



Newsletter 4 - Friday 18th October 2019

Dear Parents,

It seems hard to believe that we are already at the end of our first term. The children have settled extremely well into their classes and have made a wonderful start to the school year.

As you may know, our topic this term is St James', and the children have been learning about all aspects of our saint, our school and our community. After the half term, the children will be having some theme days on aspects of our topic.

On Wednesday 30th October, Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will be having a Victorian day to learn about what life was like for the children at St James' when the school opened. During the day children will get to take part in a range of activities and hopefully experience what life would have been like at school when St James' first opened. To get into the spirit of the day we are inviting children to come to school dressed-up in a Victorian style. This can be very simple and can be adapted from their normal school uniform. Here are some suggestions:

Boys: Long socks, shorts, shirt, jacket and cap (if you have one).

Girls: A skirt and school shirt or blouse with long socks and mob-cap or bonnet (if you have one). Or a dress, apron, long socks and mob-cap or bonnet (if you have one).

If anyone has any Victorian artefacts, costumes or expertise you would be happy to share with us for the day please contact your child's class teacher.

On Thursday 31st October, Year 2 will have their theme day, and they would also like the children to come to school dressed as Victorians. More details on this will follow after half term.

On Friday 1st November, the Lower Phase (Reception and Year 1) are having a food festival to learn about and to celebrate the amazing diversity in our community. Children will be able to go and explore foods from other cultures as well as hopefully finding out a bit more about the country. So far we have 4 countries represented - South Africa, Italy, Spain and Algeria. We would really like to have a few more countries. If anyone is able to provide small samples of food from a different location or if you are able to help run a stall on the day (even if you do not have a connection to that area) it would be really helpful. Please let staff know either via contact books or emailing.

A sad "goodbye"

Janet Holdstock retired today after 26 years of service with our school. I am sure that many of you will know Jan who has been the Junior school's Family Liaison Officer for many years. Other hats she has worn have been Teaching Assistant and our pastoral support leader. She has supported a very large number of children and their families during their time at this school. It is with great sadness that we say farewell to Jan who has been a great colleague, a true professional and a very dear friend to me and to many others within our school. We wish Jan



well in her retirement and hope that she can find some time to do the thing she has always found most difficult – putting her feet up and having a good rest!

The Governing Body

Thank you to all who stood in the recent parent governor elections and to all of those who voted. The three successful candidates were Shaun Butcher, Catherine Palmer and Nicola Santaana. We now have a full complement of governors and our first meeting is scheduled for 30th October. At the first meeting, the governors will elect a chair and a vice chair.

Our governing body members are:

John Tutt (Headteacher)
Rev. Jim Stewart (Foundation)
Stephen Pollard (Local Authority)
Sally Chandler (Foundation)
Karen Dunn (Foundation)
Shane Jacob (Staff)
Matthew Atkinson (Foundation)
Susan Schibli (Foundation)
Suzie Toombs (Foundation)
Lucy Downes (Foundation)
Shaun Butcher (Parent)
Catherine Palmer (Parent)
Nicola Santaana (Parent)
Jess Austen (Foundation)

Contact Letters

To keep you up to date with what your child has been/will be learning, we are publishing contact notes on the school website for years 2 to 6. These will be updated each Friday. Reception and Year 1 will send out contact letters directly to parents. If you want to find them, please visit our website www.st-james.kent.sch.uk; they are located under the **Parents** tab.

Collectable cards

Many children in the school collect cards and bring them into school. In my day it was Panini stickers (Football '80 or Return of the Jedi). Popular examples on the playground today are: Pokémon cards, football cards (Match Attax etc.) and Early Modern European Portrait Painters c1485 - 1688 (...to be honest I made this one up). Almost all schools have banned these cards, but we do not object to children bringing them in and discussing their collections with their friends. However, we have had an increasing number of cards being stolen from children's bags. In addition, some of the older children are sometimes manipulating (or conning) younger ones out of their cards.

As a school we do not allow the swapping or trading of these cards under any circumstances. Apparently some cards are worth more than others and it is a very time consuming, confusing and often impossible web to untangle when cards have been traded unfairly and then re-traded several times. Please let your children know that trading is not allowed at the school; we will do the same here. Please also reiterate that any cards that children choose to bring in from home are entirely their responsibility. I think it would be a real shame if we had to ban them from the school because untangling the issues created by a small minority of children took a disproportionate amount of school time.



