

The week ahead @ Saint James

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

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Friday 6th February

Issue 174

Mon 9 th Feb	Thurs 12 th Feb	Fri 13 th Feb	Mon 23 rd Feb	Tues 24 th Feb	Wed 25 th Feb
‘Be yourself’ non-uniform day for Mental Health week	Last day of the half-term for children	INSET Day (no children in school)	First day back after half-term break	Year 1 Phonics Screening test – information evening	Ash Wednesday Service in school (children and staff)

A message from the Senior Leadership team

We began this week thinking about Jesus as the light of the world and sharing in Jesus’ love, when we enjoyed Collective Worship on Monday. It always impresses us how well our children share on a daily basis, so many of them are supremely good at modelling our values of Love, Respect and Courage and showing kindness towards others. However, we imagine the concept of sharing was really put to the challenge in Year 4 this week, when the children designed and made some delicious looking chocolates! If they were able to share these when they got home (if they even got as far as getting home!!) then they have truly shared selflessly!

We begin next week with a Non-Uniform Day for Children’s Mental Health Week – we look forward to seeing how children embrace being themselves in their choice of clothing.

Collective Worship

JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD



This week’s theme:

Being light

This week’s story:

Jesus’ presentation in the temple

Luke 2: 22-40

When we think about Jesus’ love for the world, we’re certainly not ‘glass half full’!

Children at Saint James are particularly good at sharing. In Maths, the concept of sharing is used as an introduction to division and on the playground children are quick to share equipment they are playing with to allow others to join in. In modelling our school values of Love, Respect and Courage, sharing is something that the children are often praised for and it is often remarked upon by visitors to the school or members of the wider community when children represent Saint James during educational visits.

Therefore, when the children were set a sharing challenge during Collective Worship on Monday, they were justifiably confident in succeeding. On this rare occasion, their confidence was misplaced.

With two teams of five children at the front of the hall, the children were each given an empty plastic cup with the first cup in the line filled with water to half-way. Then Mr Adams, who was leading the Collective Worship, gave clear instructions to both teams; they needed to pass the water down the line to the end by pouring it from one cup to another but ensuring a small amount was left in each receptacle (it needed to be enough to swirl around, not just a tiny drop). With a time limit set of one-minute the winning team would be the team who had the most in the end cup whilst still having enough to swirl around in every cup in the line! Easy? Apparently not! It quickly became apparent that it is extremely difficult to share out a finite amount of water among a group of children. Everybody ended up getting a significantly reduced amount – sometimes none at all.

Mr Adams offered the thought that this was not like the love of Jesus. The love of Jesus, the light of the world, can be shared among an infinite amount of people with them all getting the same ‘full’ amount. He then shared that there was a far better way to represent this.

Instead of clutching an empty plastic cup, each child was presented with a candle. The child at the beginning of the line then had theirs lit and they were challenged to pass the flame down the line to light every candle. What did they notice? Every child had an equally large flame, no smaller than the initial flame when it was only one; they created a greater light together overall! A far better representation of Jesus’ love.

So, why was this week chosen as the time to share this highly symbolic message? Because it is the week that Candlemas is celebrated in the Christian calendar; the celebration of Jesus’ presentation at the temple and a recognition that Jesus came to remind us about loving one another and sharing love between us.



Learning is sweet in Year 4 – they've had a choco-lot of fun designing and making their own confectionary.

Whilst we would confidently proclaim that every one of the topics we focus on in school is engaging, interesting and informative, leading to a plethora of learning opportunities, some prove less challenging than others when trying to captivate the children from the outset. However, as you might well imagine, the '*Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*' topic has no trouble in capturing children's enthusiasm!

If, for some strange reason, the mention of chocolate isn't enough, the release of the film '*Wonka*' in 2023, a prequel to Roald Dahl's original story, saw a resurgence of interest in the original text. Whilst many of us might eagerly check our lottery numbers each week, having already spent (in our heads) the millions that we never seem to win, our children have been similarly imagining what they might do if, like Charlie, they 'won' a chocolate factory. Although, for many, they don't need to endure the same impoverished existence as Charlie, sharing a dilapidated shack of a house with his mother, father and four grandparents (who share the same bed) and living on a diet of cabbage soup; the idea of owning a chocolate factory is still a wild fantasy. However, that delightful fantasy seemed just a little bit more obtainable this week, as the children in Year 4 began designing, marketing and making their own chocolates.

From choosing the shape, size, flavour of filling and type of chocolate (milk or plain), the children considered how to make their confectionary appeal to their target audience. Then, after taste-testing the ingredients to check the combination would tantalise the palate, they carefully created their chocolate creations. Using their DT skills (crushing, mixing, cutting, measuring) they began to create a confectionary masterpiece that met the design brief they created earlier in the week. Looking at their completed creations, we're sure the fictional factory owner would proudly sell their creations as products of the fabled '*Wonka*' brand.

