also read more than one million words this week:

- Kestrel Class – 2,261,250 words
- Osprey Class – 2,020,475 words
- Dormouse Class – 1,705,289 words
- Owl Class – 1,570,460 words

Keep reading and quizzing!

Mrs Simpson

Book Fair

A reminder that the Book Fair will be open for you and your child to visit next week. If you wish to purchase any books, there is a special offer of 3 books for the price of 2 - the cheapest of your three books will be absolutely free!

It will be in the KS2 hall from 3:20 – 3:50pm on:

- Monday 19th May
- Tuesday 20th May
- Wednesday 21st May

Please bring your bank card details to complete an online payment.

If you would like to browse some of the books available, please look here:
<https://bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/parents>.

Every book bought helps us to get FREE BOOKS for our classrooms or library!

Thank you very much for your support.

Mrs Simpson

Kindest regards,
John Tutt

