The week ahead @ Saint James

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

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Issue 201

Thurs 15th Oct		Tues 20th Oct	Thurs 22nd Oct	Fri 23rd Oct	Mon 2nd Nov	Tues 3rd Nov	Wed 4th Nov
Tour for parents of prospective Year R pupils	SJSA Non-Uniform Day and Disco	Tour for parents of prospective Year R pupils	Last day of term	INSET Day	First day back after half-term	Parent Book Look after school	Tour for parents of prospective Year R pupils

A message from the Governors

The more eagle-eyed readers among you may have noticed that this week's opening message comes not from the Senior Leadership Team, but from the Governing Body.

As you will discover from other sections of this newsletter, we are keen to provide our school community with genuine opportunities to share their views on several important matters. While we are aware that unsolicited and unsubstantiated comments about the school are sometimes discussed on social media, we believe that direct and constructive dialogue is the most effective way to strengthen our school and ensure that all voices are heard. By sharing your thoughts with us directly, you can help shape future developments and contribute valuable ideas that may further enhance the experience of our children and families.

Where you need to contact your child's class teacher regarding a specific query or concern, we kindly ask that you allow up to five working days for a response. If your matter is more urgent, please contact the school office directly.

We are incredibly fortunate to be part of a community filled with supportive families who, through their actions and relationships, exemplify our values of Love, Respect and Courage. We genuinely look forward to hearing your views and continuing to work together for the benefit of every child at Saint James.

We feel that the following observation, from our 2024 SIAMS inspection, captures so much of what makes our school special:

'The relentless commitment to love creates a deeply embedded culture where pupils and adults feel valued, respected and cared for. This nurturing environment benefits pupils who enjoy their education and build positive relationships… To the school this seems utterly normal, yet to those who experience the care provided, it is deeply transformational.'

Let us continue to work together to make Saint James an enriching, supportive and inspiring place where every child can flourish.

Collective Worship

This week's theme:
'Learning with Love'
'Reflecting with Respect'
'Caring with Courage'

This week's story:

The Good Samaritan
Ruth and Boaz
David and Goliath

Question of the week

What could we do better to help children who are anxious?

https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/4VFc4fn117

Little Voices Can Still Be Powerful

We're sure many of you have heard of Malala Yousafzai, who campaigns passionately for education and children's rights around the world. Despite being shot by a Taliban gunman at the age of 15, she has continued to speak out and inspire change, becoming the youngest-ever recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize.

Likewise, you'll undoubtedly be aware of Greta Thunberg, the Swedish environmental activist who began skipping school on a Friday to protest outside the Swedish Parliament; encouraging governments to take climate change more seriously. Whilst we're certainly not advocating skipping school, her determination to make her voice heard led to opportunities to speak at major

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international events, including the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP24)! Her campaigning attracted worldwide attention, and she was subsequently named Time magazine's Person of the Year, becoming one of the youngest people ever to receive the honour.

However, we're fairly confident you haven't heard of the anonymous nine-year-old whose letter to LEGO caused a stir in 2013. He pointed out that the hobbits in one of the Lord of the Rings LEGO sets were wearing shoes, despite being famously barefoot in J. R. R. Tolkien's stories. This perfectly reasonable observation prompted LEGO to review its designs, and hobbits have appeared barefoot in the sets ever since!

Each of these examples demonstrates just how powerful children's voices can be. As our children are such an important part of our school community, we believe it is essential that their views are heard. Therefore, we will be introducing a weekly question, shared during Monday's Collective Worship, for children to answer anonymously. A post box will be available in the library for pupils to submit their responses. We welcome all suggestions and will endeavour to act on ideas that are practical, achievable and capable of making a genuine difference to life at Saint James Primary School.

With questions such as *'How can we make playtimes more fun?'* appearing in coming weeks, we'd also like to manage expectations a little. Whilst we'd love to make every idea a reality, unfortunately the budget won't quite stretch to building a clone of Paulton's Park on the school field!

Your Say Today Helps Shape Tomorrow

As you will have read above, we are keen to harness the power of pupil voice to help shape life at Saint James Primary School. However, we recognise that children are not the only important stakeholders in our school community. Parents and families offer valuable perspectives, and we would like to provide a regular opportunity for you to share your thoughts on aspects of school life.

Whilst social media can sometimes provide a forum for discussion, this is clearly not the most effective way for schools to gather feedback or respond to concerns. In many cases, it becomes an unofficial forum for some individuals to make anonymous and unsolicited comments; this is never productive or helpful. Although many staff are able to read what is posted, and this can often have a detrimental impact on their mental well-being, we are restricted from responding in this forum or actioning comments and suggestions that have been voiced. We therefore want to offer a more constructive and purposeful way for parents and families to share their views.

