

The week ahead @ Saint James

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

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Friday 25th September

Issue 197

Thurs 1 st Oct		Wed 7 th Oct	Thurs 8 th Oct	Thurs 15 th Oct		Tues 20 th Oct	Thurs 22 nd Oct
Year 6 Last session of Bikeability	Burger Shack Special Menu – Pupil Census Day	Tour for parents of prospective Year R pupils	Harvest Festival in school and at the church	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

A message from the Senior Leadership team

As we head into the last week of September, we have seen some uncommonly good weather for this time of year. However, even with temperatures in the low to mid-twenties, it still seems too cool to be experiencing a South American carnival or a voyage around the continent of Africa. As unlikely as it seems, that is what our Year 5 and Year 3 children have been enjoying; and they still managed to be ready for collection by twenty past three!

We have also seen the start of the Cross-Country season this week and, with further races coming up, along with the start of the football season, the next few weeks are due to be action-packed, too!

Around Africa in an Afternoon: Year 3 take a Voyage of Discovery

As you will be aware, all of our classes have begun the year by studying their class countries and the continent or region where the countries for classes in their year group can be found. The beginning to their learning journeys has been so immersive that it is almost as if the children have travelled to the countries. Unfortunately, with the exception of England class in Year R, this has not been possible. However, parents of children in Year 3, may be surprised to learn that their children actually made the long boat journey to Africa!

This was particularly surprising, as all of the children were still ready for collection by 3.20pm that day! Remarkable, as a typical journey by sea from the UK to Gambia takes around a week, whilst voyages to Kenya and South Africa take nearly three weeks!

With Southampton having a long history as an international port, as well as being the home to the Carnival Corporation that owns the P&O, Cunard, Princess, and Carnival Cruise lines, a journey by boat was certainly very appropriate (especially as Southampton Airport only flies to destinations in Europe). There are five cruise terminals in Southampton split between the Eastern and Western docks, however none of these met the needs of our enthusiastic Year 3 travellers. Their own pop-up terminal was located on the Saint James Primary School playground!

Armed with their passports and vaccination cards (Hepatitis A, Typhoid, Yellow Fever and a Tetanus booster are recommended for a trip to Africa) they made their way through passport control where their travel documents were carefully checked. Thankfully, all were approved and our intrepid Year 3 adventurers moved on to security, where their bags were inspected and they were finally cleared for travel. Some might conclude that making their way through the booking in and security checks was the most arduous part of the journey!

After successfully making it through the various checkpoints, the children gathered in the waiting area ready to board their boat. Excitement filled the air as they prepared to leave Saint James behind and set sail towards their associated African countries. The immersive experience continued as the children travelled to their destinations and entered classrooms transformed into different African nations. At Saint James we strongly advocate that exciting and memorable learning can also be the most effective. It is these memories that stay with us, long after we have left primary school. The Year 3 Geography hook was certainly an example of this; bringing learning to life and sparking curiosity and enthusiasm about the continent they will be exploring over the coming weeks.

Continued overleaf

Collective Worship



This week's theme:

Fairtrade Fortnight

This week's story:

Living God's Way

Matthew 5:1-12



As well as showing an excellent attitude to their learning, the children need to be commended on the excellent behaviour they showed throughout. In 2025, *Carnival Cruise Line* banned 24 people from future sailing trips after a brawl broke out at the ship's terminal while docked. Our children could have certainly modelled an excellent example of behaviour to those individuals, as there would be no reservations about inviting Year 3 on onboard, again!

We are looking forward to seeing where their African adventure takes them next as they continue their geographical exploration throughout this term!

Mud, Miles and Magnificent Manners: Saint James' First Strides of the Cross-Country Season

With the UK athletics season taking place between April and September, you might reasonably expect the event that our Year 4 pupils attended to be the last of the year. However, Cross Country is an anomaly to this rule, with the season only starting in October. Therefore, we predict that these events will get more frequent (and muddier) as the term continues!

This Tuesday, an enthusiastic team of our Year 4 pupils travelled to Swanmore Secondary School to take part in the Hampshire School Games Cross Country event. Ably supported by Mr Laycock and Miss Jones, who resisted the temptation to complete the course themselves, our runners arrived full of excitement and determination.

Focused on promoting the health benefits of sport; the event encouraged children to enjoy being active and challenge themselves. Every member of the team embraced this perfectly, showing determination, perseverance and a genuine willingness to give it a go. Whether sprinting towards the finish line or tackling the course at their own pace, every runner from Saint James should be incredibly proud of their efforts.

