

The week ahead @ Saint James

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

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Friday 6th March

Issue 177

Mon 9 th March	Wed 11 th March	Thur 12 th March	Fri 20 th March	Wed 25 th Mar	Thurs 26 th Mar	Fri 27 th Mar
Parent Book Look 3.00pm - 3.30pm	Parents' Evening 3.30pm - 7.00pm	Parents' Evening 3.30pm - 6.00pm	Comic Relief Non-Uniform Day	Easter Lunch	Easter Service at St James Church Year 5 and 6	Last day of the Spring term

Collective Worship



This week's theme:
Wildlife in nature

This week's story:
The many references to animals in the bible:

Including but not exclusively:
Isaiah 11:7, John 10:14,
Matthew 7:15, Proverbs 6:6

A message from the Senior Leadership team

What a lot of talented children we have! There is so much sporting success to share with you this week; from the swimming pool to the football pitch, the cross-country track to the dance studio and even the cricket pitch we have some truly impressive sporting achievements to share. Hot on the heels of Team GB's strongest ever performance at a Winter Olympics, we've got a comparable level of success for Team Saint James!

This week we've enjoyed an inspection from a Hampshire Primary Phase Inspector, who had some very complimentary comments to make about what he saw. Even though he was only in school for one day, it quickly became apparent to him what we all know; Saint James is a truly special school.

An Inspector Calls...

In J. B. Priestley's famous play, *'An Inspector Calls'*, an inspector arrives unannounced at a private residence and causes panic and disarray among everyone he encounters. You might realistically expect that the same thing might be true in a number of schools, when an inspector calls to pass judgement. Thankfully, as this week has proved, this is not the case for Saint James Primary School!

Mr Tim Walters, a Primary Phase Inspector for Hampshire, visited Saint James to observe teaching, with a particular focus on Maths. He visited lessons, looked at books and documentation and spoke to children, staff and school leaders. During a very packed schedule, with little time for him to even eat lunch, he managed to gain a comprehensive picture of life at Saint James Primary School.

We are incredibly proud of all of our staff team and the children for all the hard work and dedication that is evident across the school. It was abundantly clear that the whole team takes great pride in creating positive outcomes for our children.

Throughout the day, there were many strengths observed and highlighted; the displays looked strong and purposeful, and the warm, positive relationships between staff and children were consistently noted. There was also some exceptionally strong teaching observed. A special mention was also made of the learning environment and provision in Year R. It was evident how much thoughtful work has gone into shaping the learning space and the opportunities for our children.

After an exhausting day, we are pleased that Mr Walters gained an accurate picture of the everyday reality of life at Saint James Primary School. We would like to extend a huge 'Well done' to everyone involved.

Drive through and drop off: drop, go and let the traffic flow!

Thank you to everyone who is using the drive-through each morning. It alleviates any issue with parking in the roads around the school, which is appreciated by our neighbours and local residents. Recently, there has been an increasing amount of parents either parking in empty parking bays or in the drive-through lane itself, whilst they or another adult passenger drops their child at the classroom door. Please drop your child, letting them exit from the vehicle on the school side of the car, and resist the temptation for parking for any duration. Any empty parking spaces need to be used by members of support staff with later start times and parking in the lane itself causes congestion and slows the flow of traffic.

Can we also ask you to please remind your child that they should dismount from any bike or scooter when they are on the school site. There are a number of people with limited mobility, as well as some very young children, that are on site each morning and after school. It is important that they can cross the school site safely without risk of collision.

Thank you for your support during collection and drop-off times.

Uniform expectations

Now the weather is getting warmer, more children are starting to wear shorts again for PE rather than tracksuit trousers. Can we please remind you that figure hugging lycra shorts are not an appropriate choice and that shorts should either be plain black or navy. We are also aware that some children have begun wearing big bows and glitter-style extensions in their hair. In accordance with our uniform policy, please keep to discrete, hair styles and accessories and ensure that long hair is tied back tidily so it does not interfere with a work or become a danger during P.E. sessions. Hair should be a natural shade and large ribbons, bows or decorative clips are not permitted. Thank you for your support.

Resilient Saint James get the job done

We're sure you're becoming quite familiar with the story; Saint James are drawn in the next round of the Hampshire Cup, the opponents are known to be a tricky / competent side and then Saint James win convincingly. Surely we would see history repeating itself, against a team we had beaten in a tight game last season? On this occasion, it was so nearly not the case!

