

The week ahead @ Saint James

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

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Friday 22nd November

Issue 126

Tues 3 rd Dec	Wed 4 th Dec	Thurs 5 th Dec	Fri 6 th Dec	Mon 9 th Dec	Tues 10 th Dec
Year R England Nativity 2.30pm	Year R Scotland Nativity 2.30pm	Year R Wales Nativity 2.30pm	Year 4 Christmas Concert 2.30pm	Year 1 Christmas Concert 2.30pm	Year 2 Christmas Concert 2.30pm
Wed 11 th Dec	Thurs 12 th Dec	Tues 17 th Dec	Wed 18 th Dec	Thurs 19 th Dec	Fri 20 th Dec
Year 3 Christmas Concert 2.30pm	Year 3 & 4 Church Service for children	Year 5 & 6 Carol Service at church 5.00pm	Christmas lunch	Class Christmas parties	Last day of term

Collective Worship

MENTAL HEALTH

This week's theme:

Mental Health

This week's bible story:

The Story of Job

Job 1 : 1-22

A message from the Senior Leadership team

Another busy week in school has seen the visit of our local MP, Liz Jarvis, an impressive exhibition of artwork to raise awareness of Climate Justice and even a flurry of snow to excite the children.

It seems almost unbelievable that it is only 10 days until our first Christmas production! This hectic period, where barely a day passes without a performance, will begin with the England class Nativity on 3rd December and end with the Year 5 and 6 Carol service at St James Church on 17th December. All performances will be ticketed and, due to space, restricted to two tickets per family. We look forward to welcoming you to your child's performance.

Why did MP, Liz Jarvis, visit our Climate Justice Art Exhibition? Because she's used to canvas – ing!

We consider every single member of Saint James Primary School, from the youngest child in Year R to the oldest child in Year 6, as well as all the staff and parents, VIPs. You're all very important members of our school community. However, sometimes we're blessed by the visit of VIPs who are recognisable in the wider community, individuals who are probably not too far off receiving a phone call from Ant and Dec and being invited over to Australia to participate with other 'celebrities' in 'getting out' of the jungle! Last week, fresh from his appearance on Newsnight, we invited Bishop Phillip, the Bishop of Southampton, to Saint James Primary and at the beginning of this week we had the pleasure of welcoming Liz Jarvis, MP for Eastleigh, into school.

With our Climate Justice Art Exhibition taking place on Tuesday afternoon, it seemed wholly appropriate to invite Ms Jarvis, who has campaigned vociferously in Westminster on environmental issues, such as stopping sewage being dumped in our rivers. As she was due to be in Parliament on Tuesday, Liz kindly found space in her busy schedule to enjoy an exclusive preview of the exhibition on Monday.

Accompanied by two of our Year 6 pupils, Iona and Sam, Liz was guided around the exhibition, admiring the artistic creativity and freedom shown by our accomplished young artists. Whilst a portfolio of work has already been selected to grace the Westminster exhibition, the quality of work in our own exhibition (as I am sure those of you who visited on Tuesday, will attest to) was truly impressive.

As well as enjoying the compositions on display, Liz kindly added to an interactive piece, writing her view on Climate Justice on a speech bubble, to add to others already contributed by some of the children. Her statement;

'We must do everything we can to protect our rivers and seas and to stop climate change'

is certainly pertinent on a local, national and international level. It also dovetails closely with the work she is doing currently; lobbying Southern Water to stop pollution in the River Itchen (a chalk stream that runs through our locality). As well as having an environmental impact, this issue directly affected school children, due to pollution in the lake stream that flows into Fairthorne Manor. It placed significant restrictions on the Summer activities they could offer.

Hopefully not lulled into a false sense of security by her quietly spoken and informative guides, our passionate Year 6 pupils tested Ms Jarvis with some challenging questions. When asked about what the government are doing to combat climate change and protect our environment, Liz told the children about the Climate and Nature Bill, which is due to be debated in Parliament in January. She explained that she is looking forward to contributing to the debate with the intention of making a difference. With a line of questions belying their quiet demeanour, the children asked what the most important thing about being MP was. Our member of parliament's answer of being able to shape a better future for our children and young people certainly resonated with the discerning and enthusiastic interviewers.

Before departing to write a speech for her attendance in the Houses of Parliament on the following day, Liz once again complimented the children on the power and impact of their work. We're sure that the compositions we've contributed to the Westminster exhibition, along with the work from the other schools involved, will have an emotive and pertinent effect on the dignitaries who see it.



