



Newsletter – 29th April 2022

Dear parents,

We have finally reached Friday after what has seemed like a 9 day week. Welcome to another newsletter, packed with uplifting (emotionally) news, school trivia and lifestyle advice; just what you need to get through a Friday 13th.

At drop off this morning the tension on Sandrock Road seemed to be markedly higher than usual. We are almost at the point in Tunbridge Wells where there will be so many cars on the roads at any one time, that one more set of poorly judged roadworks will mean that the town grinds to a permanent standstill. It always amazes me how people sitting in their cars in queues get so cross with everybody else (open car window, look disapprovingly up the road, see nothing, shake head & mutter something, close car window) when they are clearly part of the problem. It's like deliberately banging your head against a wall and then getting really cross with the wall.

One family member told me recently (with authority) that in most cities the cycling infrastructure is to blame for the slowing pace of the traffic ("but," I replied, "isn't the congestion caused by cars? Without the cars it wouldn't happen, would it?" – he answered with a knowing slow shake of the head and a look of pity at my naivety) but in our town there is so little cycle infrastructure that we can't really use that (questionable) excuse.

Lifestyle advice coming up: the roads are very full right now, and parking around the school is extremely limited. If you possibly can, please try to walk or cycle to school while staying safe.

Pre-loved uniform sale Monday 16th May

There will be a pre-loved uniform sale this coming Monday (16th May). It will be held in the usual place in the carpark by the PTA sheds from 8.45 until 9.45am. A reminder that it's cash only so please bring lots of loose change. We're looking forward to seeing you there!

The Pre-loved Uniform Team

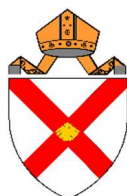
Year 5 secondary transition

We are returning to our usual routine for supporting parents in making their decisions about secondary schools. On 8th June at 6pm I will give a talk in the hall for those who would like to find out more about their choices and the process. The following week on Tuesday 14th and Thursday 16th June, the year 5 teachers will be available for parent consultations to give you as much information about how your child is getting on as they can to help you make a decision; they will also share the results of the CAT tests the children have been sitting this week.

For parents considering grammar schools, the option to register children for the Kent Tests (via the KCC website) opens from the beginning of June and closes at the beginning of July. I will give more information on this on the 8th June for those unfamiliar with the process.

Jubilee

We are planning to celebrate the jubilee in school in the last week of this half term – watch this space for more information.



Well done Year 6!

A massive well done to Year 6, who have worked so hard this week (and the months building up to the SATs). We are so proud of each and everyone one of you!

Year 6 Team

Handball tournament

St James' entered two teams in the Tunbridge Wells Primary Schools handball tournament. The B team did not lose a single match and only failed to get through to the finals due to goal difference. The A team won every match in their group and then won every match in the finals group and so St James' are the Tunbridge Wells handball champions. Well done to both teams!

Netball matches

St James' Year 6 team played Rosehill on Monday and won 22 – 5. The Year 4 team played Southborough on Wednesday and won 4 – 2. Congratulations to both teams and to Miss Gibson for coaching them.

St James' ski team

On Sunday the St James' skiing team took part in a tournament in Chatham. The team has children from both the infants and the juniors. They played against schools from across this district (including a number of independent schools who have been competing regularly for many years). I am very excited to be able to tell you that the team came a very impressive second, just behind Rosehill. Well done to the whole team and thanks to Mrs Ayton who coaches them and spent the day with the team!



National numeracy day

Next Wednesday 18th May is National Numeracy Day and National Numeracy are running a competition that I want to highlight to the children and parents. If children are interested they can access the information via the link in the email and take part.

There are some great prizes for the winners. Click on the link in the email to find out more.

Times Table Rockstars

Here are the top 3 most improved in accuracy over the last 7 days:
1st place was Gracie in Swift (winner of an inflatable rock star guitar)
2nd place was Imogen in Dormouse
3rd place was Tyler in Chaffinch
Well done to them all!

Mr Wyke



Safety in the car park

We would be very grateful if parents could keep their children under control in the school car park, especially the younger ones. We have had more damage to staff cars.

Nourish Food bank

There is now a collection station by the school office for those wishing to make a donation. All donations will be very gratefully accepted.

Key Stage 2 Accelerated Reader Winners 12.05.22

Great News! Every class in Key Stage 2 has read over one million words this week. Well done everyone!

Here are our winners of this week's Accelerated Reader challenges:

Highest Individual Word Count	Highest Number of Quizzes Passed	Highest Class Word Count
Anna in Nightingale Class 896,676 words	Divit in Dormouse Class 54 quizzes	Kestrel Class 4,064,666 words

Keep reading and quizzing!

Ms Simpson

Key dates for this term

20 th May	Class photos today
27 th May	Last day of term 5
6 th June	INSET day
7 th June	First day of term 6
8 th June	Secondary transition information evening for Year 5 parents
14 th & 16 th June	Year 5 parent consultations (to discuss secondary options)
21 st June	KS1 & KS2 singing festivals
21 st June	New reception parents welcome evening
4 th July	Year 6 residential
7 th July	Discos years R to 5
13 th July	Sports Day whole school (provisional)
16 th July	PTA summer fair
18 th July	Year 6 productions (afternoon and evening)
18 th July (date change)	Infant church service (afternoon) & Year 6 evening production
20 th July	Junior church service (afternoon) – Year 6 leavers'
21 st July	Last day of term 6
2 nd September	First day of new school year

Thank you all, as always.

John Tutt

Headteacher

