

The week ahead @ Saint James

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

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Friday 1st May

Issue 183

Mon 4 th May	Tues 5 th May	Mon 11 th May	Fri 15 th May	Thurs 21 st May	Fri 22 nd May
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:

Friendship

This week's story:

**Mary and Martha –
the story of two sisters**

Luke 10 38:42

A message from the Senior Leadership team

It's been another busy week in school, thankfully the sun has been shining and it feels like Summer is truly on its way. After the sporting success of last week, with a mini-marathon and a Hampshire Cup win for the boys, we were looking forward to a second outing in two weeks to Hampshire FA's Stoneham lane football complex to see the girls contest another Hampshire final. Unfortunately, despite playing exceptionally well, they were unable to secure the win that their performance deserved. However, we are extremely proud of both of our football teams and what they have managed to achieve this season.

Thursday saw the children enjoying the annual 'Break the rules' day followed by year group discos. We would like to extend a big 'thank you' to the SJSA team for organising both of these events, as well as DJ Andy for keeping the children entertained and on the dancefloor for the duration of their disco! Please enjoy the extended bank holiday weekend – we look forward to welcoming you back to school next Wednesday.

Heartbreak in Hampshire Cup final!

We're incredibly proud of Saint James girls' superb performance in the Hampshire Cup Final



The article was written, the headline carried over from last week, we were all ready to express our excitement in the unprecedented achievement of being the joint boys and girls Hampshire Cup Champions. Unfortunately, Sarisbury Junior School hadn't read the script. With the same ingredients as last week, everything felt so right; record crowd – check, same tactical genius at the helm – check, same 'lucky' sign with hastily changed wording to show support for the girls' team – check, same early goal and dominance of play – check. What could possibly go wrong?

Standing on the sidelines, beholding the action taking place in front of them, Saint James supporters had early confidence that their nails, that had been chewed to the stumps during last week's final, would survive the evening unscathed. For long periods, their confidence was not misplaced.

As our girl's football team took to the pitch at Stoneham Lane Sports Complex they were already victorious, having exceeded all expectations to reach the final in the most prestigious competition in Hampshire Schools football in their debut season! They were now taking part in a final against competition veterans and previous winners, Sarisbury Junior School. Proudly representing the school were: Alba, Mia, Keira, Sophia, Ava, Amelie, Scarlett, Alice and Charlotte.

Saint James got off to the brightest start and, even a Sarisbury supporter would have to concede, were easily the strongest of the two teams throughout the fixture. Nice passing football, resilient defending and the use of speed in attack saw dangerous moments over and over again. Eventually their dominance paid off and the breakthrough came through the utilisation of our very dangerous long throw-ins. Anyone used to watching Southampton in the early 2000s will no doubt remember Rory Delap launching throw-ins as far as many players could kick. Whilst Sophia, who is in Year 5, is far too young to remember this, she certainly invoked the spirit of the retired Irish international player, by regularly launching the ball at least 25 yards to set up attacks. On this occasion, she found Scarlett lurking behind the Sarisbury defence who took the ball expertly under control. Her predatory instincts meant that the outcome was predictable. 1-0 and Saint James were under way.

Late in the half, Sarisbury found themselves with a good chance on the right-hand side of the box. A shot was fired in low and powerfully, but Alba was equal to it, making an excellent diving save to her right.

Continued overleaf

Further forays into the Sarisbury half continued, however the girls were unable to find a second and the game moved into half time at 1-0. A comprehensive first half that had all the signs of champions. At that time, if you had asked Mr Whitlock, and most of the spectators, you would have been confidently told that the game was 'in the bag', the girls just needed one more goal to reflect their dominance...

The second half began and continued in the same fashion as the first. The Saint James girls laid siege on the Sarisbury goal, battering it relentlessly; hitting the post, forcing saves from the goalkeeper and at one point a wicked strike from Scarlett was saved by the goalkeeper's hat! Surely a second goal was inevitable? It seemed like a forcefield had been installed at half time and the ball just would not go in.

Then the unthinkable happened. Just as the engravers were about to be called with a request to engrave two trophies and not one, and blue ribbons were about to be tied to the trophy, a ball hit high into the air took a terrible bounce. It cruelly span past our resolute defenders and the Sarisbury striker was through on goal. With Alba left stranded the ball flew into the bottom corner. There was nothing our defenders could have done to predict or stop the ball and with a minute left to play the game was 1-1.

Moments later, a Sarisbury player strode to the edge of the box and fired an incredible shot into the bottom corner but, as we have seen time and again in this competition, Alba was able to make an absolutely incredible save. She has worked so hard this year to learn the craft of goalkeeping, and she has come on leaps and bounds. The future is bright for this amazing keeper! The save was enough to take the game into extra time.

Extra time, much like the rest of the game, was all Saint James. Ava came alive in the six minutes and was a menace down the left wing, terrorising their defenders. She looked the most likely score and secure the win but again the ball just would not find the net. Sadly, it was Sarisbury who found the decisive finish with a minute left to play. A forceful shot which took a deflection rifled into the back of the net. And that was that... the cruellest of defeats.

