

The week ahead @ Saint James

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

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Friday 6th December

Issue 128

Mon 9 th Dec	Tues 10 th Dec	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 1 Christmas Concert 2.30pm	Year 2 Christmas Concert 2.30pm	Year 3 Christmas Concert 2.30pm	Year 3 & 4 Church Service for children	Year 5 & 6 Carol Service at church 5.00pm	Christmas lunch & Christmas jumper day	Class Christmas parties	Last day of term

Collective Worship



This week's theme:

Advent

This week's bible story:

Waiting for God

Luke 1: 21-56

A message from the Senior Leadership team

With nativities and Christmas carol concerts now in full swing, Advent and the countdown to Christmas has truly begun. We've already had impressive performances from our Year R classes and are hotly anticipating an enjoyable show from our Year 4 children this afternoon. In addition to beautiful choral voices echoing around the school, as pupils intersperse their core learning with practising Christmas songs, we have seen our Year 6 children completing a crash course in becoming a spy! Quite some week!

To enhance their writing, our Year 6 children become spies for the day – they've got a License to Quill!

Close to exhaustion, he was now almost too tired to feel how much pain he was in. But for the glucose and caffeine tablets in his survival pack, he would have ground to a halt hours ago. He knew that if he didn't find the rendezvous point soon, he would be physically unable to continue. Then he would be thrown off the course. "Binned", as they called it. They would like that. Swallowing down the taste of defeat, Alex folded the map and forced himself on...

Don't worry, this isn't the extract from a book entitled 'A day in the life of a child at Saint James Primary School'! It is actually a section from the book 'Stormbreaker', the first in a series of novels about Alex Rider, a young teenager who is a trainee spy, entrusted to mission akin to those of Ian Fleming's James Bond.

A fabulous stimulus for creative and engaging writing, the only difficulty is trying to get a cohort of Year 6 children, who are used to life's creature comforts, to relate to these experiences. How do you enable children to empathise with feelings generated by incidents and events outside of their own frame of reference? You suddenly, without warning, take them from the comfort of their classrooms to enlist them in an impromptu boot camp that, at least in some way, recreates the conditions endured by Alex Rider in his MI6 training.

We imagine OFSTED might have had concerning comments to make, if the daily practise of Miss Howell and Mr Magrane involved blowing a whistle and barking loud and direct orders at children. However, that is what they were met with, as the doors to their classrooms were thrust open and children were directed to the MUGA.

Quickly falling into line, the new 'recruits' surveyed the sight in front of them; agility ladders, followed by hurdles, hoops, and straight-out sprinting formed the endurance challenge that lay ahead of them. Method actors throughout, Miss Howell and Mr Magrane were convincing as the nameless and brash training officers who tested Alex Rider to the limit.

Periodically, as our trainee spies tackled the course in front of them, a whistle was blown and orders barked to 'drop' and do press-ups and sit-ups or perform star jumps. Their familiarity with the staff involved was a subconscious reassurance for the children, knowing that they were reenacting the experience in a safe environment.

Whilst we're not convinced that the children are ready to be recruited by MI6 or the SAS yet, we are convinced that they are far more able to write with more knowledge, understanding and authority after their experience at boot camp!



We're all hoop-y because of our basketball success!

Regular readers of the newsletter will be aware of the misfortune experienced in both the girls' and boys' football tournaments, where our desperately unlucky teams have failed to progress despite not losing a game. Surely the same fate couldn't befall the Saint James team in the basketball tournament against other local schools?

Out of the seven teams present, our free-scoring players scored 17 points in total, significantly more than the next highest scoring team, Berrywood. However, in a stroke of fate that has become all too familiar, the winner of the tournament was determined by the score when teams were head-to-head, which enabled the, less exciting but more defensive, Berrywood team to secure first place!

However, before you turn away in disgust, bemoaning the injustice of the tournament format, the second placed team were also able to progress to the county finals. Finally, a Saint James sports team has been rewarded for their good play and superb sportsmanship! Credit also needs to be given to the Saint James 'B' team, who scored a highly respectable 10 points overall and matched their 'A' team counterparts in their attitude and sportsmanship. An enormous 'well done!' to both teams.

As well as our impressively supportive parents, we would like to thank the two members of staff who can usually be seen anxiously pacing the touchline at school sporting events; 'thank you' Miss Howell and Mr Whitlock!



Christmas wishes from Westminster almost come from West End; Joey is runner-up in Christmas card competition

Newsagents, supermarkets, even petrol stations, it's difficult to find somewhere that doesn't sell Christmas cards at this time of year. So, if you're a member of Parliament and need to send out cards to constituents as well as political adversaries and friends, where do you start? Is there a big queue outside the Westminster branch of WHSmiths, or do you look elsewhere?

In the case of Liz Jarvis, our local MP, she held a competition for children in her constituency to design the card that she would be sending out this year. In a borough that includes 15 wards, ranging from Bishopstoke to West End and Fair Oak to Old Netley, that includes a significant number of schools and children. We are therefore delighted to inform you that the entry from Joey, in Year 5 Brazil class, has been selected as this year's runner-up!

Ms Jarvis informed us that she thoroughly enjoyed looking through all the creative designs and found deciding the winner, from a colossal amount of entries, an extremely difficult decision. When your job requires you to make difficult decisions on a regular basis, that is quite some compliment!



