

The week ahead @ Saint James

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

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Friday 28th November

Issue 166

Mon 1 st Dec	Tues 2 nd Dec	Wed 3 rd Dec	Thurs 4 th Dec		Fri 5 th Dec	Mon 8 th Dec
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	Monthly prayers with Rev. Linda 2.45pm	Year 1 Christmas concert 2.30pm	Year 2 Christmas concert 2.30pm
Tues 9 th Dec	Wed 10 th Dec	Wed 17 th Dec	Thurs 18 th Dec	Fri 19 th Dec		Mon 5 th Jan
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 Children only	Class Christmas parties	Last day of term	First day back after Christmas break

Collective Worship



This week's theme:

Positive thinking

This week's story:

Caleb's reward

Joshua 14:6-15

A message from the Senior Leadership team

The final week of November has been another busy one at Saint James Primary School. We've seen a new modular building hover into place on the playground, whilst we've finished the week with an enjoyable Christmas shopping day. With a fine range of presents to buy, the children had ample choice to select from. However, we won't reveal any more now, so the presents underneath your tree remain a surprise! We look forward to welcoming many of you into school from next week, to enjoy your child's class Nativity or Christmas concert.

From a Sales Pitch to Sports Pitch: our new facility for changing and learning has an interesting past as a sales office on a housing development!

A scene unfolded at Saint James Primary School, this week, that could have been straight off the set of a Hollywood blockbuster. The levitating building hovering above the playground would not have looked out of place at Hogwarts and the set of a *Harry Potter* movie and as for the delivery driver that appeared to be a large German shepherd dog? *Pup fiction* of course!

So, had Hollywood finally come to West End? Unfortunately not, it was simply the delivery of a new modular building, due to be used as a changing room for children using the after-school sports clubs as well as a useful learning space for group work, during the day. Perched proudly on the back of an articulated lorry, the building had travelled the 29 miles from Chichester to make its final destination the grounds of Saint James Primary School.

Skilfully negotiating the parked cars on Moorgreen Road, the driver gingerly edged the huge lorry through the staff car park and double blue gates and onto the playground. Watching from a safe distance, the children in Year 1 stared in disbelief, as the driver looked back at them from the window of the cab. His canine features could well have inspired a collective response that echoed that of one of fairy tales' most famous protagonists; Little Red Riding Hood. We can just imagine the dialogue;

'What big ears you've got!' called Year 1. *'All the better to hear the banksman directing me!'* responded the hairy driver. *'What big eyes you've got!'* retorted the children. *'All the better to judge the narrow angles, as I avoid the parked cars!'* the canine haulier replied!

Don't worry, the enormous vehicle wasn't being expertly driven by a large dog. We are pleased to report that the cab was also shared by a trained and highly competent HGV driver and, although the enormous German Shepherd's name was the ominously sounding 'Bandit,' he was far friendlier than the aforementioned wolf in the tale by the Brothers Grimm! (Saint James Primary School has strictly 'No dogs on site' policy and the well-behaved canine remained in the cab throughout the delivery.)

The children were mesmerised as the process of unloading the building began. Legs shot out from the vehicle, steadying the lorry as the huge crane hoisted the building (a former sales office on a new housing development) into the air and gently lowered it onto the playground. To return to the Hollywood analogy, the gasps and cheers that were let out in unison as the building settled in its new (yet temporary) position would not have been out of place at a red carpet event heralding the arrival of an 'A' list celebrity; not a pre-loved modular building!

Whilst we imagine our new building must have seen many lucrative property sales take place within its four walls, we still very much doubt it had ever received a standing ovation, before this week! From selling homes to supporting education: what a career change!

When groundings and provision for services, such as water, waste water and electricity, have been laid our new building will take flight again and be located in its final position on the field. We look forward to being able to use it as an additional space for learning and sports clubs.



