

The week ahead @ Saint James

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

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Friday 4th September

Issue 194

Tues 8 th Sept		Mon 14 th Sept		Fri 18 th Sept	Thurs 24 th Sept	Thurs 1 st Oct
Meet the teacher (4.00 / 4.30 / 5.00pm)	Year 6 Residential Parents' Meeting	Year 1 Phonics Parents' Evening 5.00pm	Year 6 leave on Residential trip	Year 6 return from Residential trip	Year 6 Beginning of Bikeability	Year 6 Last session of Bikeability

A message from the Senior Leadership team

Welcome back! It was lovely to see so many familiar faces returning to school this week, as well as welcoming many new children and their families. We hope you had a fantastic holiday, enjoying the warmest Summer on record, and were able to benefit from a peaceful and relaxing break.

Whilst visiting classrooms on Thursday and Friday, it has been great to observe the high standards of behaviour and fantastic attitudes towards learning. There has been a real 'buzz' of excitement around the school from both pupils and staff. For the first two days, and into next week, the children will be learning about their class country and completing some exciting activities to familiarise themselves with its customs, language and geography.

We are fully anticipating a busy and exciting term that takes us from the glorious sunshine of late Summer through the beautiful, rich colours of Autumn to the exciting festivities of Christmas.

Collective Worship



This week's theme:

**The new school year /
a new adventure**

This week's bible focus:

**A focus on our
Christian values of
Love, Respect and
Courage**

A Slice of Kindness: Eleanor Raises the Dough for Mia

We hope you all had a fantastic Summer break and made some delightful memories in the beautiful weather. The many stories we've been regaled with, over the first two days back in school, give us assurance that many of you have. Although for many of the children this may have involved barbeques, parties with family and friends and long days at the beach and in the pool, we were proud to hear about one of our Year 3 children whose Summer memories include helping to ensure someone else can be assured of positive memories in their future.

When Eleanor, now in Gambia class, heard about the struggles of baby Mia, whose brother Mark is in her class this year, she was inspired to raise money to support Mia's medical needs. Mia, who is only four months old, has been diagnosed with Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) which is a rare and life-limiting genetic condition. Sadly, she's already facing challenges that no child should have to endure.

To give Mia the very best opportunity to live a full and independent life, there is a significant cost implication. With the need for specialist



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physiotherapy sessions, regular hydrotherapy sessions to strengthen her muscles, adaptive equipment and home modifications (for example; chairs, braces and mobility aids) as well as intensive therapy programs several times a year and travel costs to and from specialist centres, it is a financial commitment that few families can afford. When Eleanor heard that a GoFundMe page had been set up for Mia, she became determined to make her own contribution to this fund.

Secure in the knowledge that everyone loves cake, Eleanor was confident that a cake sale would be an excellent fundraiser. Full of enthusiasm, Eleanor began baking, fired by the determination to make her sale a success for Mia. In addition to delicious baking, Eleanor was a further model of selflessness by generously donating a number of her own teddies to form a teddy tombola.

With significant support from the West End community, Saint James children and families and local businesses popping posters in their shop windows to advertise the event, we are thrilled to share that Eleanor's event raised over £700 (a combination of cash on the day and donations to the page through promoting the event).

Whilst we always aspire to modelling our values of *Love*, *Respect* and *Courage*, in our actions and the choices we make, Eleanor has certainly set a high standard at the beginning of this school year.

If you would like more information about Mia's condition and the worthwhile cause that Eleanor was fundraising for, please use the following link to reach her fundraising page: <https://gofund.me/e4773cd93>

Travelling to school

Parking

As we begin a new school year and welcome many new families into our Saint James family, we would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone about parking arrangements around the school at drop-off and collection times.

We fully appreciate that finding a parking space can be challenging, even with our extended collection window. We are therefore grateful that the vast majority of parents and carers park considerately and help keep our children safe and the driveways and properties of our neighbours accessible.

Please remember not to park in a way that blocks driveways, pavements or access routes, even if you are only stopping for a couple of minutes. We know nobody plans to be 'that driver', but a short stop can sometimes create a much bigger problem for residents, pedestrians and other road users.

If you are struggling to find a space, please consider using one of the Park and Stride locations at the Southampton Arms or Little Gems Pre-School. Both are only a short walk from school and, in using them, it will help reduce congestion on the surrounding roads.

In addition, please do not park on the school site during drop-off and collection times, even if spaces appear to be available. Staff arrive throughout the morning, with some members of staff not starting until between 8.30 and 9:00am, so these spaces need to remain available. Parents dropping off or collecting children attending our *Early Birds* or *Night Owls* wraparound care may use the school car park up to 8:00am and after 3:45pm respectively.

