



### Dates for the diary

11 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 1 led church service 2pm start – Year 1 parents welcome to attend
14 <sup>th</sup> February	INSET day – school closed
17 <sup>th</sup> February	Half term break
17 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 6 start bikeability
1 <sup>st</sup> April	Year 5 led church service 2pm – Year 5 parents welcome to attend
4 <sup>th</sup> April	Last day of term
7 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter holidays begin
22 <sup>nd</sup> April	First day of term (Tuesday)

### Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Don't let the sleet, wind, darkness and bitter cold fool you - Spring is nearly here and, if you listen carefully, you can almost hear the daffodils starting to push their way into the light to kickstart some warmer and sunnier weather. We have one week left in this term and remember that next week is just 4 days long.

### Our new zig-zag pupils

You may have noticed our two new 2-dimensional pupils on the zig-zags outside the school. Thank you for the positive feedback – if you were wondering how effective they have been so far, we still had a taxi driver attempt to drop off on the zig-zags this week, who, when challenged, drove off by mounting the opposite pavement. I do not wish to put all taxi drivers in this same incompetent/dangerous category, as I am sure there are many extremely diligent ones who always courteously follow the rules of the road. However, if you arrive by taxi, please call out the driver if they behave in this way or report it to their company.

### Saying “no”

Henry Tutt has decided he wants/needs a new Xbox for his birthday and only the series X will do. Current RRP is £479, which, in my eyes at least, is an obscene amount of money. This week he also decided that he would like to attend a secondary school foreign trip; if you have children at secondary school, you will be aware of the cost of these trips, many being well over a thousand pounds. I thought this was an excellent opportunity to explore the subject of saying “no” to children.

“No” is one of the most wholesome words in the English language, and one that should get far more adulation than it does. For a toddler, “no” may be the most common word they will hear. As children get older the word only grows in importance as we parents try to walk that fine line of maintaining boundaries while showing our boundless love.

In the past life was simpler, as were the number of things a child could ask for. As a child I could ask to get down from the table, to watch TV or to go out to see friends. Once I asked for a pocket money raise. That was about it. The opportunities for refusal seemed to be far fewer, perhaps partly due to the limited choices available (as in my last newsletter).



Things are different now, when a parent can say “no” to so many things – extending screen time, access to a mobile phone, watching someone else playing a game on YouTube on the TV, going to bed later – and that is just ten minutes worth. A child’s reaction to the word “no” will vary, but as a rule it will not make your morning/day/evening any more pleasant.

Contrast that with the response of “yes”, where our mobile phone addicted/addled brains can receive immediate gratification in just the way that Apple or Google programmed them to. The result is a happy, beaming child and sometimes we even hear the coveted “I love you” phrase. But that does not last long – hearing “yes” becomes addictive and relenting once makes saying “no” harder the next time.

As children get older their capacity for negotiation improves significantly, and Henry always has a slew of arguments at the ready, the chief one being that he is the only child in his friendship group/school/planet that is not allowed to [insert something here]. His friends seem to be on their phones or playing online games into the small hours, while my poor child has his devices shut off automatically at a set time. Obviously, all of his friends (with far more progressive parents) also have the latest [insert expensive games console/phone here].

Next time your child is in floods of tears because you very reasonably exercised your age-derived greater wisdom to deny them something they wanted, please do not beat yourself up at the ensuing tantrum. You have just done a very special thing by keeping those boundaries firm; if nothing else, your friends may thank you for it and you may just be a step closer to that nirvana where the word “no” becomes the anticipated response to an unreasonable request. Last night Henry came downstairs, presumably to ask for a screen time extension. He looked at our faces, said “never mind”, turned around and huffed back upstairs.

### **Courtney Orange**

This week’s highlight was the visit by gymnast Courtney Orange who inspired the children with a PE session and an afternoon assembly. His feats of balance were incredible and his enthusiasm for sport was palpable. Your donations exceeded our wildest expectations, and we now have a very sizeable pot to spend on developing PE and outdoor learning at St James’. Once we have a final total we will share it with you.

For more information on Courtney, please take a look at this link: [Homepage - Courtney Orange](#)

### **Safer Internet Day 2025**

Safer Internet Day 2025 will take place on the 11<sup>th</sup> of February 2025, with celebrations and learning based around the theme ‘**Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online.**’

Safer Internet Day is the UK’s biggest celebration of online safety. Each year it covers an online issue or theme that speaks about the things young people are seeing and experiencing online. Created in consultation with young people across the UK, this year’s Safer Internet Day will be focusing on the issue of scams online and for young people, how to protect themselves and others, as well as what support is available to them.

This Safer Internet Day we will assess the real scale of this issue and allow young people to share their experiences and ideas on how to tackle the problem. At St James’, children will all get involved in an interactive assembly to introduce this year’s theme. They will then return to class for a lesson that personalises this learning to their own experiences. They will be given information on what to look out for and how to keep them safe from scams and phishing threats.



Of course, we'll be suggesting that they speak to 'a trusted adult,' if they are ever worried and unsure what to do. Maybe you're an expert in this field already? If not, don't worry – you can always find information online by searching for the "UK Safer Internet Centre." There you will find resources about this year's theme and further information.