Christmas Dinner 2025

With the festive season approaching, we are delighted to announce our Christmas lunch for the children will be served on Wednesday 17th December. On this day the children are welcome to wear a Christmas jumper, hat or headband with their school trousers or skirt (please note this is not a non-uniform day). We look forward to it being a fantastic lunch and an enjoyable, shared celebration of Christmas.

Any meat used for roast dinners in school is always carved from a roasting joint and is not reformed. This ensures a superb quality meal but does necessitate a small price increase for Christmas lunch. This minimal increase is needed to counter the increased cost of turkey. It will automatically be deducted from your balance, when you order the meal.

If you pay for your child's dinners, the cost for the Christmas lunch will be a reasonable £3.25 per pupil due to the increased cost of turkey. For children who would like a Christmas lunch, please place your order in advance via your Aspens account. We have included a copy of the menu for 17th December, adjacent to this message.

We look forward to enjoying Christmas lunch with your children on 17th December.



Back to Basics - Outdoors at Christmas

Whilst this weekend sees the beginning of December and the start of advent, we thought we would share a few ideas of free activities to enjoy as a family over the Christmas period. Please also remember to look at the services and activities that will be taking place at St James church over the festive period.

1. Winter Walk Adventures

- Go on a festive nature walk and look for holly, pinecones, or animal tracks.
- Create a "Christmas scavenger hunt" – spot decorations, lights, or seasonal plants.

2. Christmas Light Trail

- Visit local streets or parks with Christmas light displays.
- Make it a game: count how many reindeer or stars you can find.

3. Snow or Frost Fun

- If it snows, build a snowman or have a gentle snowball toss.
- If not, try making frosty leaf rubbings or ice art with coloured water in trays.

4. Outdoor Carol Singing

- Sing carols on your doorstep or join a community carol event.
- Take a thermos of hot chocolate for extra warmth.

5. Festive Sports

- Organise a family "reindeer relay" in the garden or park.
- Try a Christmas-themed obstacle course using tinsel and baubles.

6. Visit Local Attractions

- Explore Christmas markets or outdoor ice rinks.
- Check for local National Trust or community festive trails.

7. Star Gazing

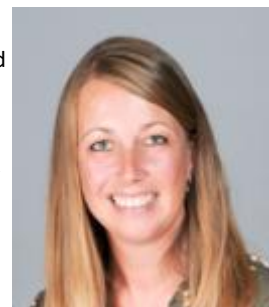
- Wrap up warm and look for winter constellations.
- Make a wish on a star and share hopes for the new year.

A sad goodbye

At the end of this week, we will be saying a heartfelt goodbye to Jackie Verwer, who has been a valued member of our team at Saint James Primary School since 2021. Mrs Verwer has worked tirelessly as a Learning Support Assistant and lunchtime supervisor, bringing warmth and patience to every child she has supported. Mostly working in Key Stage 2, her commitment to helping pupils thrive both academically and personally has made a lasting impact on our school community.

Mrs Verwer will be leaving us to take up a position in a secondary school closer to her home in Hamble. Although she will be greatly missed, we can empathise with her difficult decision to leave Saint James as we imagine anyone can, if they have tried to negotiate Hamble Lane during rush hour!

We are incredibly grateful for all Mrs Verwer has contributed over the past four years and wish her every success and happiness in the future. Thank you for everything—you will always be part of the Saint James family.



SLT under the canopy

We know that it can be inconvenient sending an email and awaiting a response, when you have a simple query that could potentially be answered quickly and easily. Therefore, to negate and alleviate the need for this wait when it is unnecessary, we have decided to post a member of the senior leadership team under the canopy before school each day. You will be able to address any of your queries to them, who should be able to answer many of them instantly. When they do not know the answer straight-away, or it requires a more complex response, they can always get back to you later or direct you to the right person to speak to (e.g. the Family Support Worker or SENCo).



