The week ahead @ Saint James

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

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Issue 204

19th Nov	20th Nov	25th Nov		27th Nov	1st Dec
Tour for parents of prospective Year R pupils	Children in Need – supporting Cash for Kids	Tour for parents of prospective Year R pupils	Beginning of bookfair in school	SJSA Christmas shopping day	Tour for parents of prospective Year R pupils

A message from the Senior Leadership Team

Whilst watching the children walk into school this week, we have enjoyed seeing the first appearance of the year of a myriad of different hats, scarves and gloves. Considering the sharp drop in temperature, it is hardly surprising! However, although some of us might bemoan the cold weather, our Year 4 and 5 children have remained remarkably quiet. Perhaps their study of the conditions in the Victorian workhouse and the World War 1 trenches, respectively, has made them appreciative of the home comforts they enjoy!

It was a pleasure to welcome so many of you to Parents' Evening this week, we hope you found it useful and worth the battle against the traffic and the cold weather to make your appointment! We would also like to extend a big 'thank you' to everyone who completed one of the online surveys; we will be looking at the responses over the next couple of weeks and using them to help inform future decisions and practise.

Lessons from the Workhouse: Year 4 Brings Victorian History to Life

Those of you who have lived in West End and the surrounding area for a few years will remember the imposing Victorian apartment building, at the heart of the housing development on Botley Road, as Moorgreen Hospital. However, it is unlikely that many of you remember the building in its former role – the South Stoneham Workhouse! Constructed in 1848, with two gatehouses (now, also converted to private residences), the workhouse provided both food and shelter for those who fell on hard times. It was only in 1948, when the NHS was formed, that the building became Moorgreen Hospital.

Due to its architectural and historical importance, the external features of the main building and both gatehouses have been preserved and integrated into the modern housing development. Because of this, and the imposing nature of the main building, the Year 4 teachers felt it was too rich an opportunity to miss, when introducing their new topic on the Victorians. The children will also be completing a writing journey from the perspective of a young resident of the workhouse: simply standing next to the gatehouses, in front of the main building, evokes some of the emotions that a new inmate must have felt.

On Thursday morning, the Year 4 pupils visited the former workhouse site and completed a number of activities to immerse themselves in their Victorian topic. They were led past the gatehouses, where they would have been bathed and deloused upon arrival, and brought to the front of the main building. From there, they completed activities based around the census of 1881 and the jobs and roles that inmates would have to perform. Typically gender-specific, the roles differed based on whether you were a man or a woman. In the case of men this would consist of agricultural work or animal care on the farm, assisting staff in the boiler room or in repairs to the building. For women, the work would have been assisting the staff in the kitchen, laundry, wards or in childcare. There were also the two rather unpleasant roles of bone-crushing (where old bones were pounded into dust to use for fertilizer) and oakum-picking (which involved teasing out the fibres from old hemp ropes – the resulting material

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Collective Worship



This week's theme:
Remembrance

This week's story:

The Christmas Truce

Question of the week

For the following question, you'll be reliant on seeking the opinion of your children:

'What would you like to see more of in lessons?

https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/pLvKRPR8ff .





was sold to the navy and mixed with tar to seal the lining of wooden ships). All the children seemed very pleased to be born in the 21st century!



As the topic progresses, the children will be 'enjoying' a Victorian Day, where they will have the opportunity to experience life as a Victorian child for the day. We're fairly certain that the prospect of being a child from the workhouse is not an appealing one!

Years May Pass but Their Memory Still Lasts: Remembrance Day at Saint James



When Colonel Perkins and other important dignitaries unveiled the new war memorial in West End on 5th June 1920, they surely would have been proud to know that Remembrance day was still being observed there over 100 years later. We're sure they would have also been devastated to know that the names of the 35 men who tragically gave their lives in World War 1 had been joined by a further 20 servicemen who died during World War 2, a mere twenty years later.

