



### Dates for the diary

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

8 <sup>th</sup> 9 <sup>th</sup> 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 1&2 nativities
12 <sup>th</sup> December	Reception Christmas singing performance 2:30pm
16 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 3 Christmas church service 2pm – Year 3 parents welcome to attend
18 <sup>th</sup> December	Last day of term 2
19 <sup>th</sup> December	INSET day
5 <sup>th</sup> January	First day of term 3

### Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2025

A few years ago, I stopped saluting & greeting solitary magpies. That was the beginning of 2020, and we all know how that one worked out. Needless to say, I learned my lesson, and saluting magpies is now my key strategy for successful school management and pandemic avoidance.

Christmas has already kicked off here at St James' - it will be Christmas almost every day in some form or other until the end of term; infants are singing their hearts out about donkeys and angels.... pure magic.

### Snow

A scream of delight was heard across the school on Wednesday morning, as thick, soggy snowflakes began tumbling from the sky – heartbreakingly followed by a swift melt.

To every child's bitter disappointment, we don't close the school when it snows unless the Ice Age is replayed on the streets of Tunbridge Wells. However, we will message via Arbor and update the Kent School Closures website if we need to make any special arrangements. If the weather is bad, food deliveries can sometimes be affected, or kitchen staff may struggle to get to school. If there are any special arrangements, we will let parents know as early as we possibly can. If too many staff are unable to get to work, we may need to partially/fully close the school – I only say this as it is a remote possibility; it has never happened before.

Decisions are made by half past 7 when possible, or as soon as I am able to get to school, assess the situation and make a decision, although the default is always (and has always been) to stay open unless we have a compelling reason for closure.



Keeping the school running over winter is always a little more challenging. Examples of other things that can go wrong over winter include the pipes freezing, water supplies failing, very unsafe conditions across the site or the school's heating system becoming self-aware and immediately identifying the pupils and staff as its enemies. If you do not hear from us, please assume school is open as usual and do not phone the school as we will be very busy making the site safe.

### **School disco**

I just wanted to thank the PTA and Year 4 team who worked so hard to organise and run the disco this week. The children absolutely loved it! All the hard work has been very much appreciated.

### **Ear studs**

If your child has pierced ears and wears studs to school, they must be able to remove them for PE. It is Kent policy that nothing is worn in the ears during PE, even if taped.

If your child struggles to remove their ear studs, please do not put them in on PE or swimming days.

### **Footwear**

Please refer to the school uniform guidelines for footwear. School shoes need to be well fitted, comfortable, practical and suitable for running and being active. They should not have unnecessary decoration. A good rule of thumb is: if your child thinks their footwear looks amazing then it's probably not appropriate.

If your child has a medical reason to wear trainers instead of school shoes, then please let us know.

### **Photo and local visit permissions**

We have recently updated parental consents on Arbor to allow us to collect parental permissions electronically. This lets us keep permissions current and up to date, allowing you to change your response according to your circumstances. Please complete the new permission forms under the notices section in your child's Arbor account. Many thanks!

The office team

### **Football**

November has been a bumper month for football so far and we're not finished yet!

The girls' football team continued their dominance of the West Kent League with a 3-2 win over Temple Grove. The girls have now won all four of their opening league fixtures and sit atop the table, with 23 goals scored and just 6 conceded.

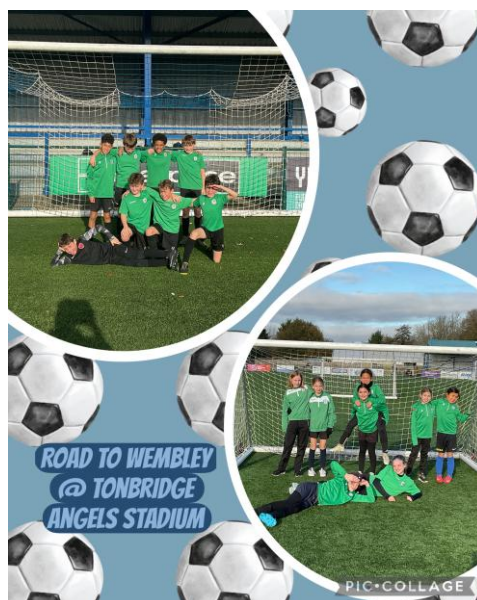
On 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> November, we had a squad of boys and girls who took part in the "Road to Wembley" tournament at Tonbridge Angels stadium. It was a brilliant opportunity to play in a proper football stadium and test themselves against the best teams from Kent.

The boys' team won three of their five fixtures in a very tough group, finishing third in their group, with 9 goals scored and just 2 conceded. The girls' squad powered to second in the group and qualified for the knock-out stages. We dominated our knock-out game but were unable to break the deadlock. The match went to penalties



and luck again was not on our side. The girls lost just one fixture in normal time all day, to the eventual finalists - a great performance.

Both squads should be hugely proud of how they performed - they held their own against some of the best teams in the region and had a great experience playing at a National League stadium. They were all excellent!



Mr Fern

### **Flu Catch up vaccination**

Flu cases among children are rising earlier than usual this year and health experts are warning that this season could be particularly severe. Latest UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) data shows flu activity is three times higher than this time last year, with a sharp increase among school-aged children.

Children with long-term conditions like asthma or diabetes are at even higher risk. Flu can trigger asthma attacks and make diabetes harder to manage, increasing the risk of serious complications.

### **Why vaccination matters**

The nasal spray flu vaccine is quick, painless and the best protection against flu for children under 16. Vaccinating your child not only protects them but also helps stop flu spreading to vulnerable family members, such as grandparents or babies.

If your child is unable to have the nasal flu due to medical or cultural reasons, they can have an alternative porcine free injectable option.

### **What to do if your child hasn't had the flu vaccine.**

- If you missed the school session - Book a catch-up appointment at a local community clinic. (Dates and locations below). Call [0300 123 5205](tel:03001235205) to book a slot.
- Book a flu injection at a local community clinic if needed for cultural or medical reasons.
- Children aged two to three years can be vaccinated at our community clinics, at their GP surgery



or participating pharmacy.

**Saturday 29th November 2025** Sevenoaks Hospital, Gym (main ground floor) Hospital Road, Sevenoaks, TN13 3PG

**Saturday 29th November 2025** Tonbridge Cottage Hospital, Vauxhall Lane, Tonbridge, TN11 0NE **Saturday 6th December 2025** Tonbridge Cottage Hospital, Vauxhall Lane, Tonbridge, TN11 0NE **Saturday 13th December 2025** Tonbridge Cottage Hospital, Vauxhall Lane, Tonbridge, TN11 0NE

Have a lovely weekend.

Kindest regards,  
John Tutt

