



Dates for the diary

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

4 th November	School photographer in today
6 th November	Flu immunisation for whole school
4 th & 6 th November	Parent consultations
14 th November	Parent Workshop - Supporting your Child with Worries and Fears
12 th November	Sharing learning (2:45pm until the end of the school day)
13 th November	Sharing learning (8:45 until 9:15am)
19 th November	School discos
8 th 9 th 10 th December	Year 1&2 nativities
12 th December	Reception Christmas singing performance 2:30pm
16 th December	Year 3 Christmas church service 2pm – Year 3 parents welcome to attend
18 th December	Last day of term 2
19 th December	INSET day
5 th January	First day of term 3

Friday 31st October 2025

I hope you had a lovely half term; in case you were wondering (many have asked), I have no idea why Kent set their half term week differently to everyone else. This proved awkward for me as I have a son at school in East Sussex, so pretty inconvenient. If you want to check term dates for the years ahead, they are available on our website where you will find a link to KCC's term dates for the next 3 years.

Apologies for the short newsletter – I'll send another next week to make up for it. Along with Year 3 and many other staff members and volunteers, I have been having fun at Carrotty Wood this week. Huge thanks to the Forest School team, Mrs King, Mrs Philips, the Year 3 team, parents and everyone else who pitched in to make it such a success. Hopefully more news will follow soon!

Being a sensible community, who like to keep things real, I am sure you will welcome this newsletter's new-found focus on brevity. Therefore, clear the decks, roll up your sleeves and mentally prepare yourselves for school news with unparalleled focus, delivered directly to your brain with laser-like precision. No hyperbole, or random Mr Tutt musings this week, just things that have happened (or yet to come) that you may already have heard about from the class WhatsApp group, but without any fictional details or laughing/crying/confused/angry emojis.

Christmas performances

It is the end of October, so what better time to start talking about Christmas.



Apologies for an error in the dates on the school calendar for the Year 1 and 2 nativities– entirely my fault. The newsletter dates are correct, and performances will be as follows.

8th December (morning) – Performance 1 – toddlers are welcome to this performance

9th December (afternoon) - Performance 2 – no younger children please

10th December (morning) - Performance 3 - no younger children please

If it is possible, please leave younger siblings at home unless they can sit silently and enjoy the show. If they do become unsettled, please take them outside so the children on the stage are not distracted and others can hear.

Reception children are singing on the 12th December and parents are invited to come and watch – the start time is 2:30pm in the main hall.

Lastly, children in Year 3 are leading the Christmas church service on 16th December, starting at 2pm. Parents and carers of children in Year 3 are invited to join us.

St James' is a Smart Phone Free School

Hopefully, you will already be aware of this from previous school communications. Our school website now has a whole section giving you more information about this - please do have a read when you get the chance:

<https://st-james.kent.sch.uk/parents/st-james-is-a-smartphone-free-school/>

Key Stage 2 Accelerated Reader Challenges

I am so pleased to share with you our most recent overall Accelerated Reader winners.

➤ Winners for week ending 17th October 2025:

Individual Highest Word Count	Class Highest Word Count	Individual Most Quizzes Passed	Class Most Quizzes Passed
Kate in Nightingale Class 265,012 words	Kestrel Class 1,080,768 words	Henry in Deer Class 26 quizzes	Deer Class 113 quizzes

➤ Overall Winners for Term 1 2025:

Individual Highest Word Count	Class Highest Word Count	Individual Most Quizzes Passed	Class Most Quizzes Passed
Naomi in Nightingale Class 1,756,892 words	Nightingale Class 6,518,350 words	Charlie in Dormouse Class 84 quizzes	Dormouse Class 916 quizzes

These classes also read over 6 million words each: **Chaffinch** (6,402,037), **Dormouse** (6,201,904) and **Swift** (6,031,383). All but one of our KS2 Classes read more than one million words last term. A fabulous achievement by all children.



In addition to Naomi, the following were our Word Millionaires last term:

Pupil	Class	Word Count
Katie	Nightingale	1,599,773
Dylan	Swift	1,175,931
Reuben	Owl	1,092,597
Abbie	Dormouse	1,062,056
Jessie	Kestrel	1,016,193
Aaron	Chaffinch	1,002,282

➤ **Winners for this week (ending 31st October 2025):**

Individual Highest Word Count	Class Highest Word Count	Individual Most Quizzes Passed	Class Most Quizzes Passed
Naomi in Nightingale Class 506,700 words	Nightingale Class 1,528,447 words	John in Stoat Class 16 quizzes	Stoat Class 136 quizzes

These classes also read more than one million words this week: **Kestrel** (1,205,409) and **Dormouse** (1,023,718)

Many congratulations to all our winners. Thank you for your support and encouragement with reading. It is very much appreciated.

Mrs Simpson

Have a lovely weekend.

Kindest regards,
John Tutt