Why did the donkey struggle to sing during our Year R nativity? Because he was a little hoarse!

Although it seems like the Christmas decorations and festive wares have been evident in shops for months already, now the Christmas nativities and performances have started it really feels like Christmas is coming.

With this week seeing the turn of Year R, we have been treated to three very special performances retelling the Christmas story. It is not very often that you can walk down the corridors and be greeted by a donkey walking the other way! However, considering the calibre of work and behaviour frequently seen in Year R, it is not unusual to see classrooms packed with wise men (and women) and angels! It certainly is a special time of year to be in school!

With each Year R class giving its own presentation and interpretation of the same script and songs, each performance came with its own idiosyncrasies but was equally wonderful. Although only a small proportion of each class were wearing gold, five-pointed outfits, we (and surely all members of the audience) thought they all were stars!

A different perspective on parking problems

Thank you for those parents who have offered a different perspective on the ongoing issues with parking around our school. Although we have previously shared how the issues have impacted on the residents of Monarch Way and the surrounding area, it has been enlightening to hear from parents and how it impacts them. Whilst we anticipated that highlighting inconsiderate parking would be divisive, it clearly also impacts many of our families on a daily basis. We've shared one of many supportive comments we received, below;

'Thank you for calling out inconsiderate parking in the newsletter! It is so frustrating having to squeeze past cars parked over half the pavement, sometimes with their engines running!'

Issues experienced by families walking to and from school may not be apparent to some drivers, who perceive that issues are more related to inconvenience than safety. However, parents have reported that cars parking on pavements can block access for pedestrians. This is particularly detrimental for people with buggies or anyone in a wheelchair, forcing some to risk walking onto the road to enable them to pass. In addition, parking at the corners of junctions endangers children because it restricts visibility for both pedestrians and drivers, unfortunately this only serves to increase the risk of a collision.

Thank you to everyone who has made a concerted effort to park more considerately in the past week. Your actions have not only eased the lives of our neighbours but have also minimised the potential for an accident involving members of our school community. Thank you!

FESTIVE FUN

Christmas Lunch Menu
18th December

Roast Gammon
Or
Quorn Sausage
Served with crispy roasties,
Carrots and peas

Pasta, Jackets and Bap
Also available

Christmas Sprinkle Cake

Please remember all
Children that order a
Christmas lunch could
Win either
A gingerbread house
or train!!!



FESTIVE FUN

Attention Parents and Children
Don't forget to order your lunches for a
chance to open
Aspens Advent Calendar!!!



Also remember two lucky
Winners will win either a
Gingerbread house or Train
On the day of the
christmas
lunch



SPRING TERM



AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

ST JAMES

NOW
ACCEPTING
YEAR 6
BOOKINGS

MONDAY
FOOTBALL

KS1: YEARS R-2

TUESDAY
FOOTBALL

KS2: YEARS 3-6

WEDNESDAY

FOOTBALL

KS2: YEARS 3-6

THURSDAY

FOOTBALL

KS1: YEARS R-2

NETBALL

KS2: YEARS 3-6

FRIDAY

DODGEBALL

YEARS R-6

START DATE

WEEK COMMENCING 6TH
JANUARY

All bookings must be made in advance
and are for the first half of the term.

£5 PER
SESSION
BOOKING FEE MAY
APPLY

REGISTRATION LINK
learningthroughsport.co.uk/st-james/

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





A free six week cooking club for parents/carers and children



Thursday 6, 13, 27 February and 6, 13, 20 March 2025

4pm - 5.15pm

Velmore Community Centre,
Falkland Road, Chandler's Ford SO53 3GY

Have fun preparing food, cooking and eating with your children. Learn about healthy eating, enjoy new delicious budget friendly recipes and build your confidence in cooking from scratch.

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Spaces are limited so please book early.

For more information and to book call 023 8026 1139 or email velmorecommunitycentre@outlook.com



A free six week cooking club for parents/carers and children



Saturday 1, 8, 15, 22 February and 1, 8 March 2025

11.30am - 1pm

Pilands Wood Community Centre,
Chamberlayne Road, Southampton SO31 8DT

Have fun preparing food, cooking and eating with your children. Learn about healthy eating, enjoy new delicious budget friendly recipes and build your confidence in cooking from scratch. At the end of the six weeks families will receive a voucher to spend at Pilands Wood Community Pantry.

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Spaces are limited so please book early.

For more information and to book call 023 8040 3703 or email anna.barber.pilandswood@gmail.com



Cool Milk
Free & Subsidised SCHOOL MILK

Register your child today!
www.coolmilk.com



Is your child registered for **SCHOOL MILK?**

Child UNDER 5

Every child under the age of five is entitled to free school milk. Simply register your child online.



Child OVER 5

Every child over the age of five is entitled to milk at a subsidised cost of around £20 per term. Register your child and pay online.

Children in receipt of benefits-based free school meals are eligible for free school milk. Speak to the school for further information.

Free milk for under 5s is funded by the Department of Health and milk for over 5s is subsidised by DEFRA.

REGISTER YOUR CHILD TODAY

Register online
www.coolmilk.com



Need help?
Send us a message
at www.coolmilk.com/contact
or give us a call on 0800 321 3248

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA - SEARCH COOLMILKSCHEME