The week ahead @ Saint James

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

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Friday 6th November

Issue 203

Tues 10th Nov	Wed 11th Nov		Thurs 12th Nov		19th Nov	20th Nov
Tour for parents of prospective Year R pupils	Parents' Evening 3.40pm – 7.00pm	Individual and Sibling photographs	Parents' Evening 3.40pm – 6.00pm	Tour for parents of prospective Year R pupils	Tour for parents of prospective Year R pupils	Children in Need – supporting Cash for Kids

A message from the Senior Leadership Team

Welcome back – we hope you had a lovely half-term and are refreshed and ready for the seven school weeks that take us up to the Christmas holidays! It was a pleasure to see so many children returning on Monday, with smiling faces and enthusiasm to see friends again and begin their exciting new learning for this half-term. This week, we have already seen the Year 5 classrooms transform into the trenches and battlefields of the Somme!

We look forward to meeting many of you next week, at Parents' Evening, where we can discuss how well your child has settled since September and their current progress and attainment.

Collective Worship



This week's theme:
All Saints

This week's story:
Saint Francis

Question of the week

What could we do to help children feel even safer at school?

https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/tAh5aEUQaD

Year 5 got *dug* into their learning on life in the trenches. However, would they swap lives with a World War 1 'Tommy'? It wouldn't be a *poppy*-ular choice!

Picking up a good book can transport you to a different world, either forward or backwards in time or to a fantasy or unfamiliar setting. The same can also be true when you cross the threshold of Saint James Primary School and enter one of the classrooms. Imagine the amazement of our Year 5 children on Wednesday morning, as they walked off the playground and into the World War 1 trenches of the Somme. 110 years passed in a matter of seconds as 2026 became 1916, West End became Northern France and freshly vacuumed carpets became boggy, ankle-deep mud.



A degree of suspending disbelief was needed, as upturned tables formed the steep walls of the trenches, the recorded sound of heavy shelling and gunfire created an atmospheric noise and carefully selected images added to the overall experience.

Despite wearing Saint James uniform, the children quickly assumed the role of a uniformed recruit; a British 'Tommy'. They then began to investigate the use or purpose of each piece of equipment they had been 'issued' with. From goggles to dog tags, they discussed the purpose of each item that, as a soldier, they would need to use. They even prioritised which they would take, if they could only bring a few items.



While Bletchley Park and the Enigma machine are well known from World War 2, many British codebreakers learned their trade during the First World War. After their humble beginnings, in 1914, these important personnel played a vital role. From the British sabotage of German telegraph cables to how one single intercepted and decoded telegram changed the course of history, code breaking in World War 1 was instrumental in shaping the course of the war. An enthusiastic group of young apprentices joined this cause by code breaking themselves. So, what were the results of their efforts? A series of colours which at this point seemed to have little relevance to them!

From the apparent safety of indoors, the new recruits were fast-tracked to the front-line trenches with the express instructions to form an offensive and go 'over the top'. As the children advanced over 'no man's land', the results of their code-breaking efforts became apparent. At each interval across the playground, coloured markers demarked where the soldiers should stand. One of these colours was a 'safe' colour, allowing children to advance, whereas those lined up at the other colours, became one of

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the 886,000 fallen British soldiers. Without wishing to be macabre, it provided poignant imagery of the wanton loss of life. Particularly relevant considering the anniversary, next week, of 108 years since the end of the 'great' war.



As children buy and wear a poppy, observe the Remembrance Sunday service in West End or on the television, or see the wreaths placed by the cenotaph at the crossroads on West End road, the reality of what we are remembering will surely be more meaningful.

A School of Thought: Pupil Voice is Powerful at Saint James

Over recent weeks, we have shared examples of how children's voices can have a real impact. To illustrates this; in 1963, schoolchildren across the UK played an important role in raising awareness of road safety, contributing to a national campaign and improvements in education (perhaps we should get them involved in finding a solution to our parking challenges!).

More recently, young people around the world have inspired action on environmental issues, proving that age is no barrier to making a difference.

At Saint James, we are committed to listening to all of our stakeholders. As unquestionably our largest group, and arguably our most important, our pupils deserve a voice in helping to shape their school. Our latest Pupil Voice question, *'What is one thing you would change about our school?',* generated a fantastic response. It was wonderful to see so many children taking the time to share their ideas, suggestions and, in some cases, a few amusing, albeit rather ambitious, requests!

