



Dates for the diary

24 th June	New entrant parents' welcome evening
27 th June	Own clothes day for Summer Fair contributions
7 th July	Maple class consultation 1
8 th & 10 th July	Parent consultations (except Year 5)
12 th July	Summer fair
21 st July	Year 6 leavers' service at the church 2pm (all Y6 parents welcome)
1 st September	INSET day
2 nd September	First day of the school year for children in years 1 to 6.

Friday 20th June 2025

It was lovely to see so many of you at our Sports Day on Tuesday – we could not have asked for better weather. The results were announced to the children in the morning assembly, with Dunorlan winning Track Events and Calverley winning the Field Events. However, the real winner was sport – children running or balancing or jumping as well as they could and cheering on their friends whether they were winning or persevering until the finish line. Thanks to Mrs Dennett and Mrs Naismith for the excellent organisation.

The presentation on Smartphone Free Childhoods on Wednesday evening was well attended – thank you to Erin Carroll for leading and giving us so much to think about. I sincerely hope that this will be the beginning of a movement within St James'. Please see below for more information.

Read on for some important messages and updates, as well as some child focussed news. Before that is the (now standard) random paragraph that doesn't really make much sense, that most people have learned to just skip past to get onto the good stuff.

There is now only one month to go before the end of the school year – in newsletters that is a count of 3 (including this one). When using our bi-weekly school newsletters as a measure of historical time, we have 11 newsletters until Christmas. If we designate my 2012 start day at St James' as the beginning of newsletter history ("Newsletter Zero") we are in the 259th newsletter of Tutt.

I would like to apologise for the appalling misuse of public time and money it took to calculate the numbers above.

Smartphone Free Childhood meeting

Thank you to everyone who came to join me on Wednesday night, to hear a summary of the research on the impact of smartphones, and discuss some of the challenges and rewards of choosing to delay giving smartphones to our children. The two local mum's experience of their kids thriving in Year 7 without a smartphone were so inspiring, and left most of us feeling like we can make this a reality.



We had a great turn out, and at the time of writing we have had 61 new sign ups to the Parent Pact - that's now 141 in total, a whopping 22% of our school community wanting to make this choice. So it really nearly is a reality!

Looking at each year group, Yr 1 and 2 parents have already far exceeded the numbers needed to dissolve the peer pressure around smartphones as a third of parents have signed up! This is what we are aiming towards - people being able to make the choice they want without a fear it will isolate their children.

Reception, Yrs 3, 4 and 5 haven't got much further to go – it's within our grasp.

We recognise the extra challenge that Yr 6 parents face as the peer pressure is already intense by this age, but 13% of kids won't have smartphones as their Yr 5 parents have signed the pact - making it much easier for any of the children to transition to secondary without one. Just a few more of you signing up will make such a difference to the confidence we can all feel in our choice, and the easier it will be on our kids.

If you wanted to come along to the evening but couldn't, the slides from the presentation are attached to this newsletter and have been distributed in your Whatsapp class groups. At the end of the slides is a QR code to join the SFC St James Whatapp group for sharing ideas and supporting each other to make this choice as parents. The Tunbridge Wells SFC group is also active (join via the SFC website), and there was a helpful discussion yesterday evening about the pros and cons of different alternative phones from parents' firsthand experience.

Here is a link to a podcast recommended by some of the parents who came on Wednesday, which is a great introduction to the issues: [The Anxious Generation with Jonathan Haidt](#)

To sign the pact, click here: <https://parentpact.smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/>

If you have any questions, we will have a stall at the Summer Fair so come along and see us.

Many thanks,

Dr. Erin Carroll, parent in Yr 2 and Yr 5

No Smartphones in school policy

As you know, we do not allow children to bring phones to school unless there are special circumstances and parents make a request to me. From September we will not allow children to bring in smartphones to school under any circumstances.

If you feel that your family have extenuating circumstances, then following a direct request to me, we may allow a non-smartphone (also known as a brick phone – costing around £20) to be brought to school and handed to/collected from the class teacher at the start of each day. These phones cannot have a camera or internet access.

Please note that this supersedes any prior agreement made with any individual family.

RAAC update

As you know, the RAAC has been mitigated by the significant work carried out to strengthen the junior roof and the full surveys that are conducted three times per year to ensure the work remains effective.



I wrote to you last year, when we were given a timetable for how our RAAC issues would be addressed in the longer term. As a phase 2 school we were told that a project manager would be appointed by April 2025 with surveys and planning work started in the summer.

So far we have heard nothing and our DfE contact has no further news for us. I will of course update you as soon as we have any updates.

Staffing news

Those parents with children in Stroat Class will know that Alice Vanns is expecting a baby. Unfortunately, for the sake of both mother and baby, she has now been signed off work for the remainder of this school year. We wish her well, and hope to see her and the new addition to the family after the summer break.

Parents of Cherry Class will already know that Adele Smith has started her fostering to adopt leave. Due to the nature of adoptions like these, it is impossible to give any clear idea of how long the process may take or whether a suitable match will be found. We are delighted for Adele and her partner and look forward to meeting the baby soon.

Registration for the 11+ Kent Tests

Year 5 parents have until the 1st July to enter their children for the Kent tests. Registration must be completed online via [Kent Test - Kent County Council](#)

Harp lessons

Would your child like to learn an instrument that sounds great from the very first lesson? Harp lessons are available in school with prices starting from £19.25/month for 10 minute individual lessons. There is no expectation for you to have a harp at home unless that's what you choose to do. If you are interested in lessons for September 2025, please email Nikki Martin plinkplonkharp@hotmail.co.uk before the end of June.

Year 6 rugby festival

On Thursday 19th June a group of ten Year 6 pupils took part in a tag rugby festival at Tonbridge Juddians Rugby Club. The children played amazingly against a number of local schools, culminating in a great 4-1 victory against Claremont in their final game!

They should all be really proud of how they played, and I know that the coaches from Tonbridge Juddians were really impressed with how they all played (especially the girls, who they said were the strongest they'd seen at a tournament!)

Well done all!





Mr Fern

Dressing up clothes

We would like to set up a playtime dressing up box for our EYFS and KS1 children to use at playtime. If you have any old dressing up clothes for children at home that you would like to get rid of, maybe your child has had a growth spurt or changed which superhero they like to dress up as, we would love to give these a new home. Please drop any donations off to the office whenever you can. Thanks in advance.

Key Stage 2 Accelerated Reader Challenges

➤ Winners for week ending 13th June 2025:

Highest Individual Word Count	Highest Class Word Count	Highest Individual Number of Quizzes Passed	Highest Class Quizzes Passed
Reuben in Swift Class 997,283 words	Swift Class 1, 649,976 words	Reuben in Swift Class 48 quizzes	Badger Class 87 quizzes

In addition to Swift Class, these classes also read more than one million words this week:

- o **Osprey Class - 1,405,751** words
- o **Kestrel Class – 1,094,812** words

➤ Winners for week ending 20th June 2025:

Highest Individual Word Count	Highest Class Word Count	Highest Individual Number of Quizzes Passed	Highest Class Quizzes Passed
Kate in Dormouse Class 539,090 words	Dormouse Class 1,021,070 words	Kate in Dormouse Class 18 quizzes	Dormouse Class 96 quizzes

- **Osprey Class** also read more than one million words this week - **1,011,765** words.



A huge well done to our overall winners each week. Please keep encouraging your child to read – every word and quiz counts!

Mrs Simpson

Kindest regards,
John Tutt

