

The week ahead @ Saint James

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

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Issue 185

Thurs 21 st May	Fri 22 nd May	Mon 1 st June	Tues 2 nd June	Thurs 4 th June
Ascension Church service Year 1 & 2	Last day of the half term	First day back after half term break	Start of Year 4 Multiplication tests	Book fair in school (until 8 th June)
				New Year R Parents' Evening

Collective Worship



This week's theme:
Christian Aid Week

This week's bible story:

Feeding of the 5000
Matthew 14: 13-21

Mark 6: 30-44

Luke 9: 10-14

John 6: 1-14

A message from the Senior Leadership team

This week we've looked at the bible story of the 'feeding of the 5000', to illustrate the importance of sharing and how God can use small, humble offerings to achieve great things. As well as being an important message for Collective Worship, we think that, with the perseverance and determination that the Year 6 children set about their SATs tests this week, the problem wouldn't have deterred them if it had appeared in their Maths Reasoning paper! However, their probable answer, when sharing five loaves and two fish between 5000 people, would be 0.001 of a loaf and 0.0004 of a fish, if given as a decimal. Not the plentiful food and 12 leftover baskets that resulted in the bible story!

We are extremely proud of the attitude that our Year 6 have shown towards their SATs tests this week. Whatever results they achieve, we're confident that neither the children, nor the staff, could have made a bigger effort or tried any harder. Well done Year 6!

Across the country, children in Year 6 have been completing their annual testing – it's been an *exami*-nation! The week has been truly *SATS*-ifying for our determined Year 6 pupils.

Residential visits, theme days, performances, special visits and occasions; all events that we want our children to take away as their special memories of primary school. Historically, we've said that we wouldn't expect or want SATs tests to be one of these. They are a necessity, but aren't ultimately the defining aim for what Primary education should be about. However, the camaraderie and sense of togetherness and resilience that has been developed in Year 6, beginning with the team building during September's residential trip to Liddington in Wiltshire, is definitely a special memory that will endure.

All of this has impacted significantly on the way our Year 6 cohort have approached their SATs tests this week; with a unified feeling of togetherness, a determination to succeed and an unwavering resilience. The SATs breakfasts each morning have probably helped too!

Whilst we will not receive the SATs results until July, we do not need to wait until then to commend our marvellous Year 6 pupils and the titanic effort they've put in this week. It does not take a spreadsheet with a set of results on it, to dictate how proud we are of them and the members of staff in Year 6 who have prepared them so well. It is an irrefutable fact that all the staff in Year 6 are vital cogs in the metaphorical machine that works so seamlessly to prepare our children for this week in May.

So, after the final exam finished on Thursday, did we hear a collective sigh of relief from the Year 6 teachers and support staff before they enjoyed a day of relaxing and taking it easy for the final day of the week? Did they take a day to reflect on the successes of the week, before considering the enriching leavers' events coming up thick and fast after half-term? Of course not! Instead, the intrepid and resilient staff and pupils turned their thoughts to Friday and the children's last Sports Day at Saint James!

With Miss Howell planning Sports Day, Mr Magrane taking the lead on SATs administration and the whole team being on the field and setting up Sports Day events and gazebos from 6.30am on Friday morning, the success of the week has truly been a collaborative effort from all of the Year 6 team. We would like to say huge 'thank you' to all of the team for such a monumental effort leading up to and during this week.

As their time at Saint James draws to a close, the children will be experiencing a wealth of highlights such as an educational visit to Paulton's Park to study theme park rides, a day of activities at Winchester Cathedral with other Year 6 children from all over the diocese and the end of year play (to name but a few). However, we now think the enduring memory of togetherness in adversity, when approaching the challenge of SATs week, must figure highly in the memory!



Year 1's Airport experience saw a *departure* from their usual learning – the idea might really *take-off*!

As you will know, from reading the newsletter each week, we like to immerse children in real-life experiences to enrich and support their learning. In March, the children in Year R were learning about animals, so they visited Marwell Zoo (although the visit coincided with the disappearance of Samba the capybara, we're reliably informed the two events are unrelated)! Similarly, the pupils in Year 3 were learning about the Romans and Celts, so the previous week they visited Butser Ancient Farm. Also, back in November, the Year 4 children walked to the former site of Moorgreen hospital, which was known as Stoneham workhouse during Victorian times, to help them develop a greater understanding of this period of history. This is often referred to as cultural capital: giving children real-life, engaging experiences to enrich their learning.

But what do you do, when your year group is learning about airports and taking a flight? You create an airport of course! Whilst we are fortunate to have Southampton airport a mere 3.5 miles away, the children in Year 1 had the opportunity to experience a far more exclusive, and less well-known centre for commercial aviation, *Saint James Airport*!

Although Southampton airport is ranked outside the top 20 (at 21), when listing UK airports by size, it still caters for an average of around 5000 passengers per day. That number is vastly in excess of the elite group of passengers who passed through the 'Saint James' airport last Tuesday! However, the calibre of the passengers was second to none.

Our passengers may well have been VIPs but they were not subject to any special treatment; undergoing the same rigorous checks as anyone passing through an international airport. With baggage checked meticulously by Mrs Williams (and her unlikely, diminutive dachshund sniffer dog) the children passed their specially made suitcases through the scanner before passing through the body scanner themselves. It is our impression that there is often something about the demeanour of the personnel on baggage control that can make even the most law-abiding passenger feel guilty. This observation had obviously not gone unnoticed by Mrs Williams whose commitment to method-acting did not go unnoticed!