In a quarter-final fixture not long after our previous 5 – 2 victory against North Baddesley, Saint James were drawn against Cherbourg Primary School in a fixture at AFC Stoneham. With the game taking place on pitch number 1, it was probably the nicest surface our team has had the pleasure of playing on this season. With our team of Taylor, Lucas, Charlie, Henry, Ben, Harry, Max, Connor and Jordan looking resplendent in their immaculate new blue kit, it was perhaps an ominous sign that Cherbourg ran out in bright pink, the colour of Inter Miami the team of, arguably the best player in the world, Lionel Messi! A nervous energy filled the air as the game begun and did not really lift for the entirety of the first half.

Minutes into the game and Cherbourg broke through with their striker finding himself with a clear shot on goal. He produced a firm shot but Ben was equal to it, already taking up an excellent position in his area and confidently blocking the attempt. Great save!

On the 6th minute, Henry played a lovely lobbed through ball towards Connor, who masterfully controlled the football and turned past his man leaving himself 1-on-1 with the onrushing goalkeeper. He prodded the ball past the keeper with excellent composure to make the score 1-0.

Usually, one goal for Saint James quickly leads to 2 or 3, however Friday's game was different. The nerves of the day didn't settle, and the first half remained cagey until the half-time whistle finally blew.

A long, rousing team talk (enriched by some equally rousing jelly tots!) allowed the boys to recalibrate. The aim of the game now was to make use of the space on offer and move the ball more precisely, quickly and most importantly; sensibly.

Harry came on as a substitute ten minutes before half time and was arguably our brightest player; causing problems for Cherbourg from the start of the second half. As a player who always listens astutely to instructions, it was no surprise that he made the game changing impact our team so desperately needed. Integral to our win, he played a central role in the second goal. A fantastic piece of passing football between him and Lucas saw Lucas running through on goal. A controlled finish into the bottom right was just what we needed! 2-0.

Normality was restored in the second half and Saint James began to turn the screw, controlling possession, momentum and all of the, now frequent, dangerous attacks. Connor found himself with space on the right side of the area and fired a shot goalwards which hit the bottom of the left post. The ball landed at Harry's feet, he swivelled and lobbed the goalkeeper with an excellent finish. 3-0!

The final meaningful action of the game came from a Cherbourg free kick on the edge of the area. The number 7 stood over it confidently and rifled a wicked strike towards the top left corner. A goal was certain from the moment it left his boot... until Ben made a phenomenal stop, saving his well-earned clean sheet in the process.

It was an important win for Saint James, who were not at their rampant best, but they do say that is the mark of champions! We would like to extend a huge 'thank you' to all the parents for their excellent, free taxi service and the ongoing support they offered from the sidelines. We look forward to playing in the semi-final and wish our girls' team luck again in a semi-final of their own! Come on Saint James – wouldn't it be wonderful to have two teams in their respective finals!

Near the Utilita Bowl and on a roll: Our Year 3 children are cricket stars in the making!

With our school only a stone's throw (or more appropriately a cricket ball throw) away from the Utilita bowl, the home of Hampshire cricket, it seems fitting that our school actively participates in cricket events and competition. Although still some way off the start of the UK cricket season, some of our Year 3 children took part in their first cricket event of the year, last week.

Focussed on improving their hitting, throwing, catching and bowling skills a dedicated and resilient group of Year 3 children attended the cricket festival at Wildern Secondary School. Over the course of an hour and a half they worked on eight tightly focussed activities aimed at honing their skills for the cricket season ahead. As an additional bonus, they even got to enjoy the sunshine, rarely seen so far this year!

We would like to extend an enormous 'thank you' to Mrs Voaden and Miss Howell, who gave up their evening to ensure we could take two teams to this event.



Southampton Art Gallery – Free Family Day

To celebrate Southampton City Art Gallery's reopening after refurbishment, there will be a FREE Family Activity day! All families are invited to attend and you can find out more about the event by using the following link; [Let's Celebrate: Free Family Activity Day for the Gallery Reopening - Ticketing.](#)

Running from 11am to 4pm, there will be loads of fun activities for families to take part in; from having your face painted as an impressionist painting to making amazing models inspired by the artwork on display. There's sure to be something for all the family to enjoy.

Mud, sweat and (no) tears: Lucas raises his game from Saint James to county fame!

The sporting prowess and aptitude of many of our children, along with their exceptional sportsmanship, often allows us to share times when they have set an excellent example when representing the school. Across a plethora of different sports and events, children have proudly pulled on the royal blue kit of Saint James and distinguished themselves in competition. However, on rare occasions, it is a different kit and colour that they're wearing on the pitch, track or start line. Last week, for Lucas in Year 6, it was a bright, yellow shirt, as he was not only representing Saint James but the whole Eastleigh and Winchester district!

