

# The week ahead @ Saint James

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

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Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November

Issue 167

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:

**Advent**

This week's story:

**The Plot Unfolds**

**(different prophecies  
about the newborn king)**

## A message from the Senior Leadership team

With nativities and Christmas carol concerts now in full swing, Advent and the countdown to Christmas has truly begun at Saint James Primary School! We've already had impressive performances from our three Year R classes and Year 4 and are hotly anticipating an enjoyable show from our Year 1 children this afternoon.

Listening to the beautiful choral voices echoing around the school, as pupils intersperse their core learning with practising Christmas songs, it is truly a very special time to be in school.

## Our little stars on the big stage: Year R children shine brightly in their Christmas nativity.

Although it seems like the Christmas decorations and festive wares have been evident in shops for months already, now the Christmas nativities and performances have started it really feels like Christmas is coming.

With this week seeing the turn of Year R, we have been treated to three very special performances retelling the Christmas story. It is not very often that you can walk down the corridors and be greeted by a donkey walking the other way! However, considering the calibre of work and behaviour frequently seen in Year R, it is not unusual to see classrooms packed with wise men (and women) and angels! It certainly is a special time of year to be in school!

With a twist on the traditional format of a nativity, the audience on each afternoon were treated to performances of singing, enthusiastic dancing, acting and pre-filmed video clips of the children retelling the Christmas story. However, don't fret, there was still the usual array of angels, shepherds, wise men, inn keepers and a donkey on display to serve as reassuring familiarity. Joyfully singing their way through each number, with vocal support from their friends in the other two Year R classes, the children treated parents and family members to an early Christmas present. It is hard to believe that the children have only been pupils at Saint James Primary School since September!

With each Year R class giving its own presentation and interpretation of the same script and songs, ably supported by the other two classes on vocal back-up, each performance came with its own idiosyncrasies but was equally wonderful. Although only a small proportion of each class were adorned with a halo and even fewer were wearing gold, five-pointed outfits, we (and surely all members of the audience) thought they were all angelic and stars of the show!

With our Year 1 and 4 children finishing the week off with their excellent performances and next week seeing the turn of the other year groups, we know that these two weeks will see many polished performances that have you humming some infectiously catchy new festive songs for the duration of the Christmas period!



## 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 Wednesday 17th December.



## Free webinar for parents of children with autism or ADHD


### Autism & ADHD: Strategies To Improve Sleep


Join us for our free webinar.



Our SEN team would like to alert all parents of children with ADHD or autism to the following free webinar. It will be of particular use for children who are struggling to sleep.

The webinar is hosted by Helen Rutherford, a Specialist Sleep Practitioner from The Sleep Charity.

 Date: Wednesday 17th December

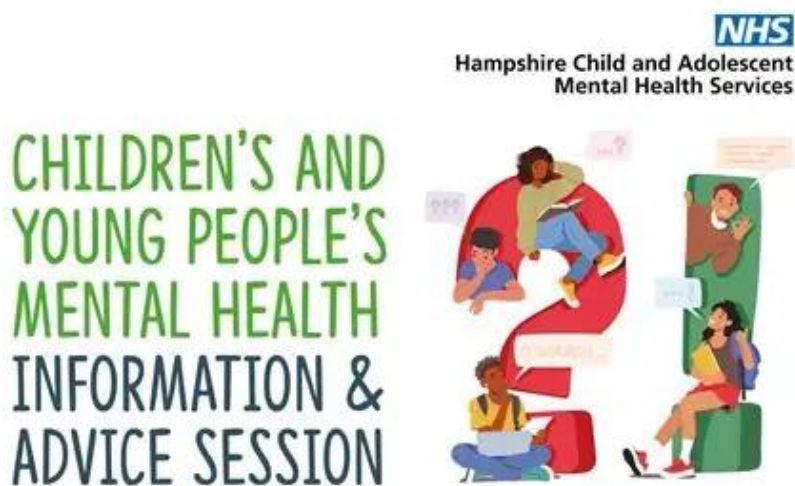
 Time: 10am - 11am

In this webinar, Helen will explore:

- ✓ What happens when children sleep, including how it supports their learning, behaviour, and development, and how this knowledge helps you choose strategies that truly make a difference.
- ✓ Why general advice isn't always enough in supporting your neurodivergent child, and how you can adapt strategies to their needs.
- ✓ Practical take-away strategies to help your child build healthy, lasting sleep habits.