However, perhaps unsurprisingly, what impressed us most was the way our Year 4 children represented Saint James. Their behaviour throughout the event was impeccable, and they were a credit to the school. They enthusiastically cheered on their teammates and showed genuine encouragement and support for children from other schools too.

A special mention must go to Florence, who delivered an outstanding performance in her race. After some timely encouragement from Mr Laycock during the final sprint, she powered past two runners to move into second place. This was a remarkable achievement considering there were over 50 runners in her race!

We are incredibly proud of all our Year 4 runners for their hard work, positive attitude and determination.

And the excitement doesn't stop there. Keep an eye out for the results of future events, with our Year 6 pupils taking part in a competitive cross-country event, next week. Good luck, Year 6!

Driven to Distraction: Parking Problems Persist

In today's world, we are all aware of the negative impact that social media posts can sometimes have. Faceless individuals can make unsolicited and unsubstantiated comments with little or no accountability. It is also one of the reasons why the campaign we spearheaded over the past two years to ban smartphones in school has now been acknowledged and adopted as policy by many other local schools.

However, there are occasions when social media posts reflect the genuine and widely held views of contributors and the wider community. Members of the West End Facebook group will be aware that there have been numerous posts concerning inconsiderate parking by parents and families in the roads surrounding the school. As you will know from previous newsletters, these concerns are echoed in emails that we have received directly.

To illustrate the issue further, we would like to share a selection of comments from recent posts:

'Some of you parents should be absolutely ashamed of yourselves for the way you park around Monarch Way at drop-off and pick-up times. There's going to be a horrible accident here one day!'

'...an ambulance was delayed getting to me earlier this year because of the parking. I suffered a stroke and the crew were on blue lights...'

'...will it take a small child to be knocked over and injured, or worse, before people realise how utterly dangerous this is?'

'As a parent at the school, I would never park on Monarch Way. It is horrendous the way people leave their cars on junctions, yellow lines and pavements. Common sense seems to be overruled by laziness.'

At the time of writing, this discussion thread had attracted more than 60 comments. Whilst we recognise the challenges of parking around our site and acknowledge that social media can provide a platform for strongly expressed views, these factors do not diminish the underlying issue. A significant number of local residents are frustrated by parking around the school and, importantly, there is a genuine concern that a child could be seriously injured.

Continued overleaf

In addition, residents of Barrowfields Close, our neighbours in the private estate that begins at the junction of Monarch Way and Moorgreen Road and runs parallel to the school, are becoming increasingly concerned about the number of parents parking in private and communal spaces. The estate is also being used as a cut-through by some families, with children travelling through the area on scooters at speed and, at times, without sufficient consideration for residents and their property. We kindly ask all members of our school community to respect our neighbours by avoiding private parking areas and using public pathways responsibly and safely.

As a school, we continue to offer a drive-through drop-off service each morning and, to our knowledge, remain the only primary school in Hampshire to do so. We also provide a Park and Stride option each morning and evening from either Little Gems Preschool or the Southampton Arms. Unfortunately, there is no further parking provision that we can realistically provide.

With the number of parents choosing to drive likely to increase as we move further into Autumn and Winter, we respectfully ask that everyone makes every effort to park considerately and safely.

We regularly promote the values of Love, Respect and Courage with our children. We urge all members of our school community to reflect these same values when parking around the school and when interacting with our neighbours.

Lost, Lonely and Label-Less: The Great Jumper Migration at Saint James

September has not yet drawn to a close, and already our lost property boxes are bursting at the seams with jumpers, cardigans and other assorted items of clothing that appear to have embarked on adventures around the school independently of their owners!

If we were to anthropomorphise these items of uniform, we imagine they might be rather like some of our youngest children during their first week of term, needing a little help to find the correct classroom. Like vulnerable newborn animals, we are willing them to survive. Having emerged victorious from their inception during the annual "back-to-school" summer shopping trip, many already seem endangered; left out in the cold and unable to find their way home.

We are always pleased to reunite children with their missing belongings, and we imagine this feeling is reciprocated by parents as well. However, none of us missed our calling to work for the CID, and our investigative skills are simply not up to the task of reuniting unnamed items with their rightful owners. Unfortunately, without a name, one blue jumper looks very much like every other blue jumper. The same applies to cardigans, coats, PE kit and water bottles. Determining the owner of an unnamed sweatshirt can be a challenge worthy of even the most experienced detective!

Fortunately, there is a simple solution to this confusing conundrum: a clearly written name transforms a "lost" item into one that can be returned quickly and easily.

