

# The week ahead @ Saint James

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

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Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May

Issue 145

Mon 12 <sup>th</sup> May	Thur 15 <sup>th</sup> May	Fri 16 <sup>th</sup> May	Wed 21 <sup>st</sup> My	Fri 23 <sup>rd</sup> May
Beginning of Year 6 SATs testing	Last day of Year 6 SATs testing	Provisional Sports Day KS2 am KS1 pm	Year 6 educational visit	Last day of the half term



## Collective Worship



This week's theme:  
**Peace**

This week's bible verse:  
**God blesses those who  
make peace  
Matthew 5:9**

### A message from the Senior Leadership team

We're not sure what it is about 4-day weeks, but we always seem intent on making up for the 'lost' day by cramming a lot into the remainder of the week! After his inspirational visit two years ago, we welcomed back paralympic gold medallist, Aaron Phipps on Tuesday. As you will read, it was another visit that created a strong and lasting impression. We also commemorated the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE day with Matt and Maisie, our head boy and girl, representing Saint James Primary School at the ceremony at the parish centre on Thursday. This celebration of peace was compounded by a poignant Collective Worship, delivered on Tuesday, by some of our Year 5 pupils.

With Year 6 SATs starting and Sports Day scheduled for Friday, we anticipate that next week will be just as busy! We'd like to take this opportunity to wish all our fabulous Year 6 pupils 'good luck!' for the forthcoming tests.

### Imagine delivering Collective Worship to 600 pupils – our Year 5 children found it a *peace* of cake!

In a week where we have acknowledged and celebrated VE Day, 80 years since the end of the Second World War in Europe, it seems appropriate that the theme for our Collective Worship was Peace. Whilst class teachers, members of the leadership team and Reverend Linda usually take responsibility for the delivery of Collective Worship, it is always a pleasure when the daily act of worship is planned and delivered by children. This Tuesday was no exception. Tayla, Joey, Anjie, Ellis and Bethany from Brazil class shared a pertinent, engaging, interactive and thought-provoking presentation with the school, exploring the theme of Peace.

Accompanying the children's quiet procession into the hall, the children didn't listen to a calming instrumental piece – instead they focussed on the words penned by John Lennon in his 1971 hit 'Imagine'.

*'Imagine all the people; Livin' life in peace'*, sang Lennon and the pupils of Saint James listened. They then proceeded to be taught about a historical figure who provided great inspiration for the former Beatle: Mahatma Ghandi.

Our brave Year 5 pupils shared details of Ghandi's life and how the venerable lawyer and political ethicist employed nonviolent resistance to lead the fight against inequality. In addition to Lennon, Ghandi's actions greatly inspired other famous figures associated with the civil rights movement, such as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr and Nelson Mandela.

Interacting with pupils from all year groups, the five children delivered the Collective Worship superbly, helping us understand the power and implications of Ghandi's peaceful protest. When examining famous quotes from 'the father of the Indian nation', such as, *'Non-violence is a weapon of the strong'*, the children explored how non-violent protest can be far more powerful than violent resistance.

It is perhaps inevitable that some children will sit and listen diligently to the inspirational actions of another, without seeing how they can affect positive change themselves. However, simply reflecting on one of Ghandi's most famous quotes calls into question the validity of this thinking.

*'Be the change that you wish to see in the world.'*

With such a powerful Collective Worship, we're sure many of the children left with a very clear message about fairness, equality and peace. After learning about Ghandi, one of history's most influential figures, we believe the feelings of our children can be paraphrased in the sentiments of John Lennon, one of history's most influential song-writers:

You may say *we're* dreamers

But *we're* not the only ones

We hope someday you'll join us

And the world will be as one.



## An inspiring visit from Aaron Phipps

Back in 2023 we were visited by Aaron Phipps whose inspiring visit left a lasting impression on many of us who met him, inspiring us to make changes to our Sports day to make it more inclusive. As over two years have passed since Aaron's last visit, many of our children are either new to the school or are at an age when they are able to draw more from his struggle against adversity to winning a Paralympic gold medal.

