

The week ahead @ Saint James

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

Headteacher: Mrs Michelle Marsh

adminoffice@st-james-westend.hants.sch.uk

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Rebecca Gardiner

Tel: 023 80 900995



Friday 19th September

Issue 157

Thurs 2 nd Oct	Fri 3 rd Oct	Mon 6 th Oct	Thurs 9 th Oct	Thurs 16 th Oct	Fri 24 th Oct
Nasal flu vaccinations	Non-uniform day for allergy awareness	School photos – individual portraits	INSET day – no children in school	Harvest festival at church – Years 5 & 6	SJSA non-uniform day and school disco
					Last day of the half-term

Collective Worship



This week's theme:
Peace

This week's story:
Abigail's wisdom
1 Samuel 25

A message from the Senior Leadership team

The theme of this week's Collective Worship has been Peace; the importance of peace and how we can spread peace at home, in school and in the wider community. Despite seeing children modelling this superbly in their interactions with others, it would be difficult to describe the week in school as *peaceful*: it has been another action-packed week!

In fact, action-packed is an appropriate way to describe Year 6's time this week; swapping Maths for climbing, Guided Reading for abseiling and English for canoeing, the children have been enjoying their week away at the Liddington PGL centre, near Swindon. We look forward to sharing the highlights of their visit in next week's newsletter.

Doughing Global: from Maasai to mozzarella! During their research on class countries, our children learned all they kneaded to know about life in Kenya and making pizza!

Across the school, over the past two weeks, we have seen children enthusiastically learning about the country their class is named after. From activities as diverse as learning key words and phrases to looking at traditional food and customs, the children have enjoyed drawing comparisons between the UK and their class country. Year 1 have even considered some of the key buildings and structures in Spain, Italy and Portugal and have made models of them using spaghetti and blu-tak. A valiant effort was made, resulting in some excellent models, however we're sure some children were pleased that the famous tower in Pisa is actually leaning in real-life! Unfortunately, we can't use the same excuse for the Eiffel tower!

In addition to being architects and builders, Italy class also became chefs and created their own pizzas. With food from Italy being their focus, turning their classroom into a pizzeria seemed a logical choice. Whilst we wouldn't wish to cast aspersions about the culinary talents of Mrs Hobbs, the children were fortunate to be taught by Aspens' development chef, Liam. Although we're unsure whether Liam has any Italian ancestry, his credentials are impeccable having previously worked in a Michelin-star kitchen! The children were certainly quick and enthusiastic learners, producing some delicious and authentic Italian-style pizzas. Spain and Portugal classes are now looking forward to Liam supporting them with making churros and Portuguese custard tarts respectively.

Kenya class, in Year 3, were also privileged to have their learning about their class country enriched by the experiences or expertise of another. Mrs Amonya, the mother of Paul in Year 6. originally comes from Sudan (which shares a border with Kenya). However, she has a number of members of her family who live in Kenya.

The children loved learning about Kenya from Mrs Amonya, especially the animals and how it was possible to see all of the 'big five' (lions, leopards, elephants, rhinos and buffalo) in Kenya. They were also particularly interested to find out that, in Kenya, Mrs Amonya's name would be dictated by the name of her child. In her case, she would be called 'Mrs Paul'.

It is lovely to see all our children looking resplendent in their uniform at the beginning of the term. Despite proudly wearing their blue Saint James jumpers and cardigans, the children were still enthusiastic to add more colour by having the opportunity to dress in traditional Kenyan clothing. As well as modelling traditional dress herself, Mrs Amonya helped dress children and Mrs Appleyard in authentic Kenyan outfits. The red cloak, sparkly headband and spotty tunic all looked fantastic and were modelled superbly! Mrs Amonya even kindly donated these items of traditional dress to the school, so that others have the opportunity to dress in authentic Kenyan attire.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank both Liam and Mrs Amonya for enriching the learning of our children and providing them with valuable experiences to teach them about the food, traditions and culture of other countries.



Mrs Gardiner has passed her headteacher qualifications but Mrs Marsh hasn't passed the baton!

Over the past academic year, we saw our Year 6 pupils studying hard to achieve the best results for their Key Stage 2 SATs. We were extremely proud of their efforts and what they achieved. Our Year 4 pupils spent the year seeking to improve their status from 'break through artist' to 'Rock legend' as they prepared for their national Multiplication test check. We were extremely proud of their efforts and what they achieved. Even some of our youngest pupils, in Year 1, worked hard at their phonic decoding before they completed the national phonic screening test at the end of the year. Like their friends in the older year groups; we were extremely proud of their efforts and what they achieved.

