

The week ahead @ Saint James

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

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Friday 17th April

Issue 181

Thurs 30 th April	Mon 4 th May	Tues 5 th May	Mon 11 th May	Fri 15 th May	Thurs 21 st May	Fri 22 nd May
Break the Rules Day and School Disco	Bank Holiday	INSET day school closed to pupils	Start of Key Stage 2 SATs tests	Sports Day Morning – KS2 Afternoon – KS1	Ascension Church service Year 1 & 2	Last day of the half term

Collective Worship



This week's theme:
Resurrection and Hope

This week's story:
Doubting Thomas

John 20:24-29

A message from the Senior Leadership team

Welcome back! We hope you all had a peaceful and relaxing Easter break and were able to enjoy some precious family time. It is great to see all the children back at school after their holiday, ready to enjoy another action-packed and exciting term.

It may have only been our first week back but we've already seen a number of exciting and enriching learning opportunities happening around the school. There is a strong chance that Year 5 will be recruited by NASA's engineering department, after designing and building cranes that can be operated in space, whereas Year 4 are now ecologists of the future, after experiencing a day of learning about rivers with the Wessex Rivers Trust. Additionally, Year 4 had further aquatic learning this week after enjoying their first swimming lesson of the year. With Sports Day, 'Break the rules' day, a school disco and Key Stage 2 SATs week all happening within the next four weeks, this half-term looks like it's going to be a busy one!

For out of this world lifting, Year 5 really raised the bar!

A Google search of films that seem too farfetched to be based in reality, highlights some unsurprising results. We're fairly certain that extracting intact dinosaur DNA from amber after 65 million years is scientifically impossible as DNA degrades far too quickly; so that's accounted for Jurassic Park. In addition, as my car is rendered immobile by a flat battery or a puncture suffered in a pothole, we imagine that cars remaining driveable after leaping between skyscrapers, defying physics and surviving encounters with tanks is also implausible! So, that's accounted for the entire Fast & the Furious franchise, too! However, after beholding the DT projects completed in Year 5 this week, we could now be convinced of the credibility of the plot to the film Armageddon!

Previously we would have thought that flying oil drillers to an asteroid, so they could operate an industrial size drill, would be more science fiction than science fact and would have conflicted with the laws of physics. However, observing the cranes that the Year 5 children had designed and made to be used in space, has convinced us that it is not beyond the realms of possibility. With a design brief to create a crane that would operate in space, the children set about designing and then building a working hoist and structure.

After meticulously creating their design to an accuracy of the nearest millimetre, the children cut their pieces of wooden dowel and spar to replicate the dimensions they had planned. Using card triangles to reinforce the joints, the children created stable and strong structures that were capable of supporting a heavy-duty hoist that could be used in space.

After the glue dried, the children demonstrated the impressive lifting capabilities of their designs. Now, convinced that it is possible to design and build heavy-duty machinery that can be used in space, we are left with only a few questions before we're totally convinced of the plausibility of the plot to the top-grossing film of 1998. How are we going to get the cranes into space and find 'A' list Hollywood actors to operate them?



Why did two caring sisters make bracelets for charity? *Bead* cause they care!

Charity wristbands first became popular in 2004, with a silicone band that has helped raise millions for cancer research. In addition to fundraising, bracelets can symbolise support for causes, such as mental health, cancer, and environmental issues, making them a powerful tool for both fundraising and awareness.

You may also be aware of the friendship bracelet phenomena, popularised by fans of popstar Taylor Swift, with many fans swapping bracelets at her concerts to symbolise unity and friendship. However, this practise extends well beyond the fans of global pop acts, as friendship bracelets have even been sported by King Charles and been taken up to the International Space Station (although, not by the king)!

Amazingly, we have discovered two of our children who have managed to combine the concepts of creating home-made friendship bracelets with fundraising for charity, to generate much-needed funds for Great Ormond Street Hospital and Naomi house. Inspired by the tragic death of their cousin last year, Elise, in Year 5, and Dahlia, in Year 3, made the decision to support the charities that had proved so supportive during this extremely difficult time.

Industrially beavering away, the sisters made and sold so many bracelets that it would have made any branch of *Pandora* envious! Friends, family and colleagues of their parents enthusiastically bought the artisan-made bracelets, as well as the anklets and key rings that the girls also made.

Although we're sure that the girls' impressive bracelets will attract many an envious glance at the wrists of the wearer, surely the most impressive outcome is the significant donation the sisters have been able to make to two worthwhile charities. Well done Elise and Dahlia.