The most popular topic was undoubtedly the play trail. Many pupils would love to see additional features added, and several also asked for more opportunities to use this much-loved area during the school day. Playground equipment featured strongly too, highlighting just how important active play is to our children.

Clubs and sport were another area where pupils had plenty of ideas. Suggestions included a debating club, a street dance club, a tennis team and more opportunities to play football at break times. Our children clearly have a wide range of interests and passions. Perhaps if we establish a debating club, they will have even more opportunity to put a convincing and persuasive spin on their proposals!

Other suggestions included a bigger library with even more books, improvements to school lunches, air conditioning for warmer days, a school litter-picking team and additional choices during choosing time.

Whilst every contribution is valued, some suggestions are simply beyond what is currently feasible due to constraints outside our control. However, a number certainly brought a smile to our faces! Among the more imaginative ideas were requests for class pets, a later start to the school day and even the chance to vote for next year's class teacher. One pupil suggested having fewer children in each class, while another would simply like to have juice in their water bottles!

We would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who shared their thoughts. We have been impressed by the sincerity of the suggestions and delighted that every response, even those that may not be achievable, was sensible, passionate and well considered. Listening to our children helps us to understand what matters most to them and ensures that their views continue to help shape life at Saint James.

In addition to inviting children to contribute their ideas and suggestions, we have also opened our Question of the Week to parents and families. Whilst we have received fewer responses than from the children, we have been touched by the positive and encouraging feedback.

One parent suggested that we should 'bottle' whatever the school is doing, as their child had made such a positive start at Saint James. Another commented on how our values of Love, Respect and Courage help to guide children's decisions and interactions. Several parents also welcomed the opportunity to share suggestions and have their voices heard, even if they did not currently have any specific feedback to offer.

As well as continuing to provide opportunities to respond to our Question of the Week, there will be further opportunities for you to share your views. Members of the Governing Body will be present during Parents' Evening next week, armed with iPads and QR codes. You will be invited to provide anonymous feedback on various aspects of school life. As always, we greatly value your contributions.

Our latest Question of the Week is now available for both parents and children to answer:

What could we do to help children feel even safer at school?

We look forward to reading your responses and continuing to work together to make Saint James the very best it can be.

*Three*peat Complete: Saint James Make Cup History with Treble Triumph!

In both the 20th and 21st century, no team has won the FA Cup final in three consecutive seasons. However, since Blackburn Rovers triumph in 1886, several modern teams have won the FA Cup twice in a row, but none have managed a third consecutive victory. Interestingly, although Chelsea reached three consecutive FA Cup finals (between 2020-2022), they lost the latter two, while Manchester City became the first club to reach four consecutive FA Cup finals in 2026.

Whilst we concede that emulating Manchester City might usually be a desirable outcome (albeit without the financial impropriety!) on Thursday before half-term, we had the lofty ambition of going one better: after both the boys' and girls' teams won the IDPE tournament last year, could this be the opportunity for a cup hattrick?

Proudly representing the school on the day were: Connor, Flynn, Freddie P, Eddie, Harrison, Grayson, Leo, Freddie W, Enzo and Sophia.

In contrast to a conventional cup competition, the format for this tournament was a league table. Every team would play everyone and, at the end of the evening, the team at the top of the league would be crowned champions!

Our first game was against The Crescent school and for the first 10 minutes we were dominant in our display. Our first goal was superbly crafted through excellent passing, movement and positioning which resulted in a first time cross from Freddie P landing at the feet of Freddie W who tucked the ball away confidently. Next, Connor took control of possession in a central position before playing the ball wide and right to Enzo who made no mistakes in rifling home. Although there were late chances for The Crescent, who did manage to find the target once making the score 2-1, it was a convincing and impressive first performance.

The second game, against Sarisbury Junior, was undoubtedly the trickiest of the afternoon. After starting strongly; Eddie fired us into an early lead before Freddie W showed some flashy footwork, turning his defender inside out: unfortunately, we could only watch on as his brilliant shot was blocked to prevent in becoming 2-0. Then, the game turned and became decidedly more rushed and panicked. Sarisbury pounced onto a loose ball and pulled the score line back to 1-1. Thankfully, the game ended in a draw and we took some important lessons in game management from this match.

