

The week ahead @ Saint James

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

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Issue 102

Mon 15 th April	Mon 6 th May	Mon 13 th May	Fri 17 th May	
First day of Summer term	Bank holiday	SATs week begins	SATs week ends	Sports Day (provisional) KS1: am KS2: pm

A message from the Senior Leadership team

We've finally reached the end of another busy term and what a term it's been! With plenty of academic and sporting success, as well as learning behaviours to be truly proud of, it's been a terrific start to 2024.

With the Summer term shaping up to be another full one, with many engaging learning opportunities and exciting events to look forward to, we're sure that all the children (and staff!) need a good rest to prepare themselves for the term ahead.

Please have a peaceful and relaxing Easter break and enjoy some quality time with your families. Remember there are a number of Easter services and activities that can be enjoyed at St James church over the Easter weekend.

Collective Worship

Easter

This week's psalm:

Palm Sunday

Luke 19:28-40

Breaking the rules day

What a way to finish a busy and eventful term; a day of respectful rule breaking!

Squash in your water bottle? That's okay with us!

Flamboyant non-uniform or wearing pyjamas to school? Go right ahead.

Hair that looks like you've been dragged through a hedge backwards? It looks fine to me!

Nails painted pillar box red? My, that does look pretty!

These were some of the possible responses and reactions to a day of overt rule breaking at Saint James Primary School. So, do we need to put a call into the authorities to tell them that the children have gone wild and the staff just don't care? No, it's okay – the day was fully planned and an opportunity to raise money for the SJSA. With stipulation of the rules that could be broken (to ensure there was nothing that was detrimental to learning, behaviour or in opposition to our Christian values) we would like to take this opportunity to praise all of the children for how sensibly they conducted themselves on this highly unusual day, whilst still managing to have fun with their blatant rule breaking.

Hopefully the children all had a fantastic day and a memorable end to the term, remembering that we return to normality as we come back for the beginning of the Summer term!

Let's just hope any hair dye is non-permanent and any tattoos truly are temporary!



Surprising Sporting Successes

Recently, we have heard about team successes for Saint James in athletics, netball and basketball competitions against local schools and others across the county. Indeed, only this week, you can read about the most recent performance of the Saint James netball team. It is however, a joy to find out about the sporting and competition successes of our pupils outside of school, particularly in an eclectic range of sports that we don't offer in school. This week, we've had an influx of recent successes that we'd like to share with you.

Street dance success

Last weekend, saw the Portsmouth qualifier for the Great British Street dance championship. Held at Chichester leisure centre, a group of children from Saint James Primary participated in both the solo and team categories. With Lottie, Ariela and Dede in Year 6, along with Belle in Year 5 putting in excellent performances – everyone involved with the girls felt a tremendous sense of pride.

Dede and Belle both won trophies for their solo performances (with dances they created themselves) and have therefore qualified for the Great Britain finals to be held in Watford.



Well done girls – we look forward to hearing about your future successes.

Brilliance in BMX

When the Olympics comes to Paris in July this year, there will be a number of sports where the GB team are hotly tipped favourites. One of these is BMX racing.

Hotly tipped Briton, Kye Whyte's track speed is unmatched. If there is one rider the others don't want behind them in a race, the Tokyo 2020 silver medallist is likely to be a big threat for all. Although he might be one of the favourites for the 2024 Olympics, we feel that Saint James might be harbouring a future champion – possibly for the 2032 games?

Nile, in Year 5, has been competing at a high level in BMX racing for the past few years, placing 26th in the British championships last year. Improving on that result, saw Nile achieve a 12th place finish this year. How impressive!

With a racing pedigree running in the family, Nile's dad placed 19th in the World Championships last year, we'll be looking out for him on the starting gate in Brisbane 2032!



Star siblings enjoy fun run success

The Brownlee brothers in triathlon, the Williams sisters in tennis, the Charlton brothers in football; all famous siblings who have pushed each other to be even better in the sport they've chosen.

Maybe, in not too many years' time, we'll be able to add the King brothers to that illustrious list!