Making the, longer than usual, journey to North Hampshire and Basingstoke, Lucas had qualified for the Hampshire finals in cross-country and was lining up against the finest runners that Hampshire primary schools had to offer. Whilst in local competition it was clear that Lucas had the beating of most of the field, with 145 competitors drawn from across the 1455 square miles of Hampshire, the County Championships were clearly going to be a different matter.

Just qualifying for this prestigious award was an impressive feat, however, not content with just turning up, Lucas turned in a performance that placed him in the top 10% of competitors. Placing an impressive 15th out of 145! Traversing the muddy, unfamiliar course, at Down Grange, it was clear that Lucas had no 'home' advantage. However, his dogged perseverance moved him up the field to an impressive 15th place! Well done Lucas! We would also like to extend an enormous 'Thank you' to Lucas' mum who accepted the role of taxi driver, performance coach and dietician for the day, supporting Lucas throughout the challenging competition. Well done Lucas!



Making a splash and smashing personal bests: Lilou's swimming is a stroke of brilliance



We think healthy competition can be a good thing. When children prove to be the best in their peer group, their class or even the school, it is an achievement that should be celebrated. Sometimes, that achievement is extended to a larger field, against competitors from other schools and even county-wide: clearly an accomplishment to be acknowledged, praised and admired. However, we admit that our greatest competition is often ourselves and that we should always look to improve our own performances, in whatever we choose to do. This is the most admirable achievement of all and something we can all realistically seek to realise. In the case of Lilou, in Year 6, she has not only improved her own performance; her own performance has led to her being the best in Hampshire!

In the recent Hampshire County Swimming competition, Lilou surpassed all expectations (except perhaps her own): she achieved personal best performances in all three of her races. In both the 200 metre Individual Medley and the 50 metre Butterfly, she secured personal best times, an achievement that any competitor should be satisfied with. However, in the 200 metre Breaststroke, her personal best was enough to take the bronze medal, with a third-place finish. Due to being a mixed-age race, the result means that Lilou is now officially the fastest 11-year-old, at 200 metre Breaststroke, in Hampshire! What a phenomenal achievement for her first ever County Championships.

At her swimming club, *Wildern Waves*, Lilou is regularly coached by former Olympian and World Champion Katy Sexton MBE, whose guidance has been instrumental in her recent development. We're sure she is taking inspiration from her trainer's past performances to try and emulate her success. Well done Lilou!

Parents' Consultation Evening – March 2026

Next week, we would like to welcome you to our second Parents' Consultation Evening of the year. This is a valuable opportunity to discuss your child's development and have the chance to direct any questions to their class teacher.

Parents' Evenings will be held on Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th March where you will be offered a ten-minute slot to discuss your child's progress. Time slots are booked using your on-line Arbor account (if you are having difficulty with this, please contact the school office). Thank you to everyone who has already made an appointment. The booking system will close at 10pm on Monday 9th March 2026. We look forward to seeing you then.



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TUESDAY- FOOTBALL YRS 3-6

WEDNESDAY- FOOTBALL YRS R-6

THURSDAY- FOOTBALL YRS R-6

FRIDAY- DODGEBALL YRS 3-6

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AGES
5-16
YEARS

Tuesday 31 March - Thursday 2 April
Tuesday 7 - Thursday 9 April

AquaRun

Wednesday 8 April
5-16yrs 2.30pm - 3.30pm
Hamble Sports Complex

Badminton

Wednesday 1 April
& Wednesday 8 April
7-10yrs 6pm - 7pm
11-16yrs 7pm - 8pm
Wyvern College

Big Sister Session

Wednesday 8 April
11-15yrs 4.30pm - 5.15pm
Places Leisure Eastleigh

Thursday 9 April

9-11yrs 4.30pm - 5.15pm
Places Leisure Eastleigh

CrossFit

Wednesday 1 April
& Wednesday 8 April
11-16yrs 3pm - 4pm
CrossFit Southampton, Eastleigh

Cricket

Thursday 2 April
5-8yrs 11am - 12pm
9-12yrs 12pm - 1pm
Places Leisure Eastleigh

Thursday 9 April

8-11yrs (girls only) 11am - 12pm
9-12yrs 12pm - 1pm
Places Leisure Eastleigh

Cycles4All

Tuesday 31 March
& Tuesday 7 April
Families 1.30pm - 2.30pm
Pavilion on the Park

Dodgeball

Tuesday 31 March
8-11yrs 2pm - 3pm
Hiltingbury Sports

Fencing

Tuesday 7 April
5-10yrs 3.30pm - 4.30pm
11-16yrs 4.30pm - 5.30pm
Boorley Green Community Centre

Free Swimming

Tuesday - Thursday
5-16yrs 2pm - 3pm
Wildern Leisure Centre

Football

Wednesday 1 April
8-11yrs 10am - 11am
8-14yrs (girls only) 11am - 12pm
Places Leisure Eastleigh

