

The week ahead @ Saint James

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

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Friday 23rd January

Issue 172

Collective Worship



A message from the Senior Leadership team

In a week that has included ‘Blue Monday’, considered to be the most depressing day of the year, we have enjoyed an upbeat week in school with a number of fun and exciting activities taking place. In Year 2 we have seen whole classes of orang-utans, aspiring to be a butler for the queen (not a sentence you hear everyday)! Last week, you read how the children enjoyed making tacos for their lunch on Census Day. Unfortunately, that culinary expertise hasn’t translated into effective sandwich making in Year 1 as, while trying to demonstrate the importance of precise instructions, some of the teachers and support staff have ended up with more sandwich filling on them than in between the slices of bread! It has been a fun learning experience, though!

This week’s theme:
Living in Unity

This week’s story:
The story of Ezra
Nehemiah 4:6-23

Year 2 wondered what it would be like as an orang-utan butler for the queen; would they need to wear an *ape*-ron?

If you were ever to hear someone exclaim, ‘that class is full of little monkeys’ you might think they were remarking on the cheeky, mischievous nature of the pupils (not an accusation that could ever be made about classes at Saint James). Indeed, closer inspection of the Year 2 classes on Wednesday revealed that they weren’t actually full of monkeys, they were full of great apes! The only distinction between the classrooms and the orang-utan house at any major zoo was that the apes were wearing school uniform! Don’t worry, our classes hadn’t been overrun by hairy foreign exchange students from Borneo, it was our own children enjoying their ‘hook’ for their latest writing journey on ‘The Queen’s Orang-Utan’!

‘For one’s own birthday, one would very much like ...’ announced the Queen ‘...One’s own orang-utan!’

A shocked silence descended, before the Duke raged, ‘You want a giant Monkey?!’

‘Orang utans are not monkeys, they are apes...’ corrected the Queen.

‘You want a giant ape?!?’

‘Yes.’

‘Stuffed?!?’

‘No, a live one please...’ she replied, before returning to her roast beef, ‘Thank you so much.’

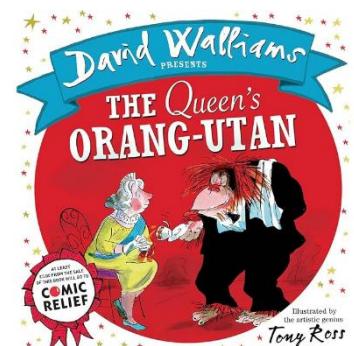
Whilst we have already touched on how unusual it would be to see an orang-utan in a classroom, we have to admit we would be equally surprised to see one having free-range to roam between the 775 rooms in Buckingham palace! Clearly David Walliams thought the idea of this was quite preposterous too, as he used it for the premise of his book.

Rather than a royal blue school uniform, the orang-utan in Walliam’s story wears a smart suit in his role as the Queen’s butler. Clearly an unusual role for an orang-utan, the children were eager to find out more from the simian servant. With questions ranging from;

‘Do you enjoy living in the palace? ‘What is the hardest part of your job?’ and ‘Why do you think you’re better than a human butler?’

the children put each other in the hot seat to answer these and other probing questions.

We have no doubt that the book will prove to be a far better catalyst for the children’s writing journey than the orang-utan was a royal butler. After reading the story, the staff in Year 2 feel reassured that they won’t be replaced anytime soon by any of the great apes. However, we must confess, it might help extend greater depth learning when it comes to gymnastics and using the climbing apparatus in the hall!



Year 6 give it their all; during athletics in a sports hall!

It is widely accepted that athletes' performance during indoor events can be significantly different to events held outdoors. There are a multitude of factors that impact this including the temperature, humidity, altitude, air quality, noise and light. A result of a dramatic change in any of these factors can have a detrimental effect on an athlete's physical and mental capabilities. Whilst we would like to give this as the reason for why the athletics tournament that our Year 6 pupils too part in last week was indoors, because they are so finely-tuned any change can have a significant impact on performance, we would be stretching the truth. The reality was it was probably due to the weather!

Joining with thirteen other schools, the sports hall at Swanmore College was packed with the finest Year 6 athletes in the local area hotly contesting the many events that might usually be seen at an athletics meet. With triple jump, long jump, a variety of throwing events and a series of relay races it was an action-packed hour and a half of competing.

Whilst ultimately Saint James didn't quite manage to top the league table of school's participating, there were a great many impressive performances. This definitely includes the team's prowess at sprinting. Saint James were so fast in the heats and finals, they won the majority that they competed in, some by over half the length of the sports hall!

Although we were unable to win the competition overall, the children would definitely have topped any league table for sportsmanship and respect! A number of adults from other schools commented on how beautifully behaved the children from Saint James were and the level of support they showed each other. We are also fairly certain we would have won another, unofficial, event at this highly competitive athletics contest; the loudest supporters! Whilst it is fairly conclusive that Saint James supporters were the loudest at cheering, it is difficult to determine whether it was Miss Howell or our fantastic parents who can take the greatest credit for the cacophony of support!

Whilst we like to thank our parents for their unwavering vocal support throughout, we would also like to extend an enormous 'thank you' to Learning through Sport and Mr Whitlock for helping sort out the logistics as well as organising the children at the event.



