

# The week ahead @ Saint James

“Be strong and courageous and do it!” 1 Chronicles 28:20



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Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April

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Wed 24 <sup>th</sup> April	Thur 25 <sup>th</sup> April	Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> May	Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> May	Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> May	
Year 4 educational visit	Year 4 educational visit	Bank holiday	SATs week begins	SATs week ends	Sports Day (provisional) KS2: am KS1: pm

**Collective Worship**

This week's theme:  
**Resurrection and hope**

This week's bible story:  
**Fishing on Lake Galilee**

**John 21:1-13**

## A message from the Senior Leadership team

Welcome back! We hope you all had a peaceful and relaxing Easter break and were able to enjoy some precious family time. It is great to see all the children back at school after their holiday, ready to enjoy another action-packed and exciting term.

It may have only been our first week back in school, but already Year 5 have experienced the awe and wonder of space through the 'Wonderdome' mobile planetarium, we officially opened our new Key Stage 2 adventure playground and we've welcomed parents into school for a dedicated SEND parents' evening! In the next few weeks, we look forward to an educational visit for Year 4, Sports Day and Key Stage 2 SATs week. It's going to be a busy term!

## Key Stage 2 breaktimes are set to get more adventurous

Since the Key Stage 1 trim trail and adventure playground was built a few years ago, it has always been the plan to provide Key Stage 2 with a similar, age appropriate, provision. Whilst the area itself has interesting obstacles to traverse and move around, the most significant obstacle related to this exciting new area was cost. After extensive fundraising by the SJSA over the last few years, we were finally at the point, at the beginning of this academic year, when we could obtain quotes, plan and eventually start construction.

Incorporating the existing pirate ship into the design, the new adventure playground was designed to include obstacles to climb and traverse, as well as the planting of beautiful flowers and shrubbery and the provision of picnic benches and tables for the children to enjoy their lunch in the sunshine of the Summer term.

When construction began during last half-term, with the workers having to withstand all weathers as they drove in the posts, fastened the ropes and laid the safety flooring, it was difficult for the children to envisage what the finished area would look like. However, with the arrival of more sunshine in the first week back after the Easter break, the Key Stage 2 adventure playground and trim trail was finally ready for use.

We are hoping, as the weather continues to improve over the Summer term, this exciting new area will get used extensively.

We would like to extend an enormous heart-felt thank you to all members of the SJSA, past and present, who have worked tirelessly to raise the significant amount needed to make this exciting new area a reality and all the parents who have supported our fundraising events over this time.



## The learning in Year 5 is out of this world!

If you were told that the hall was being occupied by an object to support the Year 5 children with their learning about space, a glimpse inside might make you think that the object was some kind of alien spacecraft, judging by its un-worldly appearance. A large, windowless dome-like shape with no obvious sign of entry sat stationary in the middle of the hall, with a mass big enough to swallow an entire class within its cavernous interior. Only the monotonous sound of electric fans could be heard emitting from this unfamiliar sight, as the children gingerly entered the room and gazed upon the mass in front of them.

So, had Saint James school received a visitation from a delegation of mysterious alien beings? Was a highly-advanced spacecraft sitting stationary in the middle of the hall, running it's fans to cool it down after journeying from another world? No. It was the Wonderdome, a mobile, inflatable planetarium, invited in to teach the Year 5 children about our galaxy and the wider universe!

With special visual and audio equipment, which projected onto the inside of the planetarium, the children enjoyed a 360-degree experience which was totally immersive.

They learned a lot about our solar system and the components of it. The children were also able to watch how the planets orbit the Sun and were even able to see what it is like in the International Space Station! What an experience!

Year 5 would like to thank, Steve, their Wonder Dome presenter for sharing such an engaging show.



## Aspens Space Lunch

Thursday 25th April

Choose from

**Pizza Planets**

**Chicken Spaceship Wrap**

**Cheese and bean Spaceship wrap**

**All served with  
wedges and sweetcorn**

**Jacket Potato Asteroids with a choice of toppings**

**Galactic Cookie**

**Rocket Lollies**

## Sports Day 2024

Please note, previous newsletters have stated that Sports Day will be held for Key Stage 1 on the morning of **Friday 17th May** and Key Stage 2 in the afternoon. This was meant to read that **Key Stage 2 will be in the morning** and **Key Stage 1 will be in the afternoon**, due to the timings required for each event. Sorry for any inconvenience.

## Easter Bonnets around West End

Before Easter we shared with you the Easter bonnets that had been created, drawing inspiration from the national Climate Change unity Project, 'One World for Us All'. The design brief was to create a hat or bonnet based on a climate change theme to display in the community.

Over the Easter holidays, you may have seen many of these displayed in either St James church or the railings outside the Parish Council offices in West End. We thought you'd like to see a few photos of our beautiful creations in situ.



## T20 takeover 2024

Once again, this year, we have been offered reduced tickets for the school's takeover event at the Utilita bowl (home of Hampshire cricket). If you are interested in buying tickets for this event, this can be done through the Utilita bowl website.

Thank you to Mrs Voaden for managing to secure this offer for Saint James pupils and their families again this year.

Date - Friday 14th June

Match - Double Header (Southern Vipers vs Northern Diamonds and Hampshire Hawks vs Middlesex)

Start time - Vipers vs Diamonds - 3pm start / Hawks vs Middlesex - 7pm

End time - Approx 9.45pm

50% Discount code for general admission tickets (both adult and u17) : STJAMES50.

## Attendance league

It is pleasing to see so many children back after the Easter break, with 3 classes achieving a perfect 100% attendance for the week and a further 4 classes narrowly missing out with 99% attendance.

With twenty of our twenty-one classes exceeding 90% attendance and a significant majority of classes (more than two thirds) of classes achieving 95%+, we're anticipating great attendance over the forthcoming action-packed and exciting Summer term!

Attendance League		23/24 season
Saint James CoE Primary School		
1		GAMBIA NORWAY INDIA
2		JAPAN POLAND ENGLAND KENYA
3		ARGENTINA SCOTLAND
4		CHILE FRANCE
5		SOUTH AFRICA ITALY
6		SWEDEN GERMANY
7		SPAIN FINLAND PORTUGAL
8		WALES BRAZIL
10		CHINA

## Free School Meals - eligibility

With all children in Year R and Key Stage 1 eligible for free school meals by virtue of their age, it means that many families don't check their eligibility for funding based on income, before their child enters Key Stage 2.

However, if this is the case, the school misses out on vital funding that comes alongside eligibility for free school meals due to family income. If you believe that your child might be eligible for free school meals, there is a simple checking tool available on the Hampshire County Council website, that operates independently of the school.

Please visit <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/hants> to check for eligibility.

## SEND Parents meetings

This week saw the first of our SEND specific parents' evenings, with the intention to provide a greater insight into the progress, attainment and provision offered to children currently on the SEND register. After many positive comments on the evening, it appears that the evening was well-received by those in attendance and proved to be informative.

Regardless of whether your child is on the SEND register or not, please don't feel that you need to wait until a parents' consultation evening to arrange a meeting with your child's teacher. It is almost always easier to respond to any queries or concerns in the immediacy, rather than prolonging it to a meeting in the distant future. Teachers will usually be able to accommodate a meeting, particularly on MS Teams, within a week or two of any request.

Please do feel that you are able to make suggestions for how we can develop any provision that we currently offer. The aforementioned meetings were as a result of a suggestion put forward by a parent. We will always be open to listening to your feedback and suggestions, and responsive to these if it is reasonably possible.