Last Sunday, Alex, in Year 3, and Edward, in Year 1, successfully completed the Eastleigh Fun Run. Whilst willing each other to succeed, the boys each reserved enough energy to sprint for the line, putting in a final burst to finish as strongly as possible after the 1.2km race.

Whilst we are sure that, if they persevere with their running, there'll be more lucrative prizes to win, both boys were happy with a finisher's medal and a free jaffa cake after the race!



T20 takeover 2024

Once again, 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



Preloved uniform summer term sale!

When? Wednesday 17th April from 3pm

Where? Under the canopy or back of the school hall if wet weather.

What's on sale? School summer dresses, shorts, logo jumpers and cardigans.

How much? Logo items £2 each. All other items £1 each.

Payment by cash only. If you have any of the above items in good, clean condition please consider donating them before Tuesday 16th April. Donations should be placed in the smaller charity clothing container at the far end of the school car park.

Netball – an impressive display of sportsmanship

A few weeks ago, we shared how the Saint James netball team had qualified for the county finals, due to their excellent performances in a competition against local schools. This next stage of competition took place this week, at Mountbatten Secondary School. Although the team performed valiantly, they were unable to replicate the same levels of success against some very accomplished teams. We would however like to share with you some comments made in an email from the tournament organiser to Miss Howell;

I hope you and your team enjoyed the competition yesterday; I thoroughly enjoyed the day, purely due to the excellent behaviour, effort and determination of your students, I hope they are very proud of themselves.

It was also lovely to see the rise in netball standards, I have been running this event for the last few years, and this year saw the highest standard of play yet, which shows the developments taking place in primary school Netball.

Some comments to be truly proud of! Well done to everyone who represented our school so impressively in this tournament.

A fond farewell

Covid 19, the 9/11 attacks, the birth of Facebook and the invention of the iPhone have all happened since Clarissa Griffiths has been working at Saint James Primary School (although we in no way hold her responsible for any of them)! Joining us towards the end of the last millennium, she has seen her own boys pass through the school, as well as four different headteachers and the enlarging of the school from 2 to 3 form entry. Working as a valued Learning Support Assistant, mostly in Key Stage 2 over recent years, Mrs Griffiths will still be a familiar face to the younger children, as a prominent lunchtime supervisor. With many years of residential trips and supporting SATs tests under her belt, she has now decided to enjoy retirement. One of the things she most looks forward to is having some time to enjoy being a grandmother so we're sure that she'll still be dedicating much of her time to children!

When Becki Gardner joined Saint James Primary School, as a Learning Support Assistant, in 2021, it was the source of much confusion. Sharing a name (albeit with a couple of spelling differences) with our Deputy head teacher, we're sure that she may have been in receipt of some strange and surprising emails and requests over her time with us! Working mainly in Reception, Miss Gardner has played an important role in making the youngest members of our Saint James family feel safe and secure in their new school, giving them a good grounding for their journey through primary school. Miss Gardner is leaving us to pursue her passion working with children with a wide range of complex learning needs in a dedicated setting.

We wish both Mrs Griffiths and Miss Gardner well, as they begin these new chapters of their lives. We will always consider you members of our Saint James family.

St James Church – Easter celebrations

Children's Easter Activity Morning

The Children's Easter Activity Morning will take place at St James Church next Friday 29th March from 9.30am to 11.30am. There will be activities and crafts celebrating the Easter story. Please book to attend with Jan on stjameswe.childrenswork@gmail.com. This will be followed at 11.30am by a short, all age service and then hot cross buns and drinks. Everyone is very welcome!

Easter Day Services

Easter Day Services will take place on Sunday 31st March (remember the clocks go forward!)

9.30am Traditional Easter Celebration for all ages followed by an egg hunt

11am Informal Church Alive Easter Celebration including an egg hunt

We look forward to seeing you and your family over the Easter period.



St James' Church West End
Come and see for yourself

Aspens Menu Change

**On Monday 15th April (the first day back after the Easter break), the option of Sausage and Mash has been replaced with Sausage, Chips and Beans. Sorry for any inconvenience.