So, particularly if this unseasonably warm weather continues and children keep shedding jumpers and cardigans during break and lunchtime like snakes shedding their skin, may we please ask parents to check that all uniform items are clearly named? It only takes a moment, but it can save the time, expense and frustration of replacing items that may already be waiting patiently to be reunited with their owner, rather like a lost puppy awaiting collection from an animal shelter.

From South America to Saint James: Collective Worship Goes Carnival

Whilst we wholeheartedly admit that Collective Worship at Saint James School can be interesting, engaging, fun and, on occasion, even lively, we would never describe it as a party. Until last week.

If you had been standing by the rear doors of the hall as Collective Worship began on Friday, you could easily have been tricked into thinking you were on the corner of a street in downtown Rio de Janeiro.

Whilst all the Key Stage 1 and lower Key Stage 2 children filed in impeccably to the sound of calming music, the peace was suddenly shattered by nearly ninety colourful and joyous revellers, clearly in a party mood! So, had these party-goers, bedecked in brightly coloured masks and headdresses, taken a wrong turn on their way to a celebration? Had there been a serious safeguarding breach, with a throng of partying strangers inadvertently invited into our Collective Worship?

Of course not! It was our Year 5 children celebrating Mardi Gras, Rio-style.

Two weeks ago, we shared some of the masks that the children had begun to create in Year 5 as part of their learning about South America. Their lively procession into Collective Worship was the joyful culmination of that learning.



Lettuce Tell You About Our Menu Next Thursday; Its *Bun* in a Million!

Did you know that the famous burger chain with the golden arches sells approximately 75 hamburgers every second and has sold well over a billion burgers since its founding? Whilst we're not anticipating serving quite that many burgers next Thursday, our Burger Shack special menu is sure to be a success.

We fully anticipate that a tasty beef, chicken or Quorn burger, accompanied by delicious fries, salad and sweetcorn, and enhanced by the children's choice from an array of toppings, will be enough to appeal to even the fussiest of eaters. However, there is another major attraction that will appeal to both the taste buds and the wallet...

A short stroll into Hedge End offers a wide choice of fast-food establishments. The cheapest burger beneath the golden arches will set you back a penny-pinching £1.19, whilst across the road at the 'royal' chain of burger joints, you'll part with £1.49 for a burger. If you're craving a chicken burger, you can visit the establishment hailing from America's 15th state and spend £5.99 to line the Colonel's pockets.

Whilst these may seem like good deals, none can match the combined offering from Chartwells and Saint James: absolutely free!

That's right. Next Thursday, all school meals will be free for both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 pupils. This is an opportunity to encourage children to sample the food provided by our new catering provider. We strongly encourage all children to enjoy a school lunch on this day, even if some of our more cautious eaters bring a packed lunch as a back-up, just in case.

In addition to benefiting the children directly, our special menu falls on this year's census day. The number of children taking a school meal has a direct impact on our funding and, therefore, on the opportunities and enrichment we can provide for our pupils throughout the year.

With great food, happy children and valuable support for the school, next Thursday's Burger Shack looks like a win-win-win. We look forward to sharing the success of the event in next week's newsletter.

At Saint James, Superheroes Don't Always Wear Capes!

Today it is recognised as a day to celebrate our unsung heroes, being *National Teaching Assistants' Day*. It gives us the perfect opportunity to celebrate the incredible contribution made by the support staff at Saint James. Although the day is officially dedicated to Teaching Assistants, at Saint James we proudly call them Learning Support Assistants because their expertise, patience and talent are focused on supporting our learners to thrive, grow and succeed. Whether they are explaining a tricky Maths problem, boosting confidence, encouraging independence or simply providing a reassuring smile at just the right moment, our LSAs make a remarkable difference every day. Very rarely will you see them wear capes (with the possible exception of World Book Day!) but they are certainly among the school's everyday superheroes, and we are enormously grateful for all they do. Thank you to our wonderful Learning Support Assistants for everything they do to help our children flourish.



Harvest Donations

Please remember that we will be taking donations for the Hedge End Foodbank, as part of our Harvest celebrations on **Thursday 8th October**. Please see last week's newsletter for donation suggestions.



St. James Church

Come and join the Junior Choir

For young singers aged 8+



When: Rehearsal - Thursdays (from 8 October) from 6.00 – 6.45pm
Service - every first Sunday of the month from 9.00 – 10.40am

Where: St. James Church (during term time)

The children will sing at the first Sunday of the month. They will have lots of fun receiving voice and musical theory tuition and will work towards RSCM awards - and it's free!

To find out more come along to our 'Come and be a Chorister' information session
When: Thursday 8 October from 6 – 6.45pm
Where: St. James Church

Enjoy singing, refreshments and hear more about what's involved!

