

# The week ahead @ Saint James

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

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Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Tues 3 <sup>rd</sup> Jun		Wed 4 <sup>th</sup> Jun	Thurs 5 <sup>th</sup> Jun	Mon 9 <sup>th</sup> Jun		Fri 13 <sup>th</sup> Jun
First day back after half term	Year 4 Multiplication Test Check starts	Year 5 Treehouse theatre 'Play in a day'	First day of Book fair in school	Ascension Day and Pentecost at church – Years 1 & 2	Start of Phonics screening Check in school	Last day of Book fair in school	End of Phonics screening check in school

## Collective Worship

MENTAL  
HEALTH  
AWARENESS  
WEEK



This week's theme:  
**Mental Health Week**

This week's bible verse:  
**Zacchaeus the Tax Collector**  
**Luke 19:1-10**

## A message from the Senior Leadership team

What a lot we've packed into this half-term! It might be the shortest half-term of the year, but that hasn't stopped us cramming a lot in! With visits from Wessex Rivers Trust, the Science Wonderdome and Aaron Phipps, a visit to the church for the Easter Service and the parish council for VE day celebrations, as well as SATs, Sports Day and a trip to Paulton's Park, it's been quite a half-term!

There's no less intensity to the enriching experiences and learning activities after half-term, with the start to the Year 4 Multiplication test check, the Treehouse theatre 'play in a day' for Year 5, the beginning of the Book fair and the Ascension Day and Pentecost service for Key Stage 1, all happening in the first week back! Make sure you have a peaceful and relaxing half-term break!

## Theme Park Programmers at Paultons – is there no limit to what these talented Year 6 children can achieve? or The enjoyment for Year 6 reaches new heights, on the rides at Paulton's Park!

At Saint James Primary School, 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. The combination of height, speed and rotation seems to be a winning one when it comes to providing the 'thrill' elements of these rides. However, a number of weather forecasts, prior to the date of Year 6's visit, hinted that the added elements of thunder and lightning and heavy rain might enhance the level of 'thrill' too excessively. Thankfully, those reports weren't realised and, with the exception of brief periods of light drizzle, followed by heavier rain when they boarded the coach at the end of the day, the weather was generally very agreeable.

As the children entered the park, about 10am, the staff and children found it hard to suppress their smiles when they realised that at the same date and time, in 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!



Continue overleaf for 'child' version

## Theme Park Programmers at Paultons – is there no limit to what these talented Year 6 children can achieve? or The enjoyment for Year 6 reaches new heights, on the rides at Paulton's Park! (continued)

### 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 needed 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!

With the excitement of the *Cyclonator*, an exhilarating Gyro Swing ride that swings and spins riders to a height of 66 metres, and the *Storm Chaser*, a thrilling roller coaster that soars to a breathtaking 66 feet and zooms along 1,400 feet of track, the area of *Tornado Springs* was a firm favourite with the children. However, with all those spins and drops, it proved to be a good area to visit before lunch!

However, Tornado Springs wasn't the only location 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!

Surely that was enough, even for the biggest 'thrill-seekers'? Not even close – the children had yet to visit three of the most iconic rides at Paulton's; *the Cobra*, *Magma* and *the Edge*.

The park's largest, longest and fastest rollercoaster, *the Cobra*, features a crazy mix of thrilling drops, exhilarating spirals, and amazing turns culminating in two breath-taking and stomach-lurching 'camel humps'. Many of the children loved it and were eager to ride it multiple times... and they did!

Even a description of *the Edge* sounds terrifying, when you hear that riders swoop and spin through the air reaching a height of 15 metres on a giant disc travelling along a 90-metre track at 43mph! Thankfully the children had left enough time since their lunch before they chose to strap themselves into position and brave the ride. We are not sure if it induced squeals and shouts of delight from the children, as these would have almost certainly been drowned out by Mr Magrane who made his enjoyment of the ride abundantly clear!

Before leaving this area of the park, many of the children could not resist braving the stomach-churning drop on the *Magma* ride. Based on a volcano theme, *Magma* silently and unobtrusively (as inobtrusive as a 25-metre-tall tower can be!) smokes away. Dormant: ready for intrepid children, like those from Saint James, to embark the ride. As soon as they were strapped in and safety checks were made, *Magma* erupted and our brave children were shot and spun 25 metres into the air, giving them a superb birds-eye view of the park. However, before they had time to identify their friends on the ground, they faced a nausea-inducing plunge back into the heart of the fiery 'volcano' below!

