

The week ahead @ Saint James

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

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Friday 16th January

Issue 171

Thurs 29 th Jan	Thurs 12 th Feb	Fri 13 th Feb	Mon 23 rd Feb	Tues 24 th Feb	Wed 25 th Feb
SJSA film night	Last day of the half-term for children	INSET Day (no children in school)	First day back after half-term break	Year 1 Phonics Screening test	Ash Wednesday Service in school (children and staff)

Collective Worship

Courage

This week's theme:

Courage

This week's story:

Esther and Haman

Esther 3: 1-15

A message from the Senior Leadership team

What a week we've had! We're sure many of your children will have returned home on Tuesday, still excited about the thrilling Science show they'd just experienced. There aren't many days when we'd be proudly telling you about the fire and explosions that occurred in our school hall – most days it would probably make the local news for all the wrong reasons! However, all risk assessed and under close control, they served to generate huge enthusiasm for Science. We've then followed that day up with a special 'taco Thursday' menu to recognise Census Day – after seeing some exciting experiments on Tuesday, many of the children were inspired to experiment with interesting combinations of fillings to create some delicious offerings! Thankfully their creations weren't as fiery or explosive!!

Morning, Noon and Kaboom: children at Saint James enjoy an explosive Science Day!

Despite receiving little formal education, Michael Faraday is credited with being one of the most influential scientists in history for his discoveries in the field of electromagnetism and electrochemistry. However, he is also famed for helping educate generations of children and the general public about Science, through establishing the Royal Institution Christmas lectures in 1825. The lectures, held at the London headquarters of the Royal Institution, were conceived to present scientific subjects in an informative and entertaining manner when organised education for young people was scarce. Presented by an eminent scientist each year, the lectures have been televised since 1966.

Now, on the 200th anniversary of the first ever Christmas lecture, the Royal Institution has extended its reach to the children of Saint James Primary School, through live, interactive presentations that (without being critical of Faraday) were probably a great deal more exciting than some of the earliest lectures!

Without proclaiming to be a Scientist with the fame or reputation of Fleming, Faraday and Sir David Attenborough (all of whom have presented at least one Christmas lecture), the presenter, Gareth, was an embodiment of the subject of his presentations; energy. With lively and engaging presentations to children, in the morning and afternoon, a professional development session with teachers after school and an early evening presentation to families, we're not quite sure where he found his energy!

Beginning by introducing the children to the different types of energy; Gravitational, Magnetic, Elastic, Electrostatic, Nuclear, Kinetic, Thermal and Chemical, Gareth then proceeded to demonstrate that energy either produces heat or movement through lively and engaging investigations.

Wait! We hear you say. Wasn't nuclear energy just mentioned! Surely no risk assessment could be thorough enough to enable children to investigate with nuclear energy in the school hall? Surprisingly, you would be wrong, as no form of energy was off limits during the remarkable presentation. Decked out in a visor, apron and thick rubber gloves, one brave child in each presentation (Nova in Key Stage 1 and Connor in Key Stage 2) bravely carried the secure metal case, clearly marked with a radioactive warning, to the table on the stage. Due to not being bedecked in the same level of safety equipment, Gareth stood some distance away and instructed from afar. With trepidation, each child unfastened the clasp and gingerly opened the case; ready to handle the radioactive material. So, what was it? Uranium? Radon? Plutonium?...



Continued overleaf

No – it was a banana! Had our absent-minded presenter mistaken the secure, metal flight case for his lunchbox? Surprisingly not, a banana is actually radioactive due to the presence of a naturally occurring isotope called potassium.

This isotope is found in all living organisms and bananas are particularly rich in it. However, before you start setting up a decontamination zone around your fruit bowl, don't worry. The level of radioactivity in bananas is very low and does not pose any significant threat to human health; you would need to consume an impractically large number of bananas to experience any harmful effects from their radioactivity!

Whilst this was one of the most remarkable facts discovered during each presentation, there were a plethora of exciting activities used to demonstrate that heat or movement is generated by energy. Blowing up a balloon attached to a hard hat on the top of a child's head until it explodes and then observing how cool the burst balloon is, creating bubbles of gas and then igniting them to create a large flame, creating sparks with an angle grinder to demonstrate the heat generated by the friction and then concluding the presentation with a loud explosion; it was remarkable what could be crammed into an hour's show!

