

The week ahead @ Saint James

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

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Friday 10th October

Issue 160

Fri 10 th Oct	Thurs 16 th Oct	Fri 17 th Oct	Tues 21 st Oct	Wed 22 nd Oct	Fri 24 th Oct
Bike ability starts for Year 6 children	SJSA non-uniform day and school disco	Bike ability ends for Year 6 children	SJSA 'open meeting' at the Master Builder 7pm	Empowerment approach – online seminar 7.30pm	Last day of the half-term

A message from the Senior Leadership team

With beautiful sunshine and a crisp autumnal morning our Year 5 and 6 children had an enjoyable stroll to up to the church to participate in their Harvest service on Thursday. Hopefully the pleasant weather bodes well for the Year 6 children who started their bikeability course this Friday and will be out and about on two wheels for the forthcoming week.

The weather was also conducive for our Year 1 children who headed out and about around West End earlier this week. If you spotted them and wondered why they were busy surveying the variety of properties in our locality, please read on to find out more.

As well as being out and about in the community, we also had the privilege of taking some of our Year 6 children to a cross-country event on Tuesday. As always, they were fine ambassadors of Saint James Primary School.

Collective Worship



This week's theme:
Harvest

This week's story:
**Praise God for his care
for the Earth
Psalm 65 1: 9-13**

Wheat a celebration! Year 5 and 6 wish that *Peas* be with you, during Harvest celebrations at St James!

As our Year 5 and 6 children walked to the church on Thursday morning, they were anticipating, and looking forward to, an enjoyable Harvest service. The bright and sunny autumnal morning helped put a spring in their step, as they walked through West End to St James' church.

Whilst their predictions were entirely correct (as expected Reverend Vicky led them in an engaging and enjoyable service) they were treated to more than they anticipated. As well as a fantastic service, it appeared the children had also become the audience and contestants in a special 'Harvest' version of the popular quiz show, 'Countdown'! Rather than a random selection of vowels and consonants, the children were presented with the letters; A, T, S, R, H, E, V. In the aforementioned quiz, contestants are challenged to find the longest word possible using as many of the chosen letters as they can. This posed no problem for our spelling superstars in Year 5 and 6, who quickly rearranged all of the letters to form the word HARVEST, however that was only the first of their challenges. They were then asked to create as many Harvest-related words as possible. Always prepared, Reverend Vicky had drawn up a list of those she knew could be created, before the service. However, even with that prior planning and nothing left to chance, she was struck by how many relevant words the children found that she hadn't even considered! Share, starve, eat, ate, heart, earth, save, tea, heat; just some of the words that the children considered, along with justification of how they related to the celebration of Harvest.

One of the most pertinent words that the children identified was 'Share', something identified when considering the bible reading read by some of the pupils. When they heard the parable of the rich man, who opted to tear down his barns to build larger ones for all his crops because his harvest was plentiful, the children could appreciate why God wouldn't be pleased and identified that the man should have shared.

No Saint James Harvest celebration would be complete without beautiful singing, clear readings and compassionate prayers and this year was no exception. From the upbeat Saint James staple, 'Cauliflowers fluffy' to the rousing 'Harvest Samba, the singing was delightful. Our Year 6 children spoke clearly and with confidence when sharing readings from the bible and the children in Year 5 shared some empathetic and well-considered prayers. We need to extend our thanks to Mrs Langridge and Mrs Parker whose work with the children during singing practise has paid dividends on their volume, pronunciation and clarity.

It would also be remiss of us not to mention Reverend Linda, who led the younger year groups in an equally well-received service back in school. We would like to thank Reverend Vicky and Reverend Linda for making our Harvest celebrations powerful, thought-provoking and thoroughly enjoyable!



Does Saint James offer a vocational course in estate agency? Surely not!

Although there's a familiar expression that, 'You know you're getting old when Policemen start to look younger!', as far as we're aware, this phrase is not commonly associated to other jobs or professions. However, if you happened to be out and about in West End last week, you might have thought the same about Estate Agents!

