

The week ahead @ Saint James

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



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Issue 127

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



A message from the Senior Leadership team

It's always a pleasure at this time of year, to hear the sound of beautiful singing emanating from classrooms as the children practise for their Christmas nativities and concerts. With the first nativity happening next Tuesday, it really feels like Christmas is approaching fast! Don't worry, if you've not yet made inroads into your Christmas shopping – your children may well have you covered! It was great to see the excitement on their faces as they selected gifts during the SJSA Christmas shopping day, today. Although what you might be unwrapping on Christmas morning remains a mystery, there's sure to be some pleasant surprises!

This week's theme:

**Global neighbours –
Climate Justice**

This week's bible story:

**The God of the poor
Amos 5:24**

Have our children really inspired others to skip school?

We were slightly alarmed to hear that some of our most responsible children in the school, our Year 6 play leaders, were encouraging others, some as young as Year 3, to skip school! Thankfully, in the case of that statement, a small word can make a big difference and they were in fact teaching other children how to skip **at** school!

In contrast to that initial statement, our children showed exceptional behaviour in the skipping event they helped lead for local schools. Our values of Love, Respect and Courage were modelled in abundance in their attitude and all their interactions with others. From Courage, which they showed in teaching children from other schools in front of their onlooking teachers, to Respect, exhibited in the way they spoke to all children and adults, to Love, showed gleefully in their enthusiasm for what they were doing; the children couldn't have been a better demonstration of our Christian values in action.

'Jumping for joy' is a thoroughly appropriate phrase, when describing the enthusiasm our children showed in encouraging and inspiring others to jump, hop and skip their way to fitness and enjoyment.

We are very proud of Eva, Belle, Ollie, Charlotte, Teddy, Romina, Nellie and Holly who were exceptional in how they conducted themselves and ably led the event.

We would also like to give a special mention to Roya in Year 4 and Jessie in Year 2 who were invited to participate, rather than standing with their parents and showed a great amount of courage in doing so. These events would not be possible without the support of staff and parents. We would like to thank all the parents who assisted with lifts to the event, as well as Miss Howell, Mr Whitlock and Learning through Sport who accompanied, organised and supported our children.



Year 4 experience life in Victorian Britain

With less than a month until Christmas day, many of you may have thought you'd been transported into Charles Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol' when you arrived at school on Thursday. Whereas only a few weeks ago a time portal seemed to have opened in the Camino building, instantly transporting anyone entering the Year 5 classrooms back to the trenches of the Somme, the portal transferred to Year 4 on Thursday. Crossing the threshold of any of the Year 4 classrooms made 150 years of history disappear in the blink of an eye, as the children were met by desks in rows and stern, primly-dressed adults who, despite their austere appearance, looked strangely familiar. We know that Saint James Primary School was founded in 1903 (two years after the death of Queen Victoria) and that it was preceded by a 'national' school founded in 1838. However, during this period the school wasn't housed in our present building (the previous Victorian building is now named the 'Hilldene Centre' and is in regular use). So surely the many suffragettes, chimney sweeps and scullery maids who took a seat in one of these rows were not a vision from the past? Of course not, they were our current Year 4 pupils enthusiastically participating in Victorian Day!

The children visited the site of South Stoneham workhouse on Wednesday, now the imposing and impressive apartment block at the heart of the housing development on Botley Road, and judging by the impressively authentic costumes, it appears that a few of them were inspired to dress as one of the residents. In absorbing the largely unaltered proportions, architecture and layout (with the two gatehouses, previously used for de-lousing, now converted to private residences) the children started to appreciate the reality of life for some children during Victorian times. This was enhanced much further by their experiences on Thursday.

With activities ranging from Mental Arithmetic to Penmanship, the children began to experience life for children who were fortunate enough to have a place in school, rather than a place behind a loom in a mill or in the workhouse. So as to not overlook these alternate experiences to an education, the children also replicated a working loom in the classroom by completing paper weaving. However, one glance at the smiles in the photos taken indicate that the conditions were a little too easy to be a true representation. This could probably be anticipated due to children as young as 4 years old being tasked with working up to 14 hours a day in a cotton mill; being exposed to brutal discipline if they made mistakes, were late for work or, through sheer exhaustion, were caught falling asleep at their machines. Many children tragically losing their lives undertaking dangerous tasks, such as cleaning under moving machinery.