Regardless of how good their chocolate tasted, the children's creations would have no hope of reaching their intended audience without a targeted marketing campaign and an appealing wrapper that makes customers pick it off the shelf. Therefore, the children had to consider this too. With striking packaging and persuasive advertising posters, awareness of the children's tasty wares has also been assured.

Whilst modern thinking might criticise Wonka's use of Oompa Loompas as slave labour and question the levels of health and safety protocol in his factory, no such accusations could be levied against the marvellous chocolate makers in Year 4. All of the staff working with them commented on how effectively they followed instructions, observed hygiene guidelines and worked as a team. Well done Year 4!

Whilst the film '*Wonka*' charted the rise of the story's protagonist to becoming an enigmatic and fabled chocolate maker, Year 4's foray into chocolate making may have given us all a glimpse of the chocolatiers of the future!



Help grant a Birthday wish

Whilst we're never one to judge, we struggle to think of the motivation behind some of the most unusual entries in the Guiness Book of Records. In 2012, Zac the Macaw set the record for the most canned drinks opened by a parrot in one minute, whereas in 2017, Mark Williamson from Hull set the record for the fastest marathon run by anyone dressed as a phonebox (4 hours, 6 minutes and 37 seconds, in case you're interested). Quite what motivated Andre Ortolf of Germany to drink 1083 grams of mustard in 30 seconds to take the world record, is beyond our comprehension! However, there is one record that we can understand the motivation behind and, as a school, we would like to support.

We have heard of the plight of 7-year-old Amelia Kolpa from Rowley Regis who wants to break the record for the most birthday cards received, hoping to reach a target of 8000 cards. Amelia has neuroblastoma and has been in and out of hospital since the age of two and a half, she is now receiving palliative care. Although this brave young girl has no known links to Saint James Primary School, we would like to try and help her achieve her target; helping to make her wish come true.

When sharing this desire with the children, we have handled it carefully and sensitively without giving age-inappropriate information and sharing that she is terminally ill. However, the children are still motivated to help Amelia achieve her wish. Each class will be making a card to send to her, which will be dispatched in time for Amelia's birthday on 3rd March.

If your child would like to produce a card to send to Amelia for her 8th birthday, please ensure this is created and brought into school for early next week, so it can be sent with cards from each class. Please make sure it is small enough to fit into an A4 envelope. If you would like to find out more about Amelia and the record she is attempting to break, please use the following link to a BBC news article:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cpv71xe14kno>

SJSA Teddy Bear Hunt

This February half term (13th Feb-22nd Feb), the SJSA has created a Teddy Bear Hunt around the local West End area. Members of the community have kindly agreed to place numbered teddy bears in their windows, allowing children to tick off each teddy they find as they go. In some windows, there will be letters displayed alongside the numbered teddies. These letters can be collected to help unlock three secret words.

This activity is optional for those who wish to participate and costs £3 per child. The event is open to all, participation is not limited to Saint James pupils, any friends and family are welcome. Please note that this is not a club or wraparound childcare provision, but an opportunity for families to enjoy an activity together during the half-term break. We ask that parents and carers always remain responsible for their children and are asked to take extra care when walking near roads, ensuring appropriate road safety is observed.

You can purchase your pack on the SJSA online shop using link - [Teddy Bear Hunt](#) – Please leave child's name & class in message to the merchant - if your child doesn't attend the school, leave your name & number. We will be in touch to arrange collection of your bag

Inside the bag you will have:

- Teddy bear hunt activity pack containing, - numbers to tick/colour in, secret word sheet and a map
- Multi-coloured rainbow pencil
- Poppet keyring
- Sticker
- Envelope with 'for parents/carers' (containing road names)
- Return slip



Inside the bag, you will find an envelope marked "For Parents/Carers". This contains a list of the roads where the teddies can be found (for adults' eyes only).

You will also find a small slip of paper to write your child's name, class, and the three secret words. If you return this to the school office after half term, you will be entered into a prize draw to win a teddy bear

'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.

The Hills Are Alive... With the Sound of Splashing! – a second sibling takes up an impressive swimming challenge!

The Williams sisters in tennis, the Klitschko brothers in boxing, the Brownlee brothers in triathlon and the Neville brothers in football; all famous sporting siblings where both have been accomplished professionals at the pinnacle of their sport. However, one sport that is a notable omission from that impressive list is swimming. Up until now. Saint James Primary School would like to offer their own contenders for that illustrious list; the Hill siblings.