Throughout the day, Aaron met with children in each year group, sharing details of his experiences that were engaging, inspirational and age-appropriate.

We learned that Aaron contracted Meningitis C and Meningococcal sepsis in January 1999 and, as a result of this illness, Aaron's legs and most of his fingers needed to be amputated. In total Aaron spent a year in hospital, receiving treatment and recovering.



Desperate not to be defined by his disability or the recipient of pity, Aaron began to get involved in wheelchair racing, raising money for a Meningitis charity. Beginning with a 10 km race in Totton, he progressed to completing the London Marathon in both 2008 and 2009.

Inspired by a conversation he had with two athletes at a wheelchair race, and with encouragement from his wife, Aaron took the decision to try wheelchair rugby. He never looked back. After being selected for the Great Britain team that competed at the 2012 Summer Paralympics in London, Aaron could have been content with the, highly respectable, fifth place finish that the team achieved. However, an infamous photograph of him in tears after defeat meant the team could not progress, gives ample evidence of how content he really was. This defeat only served to make Aaron more determined to win, a dream that was finally realised when the Great Britain team won gold at the 2020 Paralympics in Tokyo.

So, did Aaron spend his entire time between 2012 and 2020 solely focussed on winning Gold? Absolutely not! On 23 May 2016, he became the first disabled British person to scale Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest free-standing mountain above sea level in the world! During large parts of the ascent, Aaron was forced to climb on his hands and knees because the wheelchair wasn't capable of traversing the difficult terrain. However he was so determined, he managed to complete the climb without any assistance

Mesmerised by the powerful stories he told, and his enthusiastic and open presentation, all the children sat superbly asking pertinent and enquiring questions about Aaron's lived experience. From the 90mph dash in an ambulance to hospital, to save Aaron's life when his body was shutting down, to his public tears at London 2012 when his quest for Paralympic gold fell short. The children listened and empathised with the raw emotions experienced by Aaron.

It doesn't take someone to be impacted by disability to appreciate the struggles that Aaron has endured both within and outside of the sporting arena. However, the elation he experienced when finally gaining a Paralympic Gold medal in 2020 and in reaching the top of Kilimanjaro, crawling on his hands and knees when his wheelchair could no longer traverse the terrain, was a 'high' in stark contrast with the 'lows'.

If ever someone was going to inspire our children, it was Aaron Phipps. Is there any wonder that we named a lane at our sports day after him? We would like to extend enormous thanks to Aaron for being so engaging and, once again, providing inspiration for the children and staff of Saint James.

## VE Day at the parish centre

Whilst many of us are too young to have experienced first-hand the events of eighty years ago this week, they are indelibly marked in our minds as the day when peace in Europe was secured. It is also likely that we will have memories of family members or friends who fought in or survived the deadliest conflict in history; World War 2.

Each year, children from Saint James represent the school at West End's Remembrance Day service, so it is fitting that we sent representation to the commemoration of VE Day, at the parish centre this Thursday.

Speaking with clarity and conducting themselves impeccably, Matt and Maisie, our head boy and girl, shared readings and raised the union flag in the commemorative event. Not out of place among the dignitaries invited, our two fine young people provided an excellent example of why our grandparents and great grandparents fought so fearlessly to secure a safe future for subsequent generations.





## VE Day celebrations in Eastleigh

You will have already read how ably our head boy and girl represented our school at West End's commemoration of VE Day on Thursday or you may have even shared in the lamp lighting and activities at Hatch Grange that evening.

Further celebrations are being held on Saturday, at Leigh Road in Eastleigh, where there will be a VE Day event from 11am to 6pm at Leigh Road Recreation Ground. There is free entry to this event and further information can be found on the poster at the end of this newsletter. For more details, please use the following link;

<https://www.facebook.com/share/19niQAcoGo/>

## Under 9 Girls' Cricket Festival

At Saint James Primary School, we are in the fortunate position of being situated within easy walking distance of the home of Hampshire cricket. With the Utilita bowl hosting Hampshire matches, as well as some internationals, it would be very apt if Saint James had a talented 'field' of cricketers to select from. If your daughter is under 9 and enjoys playing cricket, or would like the opportunity to, there is a girls' cricket festival happening during May half term at Ropley Cricket Club.