A stroke of brilliance: Oliver dives in to support Southampton hospital!

Over the past few years, we have regularly heard of Sophia, now in Year 6, who has used her prowess at swimming to fundraise for charity. Although her latest exploits, in 2025, raised £1649 for her friend Lily, to help towards paying for an assistance dog, you need to go back to 2021 to find Sophia's first selfless example of fundraising. Back in 2021, when she was in Year 2, Sophia was inspired to raise money for the children's ward at Southampton General Hospital, after they gave excellent care to her brother, Oliver, when he was battling with his breathing.

Oliver has been under the care of a respiratory specialist at Southampton General Hospital for the past 5 years due to having a partially collapsed lung. Thankfully, he has gone from enduring multiple visits to the hospital to monitor his lungs (as well as being on antibiotics for six months of the year to keep infections at bay) to only one routine appointment a year. However, Oliver's appointments can still be quite arduous and last up to three hours as he has to have physiotherapy, a lung function test and x-rays. Oliver and his family cannot praise the team at the hospital highly enough and believe that the care Oliver has received over the years has been fantastic.

Being under a respiratory specialist at the hospital, due to having a partially collapsed lung, you might assume that Sophia chose to fundraise for the hospital because Oliver couldn't. Surprisingly, you would be wrong! Despite having respiratory issues, Oliver, like his sister, is a very accomplished swimmer. Therefore, when the opportunity arose to swim 1 kilometre for the hospital that has served him so well, he relished the chance. Gradually working towards his goal of 1 kilometre, Oliver began supplementing his weekly sessions with the City of Southampton Swimming club with additional practice, to build his stamina and ready himself for the challenge.

With the date set for 28th March, everything seemed to be on track until Oliver became ill two days before. Determined not to be beaten before he started, Oliver awoke at 7.30am on the day of the challenge and was in the water by 9.30am. 1km and 42 minutes later, the challenge was complete and shortly after that he was sat enjoying a well-deserved brunch of pancakes.

When we heard that Oliver had completed his challenge we were extremely proud, as were his family and friends. However, news of his impressive achievement reached even further and Oliver has since been featured in the Daily Echo and on the radio with BBC Radio Solent! So far, Oliver has raised an impressive £1,115 via his JustGiving page. If you would like to contribute to Oliver's fundraising efforts, please use the following link:

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/sarah-hill-12>

Well done Oliver. We're incredibly proud of your efforts.



tcs MINI LONDON MARATHON 26 IN SCHOOLS

Next **Friday 24th April**, we are inviting all children to come to school in their PE kit – even if it is not their usual PE day.

Throughout the day, every child will have the chance to complete two miles around the site of Saint James Primary School. They can complete it in whatever way suits them best: running, skipping, jogging, or walking!

To help everyone feel confident, we will have tail walkers (children who have agreed to stay at the back of the group of runners) so no one comes last. There is absolutely no expectation to run, although there will be plenty of support and encouragement.

The distance will be completed in two parts:

- 1 mile in the morning
- 1 mile in the afternoon

We're looking forward to a fun, active day for everyone!

This event is part of the official London Marathon in Schools, and we are excited to be completing it on the Friday before the London Marathon weekend. We hope it inspires the children to watch some of the marathon at home and see running as a fun, positive form of physical activity.



Please ensure your child is prepared for the event by bringing; a hat and sun cream if the forecast is sunny, a coat if rain is expected and a water bottle, which will be important throughout the day.

We have included a rough map of the 0.5 mile loop that the children will complete four times (two laps in the morning and two laps in the afternoon). As you can see, the route includes the school field. Children will not be sitting on the field, but their trainers may get muddy, so try to avoid sending them in their best pair.

As a precaution, it's also best practice to carry out a quick tick check when they get home that day. More information can be found on the website: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tick-awareness-and-toolkit>

If you have any questions, please email: j.howell@st-james-westend.hants.sch.uk



SPRING DISCO

Thursday 30th April

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

Tickets £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-30th-april-add-to-cart-and-leave-child-s-name-class-dietary-needs-and-night-owl-arrangements-in-message-to-merchant> or scan the QR code.

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.



Saint James School Association (SJSJA)

Break the Rules Day

Thursday 30th April

FOR 1 DAY ONLY, YOU CAN BREAK THESE SCHOOLS RULES

- Wear school uniform
- No squash in water bottles
- No nail varnish
- No crazy hair
- No temporary tattoos
- No make-up or face paint
- No football kits

Please give cash to your child's teacher on the day



50p PER RULE YOU BREAK

DASH TOGETHER

ITCHEN VALLEY SUMMER CHALLENGE

9TH JULY & 20TH AUGUST

REGISTER NOW!