However, when it comes to nationally recognised qualifications that have taken monumental effort to achieve, it would be remiss of us not to mention another member of our Saint James family who has achieved exceptionally. After rigorous, in-depth training, and a multitude of assignments over eighteen months, Mrs Gardiner has completed her National Professional Qualification for Headship. However, with a pass mark of 60%, the term 'pass' doesn't do justice to the score she achieved, as she attained an impressive 88% overall (a mark that, if achieved in any A 'level' subject this year, would have secured an A*)!

Whilst this qualification proves that Mrs Gardiner will be an extremely capable and inspirational headteacher, we would like to take this opportunity to dispel a misunderstanding. When Mrs Marsh celebrated this impressive achievement in Collective Worship, some children interpreted her passing a celebratory gift to Mrs Gardiner as passing a metaphorical baton! Neither Mrs Marsh nor Mrs Gardiner have imminent plans for a change of role! We can therefore confirm that Mrs Marsh remains the headteacher of Saint James Primary School!

Problematic parking – a kind request

We are aware that the revised timings at the beginning and end of the day have brought increased pressure on the provision for parking around the school site. Unfortunately, this is unavoidable as we need to ensure all children attend school for the statutory amount of hours.

Whilst we empathise with anyone struggling to park so they can collect their child, we would like to reiterate that they should not be parking in a way that is inconsiderate or that inconveniences our neighbours.

We have recently received a number of complaints from residents who are concerned that their access is being impaired by inconsiderate parking. One example of where one of our neighbours has found it difficult to leave and access their driveway is included below. Whilst all correspondence has recognised and been empathetic to the difficulties facing parents trying to park at the beginning and end of the school day, they have all voiced their frustration at the inconvenience. Please park considerately in the roads around the school and check that you are not impairing the access of our neighbours.



Raising a query – anonymous correspondence

Last week, in the newsletter and at the Meet the teacher meetings, we shared the queries and complaints pyramid with you. In the first instance, we always encourage you to email or message your child's class teacher. However, in all instances, whether contacting your child's class teacher, year leader, phase leader or any member of the leadership team, please include your name and, if it is not explicit in the message, relationship to a child who attends Saint James Primary School. This is so we can provide an answer to any queries or concerns.

At Saint James we will not investigate or respond to anonymous complaints. Correspondence will always be treated confidentially, but to eliminate the possibility for malicious or fictitious complaints we always ask for the sender to be identified.

Nasal flu vaccinations

On Thursday 2nd October 2025, we will be visited by the NHS immunisation service to administer the nasal flu vaccination to children in all year groups. If you wish your child to receive the vaccine, please submit their details on the electronic form.

The form, along with information about the vaccine, can be accessed via the link below:

School Code: **SH116331**

Session date: **Thursday 2nd October 2025**

Year Group: **Year R – 6**

Link to website: [Annual Nasal Flu Vaccination Programme - Hampshire - Parents: Health for Kids](#)

Access to the form will close two working days prior to the session.

Alternatively, if you decide you do not wish your child to receive the vaccine, please submit the form to record your decision. This will enable us to update your child's immunisation record.

If you have already completed the form, there is no need to do anything more. Please only complete one form per child.



flu: 5 reasons to vaccinate your child



- 1. Protect your child**
The vaccine will help protect your child against flu and serious complications such as bronchitis and pneumonia
- 2. Protect you, your family and friends**
Vaccinating your child will help protect more vulnerable friends and family
- 3. No injection needed**
The nasal spray is painless and easy to have
- 4. It's better than having flu**
The nasal spray helps protect against flu, has been given to millions of children worldwide and has an excellent safety record
- 5. Avoid costs**
If your child gets flu, you may have to take time off work or arrange alternative childcare

For more information visit www.nhs.uk/child-flu

Flu immunisation
Helping to protect children, every winter

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Administration job at St James church

St James Church have informed us that they are looking to recruit a part-time parish administrator and wondered if the position might be of interest to members of our wider Saint James family. We are providing a synopsis of the role below, if you are interested and would like to find out more, please contact Reverend Vicky whose contact details are below.



