

The week ahead @ Saint James

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

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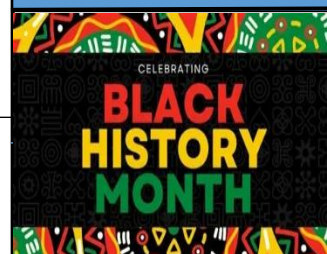
Wed 7 th Oct	Thurs 8 th Oct	Thurs 15 th Oct		Tues 20 th Oct	Thurs 22 nd Oct	Fri 23 rd Oct	Mon 2 nd Nov
Tour for parents of prospective Year R pupils	Harvest Festival in school and at the church	Tour for parents of prospective Year R pupils	SISA Non-Uniform Day and Disco	Tour for parents of prospective Year R pupils	Last day of term	INSET Day	First day back after half-term

A message from the Senior Leadership team

It's been another exciting and action-packed week at Saint James Primary School. We've celebrated sporting success on both the football pitch and the cross-country course, with impressive individual and team performances to be proud of.

On Thursday, we enjoyed a fantastic Burger Shack lunch that rivalled even the most popular burger restaurants, while across the school children have been immersed in exciting, engaging and memorable learning experiences. Some of that learning has even extended beyond the school gates and onto the roads of West End. If you happened to be out and about this week, you may well have spotted our Year 6 pupils taking part in their Bikeability training as they developed their confidence and skills as young road users.

Collective Worship



This week's theme:
Black History Month

This week's story:
Philip and the Ethiopian
Acts 8:26-40

Learning in Year 1 *Leaves a Lasting Impression*

We're sure that many of us have read Eric Carle's '*The Very Hungry Caterpillar*'; a story about a determined little creature who, perhaps rather selfishly, munches his way through an astonishing amount of food before turning into a butterfly. However, Year 1 have been exploring a rather different tale: the story of a very generous caterpillar who gave away all of his shoes!

During their recent Forest School session, the children brought the story to life by creating their own caterpillars using leaves and natural coloured pipe cleaners. The woodland provided plenty of inspiration, along with numerous opportunities for creativity, imagination and discussion.

One thing that seems to amaze many adults is how relaxed Year 1 children are around mini-beasts. While some grown-ups might take an irrational step backwards at the sight of a spider, slug or wriggly caterpillar, the children happily investigate, observe and chat about them as if they are old friends. It seems that spiders have far less success at scaring six-year-olds than they do some of their teachers and support staff!

The session helped support our English journey while encouraging the children to explore the natural world around them. The caterpillars they created were all unique, with some sporting extravagant leaf bodies and others looking as though they might be preparing for a very fashionable woodland parade, perhaps after receiving a few of those generously donated shoes! However, as our Year 1 children observed, a caterpillar typically has up to ten legs. Therefore, even the most extravagant of these tiny creatures would still have owned less pairs of trainers than Mrs Shotter!

As the year progresses, we look forward to seeing our Year 1 children continue to grow in confidence, knowledge and independence. Much like the caterpillars they have been learning about, they are on their own exciting journey of transformation. By the end of Year 1, we know they will have spread their wings and blossomed into wonderful butterflies, ready for the adventures that lie ahead.



Saint James Football Team Start the Season in Style

On Monday, our Saint James Football Team embarked on what they hoped would be another successful season on the football pitch. Following last year's Hampshire Cup triumph and an incredible two-year unbeaten run, this new group of players certainly had some big boots to fill.

This opening fixture was a friendly match against local rivals Shamblehurst and provided the perfect opportunity to shake off the cobwebs and put into practice some of the tactics we had been working on in training. Representing Saint James were familiar faces Connor, Sophia and Jordan, alongside second appearances for Eddie and Ollie, and school debuts for Harrison, Freddie P, Freddie W, Grayson, Flynn and Leo.

As is sometimes the case with our football matches, there were simply too many goals to report on individually. In fact, the scoreline was so emphatic that Mr Walsh had to double-check the goalscorers before writing this report, as some players could not quite remember how many they had scored! The final score ended 17-0, and the match was every bit as one-sided as the score suggests.

It can be difficult to put training-ground moves into practice when a game is as free-flowing as this one was, but Saint James combined technical quality and physical determination with plenty of style and flair. The ball was played confidently into central areas before being quickly switched to the left and right wings, allowing our attacking players to apply relentless pressure on the opposition.

Connor, Eddie, Sophia and Freddie P controlled the game brilliantly from the back and showed great discipline by maintaining their positions and responsibilities despite having plenty of time and space. Unfortunately, Flynn, on his debut in goal, had very little to do. However, he remained calm whenever called upon, was comfortable receiving the ball at his feet and distributed it excellently. We look forward to seeing him showcase more of his goalkeeping talents in future fixtures.