As well as mastering pen skills to rival those of any experienced calligrapher, the children also became apprentice architects in the afternoon in designing their own workhouse and considering the use of different rooms. Continuing on the theme of being Victorian designers, the children also designed and constructed their own telephones, in recognition of this Victorian invention credited to Alexander Graham Bell. As well as having historical significance, there is also a geographical link to this ground-breaking invention, as the first long distance calls in the United Kingdom were made between Southampton, Cowes and London whilst demonstrating the invention to Queen Victoria.

Although a thoroughly enriching day was enjoyed by all, we're convinced the children were happy to return to the normality of schooling in 2024. We feel the threat of the cane or a dunce's hat contradicts our school's behaviour policy and is far less effective than positive reinforcement and affirmation!



Christmas Tree Festival 2024

For the past few years, the Christmas tree festival at St James Church has been a keenly awaited fixture in the calendar, at the beginning of the festive season. Saint James Primary School will be entering a tree in the festival again, this year. The theme for our tree will be 'Peace on Earth – Peace Prayer Christmas tree' and the decorations should take inspiration from the idea of a peace prayer. The children have been given details of how they can create a decoration on this theme, using recycled materials; any entries should be brought into school by Wednesday 4th December for judging. Please see the poster, elsewhere in this edition of the newsletter, for further details about the Christmas Tree Festival and like and share the St James Church Facebook page, with details on the festival, with your family and friends.

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100086508105674>

Saint James take the lead on a new diocese project

Collective Worship at Saint James Primary School has recently experienced a few exclusives. A couple of weeks ago, we were misled by the 'fake' news that Miss Howell had become a member of the clergy and last week we enjoyed the honour of an exclusive worship delivered by the Bishop of Winchester, Bishop Phillip.

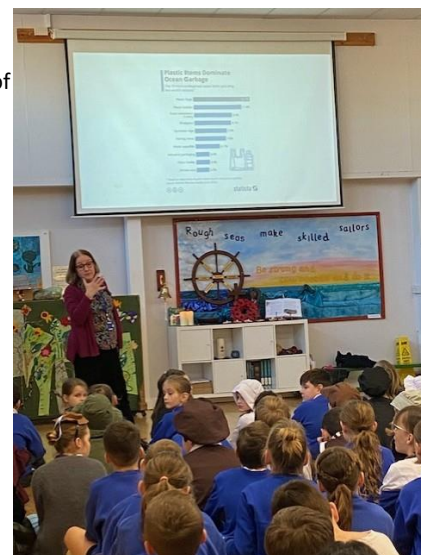
This week, Saint James Primary School was chosen as the first school of the 160 schools in the Winchester diocese to launch a new diocese initiative. Traditionally, Wolvesey Palace, the residence of the Bishop of Winchester since the early 18th century, is adorned with decorations at Christmas time with each room entrusted to different diocesan departments. However, this year there will be a difference to the decorations adorning the walls of the historic palace; they will be made from sustainable and recyclable materials.

Jane Kelly, Sam Scott and Sue Bowen from the diocesan education team explained to the children that Saint James Primary School had been chosen to lead in this project, after the impressive work we've completed on becoming global citizens and raising awareness of environmental issues through our Climate Justice Art Exhibition.

After learning about the impact of plastic waste, one of the most prevalent materials used in Christmas decorations, it would be remiss of us to advocate the use of this non-biodegradable resource. When raising the question of the durability of more sustainable materials, Sue shared a cardboard Father Christmas that had been a regular decoration in the Bowen household since her father was born in 1936! At nearly 90 years old, and having survived a World War, that is truly impressive durability!