Like the weekly questions posed to the children, we will periodically include a question for parents and families within the newsletter, alongside a link to a Microsoft Form where responses can be submitted. You are welcome to complete the form anonymously if you wish; however, including your name can sometimes help us identify whether a comment reflects a wider school issue or is specific to a particular class, year group or phase.

We welcome all responses and will endeavour to act on suggestions that are practical, achievable and capable of making a positive difference to life at Saint James Primary School. As we've already said to the children, we'd also like to manage expectations. Whilst creative ideas are always welcome, we're not entirely convinced the Local Education Authority would approve of plans for a multi-storey car park on the school field, to alleviate our parking issues!

Please also be aware that meaningful change often takes time. Even the most insightful suggestions cannot be implemented immediately. Nonetheless, every constructive comment is considered carefully and valued greatly, regardless of whether it leads to immediate action, longer-term change or is ultimately unfeasible.

There are already numerous examples of parental feedback shaping and improving our practice. For example, responses to a Special Educational Needs survey highlighted that communication regarding the progress and attainment of pupils with SEND could be strengthened. As a result, we introduced additional meetings for families of children on the SEND register during alternate half-terms, complementing the usual parents' evenings.

Similarly, when concerns were raised that our curriculum and wider school environment could better reflect the diversity of modern society and our own school community, we listened. True inclusion is about ensuring that everyone feels they genuinely belong. It is not enough simply to recognise differences; we must value, respect and celebrate them. Consequently, we held a number of Inclusivity and Diversity Parent Forums to encourage open and honest discussion about how we can become ever more inclusive and continue to challenge discrimination in all its forms.

These are just two examples of the many ways parental feedback has influenced our school. We hope that, through this new opportunity to share your views, we can continue working together to make positive changes that benefit our entire Saint James 'family'.

Bone-*afide* Science Fun in Year 3 with Saint James' eminent Scientist!





You may be aware that Cambridge University benefited from the work and teaching of both Isaac Newton and Stephen Hawking, while the University of Zurich and latterly the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton enjoyed the brilliance of Albert Einstein. These prestigious centres of learning were undoubtedly enriched by such eminent scientists. Yet, despite the fame and acclaim of these notable names, we suspect that none have inspired quite as many enthusiastic young learners as our very own linked scientist, Dr Emma Lofthouse!

After treating our Key Stage 1 children to the unforgettable spectacle of making elephant toothpaste last year, Dr Lofthouse returned to school once again. This time, she joined Year 3 to enrich their learning about bones and the human body.

By the time our visiting scientist arrived, the children had already polished off their lunches and were eagerly anticipating an afternoon of hands-on learning. However, their initial impression may have been that Dr Lofthouse was rather less prepared. Had she really skipped lunch and decided to tuck into a boiled egg during the session? Thankfully not! It was all part of a fascinating scientific investigation. Emma explained that the eggs had been soaked overnight in vinegar and challenged the children to hypothesise what effect this might have had on the shell.

The children carefully observed the eggs and discovered that the vinegar had dissolved the calcium in the shells, leaving them soft, rubbery and surprisingly floppy. This provided a brilliant demonstration of the important role that bones play in supporting and protecting our bodies. Without our skeletons, we would be just as floppy as the eggs, although hopefully a little less smelly!

As if that wasn't enough excitement, the children also took part in a scavenger hunt around the hall, searching for missing bones, before working together to rebuild a complete skeleton. While their enthusiasm was beyond doubt, we are still somewhat relieved that none of them are currently employed as orthopaedic surgeons! Along the way, they answered quiz questions that tested and reinforced their knowledge of the human body, ensuring they finished the afternoon both entertained and enlightened.

A huge thank you to Dr Lofthouse for giving up her time to inspire our young scientists and bring their learning vividly to life.

The *Goal*-den Girls Strike Again!

On Tuesday evening, our girls' football team began their footballing journey for the year with a cluster tournament: the promise of a day out of school and further games awaited the overall winners. Last year, we missed out on this opportunity on goal difference, but the girls were determined to put it right this time!

Representing the school were familiar faces Sophia and Amelie, a second appearance for Fran, and competitive debuts for Roya, Emily, Niamh, Darcie, Florence and Daisy.

Although many of you will be aware of the Charlton brothers, Bobby and Jack, who lifted the World Cup with England in 1966, you may be less aware of a pair of sisters looking to emulate their feat! Although we cannot be entirely certain, we believe this may have been the first time two sisters have represented our girls' team together, with Amelie and Florence proudly wearing the Saint James colours side by side. As you will read, they have already begun on a path to glory that replicates England's only world cup winning siblings!