Further up the pitch, Harrison, Ollie, Jordan, Freddie W, Grayson and Leo were equally impressive. Our wide players stretched the game effectively, creating large pockets of space to exploit, while some excellent finishing saw goals arriving from all areas of the pitch. Several strikes were hit with such power that even strong saves from the goalkeeper could not prevent the ball from finding the back of the net.

Our goalscorers were; Eddie (4), Harrison (3), Connor (3), Grayson (2), Ollie (2), Freddie W (2) and Jordan (1).

We would like to congratulate all of the players for the mature and respectful manner in which they conducted themselves throughout the match. A 17-0 scoreline is undoubtedly emphatic, but the boys showed great sportsmanship, empathy and respect for their opponents at all times. Had they not done so, the score could easily have been even higher.

Finally, we would like to thank our parents for providing transport to and from the fixture. Opportunities like these simply would not be possible without their continued support, and we are extremely grateful for all that they do for our teams.



Running Their Own Race!

After the turn of Year 4 last week, Tuesday proved to be another fantastic day of cross country, this time for our Year 6 pupils.

A return to the site of last week's successes, saw another epic achievement; two of our Year children have qualified for the County Cross Country Finals later this year! A huge congratulations goes to Harrison, who, after scoring a hatrick in the school football match on the previous day, showed brilliant poise and control to finish 3rd in the boys' race.

Whilst our Year 6 children had the incentive and challenge to emulate the Year 4 children from the previous week, that challenge was intensified even further for Amelie. Just one week previously, Amelie's sister, Florence, secured an outstanding 2nd place in the Year 4 girls' race. Not to be outdone by her younger sister, Amelie powered her way into second position and a place in the county finals!

Miss Howell, herself a prolific runner, was incredibly proud of all of our children. They gave every last ounce of energy, tackled the course with determination and resilience, and tried hard from start to finish. However, what made them truly special was not just their performances, but the way they supported others. One of Miss Howell's favourite moments of the event was nothing to do with the sporting performance and came during the Year 5 boys' race. Although Saint James had no runners competing in that event, our children lined the course, clapping, cheering and encouraging every runner who passed by. Whether they were leading the field or battling their way at the back, every child received the same enthusiastic support!

The Saint James spirit shone even brighter when Amelie was told she had qualified for the county finals. The cheers from all her teammates were so loud that the organiser, Nick Hutton, jokingly declared it to be the 'Amelie Fan Club!'

As an impartial spectator, that moment provided a suitable synopsis of everything that is special about Saint James. We encourage our children to strive for their personal best, to run their own race, and, just as importantly, to celebrate the achievements of others. The success of Harrison and Amelie was wonderful, but the kindness, encouragement and team spirit shown by all our runners makes us just as proud!

We would like to extend a big 'thank you' to all our parents who taxied our children to the event and provided vocal support throughout. A huge congratulations also needs to be given to all our Year 6 athletes for their performance and conduct throughout, as well as message of 'good luck' to Harrison and Amelie at the County Finals!



Miles for Myeloma: Miss Howell is Running for a Reason, to Raise Funds for Research

In the article above, we shared our Cross Country successes and how Miss Howell had been a vocal supporter and coach at this event. We are now endeavouring to return the favour by supporting her and her latest, selfless, exploits in a running vest!

It is often through adversity that we are inspired to achieve great feats. When one of Miss Howell's loved ones was diagnosed with Myeloma (an incurable blood cancer) she knew she wanted to help. Whilst our Year 6 children would attest to her being an exceptional teacher, Miss Howell would readily admit she is no doctor, nurse or research scientist. She is however a talented and enthusiastic runner; a skill and aptitude she hopes to use to benefit a Myeloma charity. With her talents identified, it then became a case of Miss Howell finding the opportunity to showcase and utilise them.

The Great South Run has been the world's most famous 10-mile run for over thirty years and, with such a high profile and a route filled with encouraging spectators, Miss Howell chose this as an ideal opportunity to launch her first fundraising challenge. As well as raising much-needed funds for charity, she is hoping to raise awareness by sporting a Myeloma fundraising vest on the way round.

After finding out about some of the new medicines that can make a difference, Miss Howell is confident that any money raised can help make a significant difference. If you would like to donate to this worthwhile charity, please follow the link or use the QR code below.

<https://ajbellgreatsouthrun2026.enthuse.com/pf/jess-howell>



Top Gun or Top *Fun*? Brazil Class Are Mavericks of the MUGA!

For twenty minutes, every Friday afternoon, the children who have worked successfully all week can enjoy 'choosing time'. This is usually a chance for children to unwind with friends; enjoying a board game, challenging each other to chess, or creating colourful masterpieces with pens and pencils. However, last week, Brazil Class had entirely different plans. The board games stayed on the shelf as the classroom was transformed into a bustling aeronautical engineering centre!