You may have spotted the article about the upcoming Christmas tree festival at St James church, where our school will be responsible for entering a tree. As the decorations we are producing for this celebration will be made from recyclable materials, we've already got a head start on the thinking for this new initiative.

We look forward to sharing images of what we produce with you, via future newsletters and would like to take this opportunity to thank Jane and Sue for giving us the opportunity to take the lead on this exciting new project.



Battle of the Books



There are many TV quiz shows that pitch one team against another; obviously, those shows have different requirements for the teams' general knowledge as well as different team sizes and demographics. However, here at Saint James Primary School, we have located a gap in the market; a quiz with teams of up to 32, an age range from 5 to 11 and a focus on children's literature. We call it, 'Battle of the books'!

Jeremy Clarkson, Bradley Walsh, Anne Robinson, Alexander Armstrong and Victoria Coren-Mitchell, all eminent quiz show hosts that are not a patch on our humorous and authoritative Miss Achilles. Our 'host with the most' led the teams through a selection of challenging questions based on the '40 recommended books' for their respective year groups. Hotly competitive, the classes gathered around their teachers to share whispered discussions about the texts they had been challenged to read.

Throughout the day, classes in each year team battled against each other to provide a winner for each year group, as well as an eventual EYFS/Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 winner. With all classes achieving so well the scores were very close, however there were clear winners in each Key Stage with Scotland class and Kenya class taking the top honours!

Well done to all the children who took part in this challenge so enthusiastically, as well as Miss Achilles for organising and hosting the competition. We're already looking forward to next term's contest

Nativities and concerts

This year a staggering 4.35 million tickets for Taylor Swift's 'Eras' tour sold at an average price of £186 each and yet still demand outstripped supply. You will also probably have heard that all the available tickets for the 17-show Oasis reunion tour sold out within ten hours, leaving thousands of fans frustrated. However, these two events are still not the hottest ticket in town. That honour goes to the nativities and performances of Saint James Primary School this festive season! Rather than charging the exorbitant prices demanded by the aforementioned musical acts, we have decided to keep all performances free and allocate two tickets to the family of every child performing.

With performances beginning with the England class nativity next Tuesday, tickets will be sent home with your child over the next few days, if they haven't been already. Due to fire regulations and hall capacity, **entry will be by ticket only and anyone forgetting their ticket will be politely asked to wait until the end, to ensure there is sufficient room.**

We are thoroughly looking forward to welcoming you to our performances over the next few weeks. Although it seems like the Christmas decorations and festive wares have been evident in shops for months already, now the Christmas nativities and performances are starting it really feels like Christmas is coming.

Parking Problems Persist

Disappointingly, as a weekly epistle that is intended to celebrate what is happening in school, a disproportionate amount of column inches have been dedicated to issues surrounding parking. Without wishing to detract from the many fantastic things being achieved by our children, we need to continue to highlight the issue when inconsiderate parking negatively impacts on children, families and local residents.

Since September, reference has been made to parking issues in five separate newsletters, yet we continue to field numerous phone calls and emails from disgruntled residents on a weekly basis. Whilst we acknowledge that allowances need to be made for parking at the beginning and end of the day, it is inevitable that these times will be busier, we cannot condone rude behaviour and dangerous or inconsiderate parking. For that reason, we will now publish photographs of poor parking to share with you in the newsletter. Hopefully, the stark reality of seeing their car poorly or dangerously parked will be a catalyst for parents to show greater consideration. Here is a selection of the photographs we've been sent this week. Hopefully they will illustrate the issues faced by our neighbours and parents trying to get past.



St James' Church, West End
Church Hill, West End, Southampton, SO30 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



THE DART
COMMUNITY ARTS CENTRE

CHRISTMAS MAKERS MARKET

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

FESTIVE REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE FROM THE COMMUNITY HATCH!

SUNDAY 1ST DECEMBER
10:00 - 17:00

WILDERN LANE, HEDGE END, SO30 4EJ

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

JOIN OUR FACEBOOK EVENT HERE TO KEEP UPDATED!

SIGN UP TO OUR MAILING LIST HERE