

The week ahead @ Saint James

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

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Friday 12th September

Issue 156

Collective Worship



This week's theme:
People who help us

This week's story:

The Good Samaritan
Luke 10:25-37

A message from the Senior Leadership team

It was a pleasure to see so many of you at the *Meet the teacher* meetings on Tuesday this week. We hope you found it useful and informative. In our first full week back in school, we have immersed ourselves into learning about our class countries and the countries that lend their names to other classes in the year group. The children have loved learning about some of the traditions, landmarks and geographical features that contribute to the national identity of that country.

We would like to thank so many of our families for their support with our campaign for a smartphone-free childhood. We heard many positive comments about this during the meetings on Tuesday and we have seen a dramatic reduction in the amount of smartphones being brought to school by our Year 5 and 6 pupils. Thank you.

Sophia earns paws and applause, after her dogged determination to help fund an assistance dog for Lily

Many of you will probably remember the fundraising exploits of Sophia, now in Year 6, whose most recent efforts saw her swimming 5km to raise money for an assistance dog for her friend Lily. As she grew older, it became apparent that Lily, who lives with the rare genetic disorder Wiedemann Steiner syndrome, would greatly benefit from an assistance dog to support her. However, the cost of purchasing and training a dog capable of fulfilling this role was prohibitive without extensive fundraising, so her parents began a campaign to raise funds to achieve this goal.

News of Sophia's monumental achievement, completed in just over two hours, reached a far wider audience than this newsletter ever will, with BBC Radio Solent picking up the story. Sophia and Lily were both interviewed on live radio, shortly after the event, which proved to be the catalyst for Sophia being nominated and shortlisted as a finalist for the Radio Solent 'Make a Difference' award. The awards recognise individuals and groups who make life better for people in our communities. Fittingly, Sophia is a finalist in the 'Young Hero' category.

In July, a team from BBC Radio Solent visited Saint James to interview Sophia, along with Lily and Sophia's brother Oliver. The nomination and subsequent interview, which was a surprise for the girls, was broadcast on the radio prior to the prestigious award ceremony (nationally, over 10 million people have engaged with 'Make a Difference' awards via BBC local radio).

Finally, during the Summer holidays, all of the nominees were invited to attend a special awards ceremony, to acknowledge and celebrate their heroic efforts and achievements. Fittingly, Sophia's guest for this event was Lily and both girls looked resplendent in their matching outfits, picked specially for the occasion. As an added bonus, one of the special guests in attendance was Paralympian and friend of the school Aaron Phipps MBE, who recorded an exclusive message with the girls. We shared this with the whole school, during Collective Worship this morning.

Although interviews on the radio, award ceremonies and meeting celebrities are enjoyable and exciting (in addition to Aaron Phipps, Sophia enjoyed a training session with former Olympic swimmer Katy Sexton), they are not the reason why Sophia chose to complete her challenge. By far and away the most rewarding outcome from Sophia's impressive swim is that her fundraising has helped Lily's family achieve their goal of securing an assistance dog for Lily.

Lily is now being aided by the lovely Echo, a fox red labrador. We're sure that, as well as the support Lily will receive from her, they will become the best of friends. However, we are certain she'll never be quite as good a friend as Sophia!



Do you have any enriching experiences to share with our children?

Last week we mentioned that we are aiming to enrich our curriculum by drawing on the experiences and expertise of our wider Saint James family. Are you an electrician who could help when we're looking at electrical circuits and relate it to your job or are you a chef who could help us when we're trying to design and make innovative new chocolate bars in our Charlie and the Chocolate Factory topic? Have you enjoyed an extended holiday (or even lived) in one of our class countries or do you have a plethora of artefacts, letters and photographs from a family member who served on the Somme in World War 1? Are you a firefighter who could explain why the Great Fire of London spread so quickly and devastatingly or a nurse, paramedic, GP or surgeon who could help teach us how to be healthy and how our bodies grow? These are just a few ideas of how our curriculum could be enriched by your experiences.

We have already received information from a few parents who are willing to support us by sharing their experiences and we are thinking about how we can best use this wealth and diversity of experience to enrich our children. However, we have only had responses from a small minority of families and would love to hear from a wider cross-section of our parents and carers.

The following link, to an online form, invites you to include your occupation, hobbies and/ or cultural background, if you feel these may benefit and enrich our curriculum and consequently our children. We have included an overview of the curriculum, including topic titles, to help you consider where you have anything to share that might be enriching and relevant to the children within the context of the curriculum.

We look forward to hearing from you and learning about the diverse experiences of our Saint James family.

<https://forms.office.com/e/eT8EyeTJqh?origin=IprLink>

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Year R	Our school	Once upon a tale	On the move	How do things change?	Big beasts / mini beasts	Superheroes
Year 1	Showing compassion	A day at the toy museum	Being reflective	Animal Adventures	Respecting our environment	Big Bad Wolf
Year 2	Habitats	The Great Fire of London	The UK – Kings and Queens	Titanic – unsinkable?	Rwanda	The Olympics
Year 3	Africa	Stone Age	The Iron Man	Romans	Lights, Camera, Action	Tudors
Year 4	Scandinavia	Victorians	Charlie and the Chocolate Factory	Anglo Saxons	Raging Rivers	Vikings
Year 5	South America	World War 1	Extreme Earth	Ancient Greece	Lost in the Universe	Egyptians
Year 6	Asia	Great Britain	Climate Project	World War 2	Evolution and Inheritance	Moving on and changing

Raising a query

It was a pleasure to see so many of you at the 'meet the teacher' meetings on Tuesday. Hopefully you found the meeting useful and informative. Whilst the initial parents' consultation evenings are scheduled for the middle of November, we would like to encourage you to email your child's class teacher if you have any concerns before then rather than wait for those dates. This will enable us to ensure your child makes an enjoyable and successful start in their new class.