Children are able to sign up as a team of friends, or individually, and there is no requirement to bring a knowledgeable coach or trainer – one can be provided on the day. To participate in this exciting, free, cricketing festival, you can book a place for a team or individuals using the link below.

Date: **28<sup>th</sup> May** Venue: **Ropley CC**

Times: **9.30-12.30** Cost: **free**

Booking link: <https://forms.gle/mLiYXrp7TNuptWt9A>

## VE Day celebrations in West End

VE Day in 1945 signalled the end to war in Europe; a war that had lasted for nearly six years and had cost the lives of millions. The ravages of the war had destroyed homes, families, and cities, so there was little surprise that huge crowds took to the streets, on 8<sup>th</sup> May 1945, to rejoice. People marked the victory with street parties, dancing and singing, and it was a time for communities to celebrate together.

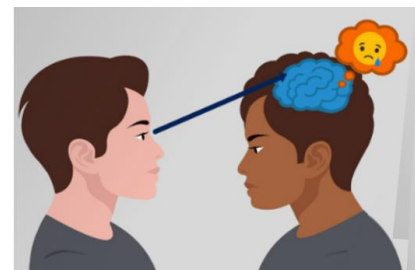
On VE Day, this week, many members of the West End community came together at the parish centre and Hatch Grange to light the beacon and celebrate the anniversary of the end of war in Europe. A number of children from Saint James Primary School attended the celebrations, representing some of the uniform groups.

We were thrilled to hear that two Beavers, Oliver and Jacob from Year 2, as well as Jenson, who is a Cub scout in Year 5, were given the honour of helping light the beacon. Representing 10th Itchen North Scouts, the children performed the task ably and were rightfully proud of being chosen.



## Brain best – making connections

In following the Empowerment Approach, at Saint James we recognise that whenever a child is dysregulated we can more effectively support them, if we have forged a good connection. This is always easier if we have a pre-existing relationship with the child, as we could have already banked some 'connection cash', trust built already through the interactions we've shared. Before we can support a child and help them get back on track, we need them to feel heard and understood. This shows that we care but it doesn't mean we have to agree. Using our 'connection' speeds up emotional regulation, improves relationships and supports better learning.



The benefits of 'connection' are huge, both for the adult and the child. The first step is to try and get into the mind of the child and try to discover – what is their experience?

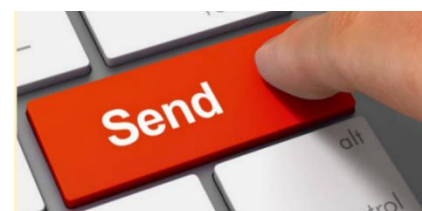
### What does 'connection' look and sound like?

We recognise that, when people are skilled in connection, they are able to climb into the experience of the other person and show true empathy. At Saint James, we will always aim to achieve this, when trying to support a dysregulated child. To do so, you may hear us use phrases such as;

*'It is really frustrating when we are asked to do things that don't feel easy for us.'*

*'The other team getting a free kick at a time when you felt they had cheated must have felt so frustrating. You probably felt no-one was listening to you.'*

We will invest time in trying to 'climb' inside the experience of the child and stay there for a bit, rather than rushing in trying to problem-solve. If we don't invest time in doing this, at this point, children may continue to do what they are doing: pressing the 'send' button. When children don't feel understood or listened to, they keep pressing the 'send' button. This might manifest itself in repeatedly 'going on and on' about wanting to go to *the* party or buy *those* trainers. However, they may communicate their frustration in much less helpful ways – with aggression or risky behaviours.