Naomi House & Jacksplace
hospices for children and young adults

MAKE YOUR MILES MATTER

% of every ticket goes to Naomi House - Jacks Place

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- Ultimate evening out
- Unique Finishers Medal
- Free Race Photos
- Post Race Snacks
- Prizes

Junior 1m
5 & 10km

Kids: £9.75
Adults: £24



Scan the QR code to book your spot

@dash.together
hello@dashtogether.co.uk

SCHOOLS CRICKET DAY

APRIL 23 2026



ICC WOMEN'S T20 WORLD CUP 2026
SCHOOLS

At Saint James, we will be celebrating Schools' Cricket Day with a range of cricket-themed activities across the day:

- **Every PE lesson** will include a cricket skill or game to help children develop their throwing, catching, batting and fielding.
- At **lunchtime**, our Playleaders will be running **cricket-inspired games**, including throwing and catching challenges.
- **For one week only**, Mrs Voaden's Cricket Club will take place on **Thursday** instead of Monday, and will be open for **any child who would like to join in a fun game of cricket**.

We're looking forward to a brilliant week of cricket skills, teamwork, and active fun!

If your child has PE that day, they should come to school in their PE kit. If they don't have PE, they should wear normal school uniform — but they can join in cricket games wearing their uniform for this event.

Funded by UK Government

SKILLS FOR LIFE
SKILLS BOOTCAMPS

KICKSTART YOUR CAREER WITH SKILLS BOOTCAMPS



Hampshire County Council

Do you want to work in Health and Social Care?
Come and join our Skills Bootcamps

Starting 27th April 2026

This course runs Monday-Friday 9.30-2.30 for three weeks (27th - 15th May 2026)

Venue: John Pounds Centre, 23 Queen Street, Portsmouth, PO1 3HN

For more information or to book onto the Skills Bootcamps please contact Itchen College Adult Education on 02380 446156 or courses@itchen.ac.uk

Funded by Hampshire County Council



Funded by UK Government



KICKSTART YOUR CAREER WITH SKILLS BOOTCAMPS

Do you want to work in Early Years?

Come and join our Skills Bootcamps

The course runs for 3 weeks, Monday- Friday, 9.30-2.30

Dates: Monday 20th April- Friday 8th May (no session on Monday 4th May)

Venue: Leonardo Hotel, Charlotte Place, Southampton, SO14 0TB

For more information or to book onto the Skills Bootcamps please contact Itchen College on 02380 446156 or email courses@itchen.ac.uk

Funded by Hampshire County Council



SKILLS FOR LIFE
SKILLS BOOTCAMPS

Do you have a child under 5?

Hampshire Healthy Families is here to support you from birth to school age with a variety of free courses and sessions in your local community and online as part of your child's Health Visiting Service offer.

**Hampshire
Healthy
Families**



Working together
NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight Healthcare
BARNARDOS NHS Foundation Trust

Ready Steady Walk

1 hour walk in your local area
Suitable for all families with children under 5 years old



Five to Thrive New Baby

4 week course
For families with babies aged 6 weeks to 6 months old

Introduction to Solids

Online videos
For families with children around 6 months old

Baby and Toddler Talk

1.5 hour session
For families with children aged 9 months and over



Family Food and Fun

1.5 hour session
For families with children aged 1 to 5 years



Two and Beyond

1.5 hour session & online videos
For families with children aged 2 to 5 years old



Find out more on the Hampshire Healthy Families website

www.hampshirehealthyfamilies.org.uk Hampshire Healthy Families @hampshire_healthy_families

Two and Beyond Your child's learning journey

**Hampshire
Healthy
Families**



Working together
NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight Healthcare
BARNARDOS NHS Foundation Trust

Hampshire Healthy Families have a new offer for families with children aged 2 to 5 years old - Two and Beyond. The offer is available as a **1.5 hour session** in the local community or in a early year setting and as **online videos**.

In the 1.5 hour session and online videos, our Community Health Development Workers explore the following **skills**:

- Early Independence
- Speech, Language and Communication
- Healthy Lifestyle
- Social and Emotional
- Applying for school when the time comes

Find out more about more about Two & Beyond on the Hampshire Healthy Families website.

www.hampshirehealthyfamilies.org.uk/two-and-beyond