Although West End is well served by three estate agents in the village, and we imagine some of the staff employed could still be considered young by many of us, we're sure they don't employ a workforce as young and numerous as those that could be seen looking at properties last week. We've looked into it and any trainee programmes in estate agency seem to require a full UK driving license and access to your own vehicle. So, who was it that was looking so intently at the properties around West End? Children from Year 1 at Saint James Primary School, of course!

As part of their 'Our wonderful West End' topic, the children took a walk around the local area to observe the different types of homes and housing that can be found in our village. Detached, semi-detached and terraced houses, flats, bungalows and caravans were all seen on their pre-planned route, which only failed to take in any castles, palaces, teepees and yurts (allowing them to draw the conclusion that these properties are few and far between in West End)!

With a beautiful blue sky, the children were able to take photos that could easily be used to successfully market a property on Rightmove, although their shots will be used for school purposes only! After a thoroughly enjoyable and informative walk, the children's learning in school will clearly be enriched by what they observed. Who knows, they may already be preparing their CVs, hoping that a pushbike (with or without stabilisers) counts as 'access to your own vehicle'!



Charity Concert at Saint James

We would like to draw your attention to an exciting, informal and free children's concert that will be taking place on Saturday 18th October, in school. Southampton Grad Band will be performing a selection of recognisable music from children's films in a relaxed format where there is no requirement to remain seated. The idea is to give children the opportunity to hear live music in a familiar setting and to hear a wide range of instruments from flutes to baritone saxophones.

Whilst there is no charge for the concert, there will be a bucket collection in aid of Mountbatten Hospice. Cold drinks and cakes will also be on sale, in exchange for cash donations to the hospice. This promises to be an exciting opportunity for the children to experience live music in a familiar setting.

A poster for the Southampton Grad Band Family Concert. It features a cartoon girl playing a purple saxophone. The text includes: "SOUTHAMPTON GRAD BAND", "Relaxed", "Family Concert", "18th October, 11.00 - 12.00", "St James Primary School, West End, SO30 3EG", "FREE ENTRY", and "Cakes and cold drinks on sale All donations to Mountbatten".

SOUTHAMPTON GRAD BAND

Relaxed

Family Concert

18th October, 11.00 - 12.00
St James Primary School, West End, SO30 3EG

FREE ENTRY

Cakes and cold drinks on sale
All donations to Mountbatten

A poster for the Autumn Disco event. It features a disco ball, musical notes, and cartoon children. The text includes: "SJSA The PTA for Saint James School", "AUTUMN DISCO", "Thursday 16th October", a list of times for different year groups, "Please drop off and pick up your child at their classroom.", "£4.50 Includes water or squash, and a snack! (NO high heels or phones allowed)", a QR code, and booking information.

SJSA The PTA for Saint James School

AUTUMN DISCO

Thursday 16th October

Year R:	2.00pm-2.45pm
Year 1 & 2:	2.45pm-3.45pm
Year 3 & 4:	4.00pm-5.00pm
Year 5 & 6:	5.15pm-6.15pm

Please drop off and pick up your child at their classroom.

£4.50
Includes water or squash,
and a snack!
(NO high heels or phones
allowed)

To book and pay for your child's place please visit
<https://sjsa.sumupstore.com/product/disco-16th-october>
or scan the QR code above.

Please ensure you 'ADD TO BASKET' and enter your child's name and class in the 'Your Message to Merchant' and include any dietary requirements or Night Owls arrangements.

Thursday 16th October will also be a non uniform day
Suggested donation of £1 to be given to class teacher.

SJSA events



You will have noted the next SJSA event, the Autumn disco and non-uniform day, advertised on the poster on the previous page. Please book your child's place by following the link on the poster.

We had a successful AGM on Thursday 9th October and the committee are enthusiastic and committed to offering a number of exciting and enriching events over the forthcoming year. If you would like to find out more about the planned events or volunteer your time to support at any of the events over the year, please join us for our EGM (Exceptional General Meeting) at 7pm on Tuesday 21st October at the Master Builder Public House on Swaythling Road, West End.

If you shop at Tesco Bursledon, please look out for the blue tokens that are given to shoppers so they can donate to their favourite charity. For the immediate future, Saint James Primary School is one of the nominated charities. We are pleased that Tesco have agreed to support us through this scheme and we are hoping to raise some much-needed funds via customers' donations.

