



Newsletter – 19th November 2021

Dear parents,

It seems a long time since bonfire night, the date of the last newsletter. Other than the spectacular fireworks, the Tutt family enjoyed the annual post firework display game of “okay...so which one of you trod in the dog poo?”.

I hope you had as much fun as we did.

Christmas is just a few weeks away now, so I hope your children are busy writing their letters to Father Christmas. The run in has already started at St James' and carols can be heard around the school. Tickets are going like hot cakes for the Christmas performances so please email Mrs Pierce if you would like a ticket to either the Infant nativity or the Year 4 Christmas play.

School starting times

This is a reminder that from Monday 22nd November, all year groups (including Reception) should arrive at school by 8:55am. We are bringing the whole school into line to avoid confusion and to give the youngest children a precious few extra minutes at the beginning of each day.

Anti-Bullying Week 2021

The children have taken part in activities throughout this week to raise the profile of this year's Anti-Bullying Week theme, 'One Kind Word'. On Monday we celebrated what made us unique by wearing odd socks.



Reminder: free school lunches for Key Stage 2 in December

Once again, our anonymous and exceptionally generous donor has offered to pay for the school lunches for every child in Key Stage 2 during the month of December. Therefore if you have children in years 3 to 6 you can order a lunch that month without needing to pay.

You will appreciate that this is costing a very significant amount of money. Our donor understands that things are not easy for many people at the moment, and hopes that this will help families in the school through what is always a very expensive month.

If you genuinely feel that you are easily able to afford your child's lunches, please make a donation to the foodbank.

Children in Need

On first count we have raised £267.42, so thank you to all those who made a donation.

Online safety

In Computing this term, the children are learning about how to keep safe online. Please see attached a poster from National Online Safety about online content and 10 tips on how to keep your children safe. We hope you find these useful - thank you.

Adele Smith and Jez Stevens, Computing leads.

Nut Free School

Please can we remind you that we are a nut free school. No nuts or products containing nuts of any kind should be brought to school. Thank you.

Self-administered medication

Please do not send your child to school with medication such as throat sweets or calpol. We have had a couple of incidents of children bringing Calpol tabs to school for self-administering. We are not able to administer over the counter medicines at school; if your child is too unwell to attend school without them then they should stay at home until they are better.

If your child is prescribed medicine then we can help administer that. Please speak to the school office for more information.

Mrs Piper

Congratulations to Mrs Piper who is expecting a baby! I would like to wish her well on behalf of the whole team. We will be in touch with Ash class parents next term to let them know the arrangements for the class; Mrs Piper is due to begin her maternity leave in March.

Pre-loved uniform sale

There will be a pre-loved uniform sale on Monday (22nd November) 8.45 - 10am by the PTA sheds in the Infant carpark. Thank you for the brilliant uniform donations that have come in over the last few weeks; the donations box has now been moved to the foyer of the main school office if you would like to donate.



Non-uniform day Friday 26th November

We are having a non-uniform day on Friday 26th November. If you are able to, we would be very grateful if you could send your child to school with a donation for the secret presents room. However, if you are not able to donate this is not a problem and your child can still attend without uniform on the day.

For those new to the school, the secret presents room is run by the PTA during a school day and gives the children a chance to buy Christmas presents for their nearest and dearest.

Ofsted parent view

Please do visit the Ofsted Parent View website and give your views on St James'. Ofsted will take these into account when inspecting the school, and we expect this to be very soon. Last year a request resulted in only 16 responses, so I would be very grateful if we could improve on that. Both parents can give separate responses if they wish, and the school will not see any comments they choose to make.

Wonder lights

Wonder Lights is the free 'light up your house' event, being held on Nov 27 & 28th across Tunbridge Wells. It's a great project for the kids to enjoy, whether that's making a display for their window or using the map to help them and their parents explore the neighbourhood.

Here's a link to an image you could use with all the info.

https://www.dropbox.com/s/ncc9ca4kt81kg13/2021_A5_PosterInfo.jpg?dl=1

KS2 Accelerated Reader Challenges

Many congratulations to this week's winners:

Highest Individual Word Count	Highest Number of Quizzes Passed	Highest Class Word Count
Tessa in Nightingale Class	Isabelle W in Deer Class	Swift Class
1,081,800 words	29 quizzes	2,744,728 words

"You can find magic wherever you look. Sit back and relax, all you need is a book." (Dr Seuss)

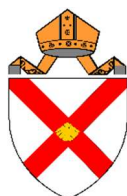
Thank you for all your support with encouraging your child to read as they search for magic in their books.

Ms Simpson

Don't put up with shorter days!

Is anyone else getting fed up with just how early it gets dark at the moment? We leave our houses in darkness each morning and return in darkness every evening. Well, enough is enough. A shortage of crisps is one thing, but a shortage of daylight is something else entirely.

Personally, I am going to write a strongly worded letter to my MP to get something done about this; if enough of us make our views known it might stir the government into taking action and giving us all the hours of daylight we deserve.



Dates for the diary

22 nd November	Pre-loved uniform sale (8:45 – 10am)
26 th November	Non uniform day for secret presents donations
2 nd December	Secret Presents Room
w/b 6 th December	Christmas plays this week
13 th December	Infant church service (provisional)
14 th December	KS2 church service (provisional)
15 th December	Reception and KS1 disco
16 th December	Last day of term
	KS2 disco
4 th January	First day of term

Thank you all, as always.

John Tutt
November 2021

