

The week ahead @ Saint James

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

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Friday 9th October

Issue 200

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

A message from the Senior Leadership team

This week's newsletter marks the 200th edition in its current format. Across those 200 editions, we have shared countless examples of inspiring learning, celebrated remarkable sporting achievements, and reflected on successful Ofsted and SIAMS inspections.

Looking back at the first newsletter in this format, in September 2021, there are some striking similarities with today's edition. Most notably, there is the unwavering commitment of our school community to supporting others. In 2021, we rallied behind Mr Peacock as he ran four miles around our school field to raise awareness of Wiedemann-Steiner syndrome. We also heard from Madeleine, then in Year 4, who bravely shared her experiences and helped raise awareness during Alopecia Awareness Month. Now, in October 2026, we have once again come together to support those less fortunate than ourselves through generous donations to Eastleigh Basics Bank as part of this week's Harvest Festival.

The years pass, children grow, flourish and move on to new adventures, but one thing remains constant. The Saint James family continues to come together, demonstrating our values of Love, Respect and Courage in the way we care for, encourage and support others. Long may that continue.

Collective Worship



This week's theme:

Harvest

This week's story:

Reaping the Harvest
Leviticus 23:22

A-maize-ing Generosity at Harvest Time: *Lettuce* Give Thanks!

On Thursday, even though they were at opposite ends of West End, the children of Saint James came together to celebrate Harvest with special services led by Reverend Linda and Reverend Vicky. Years 5 and 6 enjoyed the Autumnal sunshine, during a spirited walk to a service at St James Church, while the rest of the school enjoyed an identical service in the school hall, led by Reverend Vicky.

Both services were filled with beautiful readings, thoughtful and compassionate prayers written by the children, and wonderful singing. Familiar favourites 'All Things Bright and Beautiful' and the much-loved Saint James Harvest classic 'Cauliflowers Fluffy' were sung with great enthusiasm, helping to create a joyful atmosphere of thanks and celebration.

Interspersed between the children's contributions, Reverend Linda and Reverend Vicky encouraged the children to reflect on an important message: although our Earth produces enough food for everyone, it is not always shared equally. Consequently, many people still go hungry. They also explored our responsibility to care for God's world and discussed how pollution and global warming can affect future harvests if we do not act responsibly.

Thankfully, acting responsibly and with love is a hallmark of our Saint James 'family'. However, we were still staggered by the significant and incredibly generous collection of food and produce that the school community donated to Eastleigh Basics Bank, where it will support local individuals and families who need it most.

We would like to extend a huge thank you to all of our families for their kindness and generosity. Your donations will make a real difference and perfectly demonstrate the caring spirit that makes Saint James so special.



BREAKING NEWS: Year 5 Rainforest Destroyed – Unlikely Culprits Have Been Unmasked!

Tropical rainforests are a cacophony of noise. High above the canopy, brightly coloured parrots call to one another as monkeys chatter and swing wildly through the treetops. The rainforest hums, chirps and buzzes with insects, while tiny, poisonous frogs croak from hidden pools below. Shafts of sunlight break through the thick, damp leaves, illuminating vibrant flowers, and tangled vines. The warm, humid air carries the earthy smell of damp soil, while the constant drip of water and rustle of leaves remind you that the rainforest is a busy, bustling world full of life.

It is one thing trying to capture the vibrancy of the rainforest in a written description but trying to replicate it in a scale model? That's a whole different challenge! There was excitement, creativity and no shortage of concentration in Year 5 this week, as the children launched into their new English topic on deforestation.

Collaborating with partners, the children meticulously created fantastic rainforest models; carefully crafting cecropia and kapok trees, drawing tapirs, jaguars and sloths and bringing one of the world's most important and diverse habitats to life. Once completed, the class spent time discussing the incredible role rainforests play in supporting wildlife, producing oxygen and helping to keep our planet healthy.

Everything looked idyllic.

Then disaster struck.