The tournament format can be a little confusing. The evening began with three groups of four teams. The winner of each group would progress to the Winners' League and remain in contention for a place in the next round. Looking at the fixtures beforehand, we suspected our final group-stage match against Freegrounds would be both the toughest and the most important if we were to achieve that goal.

A Flying Start

Our opening match was against Berrywood. Before kick off, we had decided to play through the middle and use Sophia's outstanding technical ability to create chances and unlock defences.

As it turned out, that plan worked rather well!

Sophia, Darcie and Amelie each scored twice, while Fran helped herself to a hat-trick in a resounding 9-0 victory.

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Our second game pitted us against St John the Baptist School, an opponent we had never previously faced. Once again, the girls dominated from start to finish and, were it not for an excellent performance from the opposition goalkeeper, the scoreline could have been even more emphatic. Two goals from Amelie and another from Fran secured a comfortable 3-0 win and set up a winner-takes-all showdown with Freegrounds.

The Decider

Both teams entered the match with two wins from two and 12 goals scored. The equation was simple: win and progress to the Winners' League.

Whilst we have an excellent team, so do Freegrounds, who boast three academy players among their ranks. As expected, the game was incredibly tight. Both sides thought they had scored, only for the goals to be ruled out. Freegrounds struck the post, while Amelie saw a well-taken effort brilliantly saved.

As the final whistle blew, the scoreboard still read 0-0.

With the teams inseparable, a five-minute playoff followed. It must be said that during this period Saint James were the stronger side and relentlessly pushed for a winner. Amelie danced through the defence and found herself one-on-one with the goalkeeper...

She shoots... saved!

So, the lottery of penalties awaited.

Freegrounds: Goal, Sophia; Goal, Freegrounds; Crossbar! Amelie; Goal, Freegrounds; Saved by Niamh!

We had done it. Against outstanding opposition, the girls had earned their place in the Winners' League.

Winners' League

Perhaps the hardest challenge had already been overcome.

Our first Winners League match was against Fair Oak A. Despite showing a few signs of fatigue, the girls continued to display real quality, using the full width of the pitch and controlling possession superbly.

Goals from Amelie and Fran secured a deserved 2-0 victory.

That left one final hurdle. A draw would be enough to progress, but the girls had no intention of settling for that.

The winning goal arrived early and was worth the wait. A flowing move swept from right to left and back again, with a series of crisp passes pulling the opposition apart. Darcie then delivered an instinctive first-time cross that found Amelie, who calmly slotted the ball into the bottom corner.

A goal of the highest quality.

The final whistle blew. The game ended 1-0. Saint James were through to the next round!

Every single player was outstanding throughout the evening. They represented the school with effort, determination and sportsmanship, and thoroughly deserve the opportunity to wear the Saint James shirt again in the next stage of the competition.

A huge thank you must also go to our wonderful parents, whose remarkably punctual and extremely affordable taxi service ensured the team arrived and departed without issue!

Whilst we imagine, in most weeks, this tournament victory would be the highlight of, our football-obsessed coach, Mr Walsh's week, this week might be an exception. We would like to congratulate Mr Walsh and his partner, Fran, on the birth of their second child, Henry, who arrived at 11.24am on Wednesday morning. Currently, it remains unconfirmed that his first pair of booties have studs on the bottom!



A Time For Prayer: A Time To Share

We are delighted to announce the start of a monthly prayer gathering for parents, carers and family members, with the first session taking place on Tuesday 20th October at 2.30pm.

This group will continue the valued ministry previously led by Reverend Linda and will now be facilitated by Mrs Marsh. Whether you are a regular attendee of church, new to prayer, or simply curious to find out more, you will be very warmly welcomed.

Those wishing to attend should come to the school reception at 2.30pm, where there will be an opportunity to gather together, reflect and pray. Attendees are welcome to bring along anything that is on their hearts or minds, whether that relates to family, friends, work or personal circumstances. There will also be opportunities to pray for the children, staff and wider Saint James 'family', giving thanks for the many blessings we share and seeking God's guidance for the challenges we face.

We hope you will be able to join us as we come together in prayer, fellowship and support for one another. Everyone is welcome.

A Sporting Chance

We have received an email from the Premier league football club, AFC Bournemouth, who will be hosting a Talent Identification Event in October Half Term, targeting individuals in Year 2 & Year 3. They have been contacting local schools, to forward this information to children who might benefit from attending this event. We have included the details below:

AFC BOURNEMOUTH TALENT IDENTIFICATION EVENT

Wednesday 28 October 2026

Under-7 & Under-8 Boys (Year 2 & 3)

AFC Bournemouth Performance Centre

Further details will be confirmed in your son's attendance acceptance email

APPLY TODAY USING THE LINK BELOW

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

Spaces are very limited; all applicants will be notified via email at least 3 days prior to the event to confirm their place and time slot.