Job Description - Church Administration and Support

Role profile:

- *Support the vicar, churchwardens, ministry team and church officers
- *Respond to queries, emails and post.
- *Draft the weekly church email to forward to the vicar for approval, prior to distribution.
- *Schedule weekly service role reminder emails.
- *Support the ministry team in preparing and printing service materials.
- *Print prepared Church Alive materials as requested.
- *Preparing and printing monthly notice sheet
- *Administration for occasional offices (baptism, weddings, funerals, ashes internments, banns)
- *Support Church Treasurer with finance administration
- *Provide administrative support for Stay and Play.
- *Liaise with Data Protection officer re GDPR forms
- *Print, maintain and update Church literature and materials.
- *Order stock for church purposes
- *Day to day management and maintenance of photocopier

Other such tasks as may be reasonably requested

Church and Hall Diary and Bookings:

- *Keep the Church and Hall diary up to date
- *Oversee the administration of Church and Hall bookings; including booking dates, arranging opening and closing/keys, dealing with booking form records and liaising with Finance Team.
- *Raise awareness/publicity to increase Hall bookings in liaison with Church Hall Committee

Publicity and Communication:

- *Responsibility for the church website and *ACHurchNearYou* making sure it is kept up to date and all relevant services are advertised clearly.
- *Ensuring all noticeboards are kept up to date with relevant information and displayed in an attractive and creative manner.
- *Print and display posters for church services, prepare posters if needed.

Person Specification:

The successful candidate will:

- *Be a person of integrity with a high standard of written and oral communication skills and show attention to detail
- *Be a team player, possessing excellent interpersonal skills. This person will demonstrate patience, enthusiasm and understanding.
- *Demonstrate the ability to handle sensitive and confidential information with discretion and in accordance with GDPR and safeguarding legislation, whilst being a good co-ordinator and communicator.
- *Be a reliable administrative support, prepared to work with the vicar's direction, exercising judgement within agreed boundaries, with a flexible approach to the unpredictability of church life.
- *Possess the ability to work independently and prioritise workload with a focused and pro-active approach.
- *Be an experienced administrator, the candidate will demonstrate excellent IT and word processing skills; confident in the use of Microsoft office products and have the willingness and enthusiasm to use and develop other office systems appropriate to the needs of St James' Church.
- *Be able to maintain out website content and be creative in marketing and promoting church activities through social media, together with producing flyers and posters for noticeboards, events and services.
- *Be sympathetic to the mission and ethos of St James' Church

Essential:

- * Pass qualification in English Grade C or above or equivalent
- *Previous administrative experience including Microsoft and Word processing
- *Good communication skills
- *Demonstrate independent working
- *Demonstrate confidentiality
- *Willingness to learn

Desirable:

- *Website and social media experience
- *Marketing and promotion experience
- * Advanced IT skills

We are offering:

- *training and support on the job
- *flexible working subject to agreement

The contract:

- *Part-time post of 9 hours a week over 3 days with scope for flexibility
- *Subject to a probationary period of 3 months.
- *Responsible to the Church Council, represented by the vicar
- *Holidays: 28 days a year pro-rata including statutory holidays.
- *Salary of £12.50 per hour
- *Office space including use of a laptop is provided. (opportunity to work from home for some of the hours)
- *Includes an induction and annual review.

The appointment is subject to an enhanced DBS check. We operate a safer recruitment policy.

For an informal chat or more information please contact the vicar, Reverend Vicky Maunders at stjameswe.vicar@gmail.com or 07762 673350.

Application deadline – 12 noon on Friday 10th October

STARTING SCHOOL IN

2026



If your child is 4 or will turn 4 before
1 September 2026,
they can start school in **September 2026**.
For more information go to
www.hants.gov.uk/admissions
Applications open for Hampshire residents
on **1 November 2025**

THE NATIONAL CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS IS
THURSDAY 15 JANUARY 2026

DON'T MISS IT!



hants.gov.uk

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.

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**



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ARE YOU AGED 8-13 WITH A DREAM OF CREATING MUSIC?

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REGARDLESS OF ABILITIES AND MUSICAL BACKGROUND!**

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ONLINE WITH EXPERT TUITION FROM HAMPSHIRE MUSIC SERVICE STAFF!**

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60-MINUTE ONLINE
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SCHOOL**

**A MINIMUM OF 30
LESSONS OVER THE
SCHOOL YEAR**

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