Even Sarisbury supporters admitted that our girls were incredibly unfortunate. Competitive sport can be harsh, especially cup football! Saint James were the better team throughout the game, dangerous, quick on the break and direct with their football. It was simply 'one of those days'! If the fixture was played ten times, Saint James would almost certainly win on nine occasions.

The manner in which the girls played made everyone supporting Saint James incredibly proud, however their conduct after the final whistle was undoubtedly the proudest moment. Despite the defeat and disappointment, the girls were outstanding sports and shook hands, applauded and congratulated the winning team both immediately after the whistle and during the trophy ceremony. Mr Walsh admitted that their attitude both throughout the final and the whole campaign could not have made him prouder. In their inaugural season in the competition, they have gone on an epic journey as a team. They have trained hard, listened well and most importantly loved (almost) every second of the cup. We would like to extend huge thanks to the parents and teachers who came to support the girls in the game and for showing so much love and encouragement for our team. A special mention also needs to be given to our boys' team, victorious in their own competition last week. Returning to the site of their victory, they all were present to support their peers. Giving spectacular encouragement throughout, they sang and supported the girls long after the final whistle had blown! A testament to our wonderful Saint James 'family'. The organiser of the event commented how amazing he found it that our team was so well supported. However, a final mention needs to be given to Mrs Walsh, ably assisted by Mr Whitlock. Throughout the cup run, he has instilled belief and confidence in the team, along with the tactical nous to take them to the pinnacle of Primary School Football in Hampshire. Whilst we might suggest that he now gets a well-deserved rest, at the end of the football season, we hear he is also a fairly formidable cricketer, too!

I think we can safely say, with a win for the boys and a runners-up position for the girls, that Saint James is the best footballing Primary School in Hampshire!

As Summer's coming here's a rule; don't wear Crocs and sunglasses into school. Keep them for lazy days at the pool!

It has been a real pleasure to be back outdoors this week. Our return after Easter has been welcomed by plenty of bright sunshine, and it certainly feels as though Summer is beginning to make its presence felt. As always at this time of year, we see the natural transition to lighter clothing, with Summer dresses and shorts appearing as the weather warms.

Alongside these seasonal changes, we have also noticed a small number of items of footwear appearing which do not align with our agreed school uniform policy. We would like to take this opportunity to remind families that, throughout the year, school shoes should be black, flat and practical. On P.E. days only, plain, dark trainers may be worn. Crocs, flip-flops and sliders are not considered suitable school footwear and should not be worn at any time. If there is a medical reason for footwear that falls outside of this guidance, please speak with your child's class teacher, who will refer the matter to the Senior Leadership Team as appropriate.

We would also like to clarify our position regarding sunglasses. A small number of children have a medically identified eye condition which requires them to wear sunglasses in bright sunlight. In these cases, permission has been granted following medical documentation provided by parents. Unless this permission has been given, children should not bring sunglasses to school. As anyone familiar with our lost property knows, warmer weather already brings a significant increase in stray jumpers and cardigans, and we would be unable to effectively manage and store sunglasses as well. There is ample shade available on the playground and field (when in use), meaning sunglasses are unnecessary for most pupils. However, on warmer days, children are very welcome to bring a sun hat or cap instead.

Thank you, as always, for your support and cooperation. Hopefully the sunshine continues and we need that sun protection over the extended bank holiday weekend!

Controlled chaos and questionable dance moves; Saint James does 'Break the rules day' followed by a disco!

What a way to lead us into the bank holiday weekend; a day of respectful rule breaking, followed by a disco. For many, the perfect day at school!

Squash in your water bottle? That's okay with us!

Flamboyant non-uniform or wearing pyjamas to school? Go right ahead.

Hair that looks like you've been dragged through a hedge backwards? It looks fine to me!

Nails painted pillar box red? My, that does look pretty!

These were some of the possible responses and reactions to a day of overt rule breaking at Saint James Primary School. So, do we need to put a call into the authorities to tell them that the children have gone wild and the staff just don't care? No, it's okay – the day was fully planned and an opportunity to raise money for the SJSA. With stipulation of the rules that could be broken (to ensure there was nothing that was detrimental to learning, behaviour or in opposition to our Christian values) we would like to take this opportunity to praise all of the children for how sensibly they conducted themselves on this highly unusual day, whilst still managing to have fun with their blatant rule breaking.

Following on from a highly unusual school day, we then had the pleasure of seeing the children (and some of the staff!) throw down their best moves on the dance floor, inspired by a well-chosen set from DJ Andy! We're not sure about breaking the rules, but judging by some of the dance moves exhibited by a few of our staff, they seemed fairly close to *breaking* the rules of physics and probably resulted in *breaking out* the ice packs and ibuprofen later that evening!