Message from Nourish Catering

The menus from Nourish Contract Catering for St James are on a 3 week cycle and changed 3 times a year. They offer a daily choice of a main meal, a vegetarian option, a jacket potato with a choice of toppings and a pasta dish. To accompany these are a daily selection of vegetables, salads, potatoes, rice or pasta and homemade bread. For dessert, we have a daily sweet option, our Mr Nourish Biscuit, fruit or yoghurt.

We comply with the strict guidelines of the School Food Standards in order to keep a healthy and nutritious balance and also aim to keep the options interesting, varied and full of food that children like to eat. We promote a Meat Free Monday to encourage children to eat other types of proteins such as, beans, pulses and lentils and a "Sugarwise" Thursday to raise awareness of reducing the amount of sugar the children are consuming.

Currently, we highlight the allergens present in the dishes with a key to the allergens on the bottom of the menu and are planning to indicate which of our dishes are vegetarian and which are vegan in the future. We hope the children enjoy their lunches.

If you wish to contact the school kitchen the email address is kitchenmanager@st-james.kent.sch.uk

School lunch prices

For those parents who pay for school lunches the price is increasing from January 2020 to £2.25 per day.

Remembrance

To support the British Legion, we are selling poppies and various other items including reflectors, wristbands, ruler slap bands and zip pulls. For children in years R to 2, please can money could be sent in with their child in a sealed envelope so that the children can then choose what they want. Children in Years 3 to 6 will have poppies and other things brought to their classroom by Year 6 children. Please give generously and encourage your children to understand that the poppy box is not like a shop, but that they receive one token (a poppy etc) for a donation.

Applications to St James'

The online application window for entry here in September 2020 opens on Tuesday 5th November and closes on Wednesday 15th January. Please remember to complete our own Supplementary Information form which is available from either the infant school office or the website.

Parent consultations

These are a chance to speak to your child's teacher to find out how the start of the school year has gone. They are on the 12th and 14th of November. We will let you know as soon as you can book the times via ParentMail.

Sports update from Mr Hodges:

Panini Classroom Challenge

Congratulations to the winners of the KS2 Panini Classroom Challenge: Year 6 – Deryn Year 5 – Ozi, Year 4 – Harry S and Year 3 – Daniel K. The children had to design a crest for a St James' Sports Team and we had over 100 entries!

Aldi Kit for Schools

Thank you to everyone who has brought in their stickers so far - we have almost reached 100! The box is located in the entrance by the KS2 Office. Alternatively, please give your stickers to Mr Hodges.

Football



Last Wednesday, our A and Girls' football teams went to Hawkenbury to play in the annual England Schools Football Association tournament for the West Kent area. Both teams won all of their group games and finished top of their respective groups – the girls managed to keep a clean sheet in each of their games and the boys only conceding once. In the finals, the A team drew 1-1 in a tight game and unfortunately lost on penalties to a strong Paddock Wood side. The Girls' defeated Claremont 1-0 with Fran scoring the winning goal. They will now go on to represent West Kent in the Regional finals at Thamesmead in January.

Play Leaders

Sixty of our Year 6s have completed their Play Leader training and will be running games and playground activities next term for KS1 during lunchtimes.

Upcoming events

Next term brings two basketball competitions, the Year 5/6 on November 14th and the Girls on November 27th. Our football teams will (weather permitting!) kick off their league seasons and the Cross-Country season continues with races at Mascalls and Tunbridge Wells Rugby Club. There is also the greatly anticipated Sportshall Athletics Competition for Year 5&6.

Bumped Heads for junior children – Informing Parents

As many parents are aware we always let you know if your child has bumped their head. Sometimes these are very minor bumps but we still feel it's important to let you know. We will continue to make personal phone calls for more serious bumps but will be starting to text parents for minor bumps from next term.

Accelerated Reader Winners – a message from Miss Stock

Well done to all children for their fantastic enthusiasm and engagement in reading this term. All class teachers have been so impressed and hope it continues throughout the year! A special mention to Year 3, as this is their first term of using Accelerated Reader, so well done!

Our Accelerated Reader winners for this term are:

Highest Individual Word Count: Daisy (Kestrel Class) - 837,829 words.

Highest Amount of 100% achieved: Callum (Owl Class) - 38

Highest Class Word Count: Kestrel Class - 5,929,882

Please encourage your children to continue reading during half term. If you have any questions regarding Accelerated Reader, please contact me or your class teacher.

Have a lovely half term.

John Tutt
October 2019

