



Newsletter – 23rd September 2022

Dear parents,

Is the term really just 3 weeks old?

It is lovely to see the school so settled so early into the new term. The children are already into their topics and moving forward with their learning, and we are looking forward to the children in Reception starting full time next week.

Traffic, as always, is appalling at drop off and pick up. Please remember (yes, some people do not seem to realise) that you are not allowed to park on double yellow lines or the yellow school zig zags, and that parking across someone's drive is just plain rude. Note that putting your hazard warning lights on does not somehow make it okay – fitting hazard lights to your coat and turning them on when breaking the law (while on foot) would not excuse whatever you were doing, and the same goes for those on cars.

As well as contributing to road anger and the blasting of horns, parking on double yellow lines and zig-zags also means that other (sometimes large HGV) road users can then pose an even greater risk to children and parents by taking avoiding action around the blockage created – sometimes mounting the curbs.

Staff news

Congratulations to Claire Ball and Holly Shortland who both had their babies this week – both baby girls. We are looking forward to meeting them soon.

Parent Survey

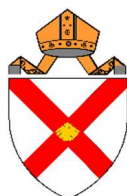
Thank you so much for the 238 replies we have had which we feel have given us a representative picture of parent views. We will be sending you the summary of the responses soon, as well as a summary of the main themes that parents included in the free text box. The governors really appreciate the time people took to complete this and make their views heard.

Parent Reps

Before the pandemic, back through the mists of time, the class parent reps were invited to meet with me to share information and to ask and answer questions. I would really value it if we could restart these meetings.

Parent reps are volunteers who represent the parents in their class, and they are a great way of helping communication between home and school. If your class does not have a rep yet, perhaps you would like to be one? We would really value your support. Classes can have 2 reps to share the role. Hopefully all classes will have people who would like to be reps, and some may already have one – if you are a class rep please do make yourselves known to your class teacher if you haven't already.

I have set the 2nd December after drop off for a first meeting, which will include a short tour of the school. We usually meet Friday mornings after drop off. Coffee/tea is provided and custard creams (usually within the "best before" date) will also be available. If that doesn't tempt you, I honestly don't know what will.



Parent governor vacancies

We have a vacancy for a parent governor. Governors meet formally 6 times per year, as well as other visits and meetings at school over the course of the year. They set the strategic direction of the school, have the final say on key strategic decisions and hold the school leadership to account. Attached to this newsletter is a letter with more information and a nominations form for those interested in joining the team.

Early Years

We would like to say well done to all of the children in reception for settling so well in to St James' School. They are doing a fantastic job already of remembering the routines at school. They have been busy exploring all the areas within the classroom, in the Early Years playground and making new friends. We are looking forward to welcoming all of the children together on Monday as they start full time and get to meet properly the other members of their class. They will also have opportunities to mix and play with children from the other reception classes.

Miss Coward

Vacancy for midday supervisor

We have a vacancy for a Key Stage 1 Midday Meals Supervisor. The role is to look after the children over the lunch break, working an hour and a half per day. If you are interested and would like more information, please speak to Angie Pierce in the office or visit the kent-teach website for more information.

Vacancy for a part-time caretaker

We also have a vacancy for a part-time caretaker. The role is mornings, Monday to Friday, supporting Stuart Fleming, our Site Manager. Visits to the school are welcome. Please visit the kent-teach website for full details or contact the school office if you are interested.

Assemblies for parents

We are starting these again this year, although they will be held at the church rather than our already overcrowded school halls. Each year group will lead a service at the church and parents from that year group will be invited to attend. The first is our Harvest Service on 18th October at 2:30pm. It will be led by the Year 2 team, and parents of children in that year group are invited to join us.

Voluntary contribution

The school gratefully accepts voluntary donations which are used to pay for special activities and 'extras' for the children; payment can be made on Iris Parentmail +Pay and we suggest £15 per family per year. I will reiterate that this is a voluntary donation, and no parent should feel under any pressure to contribute, although of course this is greatly valued by the school.

Dogs

Please remember that dogs should not be brought onto the school site at any time, even if being carried, or partially/fully enclosed in a bag.

Dates for the diary

Here are some dates for the term ahead. Please look at the calendar on the website as well. We are trying to ensure parents have maximum notice for all events. Although this is not always possible we will do our very best.

26 th September:	Reception start full time
18 th October:	Harvest service at church 2:30pm, led by Year 2 (Year 2 parents invited to attend)
24 th October:	Half term break
31 st October:	INSET day – school closed for staff training
3 rd November:	Flu vaccinations



8th November: Parent consultations
10th November: Parent consultations
5th December: Christmas performances this week

Accelerated Reader Challenges (Key Stage 2)

At the end of last term, we challenged children in Key Stage 2 to continue reading and quizzing during the Summer holiday. A huge well done to all the children that participated in this challenge. The overall winner was **Divit** who read **1,871,118** words and completed **58** quizzes. Congratulations Divit!

As we begin a new term, I am delighted that the AR reading challenges resume. Here are this week's winners:

Highest Individual Word Count	Highest Class Word Count	Highest Individual Number of Quizzes Passed	Highest Class Quizzes Passed
Faith in Owl Class 1,033,043 words	Owl Class 3,154,196 words	Divit in Chaffinch Class 22 quizzes	Stoat Class 132 quizzes

Ms Simpson

Thank you all as always.

John Tutt