In addition, are you making the most of our school's subscription to National Online Safety (NOS)? There are thousands of videos, fact sheets and training packages to help you feel more confident in parenting children to stay safe online. We can't recommend having a look at this site enough – the resources are excellent, and our teacher-parents have found it a great support too!

Mr Stevens and Miss Smith

### **Free safer internet training for parents**

As you will have read above, Safer Internet Day takes place next week at school where we will focus on staying safe online. Please see below for some free online training organised by Kent police for parents, including links for booking.

#### Parents / Carers Cyber Choices and Online Safety Events

Please note there are two parts to the parent events, and you will need to register for each independently.

##### Parents Event - Pt1 - Introduction to Cyber Choices and Online Risks

This session is suitable for parents/carers of children in Year 5 (age 9) and above. This is an opportunity to learn and ask questions regarding your child's online world.

This session will introduce you to the [Cyber Choices programme](#) and will provide:

- An overview to parents and carers on what cybercrime is.
- What the risks to young people are.
- How the Cyber Choices programme supports at-risk individuals.
- How you can refer a young person into Cyber Choices.

You will also receive an overview of:

- Some of the potential risks that children and young people may experience online.
- Advice to support parents to make informed decisions and keep their children safer online.

Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	10:00 – 11:00 - <a href="#">Link</a>
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	13:00 – 14:00 – <a href="#">Link</a>
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> May	16:00 – 17:00 - <a href="#">Link</a>
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> June	10:00 – 11:00 – <a href="#">Link</a>
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> July	19:00 – 20:00 – <a href="#">Link</a>
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> September	14:00 – 15:00 – <a href="#">Link</a>
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> October	16:00 – 17:00 – <a href="#">Link</a>
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> November	10:00 – 11:00 - <a href="#">Link</a>

##### Parents Event - Pt2 - Tools and techniques to improve the cyber security of your family

This session is suitable for parents/carers of children in Year 5 (age 9) and above. This is an opportunity to learn and ask questions regarding your child's online world.

This session will:

- Provide advice on how to improve your personal cyber security.
- Help you to identify and protect your (and your children's) key accounts.
- Identify threats and techniques that cyber criminals may use to target you / your family.



- Highlight the benefits of family accounts.
- Identify parental controls on your router.
- Signposting to useful resources.

Advice and guidance from the session will be in line with the Government's [Stop! Think Fraud](#) and the National Cyber Security Centres [CyberAware](#) campaign.

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 10:00 – 11:00 - [Link](#)  
 Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April 13:00 – 14:00 – [Link](#)  
 Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 16:00 – 17:00 - [Link](#)  
 Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 10:00 – 11:00 – [Link](#)  
 Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July 19:00 – 20:00 – [Link](#)  
 Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September 14:00 – 15:00 – [Link](#)  
 Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 16:00 – 17:00 – [Link](#)  
 Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 10:00 – 11:00 - [Link](#)

### Kent Emotional Wellbeing Team NELFT

We are really pleased to announce that we have just started working with Kent Emotional Wellbeing Team. We have two Emotional Wellbeing Practitioners that will be supporting our school. They will be delivering assemblies, going into classes and working with parents. There are leaflets in the foyer to tell you more about them. Over the next few weeks, they are offering online parent workshops on Introduction to Autism, Understanding Anxiety, Sleep & Autism and Understanding Resilience which are available to all our parents. Please see the attached posters for details. If you would like more information, please contact the SEN team on [senco@st-james.kent.sch.uk](mailto:senco@st-james.kent.sch.uk) or email the enquiry address at the bottom of the flyers attached to this newsletter.

Mrs Wardell

### Joy, celebration and fun!

This year we will be celebrating everything about reading, spreading joy and having fun during our special **School Book Day** on **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025**. More news to follow soon.

### KS2 Accelerated Reader Challenges

Here are the results of our reading challenges over the last two weeks:

- **31<sup>st</sup> January 2025**

Highest Individual Word Count	Highest Class Word Count	Highest Individual Number of Quizzes Passed	Highest Class Quizzes Passed
<b>Naomi</b> in Dormouse Class <b>366,347</b> words	<b>Dormouse</b> Class <b>951,362</b> words	<b>Yudai</b> in Nightingale Class <b>17</b> quizzes	<b>Badger</b> Class <b>108</b> quizzes

A special mention for Aneesh in Badger Class, Naomi in Dormouse Class and Eileen in Stoat Class who each passed 16 quizzes this week, but were just succeeded by Yudai as he passed 17 quizzes.

- **6<sup>th</sup> February 2025**



Highest Individual Word Count	Highest Class Word Count	Highest Individual Number of Quizzes Passed	Highest Class Quizzes Passed
<b>Erin</b> in Osprey Class <b>307,549</b> words	<b>Osprey</b> Class <b>1,283,067</b> words	<b>Kate</b> in Dormouse Class <b>20</b> quizzes	<b>Dormouse</b> Class <b>59</b> quizzes

A huge well done to Dormouse Class as they also read over one million words this week (1,200,078 words).

Many congratulations to our overall winners.

Keep Reading!

Mrs Simpson

Kindest regards,  
John Tutt