Wednesday 8 April

5-7yrs 10am - 11am
13-16yrs (teens) 11am - 12pm
Places Leisure Eastleigh

Hockey

Wednesday 1 April
& Wednesday 8 April
8-14yrs 6.30pm - 7.30pm
Hamble Hockey Club (Hamble School)

**Inflatable Pool
Session**

Thursday 2 April
8-16yrs 2.30pm - 3.15pm
Places Leisure Eastleigh

Junior Gym

Wednesday 1 April
& Wednesday 8 April
11-16yrs 1pm - 2pm
Wildern Leisure Centre

Laser Tag

Tuesday 31 March
8-11yrs 9.30am - 10.30am
12-16yrs (teens) 10.45am - 11.45am
Pavilion on the Park

Netball

Thursday 2 April
5-10yrs 1pm - 2pm
11-14yrs 2pm - 3pm
Wide Lane Sports Ground

**Street
Basketball**

Wednesday 1 April
8-12yrs 1pm - 2pm
8-14yrs (girls only) 2pm - 3pm
Hiltingbury Basketball Court

Wednesday 8 April

8-12yrs 1pm - 2pm
13-16yrs (teens) 2pm - 3pm
Roy Underdown Court, Hamble

Tennis

Wednesday 1 April
& Wednesday 8 April
5-7yrs 10am - 11am
8-11yrs 11am - 12pm
Wyvern College

**Tuesday 31 March
& Thursday 2 April**

5-10yrs 5pm - 6pm
11-16yrs 5pm - 6pm
Deer Park School

**Tuesday 31 March
Tuesday 7 April**

5-10yrs 3.30pm - 4.30pm
11-16yrs 4.30pm - 5.30pm
Bursledon Recreation Ground

Thursday 2 April

5-10yrs (girls only) 3.30pm - 4.30pm
11-16yrs (girls only) 4.30pm - 5.30pm
The Hub, Eastleigh

Thursday 9 April

5-10yrs 3.30pm - 4.30pm
11-16yrs 4.30pm - 5.30pm
The Hub, Eastleigh



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Tuesday 7 - Thursday 9 April

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*£1 concessions available to residents
receiving qualifying benefits
Activities may be subject to change

The school has received the following email from *Hampshire Golf*, inviting all budding young golfers to compete in one of two tournaments;



Dear Young Golfer,

We are delighted to formally invite you to join and compete in the 2026 Future Champions Tour and Future Champions Foundation Tour.

Both Tours are now entering their fourth season and have enjoyed tremendous success. Players of all abilities have benefited — from competing in their very first events, making new friends, enjoying family time at competitions, to earning selection to represent Hampshire in County Squads.

Who Can Take Part?

Both Tours are open to boys and girls aged 6 to 12, with two categories available:

Future Champions Foundation Tour

Designed for golfers aged 6 to 12 without an official handicap:

- 9-hole events played on a shortened course
- Air shots do not count
- Maximum of 10 shots per hole (if exceeded, simply record "10")
- Trophies awarded and presented on the day at each event
- Qualification for the Tour Finals in October, featuring prizes and trophies
- Opportunity to represent the Future Champions Tour Team in a match against Hampshire Squads
- Membership Fee: £30 per year

This includes a registration pack and your very own Adidas County Crested polo shirt, Event Entry Fee: £10 per event

Play in as many events as you wish.

Future Champions Tour

For golfers aged 6 to 12 with an official golf handicap:

- 18-hole qualifying Stableford events
- Played from the most advantageous tees
- Normal rules of golf apply
- Trophies awarded and presented on the day
- Qualification for the Tour Finals in October with prizes and trophies
- Opportunity to represent the Future Champions Tour Team in a match against Hampshire Squads

Membership Fee: £30 per year Includes a registration pack and Adidas County Crested polo shirt.

Event Entry Fee: £20 per event

Play in as many events as you wish.

Trial Days

We also offer trial days for both Tours. Each player may attend one trial event by simply paying the event entry fee, allowing you to experience the Tour before committing to membership.

Once you are a member, if you begin without a handicap and later obtain one, you may compete on both Tours without paying an additional membership fee.

How to Join You can join today by visiting www.hampshiregolf.org.uk, selecting "Junior" from the right-hand menu, followed by "Future Champions Tour". This will provide full details of the season, events, rules, and a direct link to the registration page.

If you or your family have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch via email at FCT@hampshiregolf.co.uk.



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The logo for Cook Stars, featuring a whisk and a rolling pin inside a circular frame with the text 'Cook Stars' and 'making memories with you' below it.