Hopefully the children all had a fantastic day; remembering that we return to normality as we come back to school next Wednesday.

Let's just hope any hair dye is non-permanent and any tattoos truly are temporary!



Swap don't shop with *boot*-iful bargains!

The most expensive pair of football boots ever sold belonged to none other than Lionel Messi. The Adidas boots, worn when Messi scored his 644th goal for Barcelona (breaking Pelé's long-standing single-club record of 643 goals for Santos) were sold for an incredible £125,000. The signed boots were generously donated by Messi to raise money for a charity close to his heart.

If your child would like to wear a donated pair of football boots, perhaps even ones previously worn by one of our own Hampshire Cup heroes, rest assured, you won't need to remortgage the house! In fact, they could be completely free.

You may already be aware that we have a Football Boot Swap box located outside the main entrance to the school. Unlike other clothing donation bins, which help to raise money for the SJSA, the boot swap works a little differently. Children's feet seem to grow at remarkable speed, meaning boots are often outgrown long before they wear out; particularly footwear that isn't used every day, such as football boots.

If you place a good-quality pair of boots that your child has outgrown into the swap box, you are welcome to take another pair in your child's size. While we can't guarantee availability in every size (especially larger ones), it is always well worth a look. Donations are also very welcome even if you don't need to take a pair in return. Who knows – your child could end up wearing the boots of the next Harry Kane or Lucy Bronze!

School Prayer Meeting – change of date

Our next School Prayer meeting is due to take place on Thursday 7th May. Unfortunately, Reverend Linda is not in school next week and would be grateful if you could come along on the 14th May instead. This meeting is open to anyone who wishes to join us in praying for all aspects of our school life. If you would like to join us, please meet by the entrance to the small hall by 2.45pm. We expect to finish by 3pm, so you can collect children.

As School Chaplain, Reverend Linda also welcomes anyone who would like pop in for a 'chat' on a Thursday or Friday; children, staff or parents - the door is always open.

Unlike the London Marathon, our mini marathon had no one competing in a Daddy Pig costume, however it was still as *snout*-standing success!

This year's London marathon saw some amazing highlights, both in terms of sporting achievement and celebrity participation.

Kenya's Sebastian Sawa became the first athlete to officially break the two-hour barrier for a marathon, finishing in 1:59:30. However, spare a thought for Yomif Kejelcha of Ethiopia who, making his marathon debut, would have taken the record any other year with a stunning 1:59:41 finish.

The marathon featured over 59,000 runners, the largest field in London Marathon history, and included celebrities such as *Wicked* star Cynthia Erivo and Formula 1's Sebastian Vettel. However, despite a myriad of celebrities finishing in record time, it was runner dressed as Daddy Pig who stole the limelight. Many are convinced that Harry Styles was the mystery participant who wore the costume and completed the course alongside fitness coach Joe Wicks in five hours and 51 minutes.

However, perhaps one of the sporting highlights was the participation in affiliated London Marathon events by schools around the country, who hosted their own 'mini' races. Inspired by the main event in London, Miss Howell, our PE leader, signed up Saint James for participation and carefully planned a 0.5 mile loop around the school site. With the intention of children completing two laps in the morning and two in the afternoon it would see all children from our youngest in Year R to the oldest in Year 6 completing two miles during the day. With 575 children on roll, that's a combined total of 1150 miles completed by children during the school day (and that's excluding the teachers and the Year 6 pacemakers who completed it with the younger children as well)!

With the sun shining and little wind, it was ideal conditions for the event. Whilst there was no expectation for children to run, many of them chose to complete the course as quickly as they could and some impressive times were set. Thankfully, even those who chose to walk, completed the course quicker than the five days, eight hours, 29 minutes, and 46 seconds taken to complete the London Marathon course by firefighter Lloyd Scott in 2002 (albeit he was wearing a 130-pound antique deep-sea diving suit)!

A fabulous, fun day was enjoyed by all and we would like to extend a big 'thank you' to Miss Howell for her superb organisation of the event. One of the stipulations of signing up for the school's mini London Marathon was that the applicant would be entered in the ballot to complete the main event in London. Whilst we are yet to hear whether Miss Howell has been allocated a place in next year's event; if she is able to compete we can guarantee she will generate more interest at Saint James Primary School than a pop star wearing a Daddy Pig costume!





Stepping Into School Online course

Tuesdays 2 - 23 June 7pm - 8:30pm

FREE

This is an online course using Microsoft Teams. Participants will be required to use Microsoft Teams.

Booking is essential, please visit

<https://shop.hants.gov.uk/collections/library-courses> to book your place. If you have issues booking online please contact branch staff or call 02392 232957



Positive Parenting Online course

Mondays 8 June - 6 July 7:30pm - 9pm

FREE

This is an online course using Microsoft Teams. Participants will be required to use Microsoft Teams.

Booking is essential, please visit

<https://shop.hants.gov.uk/collections/library-courses> to book your place. If you have issues booking online please contact branch staff or call 02392 232957



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