In a shocking turn of events, a ruthless and profit-hungry force arrived on the scene. Armed with little regard for wildlife and an eye firmly on boosting profits, the culprit began destroying the rainforest. Once proud, tall trees were cut down. Precious habitats vanished in an instance. Greenhouse gases were released into the atmosphere. The destruction was swift and devastating.

So, who were the culprits for this wanton devastation? None other than the, seemingly benevolent, Mr Walsh, Mr Adams and Miss Roxburgh!

As the rainforest disappeared before their eyes, the children saw first-hand the impact that deforestation can have on ecosystems, wildlife and our planet. What began as a creative activity quickly became a powerful learning experience, provoking strong emotions and plenty of passionate discussion.

Thankfully, despite their convincing performance as an environmentally questionable business tycoons, the Year 5 teaching team have assured us that they are not planning a future career in large-scale rainforest destruction!

The activity was a memorable and thought-provoking way to launch the topic and inspired the children to think carefully about the importance of protecting our world's precious rainforests. We are looking forward to seeing where their learning takes them next.



Forecast: 100% Chance of Needing a Coat

Unfortunately, there's no holding it off, or denying it any longer: Autumn has well and truly arrived! This week brought a noticeable drop in temperature and, even more notably, a significant amount of rain. We can no longer remain in denial: Summer has finally gone!

Acknowledging the importance of fresh air, we always try to send the children outside for breaktimes and lunchtimes whenever possible. Fresh air, exercise and a chance to run around are all important parts of the school day. However, we were unfortunately unable to send some children outside on one day this week because so many had arrived at school without a coat. While we are prepared to venture out in a light shower, we cannot do so if children do not have suitable clothing to keep them warm and dry.

Therefore, we ask that children bring a coat to school every day from now on, regardless of the morning forecast. Even if your child is dropped off by car via the drive-through, please make sure they have a coat with them. As we are all undoubtedly aware, the British weather can change its mind remarkably quickly!

Whilst pulling on a coat may not be the most pressing priority for most of our children, as they leave the house in the morning, it could be the difference between them enjoying a breath of fresh air at break time or spending break indoors. Thank you for your support in helping us keep our children warm, dry and ready to enjoy the outdoors whatever weather the Autumn sends our way!

Help! Our Spare Clothes Cupboard Is Running on Empty: Spare a Pair to Show You Care!

We know, from seeing your children walk into school in the morning, that they are pristine, beautifully presented with crisp white shirts and polo shirts, bright blue sweatshirts and cardigans and meticulously coiffured hair with ponytails, French plaits and partings not a millimetre out of place! We are also aware that this isn't always the state that you find them in, when you collect them at the end of the day! Whilst we think that this is probably a good indication of an active, imaginative and enriching day, and that many of you would be concerned if you didn't have to load the washing machine at the end of each day, there are occasions when clothing is too soiled to be able to wear home.

Therefore, Key Stage 1 are putting out a plea for donations of underwear, socks and spare uniform. Unfortunately, a combination of over-exuberant play, enthusiastic participation in Forest schools and underestimating the time needed to reach the toilet has depleted the supply of spare clothing to almost zero.

If you have any of the items of clothing mentioned above that you would be willing to donate, please bring them into school and hand them to your child's class teacher. Any donations will be welcomed. Thank you, as always, for your generosity and support.

A Slice of Something Special!

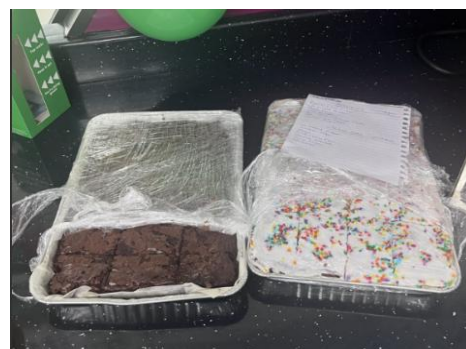
Your children may have been a little puzzled during breaktime last Monday. Staff seemed more enthusiastic than usual when beating a hasty path to the staffroom, while those on duty looked longingly in its direction with hungry gazes.

