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St. James' C.E. (Aided) Primary School Sandrock Road Tunbridge Wells Kent TN2 3PR

Dates for the diary

Remember that term dates and other dates are available on the school website via the calendar.

8th 9th 10th December Year 1&2 nativities

12th December Reception Christmas singing performance 2:30pm

16th December Year 3 Christmas church service 2pm – Year 3 parents welcome to attend

18th December Last day of term 2

19th December INSET day

5th January First day of term 3

Friday 5th December 2025

Unfortunately, due to circumstances out of our control, supplies of school news have been very low this week – we will update you by 3pm on the 8th December when you can expect a full return to our usual news service. Today, we only have a trickle of news available, but do not worry – it is perfectly safe to read. I have teams of people working around the clock to restore a full news service as quickly as possible.

Sorry, this is a long-winded excuse for the very short newsletter this week. I will try to make up for it with an additional newsletter next week.

Before we get to the news though, I just want to question the choice of bottled water we have received – Gill Beck. Having looked it up, it is bottled "straight from source" from a spring that appears to emerge from a car park in an industrial estate near Birmingham. I am not saying that I am worried about its safety, but South East Water need to read the room - this is Tunbridge Wells folks – surely a more premium brand would be appropriate?

Drinking water at school

We have plenty of bottled water at school. From now on, children just need to bring an empty water bottle which we will fill on arrival at school. School lunches are back on from Monday but with a reduced menu – please see below.

Usual school opening

I am very relieved that we are getting back to an acceptable level of normality, and that our journey within whatever alternative reality we stumbled into last weekend seems to have an end in sight. From now onwards, school will be open as usual, and I will not be sending the updates each morning or afternoon. If the situation changes again, I will let you know as early as possible.

We are keeping track of daily bottled water consumption, so we can predict how long our supplies will last. This should give us adequate time to order in advance as needed.





Infant nativities

These are going ahead as planned – children have not had much time to practise so the performances will not be as polished as in previous years, but I have a feeling they are going to be even more special than usual. I have not seen it yet, but can almost guarantee tea towel headwear, children dressed as stars opening and closing their hands in a "twinkling effect" and animal costumes that defy biology. I can't wait!

School lunches next week

The kitchen have been liaising with their Health and Safety team and, after making adaptations to the menu, have confirmed that they will resume serving hot food from Monday. Water for cooking (rice etc) will only be bottled and all utensils, cookware and plates etc will be cleaned with boiled or bottled water or go through a dishwasher at 75 degrees. Their revised menu is below:

Monday	Main: Pizza with potato wedges
	Veggie: Jacket potato w/ beans and cheese or tuna mayo
	Pudding: Chocolate orange shortbread
Tuesday	Main: PiriPiri chicken with rice
	Veggie : Biryani
	Pudding: berry swirl cake
Wednesday	Main: Burger with Wedges
	Veggie: Sweet potato burger with Wedges
	Pudding: ice cream
Thursday	Main: Beef burrito
	Veggie: cheese and onion swirl
	Pudding: mousse
Friday	Main: Fish with Chips
	Veggie: Vegan Nuggets with chips
	Pudding: Shortbread

Nut free school

Today, a lot of children brought in sandwiches with peanut butter and other nut containing products – sometimes just nuts. We are a nut free school, and children cannot bring any items containing nuts – we have children on site who have severe allergies. If your child brings a packed lunch to school, please check every item to ensure it does not contain nuts.

School uniform

We will return to school uniform from Monday. If this is difficult for anyone, then just use as many items of school uniform as you can. We will not be enforcing our uniform policy as strictly as usual next week for families still struggling with laundry, but would appreciate it from those who can.

And that's it! My apologies - more next week.

Have a lovely weekend when it arrives for you.

Kindest regards, John Tutt



