

The week ahead @ Saint James

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



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Friday 10th January

Issue 131

Thurs 23 rd Jan	Thurs 30 th Jan	Thurs 13 th Feb	Fri 14 th Feb	Mon 24 th Feb	Mon 3 rd Mar	Wed 5 th Mar	
Non-uniform day – bring an item for the 'Rainbow' raffle	School disco	Parents evening for parents of children with SEND	Last day of half term for children	INSET day	First day back after Half term break	Parent book look	Ash Wednesday

A message from the Senior Leadership team

Happy New Year! We hope you had a peaceful and relaxing Christmas holidays. It has been lovely to see the children back in school and engaged in their new learning; walking around the classrooms this week, it has been great to see so many children smiling and enthusiastically working.

As a busy half-term stretches out ahead of us, we can celebrate our first inspirational achievement of 2025 by acknowledging an impressive effort by Sophia in Year 5 to swim 5 kilometres and raise over £1500 towards an assistance dog for her friend Lily. What a start to the new year!

Collective Worship

Epiphany



This week's theme:

Epiphany

This week's bible story:

The baptism of Jesus

Matthew 3:13-17

An amazing achievement and two inspiring individuals



To our knowledge, over 130 editions in its current format, we have never been beaten to an article about children in our school by local press and radio coverage. Although we are starting 2025 with that unusual anomaly, when the enormity of the event becomes apparent it is perhaps unsurprising!

In the last edition before Christmas, we told you about Sophia and her intention to swim 5 kilometres to help fund an assistance dog for her friend Lily. News of this impressive challenge had reached former Olympian and World champion swimmer, Katy Sexton, who held a personal coaching session with Sophia prior to her challenge on the 21st December.

Since the beginning of the Christmas holidays and our return to school, at the start of this week, Sophia completed her challenge and, along with Lily, became something of a local media celebrity! In her training Sophia had already posted a time for 4k on the Saturday prior to her ultimate challenge. This time, of 1 hour and 57 minutes, impressed us all when we learned of it just before Christmas. You might have expected that Sophia would have paced herself, when aiming to swim a further 1000 metres. However, this was clearly not the case; she smashed her record by a full 17 minutes, as she went on to complete the whole distance in 2 hours, 3 minutes and 40 seconds!

Beginning her challenge just after 6 o'clock in the morning, she finished shortly after 8am, obviously ready for a hearty breakfast! So, what do young philanthropists and champion swimmers eat as for breakfast? Ice cream, of course! We are assured this was a treat in recognition of her challenge and we can only concur that it was thoroughly, well-deserved. Sophia did admit that she had bad cramp at one point during her challenge although determinedly pushed through the pain barrier to finish in record time. In hindsight, we imagine she is pleased that she opted to eat breakfast after the challenge, rather than before!

Obviously, this feat of endurance is impressive for anyone, let alone a 10-year-old primary school pupil, but breaking records for her swimming was not Sophia's ultimate goal. Sophia's foremost desire was to raise as much money as possible towards funding an assistance dog for her friend Lily. We are pleased to report that Sophia achieved this too, raising a staggering £1,649!

(continued overleaf)

Perhaps with these achievements it is no surprise that both the Daily Echo and BBC Radio Solent, got hold of the story and featured it prominently in their newsprint and broadcasting, respectively.

In addition to raising vital funds towards the £23,000 needed for a trained assistance dog, Sophia's challenge has also helped raise awareness of Wiedermann-Steiner Syndrome and, in particular, Lily's struggles. The aforementioned syndrome is a rare genetic condition that only affects 2000 people worldwide and brings with it a number of challenges including bone abnormality, bowel incontinence, dental issues and learning difficulties. These all impact on Lily's daily life.

Lily is a delightful and popular member of Saint James Primary School, however, as she is getting older, friendships are becoming harder because she doesn't engage typically with her peers. Despite being very socially driven and wanting to be friends, maintaining relationships can be hard for Lily so an assistance dog will be a huge benefit for her.

The headline in the Daily Echo used the word 'inspiration' when referring to Sophia's extraordinary swim. We cannot think of a more appropriate word to use when describing out two remarkable members of Year 5.

If you would like to read the Daily Echo article about Sophia's swim, you can click on the link below:

<https://www.dailyecho.co.uk/news/24813091.girl-10-completes-5k-swim-friend-genetic-condition/>

Donations can still be made via Sophia's JustGiving page using the following link: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/sarah-hill-980>

Thursday 30th January

Rainbow raffle

Year R - RED Year 1 - PURPLE
Year 2 - PINK/WHITE Year 3 - GREEN/BLUE
Year 4 - BLACK/SILVER Year 5 - ORANGE/BROWN
Year 6 - YELLOW/GOLD

Thursday the 30th of January is colourful non-uniform day for a donation of a coloured raffle prize. All donations need to be new. Wine to washing up liquid, biscuits to bubble bath, chocolate to candles, unwanted gifts and everything in between.

It just has to be at least three months in date and in your child's year group colour.