Armed with nothing more than sheets of scrap paper, the children set about designing, folding and refining their very own paper aeroplanes. Like a team of skilled engineers, they quickly discovered that every fold matters. Wings were adjusted, noses sharpened, and designs tweaked as they searched for the perfect formula for flight.

Once their prototypes were complete, it was time for the moment of truth. The children headed to the MUGA, where our newly qualified test pilots put their creations through rigorous trials. Much like Tom Cruise, strapping himself into a top-secret prototype at the beginning of Top Gun: Maverick, they launched their aircraft with similar determination and enthusiasm. All were eager to find out whose design could fly the furthest and which ones could race through the air at the greatest speed.

The competition sparked plenty of excitement and friendly rivalry, but perhaps most importantly, it generated an impressive amount of discussion, problem solving and critical thinking. Why did one plane soar gracefully while another nosedived? Would longer wings improve distance? Could a sharper fold increase speed? The children eagerly shared ideas, tested theories and made improvements before taking to the skies once again.

However, the fun did not stop there. The paper aeroplanes were soon given a second mission: aeronautical dog fighting. The children played a fast-paced game of tag, attempting to hit their partner's aeroplane while avoiding being tagged themselves. This brought plenty of laughter, quick reactions and impressive dodging skills!

It was wonderful to see how such a simple activity could inspire so much creativity, teamwork and curiosity. Sometimes the most memorable learning opportunities come not from expensive equipment or complicated resources, but from a single sheet of paper and a big imagination. Judging by the enthusiasm on display, Brazil Class may well be home to some future aerospace engineers, aircraft designers and test pilots. Watch this airspace!



Parking Matters: A Picture Says a Thousand Words

Over the past four weeks, we have shared a number of concerns regarding parking around the school at drop-off and collection times. Parking considerately, safely and respectfully is important for our pupils and families, but also for our neighbours and the wider community.

It is important that we recognise that the vast majority of our parents and carers demonstrate excellent consideration each day, often taking the time to park further away from school and walk the remaining distance. However, the few that are making poor and inconsiderate choices are undermining the good practice of the majority.

Concerns about some parking practices continue to be raised by local residents, staff and parents. Issues such as parking on pavements, obstructing driveways, stopping on corners and restricting visibility can create difficulties for pedestrians, residents and other road users.

This week, rather than providing further commentary, we have chosen to let the photographs tell their own story. The images have been taken in the vicinity of the school during drop-off and collection times and represent examples of parking observed this week.

As the saying goes, 'a picture is worth a thousand words.' We encourage members of our school community to look at the photographs and form their own opinions. Hopefully they will prompt reflection on how each of us can play a part in making the journey to and from school as safe and considerate as possible.



Burger Mania Sweeps Saint James; it was *bun*-believable!

Last week, when we shared information about our Burger Shack menu, we mentioned that McDonald's serves 75 hamburgers per second worldwide. Whilst we joked that we didn't anticipate serving quite so many on Thursday, it certainly didn't seem far from that amount!

Following our invitation for children to sample the delicious offerings from Chartwells, at no financial cost, we're hardly surprised by the incredible turnout. The enticing combination of beef, chicken and Quorn burgers, crispy fries, fresh salad, sweetcorn and a tempting selection of toppings proved far too good to resist. One of our happy diners even declared it the '*Best burger I've ever eaten!*', whilst another child simply described the experience as '*amazing!*'

In fact, the event was so popular that we broke a historic record: the highest number of school dinners ever served in a single day at Saint James Primary School (breaking the previous record set on a Christmas dinner day)! Judging by the children's responses when we spoke to them, it's hardly surprising.

With a buzz of excitement, the children entered the Saint James restaurant and marvelled at the food on offer. With delicious burgers and array of sauces, everything was in place to create the perfect burger. The selection drew gasps of amazement from many children, and that was before they had even seen the ice cream factory!

Beholding an ice cream mountain of chocolate, vanilla and strawberry ice cream, complete with sprinkles, chocolate sauce and shortbread crumble, all displayed on a Victorian-style sweet trolley, the children were truly spoiled for choice. It wasn't long before glowing reviews came flooding in, including the '*Ice cream is so delicious!*'

From hardened burger enthusiasts to first-time school dinner tasters, it was wonderful to see so many pupils enjoying the experience together. Unsurprisingly, comments such as '*Best burger ever!*' could be heard around the hall; particularly pleasing was the fact that there was minimal food waste, showing just how much the children enjoyed their meals.

Of course, the success of the day wasn't just about burgers and ice cream. By choosing a school meal on census day, families also helped support the school, with meal uptake playing an important role in determining future funding. The record-breaking turnout therefore provided a boost not only to children's appetites, but also to opportunities for our children.