Our third match was against Crofton Hammond where we really played some excellent football. It was a beautiful goal that opened the scoring; Harrison played the ball down line to Freddie W after some excellent build up and he ticked the ball into the bottom corner. Enzo tried his best to steal this goal on the line! Then, an excellent strike from Connor, from the edge of the box, made the score 2-0. Another win under our belt!

Our fourth game came against Elson who we have never played before. We had heard before the tournament that they were a decent side, but on the day it was all Saints James. Although we were excellent, finding the back of the net was proving to be elusive. That was until our plucky Year 5's got in on the act. Leo pinched the ball on the halfway line and fizzed the ball down the left wing into Grayson's feet. He swivelled, poked the ball past the defender and screamed towards goal where he fired into the bottom left corner. 1-0!

Our fifth and final game came against Hook-with-Warsash, an old foe from the Hampshire Cup Final! We were 3 points clear at the top of the league at this point and knew a draw was enough to get the win, but Saint James don't play for draws so of course the team put it all on the line once more. We controlled all of the possession and almost all of the dangerous attacks but truthfully, the players were exhausted. The highlights of this game really were Sophia's emphatic long throw ins which caught everyone off guard! The game ended 0-0 which meant...

THREE TIME, BACK-TO-BACK CHAMPIONS!

Although Freddie P, Eddie, Sophia, Flynn and Harrison have not been given significant mentions during this post match report, it must be said that they made an outstanding contribution to the team. We must also take this opportunity to thank our parents for travelling to the depths of Stubbington for this competition, and for the endless steps put in to travelling from one pitch to the next! We are still awaiting the Hampshire Cup fixtures but hopefully we will have some round one action coming soon!

Less Formula 1, More School Run

We would like to extend our thanks to the many parents who use our morning drive-through drop-off each day. We have noticed and greatly appreciate the number of families helping the system run smoothly by driving all the way to the end of the drop-off zone before saying goodbye. This simple action makes a significant difference, helping to keep traffic flowing efficiently, reducing queues and preventing congestion from building up onto the road outside school.

We've received many positive comments about our cheery and helpful site team, who do a fantastic job ensuring the drive-through runs smoothly each morning, whatever the weather! Whilst they enjoy greeting the children at the start of the day, there are occasions when they feel more like a Formula 1 pit crew than a primary school site team, having to keep their wits about them as

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cars pull in, stop suddenly and then speed away!

Whilst we appreciate the pressures of the morning rush and the need to get to work on time, a small number of drivers appear to be treating the drive-through more like a pit lane than a school drop-off zone. With vehicles pulling away, children exiting cars and the occasional pupil forgetting advice to exit vehicles on the kerbside only, excessive speed creates a very real risk of an accident.

We therefore ask all drivers to proceed slowly and cautiously through the drive-through, remaining alert at all times to the movements of both vehicles and pedestrians. Taking a few extra seconds is unlikely to have much impact on the time you reach your destination, but it could make a huge difference to the safety of everyone on site.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support in helping us keep Saint James safe for all.

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.





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

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/

NHS
Hampshire Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

Anxiety

Understanding & strategies to support young people

Tickets £20
Tea and coffee included

The day will provide an overview of the anxiety parent-led intervention we deliver for children and young people in CAMHS.

It is an opportunity for interaction and activities which will give psychoeducation and normalising of anxiety.

There will be chances to learn and practice strategies we teach parents in the intervention.



11 November 2026

The Pallant Centre,
The Pallant, Havant,
PO9 1BE

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

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!

St James' Church West End

DREAM EMPIRE EVENTS

West End ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FAIR

SATURDAY 7 NOV 2026

10AM-3PM

ST JAMES CHURCH, CHURCH HILL, WEST END, SOUTHAMPTON, SO30 3AT

STALLS - REFRESHMENTS - ARTS & CRAFTS
FREE KIDS CRAFTS & MORE

WWW.DREAMEMPIREEVENTS.CO.UK

Entry is £1 for adults, with funds going directly to the church.



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 & DREAM EMPIRE EVENTS LTD

ITCHEN VALLEY COUNTRY PARK

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