All donations will be mixed and used for hampers to raffle as prizes at a later date. All money raised will go towards new playground equipment, equipment for the classroom and games for wet play.



SPORTED PAN DISABILITY FOOTBALL



FIRST SESSION FREE

DAY	STARTING	PRICE
TUESDAY INSIDE	14TH JANUARY 5PM - 6PM	£5 PER SESSION

ALL SESSIONS WILL BE HELD AT

BITTENE PARK SECONDARY SCHOOL

AGES **5-11** YEARS OLD

BOYS & GIRLS

BOOK BELOW FOR INFORMATION

[HTTPS://SPORT-IN-THE-COMMUNITY.CLASSFORKIDS.IO/INFO/39](https://sport-in-the-community.classforkids.io/info/39) SPORTINTHECOMMUNITY2020@GMAIL.COM

WE ARE DELIGHTED TO HAVE BEEN AWARDED A GRANT FROM THE BARCLAYS COMMUNITY FOOTBALL FUND, DELIVERED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH SPORTED



Carriageway Repairs due on Moorgreen Road

As part of the annual programme of works being undertaken by Hampshire County Council, carriageway surface repairs are due to be completed on Moorgreen Road between Tuesday 21st January and Friday 24th January. Although work will typically take place during the evening and through the night, between the hours of 19:00pm and 6:00am, there may be time when these time periods need to be adjusted.

While the works are carried out, the road will be closed to vehicular traffic, however access for residents will be maintained wherever possible. Pedestrian access will always be available. If you need to make a journey during the period that these works are taking place, please allow a little extra time.

If you live on Moorgreen Road, please ensure that no vehicles are parked on the road on the days when work will be taking place. In addition to slowing down the repairs, dust created by the work may settle on stationary vehicles.

To find out more information regarding these works, please click on the following link: <https://one.network/?GB141150940>

Supporting Children With SEN: Managing Anxiety Together

We have been made aware of a free, online seminar to support parents and carers of children with Special Educational Needs who struggle with their anxiety. The objective of this webinar is to explore simple yet effective strategies for parents and carers who are seeking support and advice for managing their child's anxiety. It will also share how to create a calm, safe and supportive environment for helping your child when they are feeling overwhelmed, plus, ideas for helping your child to learn how to self-soothe, self-regulate and self-calm.

Date: **Wednesday 5 February**

Time: **10am - 11am**

<https://www.witherslackgroup.co.uk/resources/supporting-children-with-sen-managing-anxiety-together/>

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Better with
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Eco-Friendly Finances



Join our **FREE** session & learn about everyday eco-friendly spending choices to help the environment

Why attend?

- Learn how to use money wisely to have a positive impact on people & nature
- Find out about environmentally friendly shopping choices
- Understand why it's important to only buy what you need
- Learn how to save money for the future, while also helping the environment

Course Dates

Thursday 30th January 11.30am-12.30pm

How to book

To register your interest in this **FREE** course please scan the QR code on the right or click on the link here: - <https://forms.office.com/e/tdJTFZ7UQZ>

Once you have completed this form you will receive a Microsoft Teams link to join the online session.



Hampshire
County Council

multiply@hants.gov.uk

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UK Government



Better with
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Better Money Habits



Join our **FREE** session and learn ways to build better money habits for you and your family

Why attend?

- You will learn how to take control of your money
- Receive tips on- budgeting, saving, reducing costs, increasing income and handling debt
- Understand how money can affect your health and discover available support

Course Dates

Monday 27th January 11.30am- 12.30pm

How to book

To register your interest in this **FREE** session please scan the QR code on the right or click on the link here: - <https://forms.office.com/e/tdJTFZ7UQZ>

Once you have completed this form you will receive a Microsoft Teams link to join the online session.



Hampshire
County Council

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Eastleigh Fun Run 2025

This year, the Eastleigh Fun Run will be on Sunday 23 March 2025, providing children from 4-12 years old with the chance to have fun and take part in a one of the largest fun running events in the area; a run of 1.2km around Fleming Park in Eastleigh and the opportunity to earn a medal.

2025 sees a celebration of 40 years since the first Eastleigh 10k and fun run and a special commemorative medal and £5 gift voucher will be given to all fun run entrants.

The Fun Run starts at 11.00am with a staggered start:

11.00am for the 9-12 year olds

11.15am for 4-8 year olds

If you would like to enter this event, please use the following link:

<https://racesignup.co.uk/eastleigh-fun-run-2025>



Clothing donations

Thank you to everyone who has donated clothing in either of the clothing banks situated at the front of the school. If you suddenly have a surplus of out-grown clothing after Christmas, or are wanting to make room in the wardrobe for any clothes you've received as presents, you'll be pleased to know that the donation banks have now been emptied; ready for any new contributions.

Unfortunately, among the many items of quality, pre-loved clothes emptied from the banks, we discovered a soiled nappy. As well as being an unpleasant revelation for the unfortunate volunteers collecting the clothing, it also rendered many of the otherwise high-quality items around it unusable. Although we really do appreciate your donations, please only place useable garments, in good condition, into the clothing banks.