

# The week ahead @ Saint James

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

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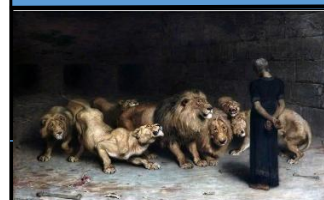


Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November

Issue 165

Fri 28 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Mon 1 <sup>st</sup> Dec	Tues 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec	Thurs 4 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Fri 5 <sup>th</sup> Dec
SJSA Christmas Shopping Day	Year England class – Nativity for parents 2.30pm	Year Scotland class – Nativity for parents 2.30pm	Year Wales class – Nativity for parents 2.30pm	Year 4 Christmas concert 2.30pm	Year 1 Christmas concert 2.30pm
Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Tues 9 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Wed 10 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Wed 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Thurs 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Fri 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec
Year 2 Christmas concert 2.30pm	Year 3 Christmas concert 2.30pm	Year 5 and 6 Carol concert at St James church 5pm	Christmas lunch	Year 3 and 4 Christmas service at St James <b>Children only</b>	Class Christmas parties  Last day of term

## Collective Worship



This week's theme:

**Global Neighbours**

This week's story:

**Daniel and the lions'  
den**

**Daniel 6: 16**

## A message from the Senior Leadership team

We may not be in December quite yet but a quick glance at the calendar above shows how soon and closely packed together all the Christmas concerts are in the next few weeks. We're therefore not surprised to be hearing Christmas favourites being sung in classrooms towards the end of each day. If what we've heard so far is anything to go by, there are sure to be some fantastic concerts and performances to look forward to. We've also spent some time retracing our history to that of the National school that preceded Saint James Primary, as the children in Year 4 have enjoyed a day experiencing a Victorian school room.

## From fire grates to slates: our Year 4 children enjoy a day learning lessons from the past in a Victorian school room (rather than being sent up the chimney)!

With less than a month until Christmas day, many of you may have thought you'd been transported into Charles Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol' when you arrived at school on Wednesday. Whereas only a few weeks ago a time portal seemed to have opened in the Camino building, instantly transporting anyone entering the Year 5 classrooms back to the trenches of the Somme, the portal transferred to Year 4 this Wednesday. Crossing the threshold of any of the Year 4 classrooms made 150 years of history disappear in the blink of an eye, as the children were met by desks in rows and stern, primly-dressed adults who, despite their austere appearance, looked strangely familiar.

We know that Saint James Primary School was founded in 1903 (two years after the death of Queen Victoria) and that it was preceded by a 'national' school founded in 1838. However, during this period the school wasn't housed in our present building (the previous Victorian building is now named the 'Hilldene Centre' and is still in regular use). Therefore, the many suffragettes, chimney sweeps and scullery maids who took a seat in one of the ruler straight rows in the classroom were not a vision from the past, so who were they? They were our current Year 4 pupils enthusiastically participating in Victorian Day!

The children visited the site of South Stoneham workhouse last week, now the imposing and impressive apartment block at the heart of the housing development on Botley Road, and judging by the impressively authentic costumes, it appears that a few of them were inspired to dress as one of the residents.

With activities ranging from Mental Arithmetic to Penmanship, the children began to experience life for children who were fortunate enough to have a place in school, rather than a place behind a loom in a mill, in the workhouse or sweeping chimneys. So they didn't overlook these alternate experiences to an education, the children also replicated a working loom in the classroom by completing paper weaving. However, one glance at the smiles in the photos taken indicate that the conditions were a little too easy to be a true representation! This could probably be anticipated due to children as young as 4 years old being tasked with working up to 14 hours a day in a cotton mill. Victorian children were exposed to brutal discipline if they made mistakes, were late for work or, through sheer exhaustion, were caught falling asleep at their machines. Tragically, many children lost their lives undertaking dangerous tasks, such as cleaning under moving machinery.

Mercifully, children at Saint James Primary School have no such worries!

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As well as mastering pen skills to rival those of any experienced calligrapher, the children also became apprentice architects in the afternoon in designing their own workhouse and considering the use of different rooms.

There were only thirteen years from the end of the Victorian period until the outbreak of World War 1, a conflict that saw the participation of over 5 million British troops before it ended in 1918. After participating in a session of drill for their P.E session during the day, it is clear to see how men were prepared for this devastating war from their days at school. Under the instruction of Mr Walsh, who directed the children with the authority and severity of an army sergeant, the children performed a variety of drills that saw them stood with erect bodies, heels placed together and feet turned out at 60°. Unknowingly, this would have prepared children for the army parade ground and marching in unison.

Although the clothing worn by the staff in Year 4 made them difficult to recognise, it was their enthusiasm for getting 'in role' which made them almost indistinguishable. Barking out orders all day and being insistent on the behaviours and cleanliness of their respective classes made the children wary about their usually friendly and enthusiastic teachers and support staff. Thankfully the twinkle in their eye provided enough reassurance that it was only role play!

On behalf of the children in Year 4, we would like to extend a huge 'thank you' to all the teachers and support staff in the year group for making the day such an enriching experience. However, we would also like to offer a plea on their behalf; 'please don't treat us like that on other days of the year!'



## Children in Need – Challenge 25

As well as dressing 'sporty or spotty' for *Children in Need* last Friday, the children were challenged to complete 25 of 'something' for the *Challenge 25 Children in Need* initiative. Some classes chose to complete 25 minutes of sporting activities, whilst others chose 25 quiz questions, spellings or times tables.

However, our perceptive Year 6 staff and pupils recalled that we have 25 orienteering posts strategically placed around the school site. Surely, this would be too much of a coincidence and opportunity to miss? Changing their shoes out of their smartest footwear, the children in Year 6 then spent a fun afternoon navigating their way around the Saint James grounds to locate all 25 points.

As they squelched through the muddy field to reach the furthest posts, the laughter that could be heard was evidence that the activity was proving to be both active and fun, whilst raising awareness for Children in Need. However, there was one certainty at the end of the activity, our Year 6 *Children* were *in Need* of a shower!

We are proud to share that the pupils and staff at Saint James Primary School raised in excess of £360 for Children in Need!





## Let them eat cake

The quote 'Let them eat cake', is often attributed to the French Queen, Marie Antionette, to show how out of touch she was with the French people when she heard they had no bread to eat. This 'disconnect' with the French people was the catalyst for her head to be 'disconnected', as she met her fate at the guillotine. However, should France's most notorious queen have made that comment to the staff at Saint James Primary School, it would have been far better received! Their love of cake has proved to be instrumental in driving a monumental fundraising effort over the past two weeks!

### Daisy's Bake Sale

Two weeks ago we told you of Daisy, in Year 3, and her intention to raise money for our two sponsored children from Rwanda by selling cakes to Saint James staff. Daisy set herself the target of raising £64, which would fund both children for an entire month, quite an impressive and ambitious target considering she intended to do all the baking herself (with support from her sister and mum). Whilst we know that it wouldn't take extensive market research to work out that teachers and support staff like cake, it would have been difficult to predict just how much! After plying her wares in the staffroom on Monday, Daisy raised an astonishing £147, more than double her target! Even with targeting an audience with a fondness for cake, that is an impressive total and needs to be attributed to Daisy's excellent baking and delicious cakes! If applications open for a new series of *Junior Bake-off* we strongly suggest that she considers applying. Maybe then she could bring in any practise attempts to test on staff! Whilst we know that this impressive fundraising endeavour was entirely initiated by Daisy, we are sure she would be quick to admit that her mum and sister, Molly, were also instrumental in making her sale such a success. We would like to extend an enormous 'thank you' to Daisy and her family, on behalf of the children from Rwanda and the Saint James staff! Your efforts were very much appreciated!



### Macmillan Bake Sale

We always enjoy seeing former pupils when they come back to collect younger siblings – it is amazing how much older they look in their secondary school uniform. Similarly, we love seeing former members of staff when they pop in to visit us. However, unlike former pupils, if anything they seem to look younger, with retirement treating them well! Last Monday, 10th November, we had the pleasure of welcoming Mrs Austin and Mrs Natt back into school to host a Macmillan coffee morning. Renowned for their delicious baking whilst members of staff at Saint James, their cakes and goodies were supplemented by those made by existing members of staff to form a stunning selection. As you can probably anticipate, after reading about the success of Daisy's sale, the event was extremely popular and raised an impressive total for the worthwhile charity. The £415 raised (probably nearer £500 with Gift Aid!) will make a huge difference to supporting people living with cancer and their loved ones. Mrs Natt and Mrs Austin wanted to say a huge 'thank you' to all of the phenomenal bakers from Saint James, for their time, ingredients and delicious wares. We would also like to echo this 'thank you', as well as extending our gratitude to Mrs Natt and Mrs Austin for organising this fantastic event and giving us a delicious reminder of their competence as bakers!

Before we give the impression that the only way charity fundraising can be successful at Saint James Primary School is through bake sales and the consumption of cake, we have also seen some impressive fundraising that hasn't required the use of self-raising flour, eggs and butter!

### Children in Need sale

Whilst children enthusiastically participated in the 'sporty or spotty' theme for *Children in Need* last Friday and willingly contributed a donation to this worthwhile charity, some of our Year 5 children felt even more could be done. Tabitha, Ella and Annabelle in Brazil class upped their fundraising efforts from simply sporting non uniform to selling a variety of goods after school from outside their classroom.

After sourcing and creating a range of badges, bracelets, bookmarks, pens and sweets, the children opened their stall after school on Friday and then, to capture footfall from passing children and parents from the other side of the school, under the canopy on Monday.

We are pleased to reveal that the children's efforts have been rewarded handsomely, as they have raised over £130 for *Children in Need* from their enterprise and endeavours. How impressive!



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## Lilou's stroke of kindness

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Whilst we're sharing details of impressive fundraising efforts that have taken place over the past couple of weeks, it would be remiss not to mention, Year 6 pupil, Lilou's planned charity swim at the beginning of December.

Lilou, with a desire to support children in less fortunate circumstances this Christmas, has arranged to complete a significant charity swim, to support Great Ormond Street Hospital. Driven by the desire to help the countless children facing unimaginable challenges, due to illness and injury, Lilou has been motivated to swim 10k over the two days, on the 6th and 7th of December.

Lilou, who is a member of Wildern Waves Swimming Club in Hedge End, competes regularly and is part of the training squad, regularly taking part in competitions. She is currently working towards her county level qualification, with her favourite event being the Individual Medley (which consists of Butterfly, Backstroke, Breaststroke, and Freestyle).



If you would like to find out more about Lilou's challenge or donate to this very worthwhile cause, please visit her JustGiving page:

[https://www.justgiving.com/page/lilou10kswim?utm\\_medium=FR&utm\\_source=CL](https://www.justgiving.com/page/lilou10kswim?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL) .

## Be a Sustainability Superhero

Sustainability and recycling clothing is often touted as vital, as we aim to protect our planet. Whilst we agree and we wish to save our planet as much as anyone, we also want to save something else too: our houses from overflowing with outgrown clothing, footwear and costumes! We imagine that many of you, like us, have children whose wardrobes and cupboards are crammed full of good condition uniform, football boots and costumes that simply no longer fit. Rather than leave them cluttering closets or clogging up landfill sites, we've got a few different ways that you could become a sustainability superhero (only, if our intention really is to be sustainable, our superhero capes would probably have to be repurposed from a pair of old curtains!)

### Football boots

We're proud to support the Utilita Football Rebooted campaign. Our school now has a Football Rebooted Boot Box where you can donate or pick up pre-loved football boots. The aim is to give old boots a new life, helping families save money and reduce waste while keeping children playing the game they love. If your child has outgrown their boots, simply drop them off in the box — and if they need a new pair, feel free to take some!



### Nativity costumes and Christmas jumpers

If you're reading this on the date on publication, in exactly five weeks' time it will be Boxing Day and Christmas Day will have come and gone! It seems incredible to believe! There are plenty of parties, concerts and nativities to enjoy before then. If you are suddenly finding that the nativity costume or Christmas jumper that your child wore last year no longer fits, please don't bin it. We have a donation box, next to the one for football boots, by the main entrance to the school. Our aim is to let as many angels, donkeys and wise men as possible live to see another Christmas!



### Saint James uniform

In addition to more specialist items that not everyone owns, such as football boots and nativity costumes, there are some items that all our children possess: school uniform. If your children outgrow their uniform before they wear it out, please consider donating it to the school. We have a uniform recycling bin (next to the bin for all clothing donations) just inside the pedestrian gate at the entrance to the drive through. Quality uniform is then sold to other parents with all proceeds going to the SJSA. This will be used to enrich your child's experience of school.



## Eastleigh Fun Run 2026 – 1.2k around Fleming Park



The Eastleigh Fun Run will be on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2026, providing children from 4-12 years with the chance to have fun and take part in one of the largest fun running events in the area. Participants will run 1.2km around Fleming Park in Eastleigh to earn their medal.

We realise that the date is still a few months away, however places are limited and booking is now available (at the time of writing, nearly half of the places had been taken).

<https://racesignup.co.uk/eastleigh-fun-run-2026>  
[Eastleigh Fun Run - Running Mania](#)



## Free holiday activities & meals for eligible children this winter!

Children in Reception to Year 11 receiving benefits-related free school meals can enjoy fun activities and healthy meals for free this Christmas through Hampshire's Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme!

Spaces are limited - book now!  
Scan the QR code below to check if you're eligible, find local HAF schemes, and book your child(ren)'s place



Funded by  
UK Government

## WINCHESTER WINTER HAF SCHEMES



### 360 Degree Sports Coaching

Harestock Primary School (SO22 6LU)

### Active Me 360

Colden Common Primary School (SO50 6HW)

Stanmore Primary School (SO22 4AJ)

Sun Hill Infant School (SO24 9NB)

Swanmore Primary School (SO32 2PA)



### CM Sports

Denmead Infant School (PO7 6PN)

### Computer Xplorers

Cornerstone Primary School (PO15 7QE)



### Globe Fit

Solent Hotel and Spa (PO15 7AJ)

### Integr8 Dance

Weeke Primary School (SO22 6DR)

Winnall Primary School (SO23 0NY)

Unit 12, Winchester (SO23 0LD)



Please keep an eye on the FISH website as it will be regularly updated with available HAF schemes: <https://fish.hants.gov.uk>



## DREAM EMPIRE EVENTS



# West End ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FAIR

SATURDAY 22 NOV 10AM-3PM  
2025

ST JAMES CHURCH, CHURCH HILL, WEST  
END, SOUTHAMPTON, SO30 3AT

MEET FATHER CHRISTMAS WITH NO NEED TO BOOK

STALLS - REFRESHMENTS  
MUSIC - ARTS & CRAFTS - FREE KIDS CRAFTS & MORE

[WWW.DREAMEMPIREEVENTS.CO.UK](http://WWW.DREAMEMPIREEVENTS.CO.UK)

Entry is £1 for adults, with funds going directly to the church.  
Santa meet & greet with gift is £8 per child



## Christmas Light SWITCH ON AND CHRISTMAS MARKET

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November  
3pm till 7pm

✓ Free Father Christmas meet with gift

✓ Christmas Market & Festive Food

✓ Light Switch On & Local Choirs

✓ Children's Activities & Entertainment

West End Parish Centre, Chapel Road, SO30 3FE



It's that time of year again ...  
**Christmas Shopping Day!**  
 Friday 28th November



Please hand in the exact amount of money to your child's teacher week commencing 24th November.

Please ensure it's in an envelope with your child's name and class labelled on the front.

Scan the QR code for card payments, and add your child's name and class to the message to merchant section.

(Online payments can only be accepted until Thursday 27th)



# CHRISTMAS

## UNDER CONSTRUCTION

SATURDAY 6TH DECEMBER 2025  
 10AM - 12.30 PM

UNDERHILL CENTRE, HEDGE END, SO30 4AF

CREATIVE BUILDING CHALLENGES, FESTIVE GAMES, EDIBLE CRAFTS, AND BIBLE STORIES - DISCOVER HOW GOD'S INCREDIBLE PLAN CAME TOGETHER, FROM THE FIRST BUILDERS TO THE BIRTH OF JESUS.

AGES 4-12  
 £5 PER CHILD

EMAIL [HEVEBHOLIDAYBIBLECLUBBOOKINGS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:HEVEBHOLIDAYBIBLECLUBBOOKINGS@GMAIL.COM) TO BOOK

# SCHOOL GAMES NATIONAL SANTA DASH



**Friday 12th December**

Saint James Primary School will be taking part in the School Games National Santa Dash on Friday 12th December. There is no need to bring or wear PE kit or trainers, unless it is your usual PE day. However, wearing a Santa hat or head gear is optional! (this may only be worn during the DASH!) Each year group will be given a slot in the morning, for their Santa Dash around the MUGA. Please encourage your child to get moving, even when its chilly outside and celebrate with them when the day ends. We hope to present the children with a wrist band at the start of the 'dash' and a certificate at the end.

Osborne & Shepherds Down School  
 Outreach Services  
 Parent Workshop:

Tuesday 25th November 2025  
 10.00am - 2.00pm  
 Venue: Shepherds Down School, Compton,  
 Winchester SO21 2AJ

This workshop will provide you with an insight into autism and how it affects your child. Our aim is to provide you with a range of practical strategies to support your child in the home environment.

The course will cover:

- ❖ An introduction to autism and the areas of difference
- ❖ Positive behaviour management
- ❖ Communication

Led By:  
 Carson Elday  
 (Osborne School Outreach Service)  
 Laura Watts (Shepherds Down Outreach Service)

Free of charge

To book a place please contact Osborne School Office  
 Please do not contact Shepherds Down to book.  
 N.B. Places are limited, so please book early to avoid disappointment.

Refreshments will be provided, please bring a packed lunch.

Email [admin@osborne.hants.sch.uk](mailto:admin@osborne.hants.sch.uk)  
 Phone 01962 854537

Parking - On site. Overflow parking if required at Compton Tennis Club SO21 2AB