

The week ahead @ Saint James

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

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Friday 13th February

Issue 175

Mon 23 rd Feb	Tues 24 th Feb	Wed 25 th Feb	Thurs 5 th March	Mon 9 th March	Wed 11 th March	Thur 12 th March
First day back after half-term break	Year 1 Phonics Screening test – information evening	Ash Wednesday service in school (children and staff)	World Book Day – dress up as a book character day	Parent Book Look 3.00pm - 3.30pm	Parents' Evening 3.30pm – 7.00pm	Parents' Evening 3.30pm – 6.00pm

Collective Worship

Place2Be's

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

This week's theme:

Children's Mental Health Week

This week's story:

**The Good Samaritan
(Year 3 child-led)
Luke 10 25-37**

A message from the Senior Leadership team

It seems hard to believe – now we are at half-term, we are halfway through the academic year! With Christmas now a distant memory, we are looking forward to the increasingly lighter mornings and evenings (and maybe a little less rain) as we enter Spring!

Through Collective Worship this week, we have been learning about 'Children's Mental Health Week' and 'Safer Internet Day', with the aim of empowering our children to be emotionally secure and safe, as well as being safe online.

Have a relaxing half-term break, we look forward to welcoming you back to school on Monday 23rd February.

Our children enjoy their latest English 'journey' – on a bus!

When thinking about people who have a knowledge of London, your mind might automatically be drawn to the drivers of black cabs; the rigorous test they need to pass before they are given their license is even referred to as 'the knowledge'. However, although they might have an encyclopaedic knowledge of the back roads and short cuts around our nation's capital, as well as often possessing a talent for small-talk and some forthright opinions, we don't know if they are the most knowledgeable guides. We think that accolade must be given to the tour guides who travel the city in open-top buses, pointing out our capital's landmarks to thousands of visitors each day. For example how many people would know;

Paddington contains two fake houses built to hide a tube line

The fake houses of Leinster Gardens might look like normal houses but you need to walk around to the back of them to reveal the truth – that they're completely fake. The two houses are only a metre or so deep and were built to replace two houses that were knocked down when the Metropolitan Line was created.

There must always be six ravens at the Tower of London

Legend has it that the Tower of London will fall down, if there aren't at least six ravens in residence at any given time. To make sure the ravens don't fly away, the Ravenmaster clips one of their wings. While this sounds pretty unpleasant, the ravens are not harmed, simply unbalanced and unable to fly.

The city of London officially went through a period called the Gin Craze between 1720 and 1751.

During the peak of the craze, the average consumption of gin was two pints per week, for every person in the city, including children! The implications of decisions made by Parliament are clearly not a new issue; when Parliament deregulated the distilling trade to deal with a surplus of corn – distillers flooded the market with cheap liquor and the residents of the capital began a period of insobriety. This finally ended when laws were passed to restrict the distilling and selling of gin, however during this period the process of distilling was improved as, up-until-then, gin producers would add artificial ingredients, chemicals and colouring to make it more palatable. Some distillers even added methanol, a toxic

continued overleaf



chemical that can be fatal! Thus, a regulated 'London dry gin' was born - to ensure that gin drinkers could enjoy a spirit of quality that wasn't filled with nasty chemicals post distillation!

It is incidental facts like those that only the most knowledgeable experts on London would have at their fingertips. Whilst we imagine that the very best tour guides have years of experience, that is the standard our Year 2 children are aspiring to in just two weeks!

So, how do you train six- and seven-year-olds to be a guide for a bus tour of our nation's historic capital city? Give them a bus to practise on! As inspiration for their latest English journey, which will have an oral outcome of a tour guide's speech, the children got to practise onboard a stationary *First Bus*. Parked on the playground, the children had the unique opportunity of being able to practice their oratory skills and speech whilst on board. Imagining that they were passing the Houses of Parliament on their left or Buckingham Palace on the right, they pointed out these universally-recognised landmarks and offered some interesting facts about these popular tourist attractions.

Whilst the children loved practising being a tour guide onboard the bus, they couldn't resist the opportunity to experience the role of another worker on board – the driver! Whilst it would most definitely be fast-tracking and extremely unusual, if we were to appoint Year 2 children as tour guides, it would be unheard of to employ them as a driver! It tends to be important for bus drivers to simultaneously see over the steering wheel and operate the foot pedals!

We would like to extend a huge 'thank you' to *First Bus* for making this unforgettable experience possible. Our Year 2 children loved having the opportunity to step into the shoes (and the driver's seat!) of the people who are the backbone of London's tourist industry.

The children now feel more prepared than ever to deliver their oral guides and, if necessary, to take over the capital's public transport network!