Contact Chris Fay stjameswe.music@gmail.com or
Rev. Vicky stjameswe.vicar@gmail.com for more information.



Dream Empire Events Present

EASTLEIGH'S

IT'S NOT A SUMMER Festival

LIVE MUSIC & DJ - PRINCESS VISIT - REPTILE ENCOUNTERS
STALLS - ENTERTAINMENT - FACE PAINTING & GLITTER TATTOOS
FOOD STANDS - PRIZE EVERY TIME GAMES - ACTIVITIES - BAR
FAIR GROUND RIDES & SO MUCH MORE!

SAT 26TH SEPT 2026

ITCHEN VALLEY COUNTRY PARK,
ALLINGTON LANE, WEST END,
SO30 3HQ

10AM TO 4PM

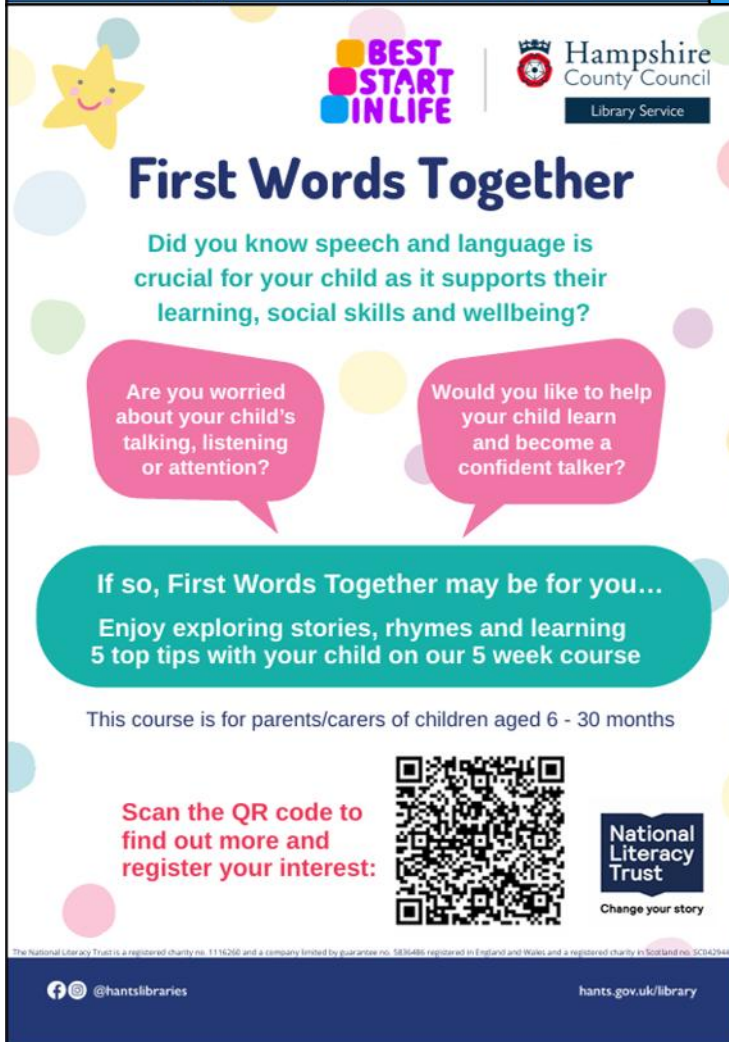
FREE ENTRY

Parking charges apply

For more information see
www.dreamempireevents.co.uk

EASTLEIGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

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BEST START IN LIFE | Hampshire County Council Library Service

First Words Together

Did you know speech and language is crucial for your child as it supports their learning, social skills and wellbeing?

Are you worried about your child's talking, listening or attention?

Would you like to help your child learn and become a confident talker?

If so, First Words Together may be for you...

Enjoy exploring stories, rhymes and learning 5 top tips with your child on our 5 week course

This course is for parents/carers of children aged 6 - 30 months

Scan the QR code to find out more and register your interest:



National Literacy Trust
Change your story

The National Literacy Trust is a registered charity no. 1116268 and a company limited by guarantee no. 5836486 registered in England and Wales and a registered charity in Scotland no. SC042944

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BEST START IN LIFE | Hampshire County Council Library Service

Early Words Together

Is your child starting school soon? This free 6 week course will help your child's speech and language, learning, social skills and wellbeing.

Are you worried about your child's talking, listening or attention?

Would you like to get ideas for fun activities that will help your child be a confident talker and prepared for school?

If so, Early Words Together may be for you...

Enjoy exploring talking, singing rhymes, sharing books and playing together

This course is for parents/carers with children aged 3 - 4 years old

Scan the QR code to find out more and register your interest:



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