Our Art Justice Exhibition drew in many visitors

A film premiere is often attended by actors and celebrities who have an active interest in that motion picture. However, in every successive viewing, the reaction from the paying public can be as important and without any subconscious bias. Whilst drawing a direct comparison between this and our recent Art Justice exhibition is not entirely relevant; it could be argued that our local MP, Liz Jarvis, was bound to be impressed by the gallery of work due to her passionate campaigning on environmental issues. The response and reactions of members of the community, would truly be devoid of preconceptions and bias. Perhaps unsurprisingly, considering the quality, variety and diversity of the artwork on display, the sentiments of our local member of parliament were echoed by members of the wider Saint James family and local community.

Despite the unpleasant weather, there was a great turnout with some of our Year 6 artists giving an initial and exclusive guided tour to governors as a prelude to the official opening.

With the climate crisis presenting a pertinent issue that will shape the future of our children and young people worldwide, pupils at Saint James feel passionately that we need to make a change today, to protect everyone's tomorrow. The project, 'Get Creative For Climate Justice' is an initiative launched by Christian Aid, with the aim of sending out a strong and clear message to MPs, Government Ministers and people in power.

From compositions inspired by the Julia Donaldson book, 'The Ugly Five', about the plight of five of South Africa's 'ugliest' animals, to work based on contrasting potential futures for our planet, all the work showcased powerful ideas and reflections. The messages and desire for a just and sustainable future for our planet were a common thread throughout.

One of the pieces, created by the children, invited people to contribute their thoughts on Climate Change to a speech bubble to add to the installation. We were so pleased to see so many empathetic and reflective comments that we've shared some with you here;

'Climate change and pollution is bad; animals are eating plastic – we must stop it!'

'Our rivers are not a rubbish bin; don't throw litter in the water'

'Let's buy our food from local farms to reduce harmful gases from shipping'

'There's no Planet B!'

'Use cars less; ride a bike instead of travelling by car'

'Our children are the future – we must make a change now'

'We love snow leopards and polar bears; climate change will mean big changes for animals like this around the world.'

'We must take steps to combat climate change now; education is key!'

An exhibition of this magnitude does not happen without a lot of hard work and meticulous coordination. We would like to thank Mrs Appleyard, Mrs Callard and Mrs Thompson for all of their hard work.



It's that time of year again ...

Christmas Shopping Day!

Friday 29th November



£3.50 per present
(max. 2 presents per child)

Please hand in the exact amount of money to your child's teacher week commencing 25th November.

Please ensure it's in an envelope with your child's name and class labelled on the front.

For card payments, please scan the QR code to pay online.
(Online payments can only be accepted until Thursday 28th)






St James' Church, West End
Church Hill, West End, Southampton, SO3 3AT

Christmas Tree Festival

6th - 8th December 2024

Beautiful trees decorated by local community groups and schools to the theme of

Peace on Earth

Refreshments ~ Music ~ Crafts

Opening Times:
Friday 2pm - 7pm
Saturday 11am - 7pm
Sunday 12:30 - 5pm

Admission:
Adults £2 ~ Children free

 www.stjameswestend.org.uk




Funded by Hampshire County Council

ITCHEN COLLEGE



FREE Cookery Session

Cook well, Eat well at Christmas

During this session you will cook and eat a festive 'One Pan' meal and make Christmas biscuits to take home and bake. We will also give you a bag full of ingredients so that you can create the same meal again at home!

Venue: Eastleigh library
1st, The Swan Centre,
Eastleigh SO50 5SF

Date: 12th December
Time: 1pm to 4pm




To book on to this course please contact Itchen College on 02380 446156 or email courses@itchen.ac.uk

We welcome Bishop Rhiannon, the new Bishop of Southampton

The Coronation of King Charles III in Westminster Abbey, in May last year, was a historic and groundbreaking occasion for a number of reasons. One of the prevailing reasons was because of the personnel involved in the blessing. As well as Archbishops and church leaders from across Great Britain, it was the first time in over 400 years that a Catholic Archbishop participated in a Coronation in this country. As well as breaking down barriers, as recently as seventy years ago it would not have been permitted for any Catholic to enter a Protestant church let alone to take part in a Coronation service, it was a refreshing gesture of inclusivity.

This refreshing break from tradition is not the only praise-worthy and unconventional use of personnel for a blessing at an inauguration involving a Bishop of the Church of England. Only last Saturday, we saw Bishop Rhiannon begin her ministry in Southampton with a Service of Welcome at St Michael the Archangel Church in Southampton. Tradition dictates that our new bishop should receive a blessing from another important member of the church, usually another bishop. So, who did Bishop Rhiannon choose to perform this important part of the service? The Bishop of Winchester? The Bishop of Salisbury? Or perhaps another important church leader? No. The important task was passed into the capable hands of children from Saint James Primary School!