SJSA Teddy Bear Hunt

This February half term (13th Feb-22nd Feb), the SJSA has created a Teddy Bear Hunt around the local West End area. Members of the community have kindly agreed to place numbered teddy bears in their windows, allowing children to tick off each teddy they find as they go. In some windows, there will be letters displayed alongside the numbered teddies. These letters can be collected to help unlock three secret words.

This activity is optional for those who wish to participate and costs £3 per child. The event is open to all, participation is not limited to Saint James pupils, any friends and family are welcome. Please note that this is not a club or wraparound childcare provision, but an opportunity for families to enjoy an activity together during the half-term break. We ask that parents and carers always remain responsible for their children and are asked to take extra care when walking near roads, ensuring appropriate road safety is observed.

You can purchase your pack on the SJSA online shop using link - [Teddy Bear Hunt](#) – Please leave child's name & class in message to the merchant - if your child doesn't attend the school, leave your name & number. We will be in touch to arrange collection of your bag.

Inside the bag you will have:

- Teddy bear hunt activity pack containing, - numbers to tick/colour in, secret word sheet and a map
- Multi-coloured rainbow pencil
- Poppet keyring
- Sticker
- Envelope with 'for parents/carers' (containing road names)
- Return slip



Inside the bag, you will find an envelope marked "For Parents/Carers". This contains a list of the roads where the teddies can be found (for adults' eyes only).

You will also find a small slip of paper to write your child's name, class, and the three secret words. If you return this to the school office after half term, you will be entered into a prize draw to win a teddy bear

Sad news

It is often a pleasure to read back through the newsletter and remind ourselves of the amazing things that happen in our school on a weekly basis. However, somewhat inevitably, there will be occasions when we need to report sad or distressing news. Unfortunately, this is one of those occasions.

On Monday this week we were sadly informed that one of our colleagues and a valued member of our cleaning team, Debbie Gunnar, has tragically passed away. This has come as an enormous shock to her family, friends and colleagues, as she was at work only a few weeks ago and exhibiting no signs of illness. Usually tasked with cleaning the Camino building, Debbie was always a cheery presence and teaching staff arriving early in the morning always enjoyed a friendly chat at the start of their day and the end of her shift. She will be sadly missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with her loved ones during this incredibly difficult time.



Saint James netballers reign in the rain: bring on the downpour, it helps us score more!

When you think of famous sporting events that are frequently impacted by weather, one example that often comes to mind is the Wimbledon championship for tennis, each year. Whilst the hottest day recorded during the Wimbledon fortnight occurred on 1 July 2015 (when temperatures soared to 35.7°C), most people probably consider the impact of the rain.

With very few years escaping some impact of that stalwart of British Summertime, heavy rainfall, it somehow seems amazing that we need to go back to 1906 to find the day with the heaviest recorded rainfall (when 62.7mm of rain fell in one day).

The regularity of rain each year, and the significant challenges it poses, hastened the installation of Centre Court's retractable roof. The significance of this is that the finely honed sportsmen and women from around the world don't need to brave hostile conditions.

Whilst top tennis players in the world don't need to be hardy to the elements, the same is not true about the impressive netball players from Saint James Primary School!

Fielding two teams on Tuesday, in a tournament at Wildern Secondary School, we were truly proud of the self-sufficiency and dogged determination that our 'B' team squad showed. They were able to organise swapping positions each game and making substitutions themselves without the need for adult intervention. Miss Howell was incredibly impressed, along with teachers and supporters from other schools, who commented on how impressively the team conducted themselves. They played well and had an enjoyable, albeit wet, experience!

Showing similar levels of outstanding sportsmanship and conduct, our 'A' team fought valiantly in the rain to showcase the outstanding netball skills they are capable of. As you might imagine, even heavy rainfall didn't dampen the spirit of our determined netballers who won every game they played! With scores of 7-0, 3-0, 6-0, 1-0 and 7-0 the team should be extremely proud of their performance. Despite being the embodiment of sporting dominance, the children showed humility in their conduct and modelled our values of Love, Respect and Courage throughout.

Whilst the children were able to move around the court to keep warm, and the game itself drew their attention from the inclement weather, the same was not true for the stalwart Miss Howell and Mrs Mostoufi. When Mrs Mostoufi volunteered to help at the tournament, she didn't realise she would be volunteering to referee in the rain! However, we're sure the hardiness to the elements of both members of staff, as well as the support and encouragement they gave to the children, provided them with a stubborn resilience to wipe wet hair from their faces and determinedly play on!

We would like to extend a massive 'thank you' to Mrs Mostoufi and Miss Howell for assisting with refereeing, supporting our children throughout the tournament and being resilient to the downpours! Hopefully, now we have qualified for the next round, the conditions will be better suited for a game of netball than a Science lesson observing the process of the water cycle!