To sign up for the webinar please follow the link below:

<https://www.witherslackgroup.co.uk/advice-and-support/events/webinar-autism-adhd-strategies-to-improve-sleep/>



The first Wednesday of every month

10am - 2pm

The Arc, Jewry Street, Winchester, SO23 8SB



You can book an appointment on our website

Or just drop in and see us

If you are concerned about a young person come and chat to one of our clinical team.

[hampshirecamhs.nhs.uk/events/](https://hampshirecamhs.nhs.uk/events/)



## From Zero to Hero: Saint James team comes from 2-0 down to draw 2-2 in thrilling local derby game!

In football, some games have gained such fame, for either individual performances or the excitement, that they have been informally renamed. Due to two legendary, individual performances in the FA Cup finals of 1953 and 2006, the games will forever be known as the Matthews final and the Gerrard final. Some derby games have also been given informal titles like El Clásico (the game between Real Madrid and Barcelona) and the Steel City derby, between Sheffield Wednesday and Sheffield United. With that in mind, the local derby game between Saint James and Shamblehurst could now be known as the Walsh derby, due to Mr Walsh's connection to both schools (he previously taught at Shamblehurst before joining Saint James).

This Monday evening saw an opportunity for some well-deserved minutes on the football pitch for our large squad of players against Shamblehurst Primary school, as we lined up against them on the pitch at Wildern. The weather and light have been a common theme in recent reports and this was no different, sideways rain, strong winds and impending darkness surrounded the players at kick off- but it would take more than a yellow weather warning to stop these teams playing football! Hardy to the worst of the elements, and representing the school admirably were; Ben, Taylor, Connor, Jude, Harry, Joey, Ava, Jordan and debutants Ollie and Eddie.

It was a difficult opening five minutes for Saint James, as some unfamiliar partnerships on the football pitch tried to gel for the first time and Shamblehurst rushed into a 1-0 lead. A speculative shot struck the base of the left hand post and squeezed into the bottom right hand corner. 1-0.

A few moments later and a dubious refereeing decision (of course we're completely impartial!) saw Shamblehurst awarded a penalty for a hand ball. The taker calmly slotted his opportunity into the bottom corner. 2-0.

From this moment on, Saint James seized control of the game and had more than their fair share of possession, shots on target and corner kicks. However, the goalkeeper for Shamblehurst was simply incredible. Outstretched saves into top corners, saves with his feet, blocking shots in one-on-one situations. It really looked like nothing would beat him.. and it didn't. The scores remained the same despite the pressure and Saint James entered the break with a two goal deficit to pull back.

A surprising tactical change at this point saw Taylor take Ben's place between the sticks, as our goalkeeper made his outfield debut for the school team (his performance was excellent in both central midfield and defence!)

The second half saw Saint James continue to turn the screw and apply pressure on the Shamblehurst team and eventually we found our break through. A ball bounced over the top of the defence, with help from the wind, and Connor took it under his masterful spell. An excellent finish into the bottom corner and it was 2-1.

A few minutes later, and Jordan received the ball on the turn. He controlled the ball, spun silkily on his toes and was away on goal. An early strike caught the keeper off guard and nestled into the back of the net. 2-2.

We then proceeded to hit the cross bar, the post, have a penalty shout denied, as well as having corner after corner, shots drag inches wide and even more wonder saves from the goalkeeper until the final whistle blew. The scores remained 2-2.

It must be said that the Saint James team showed excellent character and resilience to come back from 2 goals down, and they played with a brilliant attitude throughout. Eddie and Ollie made superb debuts for the school today- Eddie defended stoutly all game and Ollie showed off his immense pace in both attack and defence. It was a superb effort from the boys.

However, it was Ava who stood out in the performance. She was always resolute in her task, made excellent attacking runs and sensible, intelligent passes. She had a wicked free kick blocked and looked a threat whenever she got the ball.

As the calendar year draws to a close, we are pleased that our unbeaten football run continues. We would like to extend a huge 'thank you' to all our parents for their support and the taxi service to games- we couldn't enjoy these sporting opportunities without you. We would also like to give enormous thanks to Mr Walsh, who continues his run as an unbeaten coach. We look forward to seeing the run of undefeated games continue into the new year.



## Handwriting

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 attached:

**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 23<sup>rd</sup> December at 5pm  
Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December at 4pm and 6pm  
Children are invited to come dressed up as a nativity character.  
Please book for this service from 1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.stjameswestend.org.uk)

St James is a member of the Inclusive Church network



**Paint Pots**  
Paint Pots West End - SO30 3HN

Date for your diary!

*Christmas Fayre*

**SATURDAY 06<sup>TH</sup> 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!



## 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

Golden 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>