As well as the aforementioned rides, the children also had the opportunity to experience a number of the park's other attractions. Thankfully, the combination of patchy weather and being during term time, meant that queuing time varied between short and non-existent.

Adding a final level of excitement, many of the children (and adults) had the opportunity to experience Paulton's newest attraction: Ghostly Manor. Open for less than two weeks, this interactive ride challenged the brave to use lasers to shoot the eerie apparitions that appeared in front of them. Upon exiting the ride and comparing their scores the children became very aware of one, perhaps unexpected, fact. Mrs Pearson has the marksmanship skills of an elite sniper. Thankfully, the British Army's loss is our gain and we're pleased she chose a career as an LSA!



Continue overleaf for 'everybody' version



### 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!



### Brain best – Our people around me needs: feeling I count

To be at our brain best we need to feel we count, that we matter, that we are needed and that we are as important as other people. We need to feel we are a valued member of the group, that people enjoy our company and want us around.

To be at our brain best we need to feel we belong: it is important that we feel noticed in positive ways and that people focus on our strengths and point out the things we are good at. We feel we count when people notice the good things we do and help us to feel we are needed in the world and are valued. All of these things help us to feel noticed in good ways.

To feel we count we also need to feel that people understand how things are for us and that they will take time to listen to our perspective and our ideas.

At Saint James, we strive to ensure that all children feel they count and belong to the Saint James 'family'. It is important they feel listened to, so our children can be at their brain best. We encourage children to think; how much do they feel they count at different times? When do they feel that they count most? When do they think that they don't count at all (if at all)?

Finally, we encourage the pupils of Saint James to think about what could make them count more – do they need to be included more? Do they need people to notice what they are good at more? Do they need to be listened to better? How could those things happen? Could they join a club? Could they ask someone they trust to help them make a plan?

You may want to discuss with your child where and when they feel they count the most and what would make them feel that they count more.



### Cycling and scooting to school is a real delight – but please dismount when you're on the school site

If last week's Sports Day is anything to go by, the days seem to be getting warmer and brighter and Summer finally seems to be on its way! It is then, with the brighter mornings and evenings and the reduced possibility of getting wet, that we see more children cycling and scooting to school. It is a pleasure to see the bike sheds and scooter parking full and witness the sociability of families and friends cycling and scooting together. However, can we please share a few reminders, if your child is choosing to travel to school on two wheels.

Please can you remind all children (even pre-school brothers and sisters) to dismount their scooter or bike before they enter school grounds. With 600 pupils on site, as well as many parents, grandparents and carers at drop-off and collection times, the playground and paths around the school can be very busy. With the potential for collisions and injuries, we kindly request that all scooters and bikes are pushed while on school grounds.

Whilst not an issue on the Saint James site, we feel it is in our duty of care to inform you of a number of reports we have received about reckless and potentially unsafe cycling by Saint James pupils. Numerous parents and members of the public have informed us about children dangerously swerving towards them and other cyclists, riding without their hands on the handlebars and not wearing helmets. Please remind your child about cycling safely, if they choose to cycle to school. Prevention is ultimately better than a cure, and we would hate to be using this newsletter to inform you of an accident or incident resulting from inconsiderate cycling or scooting.



## Saint James Sports Day 2025 – participation and sporting success for all

We usually use the newsletter as a forum to keep you informed about what is happening in school and share with you some of the highlights of the week. However, for so many of you, we do feel that this article is somewhat redundant due to the impressive turnout of parents, carers and grandparents at this year's Sports Day.

If you were to follow a 'recipe' for the perfect Sports Day, it would surely produce an event like last Friday. A beautiful sunny day, challenging and enjoyable events that allowed participation for all, excited and well-behaved children, enthusiastic staff and an encouraging and supportive crowd – all 'ingredients' that combined to make a most enjoyable event.

Anyone fortunate enough to have attended the opening ceremony of the Olympics, could be forgiven for thinking they were experiencing a sense of déjà vu, as the children entered the field. Proudly displaying their country's flag, the children processed to their positions, in their pairs.