After sharing Sophia's inspirational exploits in the pool over the past few years, culminating in swimming 5km to help the fundraising efforts for an assistance dog for her friend Liy, her brother Oliver, in Year 3, has now taken to the pool to raise money for charity. Fittingly, Oliver will be supporting the charity that began Sophia's fundraising exploits; Southampton Hospitals Charity. The charity holds a particular significance for the swimming siblings' entire family, as Oliver has been under the care of the respiratory team over the past five years. This makes his intended feat even more impressive, as his lung condition presents significant challenges.

Oliver is currently having weekly lessons with the City of Southampton Swimming Club, as well as participating in extra training sessions on a Sunday to help build up his stamina. In his quest to swim 1km, Oliver is now completing 10 lengths at a time, with the furthest he has swam so far being 34 lengths. Oliver's impressive intentions have obviously already captured the attention of many of UK swimming's alumni. Former Olympian, Katy Sexton, who supported Sophia with her last challenge, will be pulling on her costume to give Oliver a one-to-one coaching session this weekend. If you would like to support Oliver in his fundraising quest, a link to his JustGiving page is included below:

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/sarah-hill-12>



Holiday activities and food programme for February half-term

Children from Reception to Year 11 who get benefits related free school meals can join free holiday clubs this February half term through Hampshire County Council's Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme.

The programme is funded by the Department for Education and offers:

- ⌚ Fun activities
- 🥗 Healthy meals
- 📍 Free places for children who normally receive benefits related free school meals



This February, there are over 80 schemes running across Hampshire at schools, childcare settings, community groups and sports organisations.

This is the first time HAF is running during a half term week, and we are pleased to offer options in every area.

If you have any questions you can email our HAF team: connect4communities@hants.gov.uk

How to register for a place this half-term:

Step one:

To book a benefit-related HAF place, you must first register using the HAF registration form with Hampshire County Council to receive a unique code that your activity provider will require when you book with them.

If you already have a valid code you do not need to register for a new one.

Step two:

To find an activity, select your district from one of the 10 tiles displayed below, and a list of local providers will be on view.

Once you have found a HAF provider that you and your child find interesting, you can make your booking by selecting their listing and using the contact information or website details provided.

Step three:

Check the provider information for any items your child is requested to bring along.

https://www.connecttosupporthampshire.org.uk/family-information-and-services-hub-fish/holiday-activities-and-food-programme-haf/?utm_source=SAPHybris&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=5532&utm_term=CS%20-%20HAF%20-%20Feb%20Half%20Term%202026_HAF%20Website&utm_content=EN

Hampshire Parent Carer Network (HPCN) sessions taking place in **February and March 2026** will be

Bridging the Gap – Online Sessions (February 2026)

These sessions are designed for **parent carers of young people aged 14–25 with mental health needs**, offering information and support around transitions. All sessions are online and free to attend:

- **11 February, 12.30–1.30pm** – Developmental Language Disorder (with Afasic)
- **13 February, 11–12pm** – Understanding Masking (guest speaker Ellie – Lived Experience Trainer, Autism & ADHD)
- **27 February, 11–12pm** – Rejection Sensitive Dysphoria (guest speaker Ellie – Lived Experience Trainer, Autism & ADHD)

Booking link: <https://www.tictailor.com/events/hpcn>

HPCN Get Togethers – February & March 2026

Our **Get Togethers** provide informal, welcoming spaces for parent carers to:

- Connect with other parent carers
- Share experiences and local issues
- Give feedback on services
- Access information and support from visiting services

Sessions are held both **in person across Hampshire** and **online**, with some dates attended by **Hampshire SENDIASS** and **Hampshire Local Offer/FISH** teams.

Kind regards,

The HPCN Team



ST JAMES PRIMARY SCHOOL

LEARNING
THROUGH
SPORT

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

CLUB TIMETABLE

MONDAY - FOOTBALL YRS R-2

TUESDAY - FOOTBALL YRS 3-6

WEDNESDAY - FOOTBALL YRS R-6

THURSDAY - FOOTBALL YRS R-6

FRIDAY - DODGEBALL YRS 3-6

CLUBS INCLUDE:

FOOTBALL & DODGEBALL

PRICE - £6 PER SESSION

STARTS 23RD FEB

BOOK HERE!

learningthroughsport.co.uk/st-james/

SCAN ME

MONDAY TO FRIDAY

3:30 pm - 4:30 pm

All bookings must be made in advance

WHAT'S ON

January - April 2025

Southampton
City of Opportunity

SOUTHAMPTON
CITY COUNCIL

FEBRUARY HALF TERM

Hands on History:
Castles and Catapults (6+)

