



Newsletter 7 – Monday 9th December 2019

Dear Parents,

The school is feeling very Christmassy, with “Away in a Manger” heard down the corridors, shepherds watching their flocks on the stages and tinsel everywhere.

As we look forward to 2020, it is worth remembering that it has been an eventful year in the history of the school as our year of amalgamation. Of course, simply amalgamating and changing the name of the school is just the first step – the key is to ensure we are one cohesive organisation. Governors and staff have been working together, along with input from the children, on a new school vision and set of values to underpin all that we do here. We hope to share this with you in the New Year.

I would like to take this opportunity to say that the staff have responded to the changes magnificently and that there is a real team spirit within the school. I would like to thank them for all their hard work and continued dedication this year.

Vacancy for midday supervisor

We have a vacancy for a Key Stage 1 Midday Meals Supervisor. The role is to look after the children over the lunch break, working an hour and a half per day. If you are interested and would like more information, please speak to Angie Pierce in the infant office.

A message from the PTA

First of all, a huge thank you to everyone who has supported the Christmas events already. Your donations, time and purchases are very much appreciated - none of this could happen without you. This week our brilliant team of parents and staff have entertained 250 happy disco dancers and wrapped 976 presents!! Visit our Facebook page for a sneak peak into the secret present room...

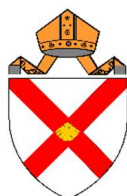
And don't worry, we hadn't forgotten. Christmas just isn't Christmas without our school raffle. We've been working hard to make this the best raffle yet and we're delighted with the incredible prizes 10 lucky people will get to win. You could win Pub In the Park tickets, Black Deer Music Festival tickets, a luxury Jem and Bea Lola Tote bag plus lots, lots more.

Finally, let's not forget why we are doing this. Our raffle is an important fundraiser and is match funded to get us closer to providing a new outdoor all-weather path for all our children. We hope to raise £1,500, which equates to 5 tickets for each child at the school. Each ticket is just 50p and we would love it if you could get grandparents, aunties and uncles behind it to boost the chances of one of your family winning these wonderful prizes in time for Christmas.

The box office is open - get your tickets now! <http://bit.ly/StJamesXmasRaffle>

Applications to St James' Primary School

The online application window for entry here in September 2020 opened on Tuesday 5th November and closes on Wednesday 15th January. Please remember to complete our own Supplementary Information Form which is available from either the infant school office or the website.



Christmas Jumper Day

On Friday (13th December) the children are welcome to come to school wearing a Christmas jumper in exchange for a £1 donation to Save the Children.

Christmas Plays

Next week we have plays performed by the infants and Year 4. Parents are very welcome to join us. We will not be making a creche available for younger siblings although they are welcome to join us for the Tuesday morning infant performance only.

Toddlers are welcome to come along to both the Year 4 performances, but please can parents take them out if they become noisy or unsettled and then bring them in again once they are quiet as they can be very distracting for the children on stage.

Netball update from Miss Gibson

The netball team has had a very successful season so far, winning the majority of their games. We have managed to put out two year 6 teams and have the potential of having three year 5 teams. They have adapted well to the change in the league (we are now having to play High 5's), but we also have been playing some 7's matches. The most satisfying aspect of the netball for me, however, is the enthusiasm and fun that the children are having playing sport; especially those who are not yet in a team. They come to netball in the mornings and on a Wednesday after school to enjoy coaching and playing as part of a team and I have seen a marked improvement in their skill level.

My thanks go to Mrs Dragon as she comes to support me with the umpiring and the coaching at all the netball sessions.

Sport reports from Mr Hodges:

Football

On Monday 25th Nov, the Girls' team played St Matthews on a very dark and wet evening. The team started brightly on an extremely boggy pitch with a superb goal from Sophie who fired in from close range after good play from Fran and Leah. It was 2-0 shortly after when Kitty beat three players on the left wing, cut inside and finished low and hard into the bottom corner. The score remained the same for the rest of the game, but St James' continued to dominate the play and could easily have scored another two or three. Player of the match was Eleanor, who deputised expertly in goal and kept a clean sheet too.

Basketball

Last Wednesday, our Girls' Basketball team went to Hayesbrook to compete in a tournament, looking to push on from their second place finish the week before. The girls won group matches against St John's, Claremont and Rusthall taking them through to the second group stage. They defeated Stocks Green 25-0, Hildenbrough 18-0 and Claremont 16-4 to finish top of the group and win the tournament! All the team contributed wonderfully and were brilliant throughout.

Athletics

On Tuesday, 21 children from Years 5 and 6 went to the Sportshall Athletics competition at the Angel Centre. They competed in track and field events against 20 other schools from the Tunbridge Wells, Cranbrook and Tonbridge area. It was a great afternoon and the children competed exceptionally well, eventually finishing in 3rd place overall. There were some outstanding individual performances from Molly, Eleanor and Jasmine in the Vertical Jump, Byron in the Javelin and Archie and Fran in the Chest Push. Joe and Nathan also recorded the fastest time of the day in the 1+1 lap relay.



Dates for the diary

Tuesday 10 th December	Infant Christmas Play (morning) – toddlers welcome to this one Year 4 Christmas Play (afternoon – 2pm)
Wednesday 11 th December	Infant Christmas Play (morning) Year 4 Christmas Play (afternoon – 2pm)
Thursday 12 th December	Infant Christmas Play (morning) Infant Christmas Play (afternoon)
Friday 13 th December	Christmas Jumper day Christmas Lunch Class Parties (Key Stage 1) Disco for Years R to 2
Monday 16 th December	Infant Church Service 2:15pm – parents welcome Christmas Raffle prize draw
Tuesday 17 th December	Junior Church Service 2:15pm – parents welcome
Wednesday 18 th December	Last day of term
Monday 6 th January	INSET day for staff
Tuesday 7 th January	First day back for children

Have a very peaceful and happy Christmas.

John Tutt
December 2019

