



Remember that term dates and other dates are available on the school website via the calendar.

23 rd June	Y4 to SKA going to Design Technology
23 rd & 24 th June	Maple class parent consultations
30 th June	Sports Day (change of date)
30 th June & 2 nd July	Parent consultations for all year groups except Y5
2 nd July	Transition/taster day and Reception stay and play for new entrants
4 th July	PTA summer fair
8 th & 9 th July	Year 6 play performances to parents
10 th July	Reception singing performance to parents (2:45pm) - note change of time
14 th July	Year 6 Leavers' service (2pm)
17 th July	Last day of term

Friday 19th June 2026

On Wednesday we welcomed our new Reception parents to the St James' family and, as I mentioned at the time, it gave me cause to reflect on my own children's journey through school.

On Monday my youngest child attended school, wearing school uniform, for the very last time. Exams complete, he now joins his two older siblings, both returned from university, in what seems like a ceaseless mission to both empty our fridge and create as much mess as possible; a feat all the more remarkable considering the tight timeframes they seem to work within, none of them getting out of bed before early afternoon.

Sarah has a photo of Henry on the same spot on his first day at school and his last, and it is with deep sadness that his school years, as well as those of his siblings have now passed me by. It is hard to sufficiently emphasise the magic of parenting during those primary years, especially when viewed in the warm glow of hindsight.

Hot weather

It might get hot next week – summer is back at last. Please ensure children have a full water bottle, a sun hat and have sun cream applied to noses and any other vulnerable places before they arrive at school. We ask that children do not use personal fans in classrooms – they distract the children, break easily, get lost (or “stolen” according to the bereft child) and have limited effect. Many children with personal fans also seem to want to test their power by sticking their nose, tongue or finger into the whirring blades – some motors are fairly potent.

All classrooms have fans and we are putting measures in place to keep children as cool as we can.

Some of our classrooms can get very hot in this sort of weather. There is no legally prescribed temperature range for schools, and recommendations for an allowable working maximum from teaching unions and the WHO vary



between 24 and 30 degrees. All classrooms have thermometers and will these will be monitored throughout the day.

Hydration is key, so I will reiterate the importance of bringing in clean water bottles each day – these can be filled at our refrigerated fountains through the day as needed.

Parking across other people's drives

Nobody has ever parked across my driveway or parked in a way that blocks access to my house. However, being an empathetic sort of person, I can imagine how I would feel, and which modifications I would be sorely tempted to make to the offending vehicle.

It does not matter if you will only be 5 minutes - parking across a neighbour's drive is just rude, so please do not do it. I have asked local residents to take a photo of the car if this happens again and send it to me. I will then weigh up the pros and cons of tracing the address and parking the school minibus across that person's drive for the weekend.

Year 1 – Online live Royal Ballet

On Wednesday Year 1 (and hundreds of classes around the UK) were treated to a live online session with the Royal Ballet. They time-travelled back to the beginnings of ballet in the 15th century and had opportunities to try out different dance moves and even a choreographed sword-fight like the one in Swan Lake. Alongside the dancing, the children found out about how the props, scenery and beautiful costumes are made, and listened to professional ballet dancers talking about how they started dancing. They heard that the dancers spend roughly the length of the school day training each day to perfect their moves for performances. Afterwards Ash Class had lots of thoughts to share about how when they grow up, they could be ballet dancers but could also make props and costumes or design the music or lights for performances. Thank you to Mrs Dennett for arranging the wonderful session.

Upcoming SEND Information, Advice and Guidance Roadshow

This is taking place in Tunbridge Wells,
Event details:

- **Date:** 25 June 2026
- **Time:** 2.30pm – 4.30pm
- **Location:** Sherwood Family Hub, Friars Way, Tunbridge Wells, TN2 3UA

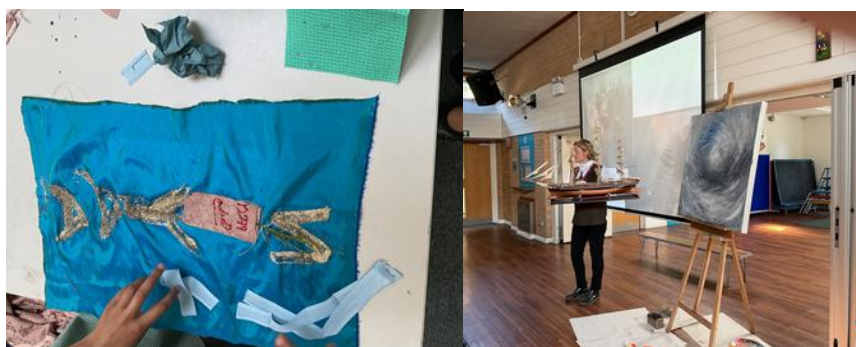
This drop-in event is open to families whose child or young person has, or may have, special educational needs and/or disabilities. A wide range of services will be present to offer information, guidance and support for ages 0–25. There is no need to book, and refreshments will be available.

If anyone has questions or accessibility requirements, they can contact the team at: sendroadshows@kent.gov.uk

Art day

Today the whole school have enjoyed a fantastic Art Day. KS1 started the day with an assembly from a local artist who taught them all about Turner. They then rotated around the classrooms and outside exploring a variety of different activities, based on light and colour. KS2 got the opportunity to go to Dunorlan Park and sketch the local environment. Whilst half of KS2 were at the park, the other half stayed at school creating beautiful collages and paintings, then they swapped over. The children have been so engaged and have worked brilliantly together. Thanks go to Mrs De Lucy and Mrs Williams for organising such a wonderful opportunity.





Are you a parent of a child under the age of 6?

I am a former pupil and am currently conducting a survey as part of my Publishing MA at University College London, where I am looking at the effect technology is having on children's picture books.

I am looking for parents of children under the age of 6 to participate in a short survey for my dissertation, which forms part of my Publishing Masters at University College London. If you know anyone else who might be interested, I'd be incredibly grateful if you could share this survey with them!

My research explores the impact technology is having on children's books. All responses will be **anonymous** and used solely for academic research purposes. Participation is entirely **voluntary**, and you may withdraw from the survey at any point before submitting your responses.

The survey contains just **10 questions** and should take no more than **5 minutes** to complete. No prior knowledge of, or experience with, technology is required.

Thank you for considering taking part in my survey!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at: Emelia.brown.25@ucl.ac.uk

Link to survey: https://qualtrics.ucl.ac.uk/jfe/form/SV_9T4cRy0C7BMV6Sy

Key Stage 2 Accelerated Reader Challenges

A huge Well Done to our overall winners for **week ending 12th June 2026:**

Individual Highest Word Count	Class Highest Word Count	Individual Most Quizzes Passed	Class Most Quizzes Passed
Ivy in Owl Class 736,990 words	Owl Class 1,570,094 words	Marc-Andrei in Chaffinch Class 16 quizzes	Chaffinch Class 83 quizzes



- **Nightingale** and **Chaffinch** also read more than one million words last week.

This week's winners will be shared in the next Newsletter. Keep reading and quizzing everyone.
Mrs Simpson

John Tutt
Head Teacher

