

The week ahead @ Saint James

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

Headteacher: Mrs Michelle Marsh

adminoffice@st-james-westend.hants.sch.uk

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Rebecca Gardiner

Tel: 023 80 900995



Supporting our school this week:

Stanford
Est 2005

Friday 26th June 2026

westend@stanfordestateagents.co.uk

02380 275858

Monday 29 th June 2026	Wednesday 1 st July 2026	Friday 3 rd July 2026	Monday 6 th July 2026	Tuesday 7 th July 2026	Wednesday 8 th July 2026
INSET Day	New Yr R Stay and Play 3.45 – 4.45	Big Boogie Event	Final Karate session of the year.	Year 5 Production to parents (5.00 – 6.00)	Year 5 Production to parents (9.00 – 10.00)

A message from the Senior Leadership Team.

What a remarkable and memorable week it has been at Saint James.

Despite the unprecedented heat and the need to move to a reduced timetable, our school community has demonstrated resilience, flexibility and true togetherness. From ice poles and fans to creative adjustments in the classroom that have included a hunt for air conditioning, mini beauty spas, sleeping lions, fan workshops, and mindfulness exercises, everyone has worked incredibly hard to ensure children remained safe, comfortable and able to enjoy the final weeks of term.

We extend our sincere thanks to parents and carers for your understanding and support. Your generosity has been truly appreciated, from donations of fans to thoughtful deliveries of cold drinks for staff. These small acts made a big difference as we navigated the challenges of the week.

We would also like to take a moment to recognise our office team, who have been very much the 'front line' during this busy and challenging period. They have worked tirelessly to support families, manage communication and keep everything running smoothly behind the scenes. We kindly remind all members of our community to treat them with the same respect and courtesy they consistently show to others; your kindness and patience are greatly appreciated.

A particular highlight has been celebrating our wonderful Year 6 pupils. Their leavers' service at the Cathedral was a special and reflective occasion, and their end-of-year performance was nothing short of fantastic. We are so proud of the confidence, talent and teamwork they demonstrated; a fitting way to mark the end of their primary journey.

Alongside this, children across the school had their transition into new year groups, meeting teachers and getting a taste of the exciting opportunities ahead. These moments are always special and help ensure a smooth and positive start to September.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to ensuring that Saint James Primary continues to be a place where children thrive, whatever the circumstances. Thank you once again for your ongoing support, it is this strong partnership that makes our school such a special community.

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Keeping our cool, together.



Thank you to SJSA for the very generous and much-appreciated supply of ice poles, they were a lovely treat for everyone!



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Help Us Keep Our Children Learning - Message from Chair of Governors, Claire Burton

Rising temperatures are making our classrooms increasingly uncomfortable, affecting pupils' concentration and disrupting lessons. During recent heatwaves, conditions became so extreme that learning had to be reduced or stopped entirely. This is about more than comfort, it's about maintaining education. When classrooms are too hot, children struggle to learn, teachers find it harder to teach, and valuable learning time is lost. With extreme heat becoming more frequent, this is an ongoing challenge.

Our Goal - We aim to create a safe, comfortable learning environment by purchasing 24 portable air conditioning units (£800 each), ensuring classrooms remain usable even in high temperatures.

Why It Matters

- Children stay in school during heatwaves
- Improved focus and learning
- Better teaching conditions
- A school prepared for future challenges

Our Commitment - As a governing body, we are dedicated to supporting our pupils, staff, and school by ensuring a safe and effective learning environment year-round.

Donate here: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/stjamescofeschool>

Every contribution brings us closer to protecting our children's education. Together, we can ensure that when the next heatwave comes, our classrooms are ready.

Ready, Set, Grow! Transition Day Highlights



Transition Day is always a special moment in our school year, and today was no exception! It gave the children a wonderful opportunity to step into their new classrooms, meet their new teachers, and begin to explore the exciting experiences that lie ahead.

The atmosphere throughout the school was full of curiosity, enthusiasm and positivity as pupils embraced this change with confidence. Whether it was getting to know new routines, making new friendships, or simply becoming familiar with a new environment, every child took an important step forward in their learning journey.