Mud, Sweat and Cheers: Saint James success at the Hampshire schools cross-country championship

Did you know that the Blue whale is the loudest animal on Earth, with calls that can travel over 1,000 kilometres underwater. On land, the Howler Monkey is famed for its howls that can be heard up to 3 miles through dense rainforest. Elephant's trunks can produce sounds up to 117 decibels, allowing them to communicate over long distances and a lion's roar can be typically be heard up to five miles away, which makes it one of the loudest sounds in the animal kingdom. However, we now have now witnessed a noise that is comparable and is equally effective at communicating with other members of the same species: the sound of Miss Howell cheering encouragement at a cross country event!

Miss Howell's shouts of support were obviously very effective, as the team performed exceptionally in the competition.

After school, on Tuesday 7th October, a team of fourteen of our Year 6 pupils competed in a Hampshire schools cross country event, at Swanmore college. The beautiful, autumnal afternoon could easily have lulled them into a false sense of security, as the ground underfoot was still quite slippery. Conditions that were probably compounded by the Year 5 event that took place beforehand.

Despite having to wait until their event, our children showed exceptional sportsmanship and encouragement by clapping and cheering on the Year 5 children in the race before (despite none of them attending our school).

When it came to the turn of the Year 6 pupils, our resilient team persevered as they negotiated the now loose, wet and churned up ground. With dogged determination, they kept trying until the end and secured an impressive result overall. Out of the ten teams present, our boys came an impressive second place overall and the girls kept pushing all the way to the end, impressing everyone watching with their perseverance and positivity.

As an amazing individual achievement, out of over seventy boys, Lucas came in third place securing a place in the next round to compete at county level!

Looking at the smiling faces and listening to the excited chatter after the race, it would seem a missed opportunity were we not to compete in further events. Watch this space for more competitions and our attempt to become a Parkrun school!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Miss Howell and Mr Adams who took our children to the event and gave supportive vocal encouragement throughout!



Saint James Football team – a commemorative photo

Last week we let you know about our victorious football team who secured one of the most convincing wins ever in primary school sports. However, we were unable to include a photograph of the triumphant team due to the game being so close to the time of publication. We have therefore included a picture this week. As the nature of win was so convincing, can we offer a suggestion? Print a copy, get as many of the players that you can to sign it and keep it safe for another ten years. With such a strong performance, we imagine there must be a few premier league stars of the future amongst their ranks!



Empowerment Approach – free online seminar

We are pleased to invite you to a **free online training session** led by **Kit Messenger, the author of Curious Not Furious**, on **Wednesday 22nd October at 7:30 PM via Zoom**.

Kit will be introducing **The Empowerment Approach**—a compassionate, neuroscience-informed framework that helps adults support children's emotional regulation, behaviour, and learning. This approach focuses on understanding the reasons behind behaviour, building strong relationships, and empowering children to develop the skills they need to thrive.



We have been implementing the Empowerment Approach across our school, and it is already having a positive impact on how we support children both in and out of the classroom. This session will give you insight into the principles we are using and offer practical strategies you can use at home to reinforce the same supportive and empowering environment.

Who is it for?

This session will be particularly helpful for:

- Parents and carers of children who experience emotional or behavioural challenges
- Those looking for positive, practical strategies to support their child's development
- Anyone interested in understanding more about how we approach behaviour and wellbeing in school
- Families who want to build stronger, more connected relationships with their children

Session Details:

- **Date:** Wednesday 22nd October
- **Time:** 7:30 PM
- **Location:** Zoom: Changing Chances is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81432142898?pwd=qKYWXMyhL9Yer9bIIWSIGYRKooB55A.1>

Meeting ID: 814 3214 2898

Passcode: Empower101

We hope you will join us for this valuable opportunity to learn more about the approach and how we can work together to support your child's development and wellbeing.

Saint James Primary School seeks a new governor

Saint James Primary School is seeking to appoint a dedicated and suitably experienced individual to join our Governing Body as a Parent Governor.