So, what was the most important message to be taken from the day? As well as the understanding of different types of energy, it was the realisation that Science can be engaging and fun as we investigate different phenomena. Among the fire, explosions and radioactive bananas, Gareth also shared an important message about resilience. He explained that he fails everyday and that all prominent scientists fail regularly (Einstein took eight years to develop his theory of General Relativity). However, it is important that we learn from these failures. That said, judging by the children's smiles and excited chatter, it would be impossible to describe the day of Science as a failure!

You might imagine, to have two shows of this magnitude during the day, as well as a professional development session for staff, requires a significant financial outlay. This would usually be the case. However, we are delighted to reveal that Saint James Primary School was awarded a Royal Institution Science Grant, providing all of these sessions for no cost. We would therefore like to extend a huge 'thank you' to Gareth for such a thrilling, engaging and interactive day. In addition, we would also like to thank one of our governors, Dr Emma Lofthouse, for all the work she did to secure the grant for the day; helping to raise the profile of Science in our school.



Parking Problems and traffic trouble

With the cold, wet and miserable weather that January brings, we imagine that many of us don't want to walk for longer or further than we need to. Therefore, the amount of traffic around the school site and, as it seems from this week, driving through West End has inevitably increased. It is the unfortunate reality that this has a significant impact on both families from the school and local residents. This week we have seen a significant amount of children arriving after the 8.45am start to the day and we are aware that many of you have left ample time to make the journey under normal circumstances. Although there is very little we can do about traffic locally, parking courteously and with consideration (e.g. by not blocking junctions or parking opposite another parked car thus creating a 'bottleneck' where cars can only pass in one direction) will help alleviate the issue. Wherever possible, please consider using the park and stride by Little Gems Pre School or the Southampton Arms or using the drive-through to drop-off in the morning.

We have also been made aware of a couple of occasions where young children have been left to cross the road without supervision because their accompanying adult has been preoccupied with a conversation or on their phone. At this time of year, this is especially concerning due to the lack of visibility caused by dark mornings and evenings and the need to cross between parked cars, due to the amount of parking during pick-up and drop-off times. We would hate to see an accident occur due to a lapse in supervision.

Whilst we all look forward to the longer, brighter, drier and warmer days of Spring and Summer, we need to do everything we can to ensure the school run is stress-free and safe whilst showing consideration to our neighbours and the wider community.

Whiteley Primary left feeling blue after dominant Saint James display

After an agonisingly long wait for our girls' team, they finally had the opportunity to play in their Hampshire Cup quarter final game against Whiteley Primary. Not only that, but they were officially the first team to wear our brilliant new school kit! Representing the school on Tuesday were: Mia, Kiera, Alba, Alice, Amelie, Sophia, Scarlett, Charlotte and Ava.

The game began under already fading light at 3:15PM with a gentle but crisp breeze blowing across the all-weather pitch. The girls started brightly, playing some excellent passing football and finding spaces in between the Whiteley lines when Scarlett found herself through on goal. She calmly slotted the ball into the bottom left corner. 1-0!

A few moments later and a Whiteley corner caused some defending difficulties in the Saint James box. The no heading rule made things difficult, and the ball landed kindly at the striker's feet. An excellent save from Alba was not enough to keep the ball out of the net. 1-1.

It has to be said that Whiteley looked a composed side and had some considerable threat in their midfield. For a period of time the teams locked horns as they battled for possession and control. Fortunately, Saint James soon won this and Scarlett found the back of the net for her second time. 2-1!

Next came a goal straight from the training ground. With our school only being 4 miles from St Mary's stadium and many of our families supporting Saints, we're sure a number of you will be familiar with long-throw expert Rory Delap. Well, we have our own answer to Delap, it's Sophia, who has an exceptionally long throw-in for such a small person! Launched high into the air the ball landed kindly at Ava's feet who smashed the ball home. 3-1.