On reflection, it should probably come as little surprise that the country's newest bishop should align their welcome service with the teachings of Jesus; *'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.'*

However, the honour of being chosen as the children to give the blessing, filled Louis, Sammy, Jessica and Iona with pride and they fulfilled their role with a confidence, assurance and humility that would seldom be seen in adults, when asked to perform such an important role. Indeed, Bishop Rhiannon was so impressed by our children that the post on Monday morning saw the arrival of an enormous card and chocolates, as a 'thank you'!



HEWEB Churches Together presents

Wonderlab

Christmas Activity Day

Journey Through the Christmas Story with Hands-On Science Fun!

SATURDAY 14TH DECEMBER 2024
9.30AM - 12.00PM

£5 **AGES 5-11**

ST LUKE'S CHURCH, HEDGE END SO30 2US

BOOK A PLACE AT HEWEBHOLIDAYBIBLECLUBBOOKINGS@GMAIL.COM

Churches together event – 'Wonderlab'

'Bill and Ted' are back to take us on a journey through the Christmas story with hands on science fun as HEWEB Churches Together invite you to 'Wonderlab'!

Join us on Saturday 14th December for a morning packed with exciting activities for ages 5 to 11 years. Come and join us, to experience a new way of telling the most beautiful and incredible story in the world once more.

Please see the attached flyer for further details. To book your places use the following link; <https://buytickets.at/hewebholidaybibleclub/1447118>

Notifying school of an absence via Arbor

It is now possible to let the school know about your child's absence via your Arbor account. You can only record same day absences, so for any extended or future absences, please contact the school as usual.

To use this facility, log into your Arbor account, click on **Quick Actions** and then click **Attendance**. From here, click the green **Log Absence** button. Complete the details and click **Log Absence**. This will then be visible to office staff. Once this has been logged, office staff will accept or reject the absence.

It is not possible to edit an existing absence request, so if you need to make any changes, you should delete the request and create a new one. To delete the absence, click on it and then click **Cancel Change Request**.

You will still be able to phone the school and leave a message on the absence line. **Please notify the school of any absence by 9am.**

Parking Problems Persist

There are probably very few primary schools in the country who are fortunate enough to have no issues with parking at the beginning and end of the day. Unfortunately, particularly at this time of year when the weather is getting colder and the mornings and evenings darker, it is inevitable that a large number of children will be travelling to and from school by car. The drive-through alleviates some of this issue in the morning, however parking (and the tensions this brings) continues to be a problem for parents and local residents.

Although we have only recently shared some of these issues in the newsletter, we felt it prudent to reiterate these reminders as we are continuing to receive concerned emails and phone calls. With a conflict of interests, it is predictable that there will be some level of disagreement between residents and parents. However, when a number of emails received are from parties who fit into both of these interest groups, parents who live in the surrounding streets, it is arguable that the views are more balanced.

We are continuing to hear about parents who have blocked or partially blocked driveways, are parking on double yellow lines and on bends and are verbal abusing anyone who challenges them. Residents have responded by informing us they will be reporting offending vehicles and individuals to the council and police.

As your child will undoubtedly inform you, Love, Respect and Courage are the values that we expect all of our children to model in their behaviour in and out of school. We appreciate this is not always easy and that there are a number of scenarios where it is harder than others to exemplify these values. Without a doubt, this is true for adults and children alike and that the stresses related to finding a parking space can exacerbate this. We also recognise, from the recounts we have received, that in some situations these values could be modelled better by both parties.

In a school newsletter, when we should be dedicating most of the prose to celebrating the great things that are happening in school, it is regrettable that we are needing to highlight issues with parking, again. Please be thoughtful and respectful when parking at the beginning and end of the school day.



THE DART
COMMUNITY ARTS CENTRE

CHRISTMAS MAKERS MARKET

ART • JEWELLERY • STOCKING FILLERS • DECORATIONS
POTTERY & CERAMICS • AND MORE!

FESTIVE REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE FROM THE COMMUNITY HATCH!

LIVE CHRISTMAS MUSIC!
THE SHOLING MINSTRELS
11AM - 12PM

SUNDAY 1ST DECEMBER
10:00 - 17:00

WILDERN LANE, HEDGE END, SO30 4EJ

JOIN OUR FACEBOOK EVENT HERE TO KEEP UPDATED!

SIGN UP TO OUR MAILING LIST HERE



the
TYPE 1 TAKEOVER
bring on the hype

CHARITY BALL
3 course dinner / live music / prizes & more

18.10.2025
At the Hilton Hotel, The Utilita Bowl

Fundraising for the
Southampton Paediatric Type 1 Diabetes Unit
to support children living with this relentless
disease.

**BOOK TICKETS
HERE**