What was this strange phenomenon? What had brought about this change in behaviour? It could only be one thing... the annual Macmillan Coffee Morning.

Those brave enough to sneak a peek into the room would have spotted work surfaces filled with a tempting display of homemade treats, as staff generously baked and brought in an array of delicious cakes, biscuits and other sweet delights. While we wholeheartedly support the Healthy Schools agenda, it is fair to say that there is very little closer to a teacher's heart than a well-earned slice of cake and a cup of coffee!

Of course, the morning was about much more than satisfying our sweet tooth. Over the past few years, many members of our Saint James 'family', including staff, children and parents, have been affected by cancer. Supporting Macmillan Cancer Support is a small way for us to give something back and help the charity continue its incredible work for those facing this cruel and indiscriminate disease.

Thanks to the generosity of everyone involved, the event raised over £180; a fantastic achievement from the enjoyable act of eating cake! Proof, if ever it were needed, that a good slice of cake really can make a difference. The kindness, generosity and enthusiasm of staff made the event a real success. We know that, just like the delicious cakes on offer, our staff always rise to the occasion!



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.

Parking: A Change of Direction

Regular readers of the newsletter may have noticed that almost every edition since our return to school in September (all but one, in fact!) has included a section about inconsiderate parking. For the vast majority of families who park considerately, responsibly and with respect for our neighbours, this must be becoming rather tedious to read. We can assure you that it is becoming just as tedious to write!

When we began producing the newsletter in its current format, 200 editions ago, its purpose was simple: to celebrate the wonderful things happening at Saint James, share children's achievements, and keep families informed about upcoming events and important school news. Yet, over those 200 editions, one topic has appeared more regularly than almost any other; parking issues.

While it remains an important issue, we recognise that repeatedly featuring parking concerns in the newsletter can make it feel more negative than we would like. We would much rather use this space to showcase sporting successes, exciting trips, inspirational learning and all the other fantastic things that make Saint James Primary School so special.

With that in mind, we will be adapting how we communicate parking concerns. Rather than regularly including them in the newsletter, we will be introducing a weekly Parking Patrol email. This will allow us to share photographs of inconsiderate parking and highlight specific concerns directly, whilst freeing up valuable newsletter space for more positive news and celebrations.

We sincerely hope that this change will be welcomed by the many families who consistently park with courtesy and consideration. Thank you, as always, for your support in helping to keep our children, families and local community safe. If we work together, we can ensure that the stories gaining column inches in the newsletter are the achievements of our pupils rather than the parking of their parents!

A Gentle Reminder About Play Equipment

It is always a pleasure to see how enthusiastically many of our children arrive at school each day. While some of us may need a caffeine boost to get us going in the morning, it is wonderful to witness the excitement and energy displayed by our children, even before 9 o'clock!

While we would never wish to dampen that enthusiasm, we would like to kindly remind parents and carers that the Year R play area and garden, along with all climbing and play equipment around the school site, should not be used before or after the school day.

Although parents and carers may be present, there are no members of staff supervising these areas at these times. For safety reasons, the equipment may only be used during the school day when appropriate supervision is in place.

We know it can be hard to resist the temptation of a quick climb, balancing challenge or game involving the outdoor equipment. However, helping children to follow this rule will ensure that everyone remains safe and helps us to avoid unnecessary accidents.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation. By working together, we can ensure that Saint James remains a happy, safe and enjoyable environment for all our children.

Now Serving: A New Opportunity!

As many of you will be aware, Chartwells became our new catering provider at the beginning of September, and they have already made a positive impact on school lunches.

Last week saw the hugely successful launch of the Burger Shack menu, which resulted in the highest number of school dinners served at Saint James in a single day. Kitchen and school staff were delighted that so many children were enthusiastic about the special themed menu.

Following the busy and exciting start to term, an opportunity has now arisen for a Chef Manager to join the team in our kitchen. This is a fantastic role for someone who is passionate about producing high-quality, nutritious food and helping to create the positive lunchtime experiences that our children deserve.