We are particularly interested in candidates with a background in finance or strong numerical skills. The successful applicant will serve on the Resources Committee, which oversees key areas including human resources, personnel, and budgetary matters.

This role involves:

- Reviewing and scrutinising the school’s budget, with close attention to income and expenditure
- Supporting the school in meeting the Schools Financial Value Standard (SFVS)
- Providing strategic oversight to ensure financial decisions align with the school’s priorities and statutory responsibilities

Previous governance experience is not essential, but a commitment to supporting the school and its community is vital. Training and support will be provided. The ability to be available during the school day for meetings and monitoring would be an advantage. Full details are available in the attached letter.

If you are interested in contributing your expertise to help shape the future of our school, we would be delighted to hear from you.

If you’re interested in applying for the role, please complete the candidate form attached to an email you will have received on Wednesday 1st October. Please return completed applications to the school office by 3pm on Wednesday, 15th October 2025, or alternatively email your application form to Hayley Bach, Clerk to the Governing Body: clerk@st-james-westend.hants.sch.uk .

A safeguarding warning – Spy Dogs series

Surrey County Councils Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) service has made all schools aware of a safeguarding alert about a children’s book series ‘Spy Dogs/Pups and Spy Cat Books’, written by Andrew Cope.

These books contain a link to a website, which contains highly pornographic content. The books asked children to explore the website to find out more about the characters. It appears the website (identified on the back or inside page) has now been compromised and takes users to a pornographic website with no age verification.

Following advice from the LADO, we have removed all books from the school library and classrooms but we please ask you, as a precaution, to check at home if you have any books from these series and remove them from your child’s access until we receive information that the issue has been resolved.

Librarian needed – no experience necessary

Anyone who has taken a tour around our school will know that the library is at the centre of the school, both geographically and metaphorically. We are truly grateful to the many parents and grandparents who have volunteered their time to listen to readers and we are now putting out a plea to see if anyone is prepared to volunteer some of their time (for example, either 1 x morning or afternoon per week) to help manage our library.

We do have a dedicated team of child librarians who are diligent and willing, however it would be of great benefit if someone was able to volunteer time to help in the management of our library. If you are able to offer some of your time to help in our library, please contact Mr Boyden on a.boyden@st-james-westend.hants.sch.uk

James the scarecrow

Please don’t be alarmed if you happen to walk through the churchyard at St James’ church and you spot a child from Saint James, resplendent in their uniform and stood perfectly still. Apart from a gentle swaying in the wind, they may well appear completely motionless. The closer you look, you will probably notice that, although they look a little dishevelled, they are in no distress. Despite remaining mute, you will notice that the stationary figure is modelling all three of our values; Love, Respect and Courage. How do we know this? Because he is wearing them around his neck!

Despite looking so lifelike, James is in fact a scarecrow produced for the ‘Hounds in the grounds’ event, that was sadly cancelled last weekend due to bad weather. Produced by children in Year 1 and Year 4, along with Mrs Callard and Miss Fulton, James looks very impressive stood alongside a collection of scarecrows from other local groups and organisations.

If you are familiar with the novel and film, ‘The Wizard of Oz’, you will be aware that the scarecrow famously had no brain. Although we cannot verify whether this is true for James, one of our Year 1 pupils, Jenson, did notice a peculiarity with James’ anatomy; he had no ears. Thankfully James is now able to listen to the many complimentary comments on his appearance, since Jenson took the initiative to fashion a pair of ears for him!

We would like to extend a huge ‘thank you’ to Mrs Callard for helping to organise the creation of James.



Parking around Saint James Primary School

We have recently been told of further issues regarding parking, in the streets around Saint James Primary School. As well as an inconvenience for our neighbours, we were told of an incident where a child was nearly struck by a car as they moved between parked vehicles. We completely understand and can empathise with the difficulties of trying to find a parking space when collecting and dropping-off. However, we urge our parents and families to park considerately, respecting the needs of the local residents. We were even informed of abusive language being directed towards a neighbour, when they pointed out someone’s inconsiderate parking. Please remember that we have dedicated park-and-stride locations at the Southampton Arms and in the parking near to Little Gems pre school (please don’t use the spaces allocated for parents of pre-school children).