From Toy Box to Textbooks: Max's mission to support the education of Prince and Ineza

Whilst many of our children are already contemplating an influx of new toys in just under four weeks' time, Max, in Year 4, has been more occupied in parting with his old toys than anticipating new ones. Admitting that he is fortunate enough to have a number of toys he no longer uses, Max has decided to sell them to raise funds to support Prince and Ineza. Secure in the knowledge that the two Rwandan children have far fewer toys and possessions than he does, Max decided to direct his philanthropic efforts to selling his toys to pay for their education.

When asked if he missed some of his favourite old toys, Max responded that the education and welfare of the two African children is more important. Although he is unlikely to ever meet the two beneficiaries of his selfless generosity, we're certain they would be extremely grateful for his kindness.

From taking enticing photos, posting the items on *Vinted* and dropping the sold items off to the new Post Office in *Hobbycraft*, Max has been heavily involved throughout the journey that his toys have taken from his bedroom to their new home.

We're sure his old toys will soon be bringing joy to many others. However, were they to know that the money they paid will help fund less fortunate children in Rwanda, we're sure it would be the source of even more joy and excitement. Well done Max, we're really proud of you!

As an aside, after supporting Prince for the past four years, he is now at the age when he will be attending secondary school. Therefore, our Chrisitan Values Team will be contacting *Compassion UK* to select another primary age child to support.



You couldn't make it up – it's not just the days that are getting shorter at this time of year, it's some skirts too!

We would like to address a few misconceptions that appear to be held by a small minority of our children at the moment.

Whilst the corridor of the camino is ruler-straight and not dissimilar to a fashion show catwalk in London, Milan or Paris we would like to share the expectation that children should not be wearing make-up to school! Whilst we would always encourage creativity and individuality, school is not the place to express it on the face!

In addition, although the afternoon activities in Upper Key Stage 2 are incorporated within their 'Rolling programme', the 'rolling' does not include the hem or waistline of skirts! We are aware that a number of children are rolling up their skirts to make them appear shorter. If we notice this, we will ask children to unroll skirts to their full length.



We are excited to share that we are now following Ruth Miskin's Read Write Inc scheme for handwriting. If you would like to practise this with your child at home, there are some useful videos that can be used by following the QR code below:

**LET'S
WRITE**
a/d/g/o/c/q/u/y/b/p



Christmas at St James

Advent Carol Service

Sunday 30th November at 6.30pm
A candlelit service of readings and music

Special Lives Service

Sunday 14th December at 4pm
*A Christmas service to remember loved ones who have died.
Write their name on a star and place it on our
Special Lives Christmas Tree.*

Candlelight Carol Service

Sunday 21st December at 6.30pm
A joyful service of readings and carols celebrating the Christmas story.

Children's Christmas Activity Morning

Monday 22nd December 9.30am to 12:00am
*Children's fun and activities celebrating the Christmas story
To book a place contact Jan on 07519759269 or
stjameswe.childrenswork@gmail.com*

Christingle Nativity Services

Tuesday 23rd December at 5pm
Wednesday 24th December at 4pm and 6pm
*Children are invited to come dressed up as a nativity character.
Please book for this service from 1st December.*

Midnight Mass

Wednesday 24th December at 11.30pm

Christmas Day Communion

Thursday 25th December at 10.30am

Everyone is very welcome!

Please see our website for more details

www.stjameswestend.org.uk

St James is a member of the Inclusive Church network

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>

Paint Pots
nurseries and more

Date for your diary!

PAINT POTS WEST END - SO30 3HN

Christmas Fayre

SATURDAY 06TH DECEMBER 2025
1030 AM - 1230 PM

Come and visit
Father Christmas in his Grotto.
(£2.00 charge)

Christmas craft stalls.

Fun games for all the family, lucky dip, hook a duck!

One off Childcare discount for preschool registration on the day.

We are unable to accept card payments so don't forget to bring cash!

WEST END **END** **PAR**

DREAM EMPIRE
EVENTS

West End
Parish Council

Christmas Light SWITCH ON AND CHRISTMAS MARKET

Saturday 29th 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