Two more goals came quickly before half time, and both were scored by Ava. The first, her second and our fourth, came from the left-hand side of the box. She took control of the ball and fired wickedly into the bottom right corner. The next came from the penalty spot. Alice rifled a fearsome shot goal-wards and the Whiteley defender stopped the shot with her hands. Ava made no mistake- 5-1, a hat-trick hero and halftime!

Some halftime changes and the second half was underway and much like the first, Saint James dominated possession and control. Sophia was next to find herself on the scoresheet, driving effortlessly forwards with the ball and firing home. 6-1.

With one hat-trick already ticked off, Scarlett felt it rude not to grab one of her own. She tucked the ball away neatly into the goal to claim her own personal accolade. 7-1.

Whiteley made a late resurgence scoring 2 more goals of their own. The first was a looping effort that sailed over Alba (who had moments earlier made an outrageously good save). The next an unfortunate defensive clearance that found the back of the net. 7-3.

To end the game, Sophia claimed her second in much the same fashion as her first, and then Keira fancied a piece of the action, dancing through defenders before hammering home. 9-3!

A comprehensive victory with excellent performances from across the pitch. Alba hasn't been mentioned nearly as much as she should have been - making brilliant saves all game. Amelie and Charlotte also made fantastic accounts of themselves.

Thank you to the parents for transporting the children, and to our young mascots for supporting the girls. Thank you also to Mr Whitlock who travelled out to watch the game today. We look



Children control their culinary creations through making tantalisingly tasty tacos!

Whilst we are fortunate that we can guarantee delicious food from our kitchen every day of the week, there are certain days that we always look forward to. In addition to the Christmas lunch, theme days are always a favourite with us. We've enjoyed some imaginative themes and tasty menus during these special days, including a Space theme, Sports Day theme and Build a Burger Day. After the success of the later, we decided to let our children have control of their own culinary creations again; this time creating their own tacos.

After choosing their delicious filling, the children piled on a combination of grated cheese, tomatoes, lettuce, tomato salsa, guacamole and soured cream. Whilst their creations might not have won any prizes for presentation, we're sure they tasted fantastic! The children's smiling faces seemed to indicate this.

On many occasions we have a special menu to recognise or celebrate a special event. For example, it could be Sports Day or Harvest Festival but on Thursday it was Census Day. Although, Christmas may seem like a rapidly fading memory, we're sure that many of you still associate Census Day with Joseph travelling with Mary to Bethlehem, the town of his birth. Despite being taken pity on by a kindly innkeeper, we're still fairly confident that they weren't served tasty tacos at the conclusion of their journey from Nazareth!

We would like to say a big 'thank you' to Nish and her team for creating such a delicious theme day menu.



Y6 SECONDARY TRANSITION

Join Lisa for our SEN Support Workshop

- Learn what a smooth transition looks like
- Explore practical SEN strategies
- Make the most of the time before September
- Get signposted to extra guidance



March 2026
Friday 6th 13:00
Tuesday 10th 17:00
Thursday 12th 10:30

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TEAMS



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**2
FEB**
13:00

Responding to a draft
EHCP

If you are in that critical
time frame having
received your draft

**4
FEB**
12:00

Considering an EHC Plan?

Independent and
impartial information to
guide you through the
process

**10
FEB**
17:30

Alternative Provision

What constitutes as a
suitable education in
relation to section 19 of
the education act

**11
FEB**
12:00

Ordinarily Available
Provision and SEN Support

Looking at support
available for those who do
not have an EHCP

**17
FEB**
11:00

Responding to a draft
EHCP

If you are in that critical
time frame having
received your draft

**18
FEB**
13:00

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through the appeals
process

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Free SEND webinars

We would like to draw your attention to the last in a series of webinars
for supporting children with different SEND needs. Feedback we have
received, from parents who have accessed the previous two, has been
very positive.

'Development Language Disorder: Signs, Support & Strategies', on
Wednesday 21 January, 10:00-11:00 am

[https://www.witherslackgroup.co.uk/advice-and-
support/events/webinar-development-language-disorder-signs-](https://www.witherslackgroup.co.uk/advice-and-support/events/webinar-development-language-disorder-signs-)