Unfortunately, due to our limited number of disabled parking bays (only two) these spaces have been allocated to families where a physical disability prevents them from parking or dropping off elsewhere. We fully recognise that many disabilities are not visible and appreciate that this may be frustrating for some families. However, we simply do not have sufficient capacity to extend this provision further, even where a Blue Badge is held. Thank you for your understanding.

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Drive-through

To help reduce the need for parking in the mornings, we are pleased to be able to continue offering our drive-through drop-off system. We would like to share a huge thank you to everyone who has used this provision during the first few days of term: your patience and cooperation has helped it operate smoothly and efficiently.

As a reminder, when dropping off, please pull forward to the furthest available point at the end of the drive-through (near the exit gate) before stopping. This helps keep traffic moving and prevents queues from backing up onto the road. We ask all families to do this, even if stopping earlier would leave your child slightly closer to their classroom.

When using the drive-through, please use the right-hand lane for overtaking and keep stopping times to a minimum. Ideally, children should arrive with everything they need for the day so there is no last-minute expedition into the boot to search for a lunchbox, water bottle or missing reading book!

For safety reasons, children should always exit vehicles on the school side. This prevents them from stepping into moving traffic. As a driver, please proceed slowly and remain alert for vehicles moving into the right-hand lane, as well as the occasional child who may have forgotten the 'school-side exit' rule.

Scooters and Bicycles

It's wonderful to see so many children travelling to and from school by bicycle or scooter. After a Summer of good weather, many children have clearly enjoyed getting out and about, and self-propelled travel is a fantastic way to start and end the school day.

As more children choose to cycle or scoot to school, we would ask parents and carers to reinforce the importance of road safety and safe riding habits.

In the past, we have had a couple of incidents where children have been knocked off their bicycles by vehicles. Thankfully, the children involved recovered, although one sustained a broken leg. We have also previously had an incident where a child was knocked off a scooter by a vehicle reversing from a driveway. While all of these children were fortunate to avoid more serious injuries, the incidents serve as an important reminder of the need for vigilance.

If your child cycles or scoots to school, please ensure that they wear a helmet every time they ride. Encourage them to show awareness of driveways and look out for vehicles that may be moving on or off them. At all times, children are expected to ride sensibly and with consideration for pedestrians: they should always dismount their bicycle or scooter before entering the school grounds.

With so many children, parents and staff moving around the site at busy times, stepping off bikes and scooters before entering school helps us avoid any unwanted collisions and keeps everyone safe.

Thank you for your support in helping us ensure that the beginning and end of each school day is as safe, efficient and stress-free as possible and for keeping all members of our Saint James family safe.

Meet the teacher meetings

Whilst we have the initial parents' consultation evening scheduled for the middle of November, there is an opportunity to meet your child's new class teacher on **Tuesday 8th September**. We would love to welcome as many parents as possible to this event, so each teacher will host a meeting in three time slots to allow for parents of siblings to attend a meeting for each child.

An identical session will be delivered three times, so please come to a time slot of your choice. These sessions will start at: **4:00pm**, **4:30pm** and **5:00pm**. No booking is necessary. Unfortunately, there will be no crèche facility and children cannot be accommodated on site for this event.

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.

LOOKING FOR A FULL-TIME FEMALE YOUTH WORKER!

Do you love working with young people?
Do you want to make a real difference?
Are you passionate about helping young people reach their full potential?
Are you kind, resilient, adaptable and a team player?

We are looking for an enthusiastic and experienced **Female Youth Worker** to join our growing team. This is a rewarding opportunity to support, encourage and inspire young people while working alongside a dedicated and caring team.

37 hours per week
4 days in Alton, 1 day in Petersfield
£14.64 per hour (£28,243 per annum)

An enhanced DBS check, full driving licence and access to a vehicle are required.

Due to the nature of the role and the needs of the young people we support, there is a genuine occupational requirement for the postholder to be:
* **female and Christian.**

Join us and help young people thrive.

Who are we?

The King's Arms Youth Project (KA) is a Christian Charity that supports the emotional, physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing of young people aged 11-18 years.

We run a range of different clubs and programmes including group and 1:1 mentoring, Young Carers support, clubs for those with additional needs or on the edge of exclusion, after school and holiday clubs and a safe space to chill and have fun!

For any questions or to arrange a visit please contact **Will Schofield** on **01730 231292** or info@thekingsarms.org.uk

Closing date for applications
4th September 2026, 12noon
Or earlier depending on applications

THE KINGS ARMS

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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:



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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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