Last Sunday's turnout for the Remembrance Day service was impressive. With the High Street and West End Road closed to traffic, those in attendance spilled out onto the road to participate in a moving service led by Reverend Vicky. It was a pleasure to see so many Saint James pupils, past and present, attending the service as members of the uniform groups, and we were extremely proud of our head boy and head girl, Hugo and Amelie, who represented school admirably in their respectful laying of the wreath. We would also like to extend a big 'thank you' to Mrs Hibberd, for accompanying the children to this very special service.

With Remembrance Sunday falling on 8th November this year, it meant that Remembrance Day, (the day the armistice was signed) fell on Wednesday. Therefore, the children had the opportunity to reflect upon remembrance, and what it meant to them, during an impeccably observed one minute of silence held in their classes.

Safe and Sound, Ideas Abound: Pupil Voice at Saint James is Heard

Over recent weeks, we have celebrated the importance of listening to children's views and the positive impact that pupil voice can have on shaping school life. Through some of the perceptive and insightful comments that have been made, it is clear that the people who experience something every day often have some of the most valuable insights to offer, regardless of how young they are.

At Saint James, we believe that every child should feel safe, valued and heard so, as part of our ongoing Pupil Voice initiative, we asked the children: '*What could we do to help children feel even safer at school?*'

As expected, the response was thoughtful, honest and, on occasion, wonderfully imaginative!

The strongest theme by far was kindness. Twenty-seven children remarked that showing kindness to one another helps them feel safer and that it really helps having *Love, Respect* and *Courage* as our values. In addition to this, there was an interesting suggestion about introducing emotional support buddies. It was heartening to see so many children recognise that feeling safe is not only about the adults, environment and rules, but also about how we treat one another each day.

Many children also suggested having a dedicated safe place where children could go if they were feeling worried, overwhelmed or simply needed someone to talk to. This links well with a previous week's suggestion that saw the reinstating of a 'buddy bench'. Some responses mentioned sensory rooms, quiet spaces or areas where they could speak with a trusted adult. Although not all the comments can be actioned, they all demonstratde a mature understanding of the importance of emotional wellbeing and the reassurance that comes from knowing support is available when needed.

A number of children would also like access to items that help them feel calm and settled including fidget toys, cuddly toys and a 'calm-down' box in every classroom. A box now exists in every classroom, for children to use at their teacher's discretion.

Among the other thoughtful suggestions were a Collective Worship focusing on the safety measures we already have in school and even a passcode on the front gate (all the big blue gates are secured by combination locks, making the site secure). Whilst some ideas may be more practical and feasible than others, they all reveal how seriously our children take the subject of keeping themselves and others safe.

Inevitably, no Pupil Voice survey would be complete without a few suggestions that brought a smile to our faces. Several children felt that feeling safe could be significantly enhanced through the provision of chocolate or the daily arrival of an ice cream van!

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Another popular suggestion was class pets, proving that many children believe the solution to almost any challenge can be found with a furry, fluffy or scaly companion nearby!

Importantly, the survey has already helped us identify some actions we will be taking. We will be reminding staff and pupils about the calm-down boxes available in every classroom as well as reminding children about the support available from trusted adults. We will also be signposting children to the worry box near the ICT suite, ensuring that everyone knows where to turn if they have a concern.

As you know, we always ask the same question to parents and families each week and we were delighted to receive some encouraging and perceptive responses via the link in the newsletter. A number of parents expressed that something as simple as a friendly 'Hello' in the morning and taking an interest in their lives makes a huge difference. We always try to have presence from the Senior Leadership Team outside at the beginning of the school day, for that very reason, and feel confident that children receive a similarly warm greeting as they enter the classroom. Suggestions were made that all children, but particularly those who are neurodivergent, benefit from feeling seen, understood and valued by the adults who work with them. We're pleased that through our school ethos, and by modelling our values, it can have a significant positive impact on a child's day.

For the forthcoming week our new question will be:

'What would you like to see more of in lessons?'

Parents will need to speak with their children, to garner their thoughts. We certainly look forward to hearing their responses!