Spreading the fun: Year 1's sandwich instructions get staff in a sticky situation!

In a list of the top ten unusual skin care products and regimes, we were taken by surprise that three of the places were taken by camel urine, crushed beetles and crocodile faeces. Whilst not wishing to judge, we would rather stick with products found on the shelves of Boots, Superdrug or a major supermarket! However, with the knowledge that some people choose to use some of these 'treatments', we were only a little surprised to see Mrs Shotter slathering strawberry jam over Mrs Martin's arms. If you read the edition of the newsletter from 19th December, you will have seen how Mrs Martin was affected when she was exposed to the same infection as Jack's granny (from *Jack and the FlumFlum tree*). We thought perhaps she was using the jam as a treatment for the spots! How wrong we were!

As part of a challenge for writing step-by-step instructions for making the perfect jam sandwich, our Year 1 children found out that it wasn't as easy as you might imagine! After some hilariously chaotic results (however, we're not sure that Mrs Martin would happily use the adjective 'hilarious'!) the children soon refined their instructions to ensure that the butter and jam were finally spread only on the bread! As well as helping improve the children's instructional writing, it has also highlighted that we have an impressive photographer in the making. Maia, in Spain class, has managed to capture the fun expertly, in still images.



'Be yourself Day' – Children's Mental Health week 2025



Children's Mental Health Week takes place every February. It was started in 2015 to give a voice to all children and young people and to raise awareness of children and young people's mental health. This year, Children's Mental Health Week 2026 will take place from 9-15 February 2026. We will be acknowledging the beginning of this week, with a 'Be yourself day' on 9th February. The children will be able to wear their own choice of clothes on this day, to recognise their individuality. There will be no cost for this non-uniform day and it is simply the opportunity for children to express their uniqueness in their choice of clothing. **We politely request that children's clothing is still suitable and appropriate for school, as well as the weather at this time of year.**

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YMCA

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Thursday 29th January
3.30pm-5.30pm

Tickets are limited so book ASAP to avoid disappointment.

To book and pay for your child's place, please visit
<https://sjsa.sumupstore.com/product/film-night-29th-january-add-to-cart-leave-name-class-dietary-needs-in-message-to-merchant>

Remember to add your child's name, class and dietary requirements in the message to merchant section.

£4

includes hot dog,
sweets & ice cream



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The PTA for Saint James School

sjsa101@hotmail.com

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£50 fixed penalty notice or reported to court

Cycling on a footway

Section 72, Highways Act 1835.



Cycling without lights

Road Vehicles Lighting Regulations 1989.



Carrying a passenger

Section 24, Road Traffic Act 1988.



Contravening traffic signs/signals

Section 36, Road Traffic Act 1988.



Reported to court for summons

Cycling under the influence of drink/drugs

Section 30, Road Traffic Act 1988.



Failing to stop for police

Sections 35 & 37, Road Traffic Act 1988



Anxiety

Understanding & strategies to support young people

Tickets £20
Tea and
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included

The day will provide an overview of the anxiety parent-led intervention we deliver for children and young people in CAMHS.

It is an opportunity for interaction and activities which will give psychoeducation and normalising of anxiety.

There will be chances to learn and practice strategies we teach parents in the intervention.

28 January 2026

The Irish Centre, Council Road,
Basingstoke, RG21 3DH

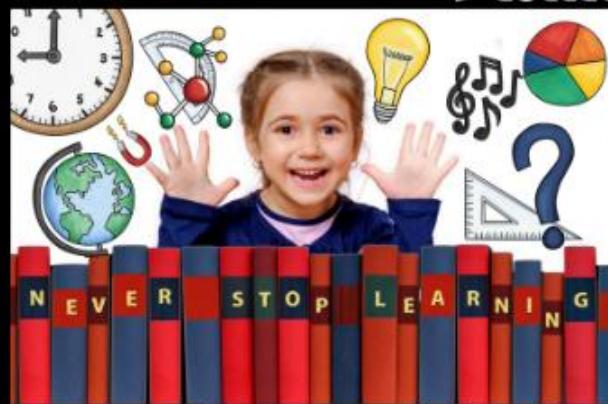


For more information scan the QR code or visit:

<https://hampshirecamhs.nhs.uk/events/>

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Starting: Monday 9th February 2026- 6th March 2026.

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For more information or to book onto the Skills Bootcamps please contact Itchen College on 02380 435636 or email courses@itchen.ac.uk

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- A dedicated session with an experienced support worker

**2
FEB**

Responding to a draft
EHCP

13:00

If you are in that critical
time frame having
received your draft

**4
FEB**

12:00

Considering an EHC Plan?

Independent and
impartial information to
guide you through the
process

**10
FEB**

Alternative Provision

17:30

What constitutes as a
suitable education in
relation to section 19 of
the education act

**11
FEB**

12:00

Ordinarily Available
Provision and SEN Support

Looking at support
available for those who do
not have an EHC

**17
FEB**

Responding to a draft
EHCP

11:00

If you are in that critical
time frame having
received your draft

**18
FEB**

13:00

Appeals to SEND Tribunal

A step-by-step guide
through the appeals
process

www.hampshiresendiass.co.uk/workshops