



### Dates for the diary

<b>29<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Summer fair</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> July</b>	<b>Sandrock Road closed due to roadworks (9:30 until 3:30)</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> July	Parent consultations (all years except Y5)
10 <sup>th</sup> July	Summer disco
22 <sup>nd</sup> July	Year 6 leavers' service (2pm start)
23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Last day of the school year
2 <sup>nd</sup> September	INSET day
3 <sup>rd</sup> September	First day of the new school year
9 <sup>th</sup> September	Early Years start part time
16 <sup>th</sup> September	Early Years start full time

### Newsletter – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2024

I hope you are all as excited about Saturday's summer fair as we are. Not only does the fair raise vital money for school equipment that we would otherwise not have (currently ipads which are capable of running the latest education software) but it is an annual celebration of our school community. The small but incredible PTA team have already spent many, many hours at school and home preparing for this big day.

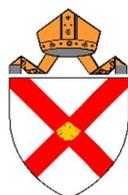
There are still 30-minute slots to be filled so I have included the sign-up page in the main email body as well as here: <https://www.stjamespta.co.uk/volunteer>. Please, please volunteer for a 30-minute slot to help make this summer fair the amazing success that the PTA's hard work deserves.

### Trading cards

In my day we bought Star Wars stickers – there were no blu-rays, streaming services or YouTube back then – and there was nothing worth hiring for our Betamax. In those days, children recaptured the magic of the movies through the medium of sticky paper. The Return of the Jedi was the only sticker album I ever completed – it took a very large number of packs, and a significant amount of swapping of duplicates, but I got there in the end.

The trading of cards and stickers seems to be an annual event at school, with a traditional cycle of enjoyment, an explosion of popularity, increasing levels of exploitation followed by a ban. Needless to say, this cycle has been repeated and we have been having problems with various cards and stickers being brought to school. Some children are being fleeced or pressured into trades, usually by older children, while other cards have gone missing or become damaged. This is causing an increasing amount of work for the teachers in trying to fathom out rightful ownership and console upset children, or reverse trade some exchanges (sometimes going back several steps) Some of these cards seem to be worth a lot of money (which doesn't make any sense) but the children clearly believe it to be true.

My immediate reaction was the standard outright ban, and this was announced to the children yesterday, but after some very persuasive letters from (and conversations with) the children, I have drawn back from an outright



ban for the time being. Children are welcome to bring in their cards to show friends with the following conditions:

1. Swapping is allowed, but only between children within the same year group (to protect younger children).
2. If children argue or exploit others, they will be banned from having any trading cards in school.
3. If these measures are not enough to safeguard children (and their treasured sticky paper collections), we will have to ban them again.
4. Class teachers are fully entitled to implement bans for their own classes if they have had particular concerns or issues – I know that at least one has already done so.

I am fully aware that developing skills around the exploitation of others may be seen as an asset in some professions, but we do not encourage that here; hopefully these conditions will be enough to enable children to enjoy their collections sensibly and safely.

### **Year 5 Wintershall trip**

Year 5 students had the remarkable opportunity to visit the Wintershall Estate in Guildford, Surrey last Thursday, to watch a live reenactment of the Life of Christ. This immersive production, set against the picturesque backdrop of the estate, took the children on a journey through key moments of Jesus' life, from his birth to his crucifixion and resurrection.

The outdoor setting provided a unique and authentic atmosphere, with natural scenery enhancing the portrayal of biblical events. Students witnessed the Nativity, the Sermon on the Mount, various miracles, and the poignant scenes of the Last Supper and the Crucifixion. The actors, particularly the ones playing Jesus and Mary Magdalene, delivered powerful performances that captivated the audience and brought the stories to life.

Through this experiential learning opportunity, the children gained a deeper understanding of the historical and spiritual significance of Jesus' life. They saw firsthand the compassion, teachings, and sacrifices that define his story. The reenactment not only educated them about the past but also sparked reflections on the values of kindness, empathy, and resilience.



### **Early Years update**

The children in Early Years have been really enjoying the pirate topic 'Land Ahoy.' They have particularly enjoyed making boats and exploring floating and sinking in the water during the hot weather we have had this week.

The children are really looking forward to welcoming their dads, grandparent or other family member to school on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July at 2.15pm to make the most spectacular boat models. The competition is on to make the biggest most spectacular boat with an adult member of the family, but please remember you will be carrying it home! Please see this week's contact note about the other fun activities that are coming up before the term ends.

The EYFS Team





### 11+ registration closes on Monday

If you would like your child to sit the 11+ Kent Tests then you will need to register them online. Registration opens on 3<sup>rd</sup> June and closes on 1<sup>st</sup> July. Children who are not registered will not be able to sit the tests; however, parents who have registered their children can change their minds at any time, so if in doubt it is best to register them. Children need to sit (and pass) the tests in order to access a place at a grammar school. Registration is via the KCC website: [Kent Test - Kent County Council](#)

If you were not at the meeting on Wednesday please note that you need check that you receive a confirmation email after registration. If you do not, you will need to check you have completed it correctly. You also need to ensure you choose the right St James' – our DfE number is 886-3322 our URN is 118725.

### Key Stage 2 Accelerated Reader Challenges

It gives me great pleasure to announce **last week's winners** (21<sup>st</sup> June 2024) of our Accelerated Reader Challenges:

Highest Individual Word Count	Highest Class Word Count	Highest Individual Number of Quizzes Passed	Highest Class Number of Quizzes Passed
<b>Divit</b> in Owl Class <b>275,425</b> words	<b>Chaffinch Class</b> <b>747,057</b> words	<b>Fleur</b> in Deer Class <b>21</b> quizzes	<b>Deer Class</b> <b>66</b> quizzes

As we begin a new school week, every child in our Key Stage 2 classes has the opportunity to take part in the reading challenges again. Here are this week's winners (**28<sup>th</sup> June 2024**):

Highest Individual Word Count	Highest Class Word Count	Highest Individual Number of Quizzes Passed	Highest Class Number of Quizzes Passed
<b>Divit</b> in Owl Class <b>377,513</b> words	<b>Owl Class</b> <b>690,452</b> words	<b>Isabel</b> in Deer Class <b>9</b> quizzes	<b>Deer Class</b> <b>62</b> quizzes

A huge well done to all. Keep reading everyone!

Mrs Simpson

See you tomorrow!

Kindest regards,

John Tutt