Once in position, the children were instructed how to participate in the first activity by their class teacher before moving on to the next station. From Olympic staples; such as the Hurdles and Hockey to Sports Day favourites, such as the Sack race and Egg and spoon race, there was truly something for everyone.

In the spirit of inclusivity, we initiated the 'Aaron Phipps lane' three years ago, to ensure all children can participate in Sports Day at Saint James. After Aaron's return visit, two weeks ago, the children were reminded how people can still compete in challenging and competitive sports when appropriate adaptations are made. Therefore, the eponymous lane provided challenge for children of all abilities, whilst allowing children with additional needs still to succeed. We know that Aaron was disappointed not to receive a 'gold' post-box in his home town of Totton, after achieving paralympic gold in 2021. Hopefully, having the legacy of a Sports Day Lane named after you, that encourages participation and success for all, is some compensation.

After completing the carousel of activities, the children took their place along the track, ready to cheer on their class's competitors in the relays and sprints. As the children thundered down the straight, the cheering throngs of parents and children encouraged them all the way. With some highly competitive racing and high point scoring in the carousel of activities, even the most seasoned bookmaker would have struggled to predict the winning class!

As it was, after all the points had been totalled, it became clear which classes had earned the accolade of winner for their year group. We are pleased to share these with you, below.

Year R - Wales

Year 1 - Italy

Year 2 - Germany

Year 3 - South Africa

Year 4 - Finland

Year 5 - Chile

Year 6 - Japan

Ultimately, there also needs to be an overall winner for both Key Stage 1 and 2 and the winning margin between the year groups was equally as close. We are proud to announce that the winners for each key stage were Germany in Key Stage 1 and Japan in Key Stage 2.

As we're sure you can appreciate, an event like Sports Day doesn't happen without significant planning and preparation. We would like to extend an enormous 'thank you' to Miss Howell for all of the work she put in before the event, as well as the tireless enthusiasm she put into compering on the day!





## The only ticks we want are in books!

As you may know, we have been plagued by ticks on our school field in the recent past. It is only in the past few years, that the amount of ticks has dramatically reduced, after responding to the environmentally-friendly treatment applied to the field.

Although the level of ticks is now no more than might be found in a public park, we have recently been made aware of a couple of instances of tick bites that were sustained on the school field.

Please check your children regularly for tick bites, now we are using the field more regularly. More information about ticks can be found on the government website;

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tick-surveillance-scheme>



## Top tips for a Summer term in the sun!

As we are now about to begin the final half-term of the academic year and are deep into the Summer term, the weather will surely be getting warmer and lunch times on the field will become a reality. Lunch times and break times in the sun often lead to the inevitable shedding of cardigans and jumpers, as well as the casual abandonment of lunch boxes and water bottles as the draw of a lunch time playing on the field is too enticing. Unsurprisingly, this often leads to an increased amount of lost property and subsequently anxious children and frustrated parents. Please do ensure all of your child's belongings, such as lunchboxes, cardigans, jumpers and water bottles are labelled clearly with your child's full name. This can be done using a permanent, waterproof marker or, in the case of clothing items, sew or stick in labels.

After weeks of variable weather, we are now experiencing some days of warmth and the sun is finally showing a sustained presence in the sky. We would like to enjoy the sunshine and spend time outside for lunchtime, break and outdoor learning. To ensure that our children remain safe in the sun we strongly encourage you to apply sun cream to your child before school. There are now numerous manufacturers who produce sun cream which offers all day protection and we encourage you to seek these out, so that there is no necessity to reapply lotion during the school day. If parents need to send sun cream into school in their child's bag, the children will have to apply this themselves as staff are not permitted to do it. We would also ask that sunscreen is clearly labelled with your child's name and is not shared with others, due to potential allergies. For this reason, please check that the sunscreen does not contain nuts, as we are a nut-free school (some brands of sun cream contain almonds).

In addition to sun cream, please consider sending your child with a sun hat or cap to protect them from the sun. This is particularly important at lunchtime when the sun is directly overhead and the children are exposed for the longest period. Although there is shade at the edge of the playground and field, wearing a hat will give the children the greatest freedom for playing and moving around. Please do not allow your child to bring sunglasses to school, unless they have a medical condition which requires them to wear them.

Hopefully, we can now enjoy a sustained period of good weather, so that we can enjoy our outside spaces to their full potential.

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