Although it is sometimes difficult to invest time in generating 'connection cash', especially when your time is constrained, the pay-off can be quite dramatic. Why not try building more connection cash at home? You may find it beneficial the next time you need to make a decision that is unpopular or could be perceived as unfair.

## Southampton City Council - Half-term activities

As the May Half-Term is fast approaching, Southampton City Council have announced that they have a wide range of activities for children and their families to keep them entertained. These history and art workshops will cover everything from fun family walking tours to hands on workshops and all day wrap around care. The workshops will be engaging, accessible and designed to promote family learning. More details, including how to book, can be found on the posters below.

# WHAT'S ON CLUBS AND CLASSES



See venue websites for further details on events and to book\*  
[seacitymuseum.co.uk](http://seacitymuseum.co.uk) | [tudorhouseandgarden.com](http://tudorhouseandgarden.com) | [southamptoncityartgallery.com](http://southamptoncityartgallery.com)

### SATURDAY ART CLUBS



#### Mini Monets Art Club (Under 7s)

Saturdays 31 May, 28 June, 26 July  
/ 10.30am - 11.30am / Art Gallery /  
£7.50 or £20 for three

Join artist **Debra Marsh** to experiment with different art styles and materials in a fun and accessible way.



#### The Young Ones Art Club (7-13 yrs)

Saturdays 10 May, 14 June, 12 July  
/ 10.30am - 12.30pm / Art Gallery /  
£12.50 or £30 for all three

Join us to experiment with different art materials and ideas and have some fun! Each monthly session is led by a local artist, who will take their inspiration from the artwork on display. Adults are welcome to drop their child (7+) off or to stay.



### All Day Holiday Art Classes and Activities for 6 - 16 year olds

Drop your young people off for the day at one of our artist or historian led full day sessions!



#### Junior Art School (7 - 13 yrs)

Fridays 10.30am - 3.30pm /  
Art Gallery / £26 per day

**Fri 30 May:** Discover Art in Nature

**Fri 25 July:** Discover Clay Sculpture

**Fri 01 Aug:** Discover Printmaking

**Fri 08 Aug:** Discover Surrealism

**Fri 15 Aug:** Discover Impressionism

**Fri 22 Aug:** Discover Pop Art

**Fri 29 Aug:** Discover Abstract Art

#### Art School Plus (11-16 yrs)

Mondays 10.30am - 3.30pm /  
Art Gallery / £26 per day

**Mon 28 July:**  
Develop Linocut Printmaking

**Mon 04 Aug:**  
Develop Drawing Skills

**Mon 11 Aug:** Develop Painting with Watercolour

**Mon 18 Aug:**  
Develop Painting with Acrylic

#### Southampton Culture Club for Kids (Age 6½-12 yrs)

Three days per week 9am - 4pm  
(drop off from 8.45am) / SeaCity  
Museum / £35 per day /  
£90 for all three days

**Tues 27, Wed 28, Thurs 29 May:**  
Theme - Adventure

**Mon 28, Tues 29, Wed 30 July**  
Theme - Imagine

**Mon 4, Tues 5, Wed 6 Aug:**  
Theme - Time Travel

**Mon 11, Tues 12, Wed 13 Aug:**  
Theme - Myths, Legends and Magic

**Mon 18, Tues 19, Wed 20 Aug:**  
Theme - To Infinity and Beyond



Please bring a packed lunch and a water bottle to these day-long workshops.

For full details visit our websites or email us at [museums@southampton.gov.uk](mailto:museums@southampton.gov.uk)

\*Advance booking is recommended



# WHAT'S ON

## MAY HALF TERM ACTIVITIES



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### Hands On History: Stand & Deliver! (6+)

