



### Dates for the diary

6 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank Holiday – school closed
13 <sup>th</sup> May	SATs week
21 <sup>st</sup> May	Year 4 led church service (2pm)
22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Transition to secondary talk in KS2 hall for Y5 parents (6pm)
27 <sup>th</sup> May	Half term week
3 <sup>rd</sup> June	INSET day
4 <sup>th</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> June	Parent consultations – Year 5 only
17 <sup>th</sup> June	New reception parents' welcome evening
18 <sup>th</sup> June	Sports Day
29 <sup>th</sup> June	Summer fair
2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> July	Parent consultations (all years except Y5)
22 <sup>nd</sup> July	Year 6 leavers' service (2pm start)
23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Last day of the school year
2 <sup>nd</sup> September	INSET day
3 <sup>rd</sup> September	First day of the new school year

### Newsletter – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Dear parents and carers,

Well, the day has finally arrived when I can have my say in relation to the comments Mr Tutt has made about me in newsletters in the past. For those who are staunch Mr Tutt cheerleaders, get ready to have some illusions shattered.

I'd like to begin by saying thank you to all the parents who recognise the noble sacrifice I make each time I am stood out in the rain and would like to be clear that, despite what Mr Tutt would have you believe, I am not the one who decides which gate duty I would like and which he is to have, and I am certainly no 'rain whisperer'.

Secondly, I'd like to counter the claim that I am a 'workaholic'. Yes, I may have been in work by 7:30am every morning this week however I can assure you I have a very good work life balance. There's many an evening you'll find me sewing a cross stitch and, occasionally, I have been known to still be awake past 9pm.

Whilst I'm able to have my say, I'd like to bring to your attention to Mr Tutt's level of tidiness and cleanliness, or lack thereof. He may give the appearance of upmost organisation however anyone who has been in his office before the wonderful Mrs Pierce has had a chance to tidy it up, will know the truth – especially after cycling to work when his clothes and personal belongings are strewn around the office "teenage boy's bedroom fashion". My first task this week was to clear his desk of more charger cables than I think is healthy to own, and spray liberal amounts of antibacterial cleaning spray so that I could move into his office.

In all honesty, having attempted to fill Mr Tutt's shoes for the week (not literally, Doc Martin's do not agree with my feet), I can say that the job of a Headteacher is not always an easy one, however it is one he does very well and we at St James' are incredibly lucky to have him. I hope he, and all those on the Year 6 residential trip, have had a lovely week making fantastic memories that they will treasure for many years to come.



## Year R

In Early Years we started our new topic 'Old MacDonald Had a Farm.' The children discovered a nest, containing real eggs and lots of feathers scattered around. This led us to listen to the story of 'The Little Red Hen.' The children have been busy creating a collaborative collage of The Little Red Hen, drawing pictures, making posters and have learnt how to make bread rolls!

We will continue our topic next week by learning about other animals that can be found on a farm.

Mrs Coward



## Teacher of the Week

Our amazing Mrs Naismith has been nominated, and won, Teacher of The Week in The Week Junior magazine. This is very well deserved. Her nominee, Isabelle said; "Mrs Naismith is a brilliant and hilarious teacher. She encourages us when we have a brain block and sometimes gives us doughnuts after swimming! She is also the PE lead who always motivates us to do laps around the playground or some sporting activities. Our PE noticeboard is full of interesting activities, from shadow tag to making energy bars. If you are in her class, you will never be bored, with loads of joyful memories!"

## Year 1 went on a trip to Kenya!

In the morning, they took their passports to the airport and headed through check in, security and duty free until they reached their gate. Once their flight was called, they boarded the plane and took the long flight. On board, they enjoyed refreshments, onboard entertainment and looking at the countries they passed over, including France, Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia.

On arrival, they still did not know where in they were. They worked in teams to go on a treasure hunt to locate puzzle pieces, which they put together to reveal we were in the continent of Africa. We then discovered that we were specifically in Kenya. In the afternoon the children explored a range of activities, such as going on a safari, and making animal silhouette paintings and African patterns.

Tired from such an adventure, they took their flight home and enjoyed a landing over the city of London, looking out for landmarks they knew along the way. They are now feeling inspired to learn more about Kenya!

Year 1 team

## Year 3 and Year 4 football

Our girls year 3 and year 4 football team performed brilliantly in their first football tournament this week. It was an exciting round of 8 games which were 7 minutes a piece. We had a difficult start playing a well-polished team but this did not dampen our spirits. When we played them for a second time in the event we played as a more united team and only lost to them by one goal. We are delighted to know that we have got into the final second round in the competition and will be playing in this next event.

Well done girls it was a finger biting event.

Mrs Naismith



## International Day - Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024 REMINDER

Just a reminder to any of you who would be willing to help with our International Day to please email Barry Pritchard ([bpritchard@st-james.kent.sch.uk](mailto:bpritchard@st-james.kent.sch.uk)) or Holly Shortland ([hshortland@st-james.kent.sch.uk](mailto:hshortland@st-james.kent.sch.uk)).

We want to showcase the richness of languages, cultures, and cuisines represented among our students and families so if you are willing to share a bit of your language, culture, and food with us during the event please let us know.

Thank you to those of you who have already volunteered; we will email you as soon as possible to share our outline for the day.

Mrs Holly Shortland

### Year 3

On Thursday, Year 3 enjoyed the day exploring water as part of their Stunning Start for their Rivers Topic. They showed how the same size body-of-water changed size according to the scaled background (see photos) as well as creating river landscapes from playdoh or mod-roc. Learning vocabulary is so much more fun when watching real water trickling down a clay landscape.

Reminder about our trip to the river at Horton Kirby next month - please note that the children will need knee-high wellies (not half-length ones).

Year 3 Team



### Maths Parent's Information Evening

On Wednesday, Mr Wyke and Mrs O'Loan hosted an information event for parents to showcase how we teach Maths at St James'. Thank you to both of them for the work they put into this and to all the teachers who helped too. They have prepared a handout with more information about how to help your child with Maths at home which is attached with this newsletter.



Kindest regards,

Lucy Hayward