We would like to extend a huge thank you to the team from Chartwells, who rose to the challenge magnificently, serving a record number of meals whilst keeping smiles on faces and queues moving smoothly. We'd also like to thank all of our families for supporting the event and helping to make it such a memorable occasion. With reviews ranging from '*10/10*' to '*1 million out of 10*', it is safe to say that Burger Shack Day was a resounding success!



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 the newsletter from 18th September for donation suggestions.

High Praise for our Year 6 Cyclists: They're the *Wheel Deal*!

As we've spent several weeks reporting on parking issues around our school, it seems only fitting that Year 6 have recently been learning to master a form of transport that could help reduce traffic and parking pressures: cycling!

The children took part in a week of Bikeability training, beginning on the playground where instructors assessed their bike control, awareness and confidence. Demonstrating impressive skills, the children practised stopping, turning and maintaining balance while developing their positional awareness and control.

Once the instructors were satisfied that the children could ride safely and confidently, they progressed onto the local roads in small groups. There, they learned valuable road safety skills, including how to manoeuvre around parked vehicles, position themselves correctly on the road and negotiate junctions safely.

With these important skills now under their belts and their confidence greatly increased, we're sure Year 6 has produced some exceptionally capable young cyclists. The training has not only helped the children become safer road users but has also equipped them with a lifelong skill that promotes independence, health and active travel.

We would like to extend a huge thank you to all of the Bikeability instructors for their patience, encouragement and expertise throughout the week. We were particularly proud to hear that our Year 6 classes were considered among the best groups the instructors had worked with. Their excellent listening skills, enthusiasm and thoughtful responses earned high praise indeed!

A special mention must also go to Miss Howell, who joined the children on the roads each day, whatever the weather. We are delighted to report that she, too, successfully passed the week with flying colours and has officially been recognised as demonstrating safe and considerate road manners!

Who knows? Perhaps some of our newly qualified cyclists will soon be helping to ease some of those parking problems!



Let's get moving this Walktober!

Get moving for our wellbeing, our community and our planet

Parent and Carer Information

Travelling actively and sustainably can make a difference to our wellbeing, our community and our planet. It helps us stay healthy, reduces traffic around our school and lowers air pollution.

That's why our school is taking part in Walktober and encouraging pupils, families and staff to walk, wheel, cycle, scoot, use Park and Stride or travel by public transport more often.

Throughout October, everyone in our school community can take part in **Top Tips, More Trips**. Pupils who enter have the chance to win some fantastic prizes, and every eligible entry, whether from pupils, staff, parents or carers, will support our school's chances of winning the Walktober school competition too.

Walktober 2026 – Top Tips, More Trips

We are inviting our pupils and their parents and carers to share their top tips for active and sustainable travel. Whether it is a regular journey or one that you or your child have recently tried for the first time, your experience could inspire others to give it a try.

Your top tips may also help them discover the benefits of active and sustainable travel, from staying healthy and connecting with others to observing and interacting with the world around us.

To take part:

- Tell us about the journey. It could be travelling to school or work, a journey made during the school or working day or a trip made in your own time.
- Share top tips that could encourage others to try a similar journey.
- Present your entry in any creative format such as a poster, article, presentation, map, video or artwork.

Your child's top tips can be entered into the pupil competition and, along with entries from parents and carers, will count towards our total in the school competition.

You will receive a **Top Tips, More Trips** information sheet with details about the competition, including how to enter. You can also download a copy at: myjourneyhampshire.com/walktober

Entries can be submitted online or handed in at school if a collection point is available. The competition closes on **Friday 13 November 2026** and winners will be notified by the end of term.

Competitions are fully funded by the UK Government. For terms and conditions, visit: myjourneyhampshire.com/hantstermsandconditions

#Walktober
Please do share your fun-filled Walktober activities with us by tagging #Walktober.



myjourneyhampshire.com/walktober

myjourneyhampshire.com/walktober

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.



SJSA

The PTA for Saint James School

AGM

Annual General Meeting



MONDAY
5th OCTOBER



3:45



Gambia Classroom



We kindly ask that
children do not attend
so all parents and carers can
focus on the meeting.

Thank you for your support!



THE GREGG

Discover The Gregg Difference

From Reception to GCSE, our pupils learn with confidence in small class sizes. They are truly understood by their teachers, academically challenged and supported as individuals.

Pair this with the wide range of enrichment clubs, activities and trips together with our beautiful 23-acre campus, and you have the ideal environment for children to learn and play.

We know the difference it makes to every one of our pupils.

*We invite you to come
and see for yourself.*



Open Evening

Thursday 8th October
4.30pm-7pm

Open Morning

Tuesday 24th November
9.30am-11.30am



Book now!
thegreggschool.org