After receiving confirmation that they were not trying to bring contraband onto the plane, the children needed to have their 'passports' checked, to see if their 'photograph' matched the reality of their appearance. There was a general consensus among staff that, even though the 'photos' were hand drawn, they bore a closer resemblance to the passport bearer than our own official passport photos! It is no wonder that Mrs Shotter allowed the children to pass through unchallenged.

After passing unscathed through these checks, the children barely noticed that their passports were stamped by a member of airport staff bearing an uncanny likeness to Mrs Martin!

The Dallas International Airport is listed as having the longest walk from passport control to the departure gates with a staggering 2.16 miles in between. Therefore, our excited passengers were fortunate to only need to take a short walk down the corridor to board the 'plane' in their classrooms.

After taking their seats, it became clear that the chairs, although comfortable, were far more like their classroom seating than business class on British Airways!

With a fantastic day enjoyed by all, the children's writing has been truly enriched, as their English journey has seen them writing a recount on a journey through the airport. Although inspired by the enjoyable non-fiction text, *'How Airports Work'* by Lonely Planet, their experiences from the day have certainly added an extra dimension to their understanding. For those of you planning on a flight abroad this Summer, if your child is in Year 1, you can be safe in the knowledge that you now have an expert at negotiating the challenges of a busy airport! You will also be pleased to know that they were not required to pay an additional supplement to compensate for the rising cost of jet fuel!

On behalf of all the children in Year 1, we would like to extend a huge 'thank you' to the Year 1 staff team for all the preparation they put into making the day so engaging and enriching.



LIVING STREETS LET'S WALK TO SCHOOL

JOIN THE FUN
Walk to School Week, 18-22 May

MISSION MOVE
FIVE-DAY WALKING CHALLENGE

BEHIND THE SCENES BUTSER 7-14
Exclusive chance for Site-Wide games

Excavations • Orienteering
Bread Making • Wide Games
Puzzles & Hunts • Drumming
Decoding Messages
Wall Building & more!

TUES 26 MAY

STONE AGE SURVIVORS 6-13
A day of our Most Popular activities

Archery • Fire starting
Shelter building • Slingshot
Chalk carving • Artefacts
Clay Rattles • Cordage
Fireside tale

WED 27 MAY

RESPLENDANT ROMANS 7-14
Emersive Roman fun - not to be missed

Flint Wall • Siege Scorpio
Dice Strike • Game Pouches
Fresco Painting
Peg Loom • Mosaics
Gems & Jewellery

THURS 28 MAY

www.butserancientfarm.co.uk

WHAT'S ON May 2026

Southampton City of Opportunity SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL

May Half Term

Drop off your young people

Southampton Culture Club for Kids: Story Worlds (6½-12yrs)
Tue 26, Wed 27, Thu 28 May
9am-4pm
SeaCity
£35, £90 all three days

Art for All: Make a Clay Stitch! (4+)
Thu 28 May
10.30am, 12.30pm, 2.30pm
Art Gallery £8

Toddler Time: Under the Sea (under 4's and friends)
Fri 29 May 10.30am
SeaCity £6

Art for All: Minecraft Mosaic Worlds (7+)
Fri 29 May
10.30am, 12.30pm, 2.30pm
Art Gallery £8

Art for All: Clay Capybaras (5+)
Wed 27 May
10.30am, 12.30pm, 2.30pm
Art Gallery £8

Art for All: Birds, Beetles and Butterflies with Watercolour (7+)
Thu 28 May
10.30am, 1.30pm
Tudor House £8

Bugs in Boxes (4+)
Tue 26 May
10.30am, 11.30am, 1pm, 2pm
Tudor House £6

Tour for All: Southampton Myths and Mysteries (6+)
Tue 26 May 11am
Tudor House
£10 (children FREE)

See our "What's on" brochure or venue websites for details on events and to book
seacitymuseum.co.uk | tudorhouseandgarden.com | southamptoncityartgallery.com

EASTLEIGH PIRATES

INVITE ALL GIRLS FROM YEAR R - YEAR 6
TO OUR INTRODUCTION TO RUGBY!

FREE TASTER SESSION!
NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED

SATURDAY 13TH JUNE
10AM - 1PM

THE HUB, FUN ★ MAKE FRIENDS ★ TRY RUGBY

THE HUB, BISHOPSTOKE RD, EASTLEIGH, SO50 6LA

DBS CHECKED COACHES

GIRLS DYNAMOS CRICKET
AT FAIR OAK CRICKET CLUB

GIRLS DYNAMO CRICKET IS FOR GIRLS AGED 8-11 WHO ARE LOOKING TO GET INTO CRICKET, OR CONTINUE AFTER ALL STARS. NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY

AGES 8-11
FRIDAYS 6:30-7:30
@ LAPSTONE PARK
5TH JUNE - 24TH JULY
£50 FOR 8 SESSIONS

SCAN THIS TO SIGN UP:

OR EMAIL:
FAIROAKCCJUNIORS@GMAIL.COM

Est. 1947
Fair Oak Cricket Club