Tues 27 May /  
10.30am, 1pm /  
Tudor House / £8



### Art for All: Green Man Clay Plaques (5+)

Tues 27 May /  
10.30am, 12.30pm  
or 2.30pm /  
Art Gallery / £8



### Hands On History: Southampton Through Time (6+)

Wed 28 May /  
10.30am /  
Tudor House / £8



### Tour For All: Old Town Walking Tour

Wed 28 May /  
2pm / Tudor House /  
£8 or £24 for families



### Art for All: Clay Dogs (4+)

Wed 28 May /  
10.30am, 12.30pm  
or 2.30pm /  
Art Gallery / £8



### Art for All: Regency Fashion Paper Dolls (6+)

Thurs 29 May /  
10.15am, 11.30am, 1.15pm /  
Tudor House / £6



### Art for All: Draw (and paint!) from Nature (5+)

Thurs 29 May /  
10.30am, 12.30pm or 2.30pm /  
Art Gallery / £8



### Hands On History: Discover Titanic (6+)

Fri 30 May /  
10.30am, 12.30pm, 2.30pm /  
SeaCity / £8



A loyalty  
reward card for  
families who  
love getting  
'hands-on' at  
Southampton  
museums and  
art gallery.

Buy six family activities and  
get the seventh FREE with our  
Culture Club for Families scheme.  
Pick up your holiday loyalty  
card from SeaCity Museum,  
Southampton City Art Gallery or  
Tudor House and Garden.

Full details and T&C's:  
[www.southampton.gov.uk/cultureclub](http://www.southampton.gov.uk/cultureclub)

## COME PARTY WITH US!

If you've got a Titanic  
enthusiast, a history fan or a  
child who loves to get creative,  
why not throw them a birthday  
to remember at one of our  
unique venues?

Create a special day for your  
child full of hands-on activities  
tailored to their interests.

Email [museums.education@southampton.gov.uk](mailto:museums.education@southampton.gov.uk)



\*Advance booking is recommended



## Funky Playbus

We know many of your children attend *Funky Play Bricks*, after school on Fridays. The company who delivers this club have asked us to alert you to another of their ventures, *The Funky Playbus*. Popular for birthday parties, fetes and other community events, the bus is packed with activities to enjoy and explore.



[www.funkyplaybus.co.uk](http://www.funkyplaybus.co.uk)

The Funky Playbus is a service bought to you by: L.T.S Entertainments

### We do so much more...

Face Painting / Themed Children's Parties / Lego Parties / Pre School Funky Fitness.

We are here to help!

Tel: 07942 982888

Email: [info@funkyplaybus.co.uk](mailto:info@funkyplaybus.co.uk)



FunkyPlayBus



Funky\_PlayBus



DREAM EMPIRE EVENTS

# EASTLEIGH VE DAY 80

10 MAY 2025 11AM-6PM

LEIGH ROAD REC LEIGH ROAD,  
EASTLEIGH, SO50 9FH

LIVE MUSIC ON THE BANDSTAND, JIVE DANCING, CREAM TEAS  
WAR TIME VEHICLES, MILITARIA, VINTAGE FAIR, TRADITIONAL GAMES,  
VINTAGE BUS, REENACTMENTS, MILITARY CHARITIES, VINTAGE STALLS,  
MASCOT VISITS, STALLS, LICENSED BAR, INFLATABLES, FOOD & DRINKS

**FREE ENTRY**

DOGS WELCOME. FAMILY FRIENDLY

[www.dreamempireevents.co.uk](http://www.dreamempireevents.co.uk)

Visit Eastleigh Eastleigh Town Council





## COFFEE MORNING

WEDNESDAY  
11TH JUNE

9am - 10am

Join us in the  
modular building



Join us for tea / coffee and have the opportunity to meet other parents. This coffee morning will focus on supporting challenging behaviour.

**Nikki Shergold** from the Primary Behaviour Service will be coming in to talk about supporting **challenging behaviour** - there will be an opportunity to ask Nikki questions

If you're interested in coming along drop Kerri an email at

[family.support@st-james-westend.hants.sch.uk](mailto:family.support@st-james-westend.hants.sch.uk)

FOOD  
FESTIVAL

## OUT OF THIS WORLD



15th May

**Mini Planet Meatballs**  
with out of this World tomato  
sauce & pasta

**Veggie Big Bang Bangers  
and Cosmic Mash**

And

**Rocket Lolly**