Parents' Consultation Evening – March 2026

In only a few weeks' time we would like to welcome you to our second Parents' evening of the year. This is a valuable opportunity to discuss your child's development and have the chance to direct any questions to their class teacher.

Parents' evenings will be held on Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th March where you will be offered a ten-minute slot to discuss your child's progress. Time slots are booked using your on-line Arbor account (if you are having difficulty with this, please contact the school office). Thank you to everyone who has already made an appointment. The booking system will close at 10pm on Monday 9th March 2026. We look forward to seeing you then.

ST JAMES PRIMARY SCHOOL



AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS



CLUB TIMETABLE

- MONDAY- FOOTBALL YRS R-2
- TUESDAY- FOOTBALL YRS 3-6
- WEDNESDAY- FOOTBALL YRS R-6
- THURSDAY- FOOTBALL YRS R-6
- FRIDAY- DODGEBALL YRS 3-6

CLUBS INCLUDE:

FOOTBALL & DODGEBALL
 PRICE- £6 PER SESSION
 STARTS 23RD FEB
 BOOK HERE!

learningthroughsport.co.uk/st-james/

MONDAY TO FRIDAY

3:30 pm - 4:30 pm

All bookings must be made in advance



WHAT'S ON January - April 2025



FEBRUARY HALF TERM

Hands on History: Castles and Catapults (6+)
 Mon 16 Feb | 10.30am, 1pm | Tudor House | £8

Art for All: Introducing Acrylics - Winter Scenes (8+)
 Mon 16 Feb | 10.30am, 12.30pm or 2.30pm | Art Gallery | £8

Tour for All: Saxons, Vikings and Normans Walking Tour
 Tue 17 Feb | 11am
 Tudor House | £10 (accompanying children FREE)

Art for All: Minecraft Mosaic Worlds (7+)
 Tue 17 Feb | 10.30am, 12.30pm or 2.30pm | Art Gallery | £8

Art for All: Great Fire of London Clay Scenes (5+)
 Wed 18 Feb | 10.30am, 1pm | Tudor House | £8

Art for All: Bluey Inspired Pen Pots (3+)
 Wed 18 Feb | 10.30am, 12.30pm or 2.30pm | Art Gallery | £8

Art for All: K Pop Demon Hunters Clay Sculpture (6+)
 Thu 19 Feb | 10.30am, 12.30pm or 2.30pm | Art Gallery | £8

NEW FOR 2025
Toddler Time: Characterful Dogs! (under 4s and friends)
 Thu 19 Feb | 10.30am | SeaCity | £6

Hands on History: Awesome Egyptians (7+)
 Fri 20 Feb | 10.30am, 1pm | SeaCity | £8

Junior Art School: Go Wild with Wool (7 - 13 years)
 Drop off your young people
 Fri 20 Feb | 10.30am - 3.30pm | Art Gallery | £26

CULTURE CLUB FOR KIDS ACTIVITY DAYS

(Age 6½ - 12 years)

Drop off your young people
 Three days per week | 9am-4pm (drop off from 8.45)

SeaCity | £35 per day or £90 for all three days

Get creative, explore our collections and learn new stuff while making really cool things at our themed activity days.

Cruise Adventures
 Mon 16, Tues 17, Wed 18 Feb



See venue websites for further details on events and to book
seacitymuseum.co.uk | tudorhouseandgarden.com | southamptoncityartgallery.com



Osborne & Shepherds Down School Outreach Services
 Parent Workshop:



Tuesday 10th March 2026

10.00am - 2.00pm

Venue: Shepherds Down School, Compton, Winchester SO21 2AJ

This workshop will provide you with an insight into autism and how it affects your child. Our aim is to provide you with a range of practical strategies to support your child in the home environment.

The course will cover:

- An introduction to autism and the areas of difference
- Positive behaviour management
- Communication

Led By:

Carson Blday

(Osborne School Outreach Service)

Laura Watts (Shepherds Down Outreach Service)



Free of charge

To book a place please contact Osborne School Office

Please do not contact Shepherds Down to book.

N.B. Places are limited, so please book early to avoid disappointment.

Refreshments will be provided, please bring a packed lunch.

Email admin@osborne.hants.sch.uk

Phone 01962 854537

Parking - On site. Overflow parking if required at Compton Tennis Club SO21 2AB

All new sessions for 2026

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 - Jess Garner from The Grove Practice is our guest speaker.



Discretionary tickets available to families on request.

4 February 2026

The Pallant Centre, Havant, Hampshire PO9 1BE

9 July 2026

Junction Church, 2 Romsey Road, Eastleigh, SO50 9FE

17 November 2026

Andover Community Church, Charlton Road, Andover SP10 3JH

For more information scan the QR code or visit:

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