Help Shape the Future: Name Our Newsletter!

When the block of Year 5 and 6 classrooms was built in 2016, it felt appropriate that this whole new building should receive its own name. After offering the naming rights to our staff and children, as a competition, the name chosen was 'The Camino'. For those who don't know, the origin and relevance of this name is taken from the Camino de Santiago, a pilgrimage or journey that leads to the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Galicia, Spain. Tradition holds that the remains of the Apostle Saint James are buried there. The symbolism is appropriate, as due to housing the classes of the oldest children in the school, it provides a metaphor for the journey they will be making to secondary school.

We are now seeking the same creativity from our children and families, to provide a new name for our weekly newsletter. For the past 203 editions, it has been titled 'The Week Ahead', a somewhat inappropriate title. When the decision was made to publish a weekly newsletter, the principle intention was to inform families about upcoming events in school. However, the reality is that a large element of the content is reporting on events that have happened in school; hopefully giving a flavour of everyday life at Saint James. Reflecting on this, potentially misleading, title, we have decided to launch a competition to rename our weekly epistle. Please talk to your child, to see if they have any suggestions for a new, more appropriate, title: we welcome your ideas over the next few weeks. Please submit your suggestions by Friday 27th November, using the following link: https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/MLneMTrVbM

My-*Appy*-mind

Recently, you will have received an email inviting you to sign up for the *myhappymind* app. You will find a QR code inside your child's reading diary that provides a link to signing up (you will also need to input the code **116331**).

myHappymind is a whole-school wellbeing programme that helps children understand their emotions, build resilience, develop positive relationships and cultivate lifelong habits that support good mental health and happiness. We strongly suggest you sign up to the app, as it has a range of useful resources, including:

- *myHappymind* Places – a personalised self-regulation toolkit
- Be Your Best – supporting pupils' mental wellbeing ahead of end-of-year assessments (such as SATs)
- Ready to Shine – a school readiness programme
- Happy Breathing – a calming self-regulation exercise
- Parent Podcasts and Mini Masterclasses covering topics such as sleep, separation anxiety, self-esteem, big emotions, EBSA (Emotionally-based School Avoidance) and more
- Fun games to help spark conversations around wellbeing

myHappymind is an NHS-backed programme, that due to the benefits that can be drawn from it, is continuing to be funded nationally for all schools. In addition to resources you have access to at home, there is a full programme of activities that children will be following in class.

LIGHT SEEKERS

A HOLIDAY CLUB CHRISTMAS ADVENTURE



SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS | EXPEDITION CHALLENGES | FROZEN DISCOVERIES | CREATIVE MAKING

12TH DECEMBER
2-5 PM

ANCHOR COMMUNITY CHURCH, SO30 3HN

AGES 4-12
£5 PER CHILD

TICKETS FROM HEWEBHOLIDAYBIBLECLUBBOOKINGS@GMAIL.COM
OR SCAN THE QR CODE TO BOOK

HATCH & BARREL | SH GARDEN CARE LTD | Alex-Ruswa (Pacey) / Southampton Social Services Gift Appeal

CHRISTMAS

CHILDREN'S DONATION APPEAL

We are working together to support local children in Southampton this Christmas.

Thousands of children in Southampton go without a Christmas gift.

We are collecting new, unwrapped gifts to help make a difference and bring a smile to local children and young people.

WHAT CAN YOU DONATE?

New, unwrapped gifts for children and young people of all ages.

Our main focus is on ages 14 – 17, but all ages are welcome.

CLOSING DATE 10TH DECEMBER

GIFT IDEAS INCLUDE:

- Toys & games
- Books
- Sports items
- Personal care sets
- Treats & stocking fillers
- Anything that would bring a smile this Christmas

DROP OFF POINTS

1. HATCH & BARREL
2. 7 UPPER NEW ROAD WEST END

Let's make Christmas brighter for local children

STARTING SCHOOL?