We are incredibly proud of how well the children approached the day, showing resilience, independence, and a willingness to try something new. Transition Day plays a key role in building confidence and ensuring that all children feel happy, settled, and ready for the year ahead.

We look forward to seeing them continue to grow, thrive, and succeed in their new classes!

Year 6 Leavers' Visit to Winchester Cathedral

Our Year 6 children enjoyed a truly memorable visit to Winchester Cathedral as part of their leavers' celebrations. Set within the breathtaking surroundings of this historic landmark, the children took time to reflect on their primary school journey and the exciting opportunities that lie ahead.

The peaceful atmosphere of the cathedral provided a special space for thought and appreciation, allowing pupils to recognise how much they have grown during their time with us. They represented the school wonderfully - demonstrating respect, maturity and curiosity throughout the visit.

This meaningful experience marked an important milestone for our Year 6 children as they prepare to move on to the next chapter of their education.



Sponsor Our School Newsletter

We are excited to offer parents and local businesses the opportunity to sponsor our newly refreshed school newsletter. This is a wonderful way to support the life of the school while also promoting your business within our community.

Our newsletter is shared with all families and is a key way we celebrate achievements, share important information and highlight the many successes of our children. By becoming a sponsor, your business will be featured within the newsletter, giving you visibility across our engaged and supportive school community.

Sponsorship is available for £50 per week.

If you would be interested in supporting us in this way, we would love to hear from you. Please email: adminoffice@st-james-westend.hants.sch.uk for further details.

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Stone Age Day Success!

Year 3 were transported back in time for an unforgettable Stone Age Day, packed with hands-on adventure and discovery. Throughout the day, the children took part in six exciting activities that brought history vividly to life. They became early fire-makers, learning how to strike sparks using flint and steel, just as Stone Age people would have done. Using this new skill, they helped light a real fire and then cooked their own bread, carefully twisting dough onto sticks. They discovered that placing the bread in the hot embers, rather than the flames, helped it cook evenly. The highlight? Tasting their freshly baked creations, many declared it the best bread they had ever eaten! The bird hide was magically transformed into a Stone Age cave, where children created stunning artwork using natural materials and earthy colours. Creativity flowed as they imagined life thousands of years ago. Working together like true prehistoric communities, the children built shelters, testing their teamwork and problem-solving skills. Later, they stepped into the role of hunters, using their PE skills to track "prey," search for clues, and experience the challenges of survival in the wild.

It was a day full of excitement, teamwork, and discovery - an unforgettable journey into the past for Year 3.



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When the game begins, know where to turn..

As part of Hampshire's commitment to safeguarding children, young people and families, schools are regularly asked to share information about local and national support services that may be helpful to our community.

With major sporting events such as the World Cup taking place this summer, Hampshire's Domestic Abuse Partnership and local safeguarding agencies are using the opportunity to raise awareness of domestic abuse and the support available to those who may need it.

While most people enjoy sporting events as a positive opportunity to come together with family and friends, some studies have identified increases in reports of domestic abuse during major sporting tournaments. It is important to note, however, that domestic abuse is not something that is caused by sport itself but factors such as heightened emotions, alcohol consumption and financial pressures can sometimes intensify existing abusive behaviours.

Campaigns such as this are intended to raise awareness, encourage conversations and ensure that individuals and families know where to turn if they need support. We recognise that some members of our school community may be affected by domestic abuse, either currently or in the past, and we want all families to know that support is available and that they do not have to face difficulties alone.

Hampshire's current campaign, "When the game begins, know where to turn," aims to remind people that help is available and to encourage communities to look out for one another.

If you, or someone you know, is experiencing domestic abuse, support can be accessed through the following organisations:

- Hampshire Domestic Abuse Partnership: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/domestic-abuse-partnership>
- Hampshire & Isle of Wight Constabulary: <https://www.hampshire.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/daa/domestic-abuse>
- Refuge National Domestic Abuse Helpline (24 hours): <https://www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk/>
- In an emergency, always call 999.

As a school, we are committed to promoting healthy, respectful relationships and supporting the wellbeing of children and families. If you feel that you or your family would benefit from support, please do not hesitate to contact the school, where we will do our best to help or signpost you to appropriate services.

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