Whilst our school kitchen and dining hall may not quite be Gordon Ramsay's restaurant at Claridge's (although don't let Mrs Pearson hear that!) our customers can certainly be just as discerning! From carefully inspecting the food as it is plated up to offering detailed reviews of puddings, our diminutive diners have exceptionally high standards. They do, however, have impeccable manners and show politeness to staff. The successful candidate will therefore need to combine culinary skill, organisation and creativity, whilst perhaps displaying a little more decorum and considerably milder language than the famous Michelin-starred television chef!

If you, or someone you know, would be interested in joining our fantastic kitchen team, please take a look at the vacancy using the following link: [Compass Group UK&I Jobs - School Chef Manager - Southampton](#)

Celebrating Success and Sharing Support: Make a Date with your Child's Class Teacher

You can often predict upcoming school events by notable changes that indicate the time of year. The clocks are due to go back by an hour, Christmas chocolates are beginning to appear in the shops and it's darker when we're getting up in the morning; it must be time for the Autumn term Parents' Evenings!

For those of you who have experienced Parents' Evening at Saint James before, we hope you'd agree that it is a valuable opportunity to find out how your child is progressing in school, to celebrate their successes and to ask any questions you may have about their learning and pastoral needs. In only ten minutes, we will do our very best to summarise several weeks of learning, achievements and personal development!

This year's Parents' Evenings will take place on Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th November. Appointments can be booked through your Arbor account, and each family will be offered a ten-minute appointment slot. If you're having difficulty accessing Arbor, please contact the school office where we'll be happy to help. The booking system will close at 10.00pm on Monday 9th November.

As usual, all appointments will be held in the hall and we ask parents to arrive promptly and, where possible, no more than five minutes before their appointment time. This will ease congestion and ensure you have somewhere to sit, whilst you wait. In addition, we encourage parents to attend without children if possible. The meetings are designed to provide a brief opportunity for discussion, and space is limited. However, we do appreciate that finding childcare is not always easy, so we will be providing a small crèche in the classroom next to the hall, to be supervised by school staff. This facility is available for Saint James pupils only and unfortunately cannot accommodate younger siblings, toddlers or babies. To access the crèche, please enter the hall through the side doors near the school office, walk to the opposite end of the hall and exit through the doors on the right-hand side. The classroom is the first room on your right.

During your appointment, teachers will discuss how your child is getting on generally and whether they are working at age-related expectations in Reading, Writing and Maths; they will also suggest ways you can support learning at home. Each meeting allows you opportunity to raise questions or concerns. However, if you have a more complex issue that requires a detailed discussion, we would kindly ask that you arrange a separate meeting with your child's teacher, as ten minutes can disappear surprisingly quickly!

We look forward to welcoming you into school on the 11th and 12th November and having insightful and informative conversations about your fantastic children.



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/hants/termsandconditions

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



myjourneyhampshire.com/walktober

myjourneyhampshire.com/walktober

WELLBEING FAIR 2026

12th November 2026
6pm-7pm
Wildern School, Main Hall



SAMARITANS

Smokefree
HAMPSHIRE

FIT 4 LIFE



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.

You're invited!
Join us as we celebrate

10 YEARS

A celebration for parent carers and professionals



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

Hampshire
SENDIASS

Online Workshops

- Free impartial advice relating to SEND for 0-25 years.
- Confidential sessions not recorded.
- Peer support, talking to others experiencing a similar journey.
- A dedicated session with an experienced support worker

9 OCT
13:00

Considering an EHC Plan?
Independent and impartial information to guide you through the process

13 OCT
13:00

Responding to a draft EHCP
If you are in that critical time frame having received your draft

14 OCT
17:30

Appeals to SEND Tribunal
A step-by-step guide through the appeals process

20 OCT
13:00

Ordinarily Available Provision and SEN Support
Looking at support available for those who do not have an EHC

28 OCT
10:00

Responding to a draft EHCP
If you are in that critical time frame having received your draft

21 OCT
16:00

Alternative Provision
What constitutes as a suitable education in relation to section 19 of the education act

www.hampshiresendiass.co.uk/workshops