Mon 16 Feb | 10:30am, 1pm | Tudor House | £8

Art for All: Introducing Acrylics - Winter Scenes (8+)

Mon 16 Feb | 10:30am, 12:30pm or 2:30pm | Art Gallery | £8

Tour for All: Saxons, Vikings and Normans Walking Tour

Tue 17 Feb | 11am | Tudor House | £10 (accompanying children FREE)

Art for All: Minecraft Mosaic Worlds (7+)

Tue 17 Feb | 10:30am, 12:30pm or 2:30pm | Art Gallery | £8

Art for All: Great Fire of London Clay Scenes (5+)

Wed 18 Feb | 10:30am, 1pm | Tudor House | £8

Art for All: Bluey Inspired Pen Pots (3+)

Wed 18 Feb | 10:30am, 12:30pm or 2:30pm | Art Gallery | £8

Art for All: K Pop Demon Hunters Clay Sculpture (6+)

Thu 19 Feb | 10:30am, 12:30pm or 2:30pm | Art Gallery | £8

NEW FOR 2026

Toddler Time: Characterful Dogs! (under 4s and friends)

Thu 19 Feb | 10:30am | SeaCity | £6

Hands on History: Awesome Egyptians (7+)

Fri 20 Feb | 10:30am, 1pm | SeaCity | £8

Junior Art School: Go Wild with Wool (7 - 13 years)

Fri 20 Feb | 10:30am - 3:30pm | Art Gallery | £26

CULTURE CLUB FOR KIDS ACTIVITY DAYS

(Age 6½ - 12 years)

Drop off your young people
Three days per week | 9am-4pm (drop off from 8:45)

SeaCity | £35 per day or £90 for all three days

Get creative, explore our collections and learn new stuff while making really cool things at our themed activity days.

Cruise Adventures
Mon 16, Tues 17, Wed 18 Feb



See venue websites for further details on events and to book
seacitymuseum.co.uk | tudorhouseandgarden.com | southamptoncityartgallery.com



Eastleigh Area Schools Orchestra Open Evening

Date: Monday 9 February 2026

Venue: Thornden Hall, Thornden School, Chandler's Ford

EAWOT from 4:30-5:10

(Wind Band Trainers, woodwind, brass, percussion)

EASTO from 5:30-6:30

(String Orchestra, violins and cellos)



OPEN Sign up Today



SOCER SCHOOLS

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HEDGE END

INSET DAY FOOTBALL COURSES AGES 5-13
FEBRUARY 13TH // 9:00AM - 15:00PM
WILDERN LEISURE CENTRE

www.bargate.com/soccer-schools

An all-in-one childcare solution this half-term

FAIRTHORNE HOLIDAY CLUB

Breakfast & Dinner Club available!

YMCA Fairthorne Manor
SO30 2GH

01489 785228

Half Day - £15
Full Day - £33

Find out more



All new sessions for 2026

NHS

Hampshire Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

EMBRACING AUTISM

Tickets £20
Tea and coffee included

A day that focuses on skills and strategies, for parents, carers and professionals supporting a child with Autism.

Topics include:

- Supporting your autistic child to thrive - adapting to meet the needs of the autistic young person and practical strategies.
- Support for SEN in education & what to do if it's not working.
- Supporting Young People to Make Sense of their Experiences - empowering young people and putting them at the centre of their experience - Jess Garner from The Grove Practice is our guest speaker.

Discretionary tickets available to families on request.

GROVE



4 February 2026 9 July 2026

The Pallant Centre,
Havant, Hampshire
PO9 1BE

17 November 2026

Junction Church,
2 Romsey Road,
Eastleigh, SO50 9FE



For more information scan the QR code or visit:
<https://hampshirecamhs.nhs.uk/events/>



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ITCHEN
SIXTH FORM
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Do you want to accelerate your career in Playwork?

From holiday, breakfast and after school clubs to HAF provision- if the answer is yes- come and join our Skills Bootcamps

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

This course runs for 3 weeks Monday- Friday.

(There will be no sessions 16th February- 20th February due to Half Term)

Venue: Leonardo Hotel, Charlotte Place, Southampton, SO14 0TB

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

Funded by

Hampshire
County Council

SKILLS
FOR LIFE
SKILLS BOOTCAMP

Hampshire SENDIASS Online Workshops

- Free impartial advice relating to SEND for 0-25 years.
- Confidential sessions not recorded.
- Peer support, talking to others experiencing a similar journey.
- A dedicated session with an experienced support worker

2
FEB
13:00

Responding to a draft
EHCP

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
17:30

Alternative Provision

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
11:00

Responding to a draft
EHCP

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