Love Respect Courage

SEPTEMBER 2027

Come and see Saint James C of E Primary School in action.



- Meet our team.
- Explore our learning spaces.
- Discover what makes our school special.



Book a tour

Scan the QR code or contact our school office.

STARTING SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER 2027

Join us for a Forest School Morning for prospective Reception families.

SATURDAY 5TH DECEMBER
10.00 – 11.30AM



- Explore our outdoor learning spaces.
- Meet our team and find out about life in our Reception classes.
- Discover what makes Saint James C of E Primary School so special.



BOOK YOUR PLACE

Places are limited and booking is required.

Scan here to book

Healthy Children Happier Communities Brighter Futures

We want to be a parkrun Primary School!

parkrun

Together we go further

PARKRUN
COMMUNITY
FRIENDSHIP
WELLBEING
FUN

WALK JOG RUN VOLUNTEER BELONG

A stronger, happier healthier community

We would love to be a parkrun primary school but we won't be able to do it without your help. Would you be willing to volunteer your time on a **Saturday or a Sunday** for **2 hours, from 8:30–10:30, two or three times a year** to volunteer at our local parkrun and help our school become a true part of our local running community?

COULD YOU VOLUNTEER?

- 2 hours
- Saturday or Sunday morning
- 8:30 – 10:30
- Only 2 or 3 times per year

Your time can make a big difference!

OUR PLAN

We plan to do a 'volunteer takeover' at the junior parkrun at **Dowds Farm (Hedge End)** and the parkrun at **Itchen Valley Country Park (Westend)** at least once a year and invite the Saint James community to walk/run it on that day.





Small steps make big differences

WHY GET INVOLVED?

- Support your local community
- Help children develop healthy habits
- Meet other St James families
- Enjoy the outdoors
- Help St James achieve parkrun Primary School status

Be part of something amazing!

Active Children Brighter Tomorrows

INTERESTED?

If you would like more information or would be interested in volunteering – please email Miss Howell at

j.howell@st-james-westend.hants.sch.uk

KINDER
HEALTHIER
HAPPIER
STRONGER
TOGETHER

Together we can make St James a proud part of our local running community!

NHS
Hampshire Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

EMBRACING AUTISM

Tickets £20
Tea and coffee included

A day that focuses on skills and strategies, for parents, carers and professionals supporting a child with Autism.

Topics include:

- Supporting your autistic child to thrive - adapting to meet the needs of the autistic young person and practical strategies.
- Support for SEN in education & what to do if it's not working.
- Supporting Young People to Make Sense of their Experiences - empowering young people and putting them at the centre of their experience.

Discretionary tickets available to families on request.

17 November 2026
9.30am - 4pm
Andover Community Church
Charlton Road, Andover SP10 3JH

For more information scan the QR code or visit:
https://hampshirecamhs.nhs.uk/events/



DREAM EMPIRE EVENTS

West End Parish Council

West End

LIGHT SWITCH ON
AND CHRISTMAS MARKET

Saturday 28th November
1pm till 6pm

- Free Father Christmas meet with gift
- Christmas Market & Festive Food
- Light Switch On & Local Choirs
- Children's Activities & Entertainment

West End Parish Centre, Chapel Road, SO30 3FE

ITCHEN VALLEY COUNTRY PARK

ITCHEN VALLEY COUNTRY PARK & DREAM EMPIRE EVENTS LTD

EASTLEIGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

DREAM EMPIRE EVENTS

CHRISTMAS MARKET

AT ITCHEN VALLEY COUNTRY PARK

COME AND BROWSE THE MARKET, ENJOY SOME DELICIOUS STREET FOOD, OR A HOT DRINK FROM THE CAFE.

SATURDAY 21ST NOVEMBER 2026

10AM - 4PM

FREE ENTRY - DOG FRIENDLY

PARKING CHARGES APPLY

ALLINGTON LANE, WEST END, SOUTHAMPTON SO30 3HQ

WWW.DREAMEMPIREEVENTS.CO.UK