If you have queries or concerns, please contact your child's class teacher in the first instance so they can work with you to answer any questions and propose solutions to any concerns you have raised. On the rare occasion when the class teacher is unable to address your concerns, we have developed a flow chart to help parents know who the correct person is to contact.



Year 6 - secondary school places

For parents with children in Year 6 it probably seems like only yesterday when they were beginning at Saint James and taking the first steps in their education in Year R. When you reflect upon how quickly that time has gone, it probably comes as no surprise that the window for secondary school applications has now opened. Whilst there are so many enjoyable experiences for the Year 6 children still to enjoy, not least with the residential trip next week, it is important that applications for secondary school places are made **by 31st October**. Any application made after this date will only be considered once places have been allocated to the children who have applied on time.

All of our local secondary schools will be holding open evenings and mornings before the application deadline, to help you make an informed choice. Details of these events are included below.

Open Evening



**Thursday
25th September
5.30pm-7.30pm**

We are delighted to welcome Year 6 students and their families to join us and have a look around our school

Presentations by the Headteacher at 5.45pm and 6.30pm

Wildern Lane, Hedge End, SO30 4EJ
wildern@wildern.org
01489 783473

Open Mornings

These are held on normal working school days so you can see us in action, have a tour of our fantastic facilities and talk to our students. Arrival is from 9.45am, please do not arrive earlier.

**Friday 3rd October
9.45am-10.45am**
Please sign up using the QR code (1 ticket per family)

**Monday 13th October
9.45am-10.45am**
Please sign up using the QR code (1 ticket per family)



Every Student Matters,
Every Morning Counts





Open Evening & Open Mornings

We are offering tours at Deer Park School on the following dates:

**Thursday 2nd October
5.30pm - 7.30pm**

**Wednesday 24th September
9.45am - 11am**

**Thursday 9th October
9.45am - 11am**

PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST
POLITE REMINDER THAT THERE IS **LIMITED ON-SITE PARKING**



Open Evening **Open Morning**

Sika Ave, Botley, Southampton SO30 2HT
deerpark@deerparksecondary.org
01489 351100

Open Evening (for Admissions in September 2026)

Our annual Open Evening will take place on **Thursday 18th September 2025** - starting at 6pm through to 8.30pm.

This is a great opportunity for families to come and look around the school and talk to our students, staff and leaders. There will be activities in all departments to give our potential students an idea of what awaits them at Wyvern.

There is no need to book for the evening, just come along with your family.

Autumn Term Morning Tours (for Admissions in September 2026)

Tours are not obligatory but are there for families that cannot make our open evening or want to see a bit more of the college before submitting their choices.

We will be running a number of morning tours around the college in late September and through October. They start at 9.10am and run for about two hours. We aim to run one on each day of the week (i.e. one on a Monday, one on a Tuesday etc).

Details of the dates and bookings will be confirmed on Ticket Source shortly and bookings will open during the Open Evening on the 18th September. Links to the booking site is [Wyvern Tours - Ticket Source](#). If there are no dates listed - please check back later.

Queries about our tours should be made via admissions@wyvern.hants.sch.uk



Update your information on Arbor

You may have noticed the absence of photographs of children in this week's newsletter. One reason for that is because we are still awaiting a significant number of consents to be completed on Arbor. If you haven't yet completed photo consents for your child, along with any other information, including your address and contact details and medical consents, please ensure you submit these details as soon as possible.

8 - 12 September 2025

Mental Health Focus Week

A week of training days for Parent/Carers and Professionals provided by Hampshire CAMHS on a variety of subjects.



8th Eating Disorders and Difficulties

9th Anxiety - understanding and strategies to support young people

10th Trauma - The profound impact on young people

11th Understanding ADHD

12th Embracing Autism

All
sessions
9.30am
- 3.30pm

All
training
days are
£20

Mental Health bite size sessions

All
bite size
sessions
are £5



We are also running a whole week of bitesized workshops to run alongside these days. The sessions all last one hour and cover topics including: Introduction to mental health, anxiety, low mood, sleep hygiene, trauma and much more.

8 - 12 September 2025

United Reform Church Jewry Street, Winchester, SO23 8RZ

For more information scan the QR codes or visit:

<https://hampshirecamhs.nhs.uk/events/>

WANTED



Do you like making a difference?

Could **you** be the person who helps a child to learn to read?

If you have an hour, a morning or an afternoon each week that you could offer, then we would love to hear from you!

Please contact Mrs Gardiner or Mrs Griffiths (SENCo).

REWARD

Knowing that by volunteering, you are helping to boost the self-esteem, reading confidence and ability of some of our wonderful children who are desperate to learn to read and enjoy books.

Cool Milk Free & Subsidised SCHOOL MILK

Register your child today!
www.coolmilk.com



Is your child registered for SCHOOL MILK?

Child
UNDER 5

Every child under the age of five is entitled to free school milk. Simply register your child online.



Child
OVER 5

Every child over the age of five is entitled to milk at a subsidised cost of around £20 per term. Register your child and pay online.

Children in receipt of benefits-based free school meals are eligible for free school milk. Speak to the school for further information.

Free milk for under 5s is funded by the Department of Health and milk for over 5s is subsidised by DEFRA.

REGISTER YOUR CHILD TODAY

Register online
www.coolmilk.com



Need help?
Send us a message
at www.coolmilk.com/contact
or give us a call on 0800 321 3248