What's on

September - December 2026

SEACITY MUSEUM | SOUTHAMPTON CITY ART GALLERY | TUDOR HOUSE & GARDEN

OCTOBER HALF TERM

Wizard School (6yrs+)
Mon 26 & Tues 27 Oct | 10.30am, 12pm and 1.30pm | Tudor House | £8

Art for All:
Bats on Bags Printing Workshop! (4 yrs+)
Mon 26 Oct | 10.30am, 12.30pm or 2.30pm | Art Gallery | £8

Art for All:
Autumn Watercolour Vignettes (7 yrs+)
Tue 27 Oct | 10.30am, 12.30pm or 2.30pm | Art Gallery | £8

Art for All: Spooky Portraits! (5 yrs+)
Wed 28 Oct | 10.30am, 12.30pm or 2.30pm | Art Gallery | £8

Hands on History: Frightening Folklore (6yrs+)
Thu 29 Oct | 10.30am, 12pm | Tudor House | £8

Art for All: Clay Pumpkins (4yrs+)
Thu 29 Oct & Fri 30 Oct | 10.30am, 12.30pm or 2.30pm | Art Gallery | £8

CULTURE CLUB for kids



Mon 26, Tue 27, Wed 28 Oct
9am - 4pm | SeaCity | £35, £90 for all three days

Get creative, explore our collections and learn new stuff while making really cool things at our themed activity days! **Our theme for October Half Term is Spooky Autumn!**

See our "What's on" brochure or venue websites for details on workshops and to book
seacitymuseum.co.uk | tudorhouseandgarden.com | southamptoncityartgallery.com



1 One Community

together we make a difference

Christmas HAMPER APPEAL

Eastleigh Young Carers

Help make Christmas special for local young carers
NEW & UNUSED ITEMS ONLY PLEASE

Gifts Ideas
- Pyjamas & Socks
- Hair Brushes/Accesories & Bath Sets
- Lego, Art/Crafts Sets & Sports Items
- Journals, Stationery & Fidget Toys

Food Items
- Boxes of Chocolates/Sweets & Mince Pies
- Sharing Crisps, Breadsticks, Cheese Straws & Chutney/Pickles.

Donations Close: 4th December

Drop-off locations:
- One Community Head Office, 12 Romsey Road, Eastleigh SO50 9AL
- Shopmobility Eastleigh

Your donation, whatever its size, will help make a real difference
Thank you for supporting local young carers

T: 023 80 902400 or info@1community.org.uk
Registered Charity Number 1052978

MUSIC PRODUCTION HALLOWEEN ENRICHMENT DAY

HAMPSHIRE MUSIC EDUCATION HUB

For children in Years 5 - 8
- Create spooky tracks and Halloween soundscapes!
- Use iPads and GarageBand
- Make monster beats and haunted remixes
- Explore sampling and sound effects
- No experience needed – just bring your creativity!

Sign Up Here

October Half Term Music Enrichment

Monday 26 October 2026 9:30am – 3:30pm
Barton Peveril College, Eastleigh, SO50 5ZA
£42.50 (lunch included)

CHOIR FOR A DAY

For children in Years 4 - 9
- Spend the day singing with other young people from across Hampshire!
- Perform songs from musical theatre and pop
- Build confidence and vocal skills
- Learn harmonies and performance techniques
- No auditions or experience needed – everyone welcome!

Sign Up Here

You're invited!

Join us as we celebrate

10 YEARS

Influencing Positive Changes
Southampton Parent Carer Forum
Celebrating Parent Carer Voice in Southampton

A celebration for parent carers and professionals

Connect Share Celebrate Get Involved

10 Years of Voices. 10 Years of Change. What comes next?

Come and celebrate with us, connect with other parent carers and professionals and help shape the next chapter.

We'll also be launching some new projects!

Healthy Parent Carers
Funded by The National Lottery, this project will support parent carers to look after their own health and wellbeing.

SEND Youth Voice Forum
A new forum for children and young people with SEND in Southampton to have their say, feel heard and make a difference.

CELEBRATE WITH US
Tea and light refreshments

HAVE YOUR SAY
Help us shape the future for SEND families in Southampton

ENJOY
Activities, prizes and a few surprises!

LOOK BACK & FORWARD
Celebrate how far we've come and imagine what's next

Friday 6th November
10.00am – 12.00pm

Highpoint, Bursledon Rd, Thornhill, Southampton SO19 8BR

YOU MAKE OUR FORUM WHAT IT IS.
Thank you for being part of our journey so far.
We can't wait to celebrate with you!

TOGETHER, WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE