

# The week ahead @ Saint James

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

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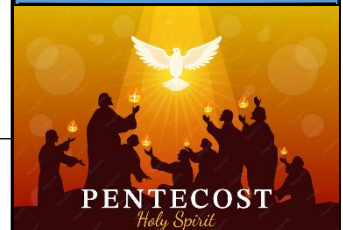


Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May

Issue 186

Mon 1 <sup>st</sup> June		Tues 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Thurs 4 <sup>th</sup> June	Wed 17 <sup>th</sup> June	
First day back after half term break	Start of Year 4 Multiplication tests	Book fair in school (until 8 <sup>th</sup> June)	New Year R Parents' Evening	Class Photographs	New Year R Stay and Play (3.45 – 4.45pm)

## Collective Worship



This week's theme:  
**Pentecost**

This week's bible story:  
**The Power of the Holy Spirit**

**Acts 2:1-47**

### A message from the Senior Leadership team

After a week that included Sports Day and SATs, you might think that the week before half term would be quieter and significantly less busy. This has not proved to be the reality, with a trip to Paulton's Park and a service at the church enriching the experiences of some of our oldest and youngest children this week. Unfortunately, the inclement weather on Tuesday forced the postponement of the Stone Age Day for our Year 3 children. We know that Stone Age man would not have been afforded the luxury of being sheltered from the elements, but we thought the importance of being warm and dry outweighed a truly authentic experience! We imagine lighting a fire might have proved tricky, too.

With the scores being totalled for Sports Day, after the day had finished, we know some families are eager to discover which class won their respective Sports Day. In two closely fought competitions, we are proud to announce our two winning classes for this year; Japan and Spain.

### The enjoyment for Year 6 reaches new heights, on the rides at Paulton's Park!

Although the children in Year 6 enjoyed an educational visit to Paulton's Park on Wednesday, their week began very differently with a big focus on their writing. After they completed their SATs tests for Maths, Reading and Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation, last week, they will now have their writing assessed internally by the Year 6 teachers before being externally moderated next half-term. Our best writers in Year 6 are able to write for different audiences, adjusting their composition so it is appropriate for the reader. It therefore seems appropriate to write the following article about the Year 6 educational visit to Paulton's Park to appeal to two different audiences; the parents and the children!

#### Parent version

With the increased income, largely down to the success of Peppa Pig World, Paulton's Park has developed a number of 'thrill' rides over previous years. Fortuitously, this year's educational visit coincided with the opening of the new 'Valguard; realm of the Vikings' land only three days earlier and the introduction of at least two new 'thrilling' attractions.

As the children entered the park, around 10am, the staff and children found it hard to suppress their smiles when they realised that at the same time, the previous week, they were completing their SATs Arithmetic paper! One week on, despite the excellent attitude shown throughout SATs week, it is fair to say that they found this Wednesday a great deal more enjoyable and memorable.

Any suggestions that this visit was solely a 'reward' trip, as a response to their efforts before and during SATs week, were quickly dispelled when the children began their classroom session, where they learned how to program and control theme park rides. The children enjoyed using control technology to program a scale model of the 'Sky Swinger' ride via their laptop computers and a 'log-it' control box. Judging by the speed that many of the models ran, whilst also periodically switching to go in reverse, we imagine nausea would be induced if many of our children were actually ride programmers and operators! Thankfully, the actual programmer of the 'Sky Swinger' was more reserved when considering the sequence for the full-scale ride, as the children had the opportunity to test the real-life attraction. It was great to be able to see how a programmable model can translate to a real-life experience.

In addition to the 'Sky Swinger', the children also got to sample a number of other rides as well, to consider how these might also be programmed. It was all purely educational, of course!



Continued overleaf

### Child version

We are particularly fortunate that a mere 13.5 miles from Saint James Primary School, is the theme park voted the best in the country in the most recent National Theme Park awards. It would therefore be a missed opportunity if the children didn't visit Paulton's Park at least once during their time at Saint James! There just needs to be an excuse to justify the trip.

Thankfully, the children in Year 6 study fairground rides and how to programme them using control technology, so the 45-minute-long workshop the park offers on this provides good enough reason to plan a visit. It is then just the question of what to do in the remaining five hours and fifteen minutes that the children spend in the park: experience the rides of course!

For those of you who are at Saint James but yet to reach Year 6, this is one trip to really look forward to!

The annual pilgrimage to Paulton's Park, in the week after SATs, is now becoming something of a tradition for children at Saint James. However, this year was made even more special, due to the opening of a new 'land' the weekend prior to our visit. 'Valguard; realm of the vikings', contained a fabulous new 'thrill' ride, Paulton's Park's first inverting rollercoaster, 'Drakon', which featured a hair-raising vertical lift hill and two upside-down twists. Whilst the thought of it would probably be enough to put many people off, we're talking about a year group here, who took last week's SATs in their stride. With the paint barely dry on a ride that had only been open a matter of days, many of our children bravely boarded the 4-person carriages and began the thrilling vertical ascent.

In addition to an exciting new ride, this area of the park also saw some rebranding of existing 'thrill' rides, so they were inkeeping with the Viking theme. When it was called the Cobra, the popularity of Raven was ensured as the park's largest, longest and fastest rollercoaster, featuring two breath-taking and stomach-lurching 'camel humps'. The rebranding clearly had no negative impact on the popularity of the ride, as many of the children loved it and were eager to ride it multiple times... and they did!

We're sure Valguard will be a success for the park and a highlight of the trip to Paulton's for many years to come.

With the annual trip to Paulton's being a regular feature of the Year 6 itinerary for many years, we have also seen the opening of the Tornado Springs area during the time we've been visiting. It still proves to be just as popular with the children. The excitement of the Cyclonator, an exhilarating Gyro Swing ride that swings and spins riders to a height of 25 metres, and the Storm Chaser, a thrilling roller coaster that soars to a breathtaking 66 feet and zooms along 1,400 feet of track, keeps it a firm favourite with our children. However, with all those spins and drops, it proved to be a good area to visit before lunch!

However, Tornado Springs and Valguard weren't the only locations in the park where 'thrill rides' could be found. In the Lost World, two dinosaur-themed rides kept the children captivated. It is perhaps no surprise that rides named after two of the prehistoric world's most fearsome creatures proved thrilling and exhilarating!

The speed and agility of the Velociraptor, as it dropped from 20m in the air and swept around tight bends at speeds in excess of 40 mph, induced many excited screams from even the bravest children. And that was before it completed the whole track in reverse! In addition to this ride, inspired by the terrifying carnivores from Jurassic Park, the children enjoyed soaring through the air suspended from a coaster named after the awesome flying reptile from the Mesozoic Era: the Pterosaur. 'Flying' through the twists and turns of the 395-metre-track, our brave children swooped high and low around the prehistoric landscape, at speeds over 30mph!

As well as the aforementioned rides, the children also had the opportunity to experience a number of the park's other attractions. Thankfully, being term time, many of the park's other visitors were pre-school age and drawn more to the attractions of Peppa Pig World, so queuing time varied between short and non-existent.

### Everybody version

The children had a fantastic day and showed excellent levels of behaviour, as they participated in the classroom session and walked around the park. It made the adults in attendance especially proud to receive umpteen compliments from Paulton's staff, members of the public and the coach drivers, about the way our Year 6 pupils conducted themselves. Well done Year 6!



## Key Stage 1 walked in sunshine and worshipped in church, as they enjoyed their Pentecost and Ascension service

We would usually concede that a stroll through West End on a sunny morning in May is quite a pleasant and relaxing way to spend half an hour. However, when you add that you will be enjoying the walk with nearly 180 five and six year olds, the prospect doesn't sound quite so stress-free. Thankfully, and perhaps unsurprisingly, the reality was more like the initial observation, as our Key Stage 1 children were fabulously behaved.

As inclement weather forced last year's Ascension and Pentecost service at St James Church to be cancelled (with the venue shifted to the school hall), many of our youngest children have never visited the church before. It was clear that the awe and wonder created by the magnificent Victorian church left many of the children spellbound, as they entered for the first time.

Upon recaching the pews, the children were led in an engaging, lively and thoroughly enjoyable service by Reverend Vicky. With popular hymns and songs, such as 'Shine, Jesus shine' and 'Let it shine', the children were in good voice, providing a challenge for the usual choir and congregation of St James with the enthusiasm, volume and clarity of their singing.

With the children leading some of the prayers and considering the Holy Spirit, through actions that modelled the waving flames of fire and strength of the Holy Spirit, all the children were fully engaged throughout. The final symbolism of the large central candle being blown out and the wisps of circling smoke ascending, provided powerful imagery of Jesus' ascension to heaven, forty days after his resurrection, and signalling the arrival of the Holy Spirit.

We would like to extend a big 'thank you' to Reverend Vicky for such a powerful, enjoyable and interactive service.



## Mrs Marsh is a *mayor* success, as she is appointed Deputy Mayor for Eastleigh

It is often said that staff in a school are experts at multi-tasking. In a job that often includes counsellor, first-aider, mediator, coach and negotiator, as well as teacher, it is a multi-faceted role. However, one combination that we are, as yet, unfamiliar with is that of Headteacher and Mayor. Many must wonder; surely two such prestigious, important and challenging roles could not be help by one person? In most cases, we'd be inclined to agree, however people of this opinion might not have reckoned with the inimitable force that is Mrs Marsh.

After having her name put forward to be Deputy Mayor of Eastleigh for the forthcoming year (with the expectation to take the role of Mayor the following year), Mrs Marsh carefully considered the role she was offered and how this might work alongside, and even dovetail with, her main responsibility; head teacher of Saint James Primary School.

After discussion with the governing body, plans are in place to allow Mrs Marsh to undertake her civic duties whilst remaining in her role as the substantive Headteacher of Saint James Primary School.

All staff are aware of the strong commitment that Mrs Marsh has made to the children and families of Saint James, however her appointment as Deputy Mayor reflects the dedication and the respect she has earned as a councillor, across Eastleigh.

This really is a fantastic, once-un-a-lifetime opportunity for our school, as well as Mrs Marsh personally. to strengthen its links within the wider community. We really are incredibly proud of Mrs Marsh's achievements and the recognition she has received.

We look forward to hearing all about her first official engagement, as a judge at the Bishopstoke carnival. Well done Mrs Marsh, we're all very proud of your fantastic achievement!



## From SATs to sprints and tests to tracks, Year 5 and 6 have athletics success

As we shared with you last week, it was a monumentally busy week for our Year 6 teachers and pupils and Miss Howell especially. As well as supporting her class through their SATs tests, on the first four days of the week, Miss Howell also planned Sports Day and took some Year 5 and 6 children to an athletics tournament on Tuesday. We imagine she must have collapsed in a heap on Friday night!

Representing the school superbly, our young athletes were split into two teams to compete in a variety of throwing and running events including the 75 metres, 600 metres, relay and, the bizarrely-named, 'Howler'! Although it might sound like a piece of sporting equipment more suited to a game of Quidditch in Harry Potter than to an athletic tournament, we are reliably informed it is a throwing object, shaped like a rugby ball, with fins and a tail!

Competing against twenty teams from local schools including; Swanmore, Berrywood, Botley, Shamblehurst, Fair Oak, Freegrounds, Bursledon, Upham, Wickham and Netley Abbey, our children came a highly respectable 3rd place and 7th place overall. A truly impressive achievement considering how busy the week was! We would like to extend an enormous 'thank you' to Miss Howell for accompanying the children to the tournament and supporting them throughout, as well as for her exceptional planning of this year's Sports Day.

## Sophie can't stop *beaming*, as she springs to success!

There are very few top sports people who reach the pinnacle of their game without years of dedication and determination. Winner of 23 grand slam titles, Serena Williams, began playing tennis at the age of 3 and, at the age of 4, the 8 times winner of the Ballon d'or (award for best footballer in the world) Lionel Messi joined his first football club. As neither started playing professionally until they were 14 and 17 years old respectively, their journey to become the best in their profession took many years of practise and perseverance.

Similarly, at Saint James, we have discovered another sporting talent who, having started at the age of 4, is beginning to see the results of her hard work and dedication. Sophie, in Year 2, has been attending Dynamo Gymnastics for the past three years (nearly half of her lifetime!) and competing as part of their development squad. Always a valued member of the squad, despite coming close, she was never quite able to secure a medal in any of the competitions she participated in. Until last Saturday. Sophie took part in the Dynamo Gymnastics Novice Festival and, after 3 years of training, , in her words had, 'the best day ever!'

Whilst 'best day' could be interpreted as either the most fun or the most successful, in the case of Sophie we think it was probably both. In the competition Sophie proudly placed; 5th on Beam, 3rd on Floor, and 2nd Place on Vault. This gave her an overall 3rd place finish for the whole competition! Well done Sophie, what an impressive achievement. Who knows – with continued perseverance, dedication and determination, we could be watching you in the 2034 Olympic games!



## A fond farewell

### Mrs Lancefield

We're sure many of you have never peered under the desks in the office to look at the feet of our fantastic admin staff (and to be perfectly frank, we'd think it a bit strange if you had)! However, we suspect if you looked under Mrs Lancefield's desk you would be surprised at the size of what you saw! That is because, she has been competent and capable when having 'big boots to fill'. When Mrs Rogers left us at the begin of the Autumn term 2025, we always knew it would be difficult to replace this long-established member of staff. However, Mrs Lancefield has done so ably and has quickly established herself as a friendly, trusted and efficient member of the office team. Whilst it was always Mrs Lancefield's intention to hold the position for a significant amount of time, we will sadly be saying 'goodbye' to her at the end of this week. With changing personal circumstances, when she was afforded the opportunity to work remotely, it presented an ideal solution. Although we are sad that she is leaving, we understand this is the right decision for Mrs Lancefield and her family and wish her well for the future – she will be missed.

### Mr Vardy

May 2023 saw a significant historical event, where a new individual took up an important post, making it their own and proving to be a popular and well-liked in their new role. Whilst some of you may think we are referring to the coronation of King Charles at Westminster Abbey, we are actually thinking about an event a little closer to home; Mr Vardy joining us at Saint James, as our Senior Site Manager. Whilst we have not been able to bestow him with a crown covered in 2,868 diamonds, 17 sapphires, 11 emeralds and 269 pearls, Mr Vardy has nevertheless found the last three years particularly rewarding! Surely anyone would think that clearing drains and fixing broken toilets is much more rewarding than wearing a heavy and impractical crown! From greeting children warmly in the morning, to general site maintenance and to completing health and safety checks and risk assessments, there's never been a dull moment during his reign as site manager.

Now, as Mr Vardy takes on a new challenge, transferring his skillset to tackle managing the site of a specialist secondary school in Chandler's Ford. We're sure many of the children will miss his cheery greeting first thing each morning; we know the staff will. Although we wish Mr Vardy well as he begins his new challenge, leaving us on 12th June, it is with sadness that we say goodbye.

We would like to say an enormous 'thank you' to both Mr Vardy and Mrs Lancefield for the dedication, commitment and hard work they have shown Saint James Primary School during their time with us; they will always be considered part of our wider Saint James family.

## Saint James Girls achieve Redemption in IDPE Cup!

Thursday saw our girls take the field in what will possibly be the final time for the school. A year which has been filled with so much pride and success could potentially be capped off with a long-awaited trophy lift! Amongst our opposition was a very familiar Sarisbury Junior school, Hook with Warsash and two sides from Crofton Hammond. Representing Saint James were some familiar faces of our own: Alba, Mia, Keira, Ava, Sophia, Amelie, Scarlett, Charlotte and Alice.

Unsurprisingly in a tournament format there were simply too many goals for Mr Walsh to report on (the girls really were that free scoring)! Instead, there are four mini summaries of the games played. We would like to take this opportunity to confirm that, although it is fairly conclusive that Mr Walsh can be regarded as the most successful football manager in and around Southampton this season, at the time of writing there are no impending cheating or spying allegations. All results are deemed to be fair and proper, without a threat of expulsion from any competition!

### Game 1 vs Hook with Warsash

Our first game of the tournament was an opportunity to set a strong tone and show the rest of the teams we meant business! The girls looked formidable in their pristine blue kit, but even more impressive with the ball at their feet. The game, like almost all of the games in the competition, had a one-sided feel. Relentless attacking, excellent passing and brilliant dribbling saw us comfortably win 6-0. Ava scored twice, Sophia scored twice and Scarlett scored... twice!

### Game 2 vs Crofton Hammond Invincibles

It was clear from kickoff that the 'invincibles' were to be a formidable opponent (we imagine that any team that gives themselves that moniker needs to be confident in their ability) and they did in fact remain invincible for the competition. Thankfully, so did Saint James! We took a 1-0 lead halfway through the game through Scarlett, but with 15 seconds left on the clock (where have we seen this before?) Crofton equalised with a tap in from close range. Game over 1-1! This result meant that there was now a clear focus in mind, as the winner of the tournament would likely be decided on goal difference... score as many goals as possible!

### Game 3 vs Crofton Hammond Yellows

As the girls walked onto the field they were reminded of their simple instructions and Ava was given the green light to cause as much havoc as possible down the left wing. The girls were remarkable in this 12-minute period and I think it is true to say that Crofton did not enter our defensive half. In fact, our attacking was so ferocious that Crofton had to make two changes in goal! The game ended an emphatic 9-0 with an Ava hat-trick, four goals from Sophia and two from Amelie!

### Game 4 vs Sarisbury

This was the big one as far as we were concerned. A double header. A chance to win the tournament beckoned, but so did some redemption for the Hampshire Cup Final a couple of weeks ago. Admittedly this was not a full strength Sarisbury side but a win would still feel sweet. It would be easy to copy and paste a summary from previous paragraphs here - another outstanding 12 minutes of football saw us cruise to a much deserved 5-0 win. This time the goals were provided by Scarlett who scored two, Ava who scored yet another brace, and Sophia who grabbed one more goal.

Mr Whitlock had been keeping a key eye on the 'blue pitch' and heading into the final game. Not from behind a tree with an iphone, to record tactics, but to check the number of goals scored by our nearest competition. Saint James had a goal difference cushion of 6 goals. After a 5-0 win in our final game the 'Invincibles' would need to win 12-0 to win the cup... They only managed to score 4. CHAMPIONS!!!!

It was a much deserved win and retribution for our fantastic girls who have made us all immensely proud of them all year long. Fantastic attacking football was on display; football to enjoy, our defensive unit was solid as always (especially Mia- nothing could get past her!) and Alba who was reliable in goal as always. A true team effort from all involved.

As the football season draws to a close, we would like to extend an enormous 'thank you' to Mr Walsh, ably assisted by Mr Whitlock, who have inspired confidence and belief, as well as tactical nous, in our fantastic footballers this season. However, it would be remiss not to thank, what has become, the most punctual taxi service in all of Hampshire - the Saint James parents! We hope that there may be one more game for this fantastic team, but if this tournament win was their swansong, it was a fitting reflection of their team work, hard work and dominance all season. As well as being, arguably, the best, Mr Walsh is also the proudest football coach in the land!



Celebrating the National Year of Reading



Saturday 23rd May 2026

10am to 2.30pm

A great day for the family

Flowers & Crafts, Book Windows, BBQ, Em's Petting Farm, Puzzles, Storytime Refreshments, Garden Plants, Dress Up

St James School Association (SJSA)

# WORLD CUP

**DRESS DOWN DAY!**  
FRIDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

EACH CHILD TO COME DRESSED AS THEIR CLASS COUNTRY WITH COLOUR OR THEME!

WHO WILL TAKE THE CUP?  
THE CLASS WE DEEM TO HAVE GONE TO THE MOST EFFORT WILL WIN AN ADDITIONAL **50 POINTS** TOWARD THE JUST GIVING SPONSORSHIPS!

**PLEASE DONATE A BOTTLE FOR OUR TOMBOLA FOR THE SUMMER EVENT**

BEHIND THE SCENES BUTSER 7-14  
Exclusive chance for Site-Wide games



Excavations ● Orienteering  
Bread Making ● Wide Games  
Puzzles & Hunts ● Drumming  
Decoding Messages  
Wall Building & more!

TUES 26 MAY

STONE AGE SURVIVORS 6-13  
A day of our Most Popular activities



Archery ● Fire starting  
Shelter building ● Slingshot  
Chalk carving ● Artefacts  
Clay Rattles ● Cordage  
Fireside tale

WED 27 MAY

RESPLENDANT ROMANS 7-14  
Emersive Roman fun - not to be missed



Flint Wall ● Siege Scorpio  
Dice Strike ● Game Pouches  
Fresco Painting  
Peg Loom ● Mosaics  
Gems & Jewellery

THURS 28 MAY

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# EASTLEIGH PIRATES

INVITE ALL GIRLS FROM **YEAR R - YEAR 6** TO OUR INTRODUCTION TO **RUGBY!**

**FREE TASTER SESSION!**  
NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED  
**SATURDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**  
10AM - 1PM

THE HUB, FUN ★ MAKE FRIENDS ★ TRY RUGBY  
THE HUB, BISHOPSTOKE RD, EASTLEIGH, SO50 6LA

DBS CHECKED COACHES