









Newsletter 12th July, 2019

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This Week at St James'...

Sunday saw some great weather for the PSA Summer Fair, and we had a wonderful time. Thank you to everyone who helped organize and run various stalls and events. Early indications suggest that the PSA have raised about £700 to support the school—thank you!

On Tuesday, we found out the results for our first cohort of Year 6 children who took the end of KS2 Tests, commonly known as SATs. We are pleased with the results which were achieved, and amongst them are some fabulous individual performances. We are currently reviewing the papers, as there are many reports of mistakes being made during the marking process, and over the summer, I will be analyzing the data in depth. However, early indications suggest that those children who have been at St James' for the full 4 years of KS2 ('core pupils') have performed well against the national average. Obviously, I will share details with you all in the new academic year.

These tests are hugely controversial with both parents and educators. They only provide a snapshot of achievement and progress at St James', however, they are used by various agencies to make judgements about the quality of education at school. Whilst I don't object to testing children (we use lots of tests across the school), I do feel it profoundly unfair that whole school effectiveness is limited to these tests. I am also hugely uncomfortable with statements from various people regarding children 'failing' tests. We work very hard here to ensure that children are not affected negatively by these unhelpful statements, and I am personally proud of every single child and their achievement, and will never talk about passing or failing the test, and I know many of you agree with me in removing the 'high stakes' nature of the tests. Most importantly, however, is that I am proud of everything our children achieve and of the people they are—our Year 6 cohort is full of kind, compassionate, confident, articulate, hard working, determined, talented and funny young people, and they are an absolute delight to know and a real credit to their families and our school—there is no test which can possibly begin to measure their amazing brilliance!

Away from the hubbub of KS2 Tests, everyone enjoyed Moving Up morning this week. It was great to welcome our new staff to St James', and children had a wonderful time with their new teachers—I'm sure they've already told you all about it! Kingfishers had a wonderful day on Monday climbing at Big Rock, we have some very talented and brave children in Year 4—and thank you for letting me come along! Some of our Year 6s spent time out at Lincroft School, and have come back buzzing with excitement. Peacocks spent the day at Biddenham yesterday, beginning to think about their moves to secondary school in a year's time. It's been a busy week!

Highlights for next week include Proms in the Playground and our Leaver's Service on Wednesday—bring tissues to both events! Friday is the last day of the term—as usual, children (and staff) may wear MUFTI on that day.

Very best wishes to you all, Maria & all the team at St James'

Date & Time	Event	Classes Involved	Staff Lead	Special Notes
Mon 15th July 5.00	Summer Show	Whole School	GH	'Proms in the Playground'
Tues 16th July	Music Play Day	Year 3	GH	See separate letter
Tues 16th July 2.00	Family picnic for new YR starters		CD	
Weds 17th July 2.00	Leaver's Service	Whole School	IL	

<u>Proms in the Playground</u> <u>Monday, 15th July 5.00-6.15</u>

Children arrive at school from 4.30 (no earlier, please) & join their class.

Audience seating in designated areas, please bring picnic blankets or camping chairs (but please make sure chairs at the back of the audience)

Children to wear school uniform with class colour top.

Photos or videos during the performance is NOT permitted.

Opportunities for photos and refreshments after the show (thank you PSA!)

Cake sale after show—please bring in donations.

<u>Leaver's Service</u> Wednesday 17th July 2.00

School Hall

All families welcome, but priority seating will be given to those families of children who are leaving St James'

















Autumn Term Menu



Dawn Until Dusk at St James' are currently asking for donations of unwanted <u>cycle helmets</u> to enable us to allow more children on scooters and bicycles at one time. If you have one to donate can you please hand it into us at club. Many thanks.

With the end of the school term rapidly approaching we are asking for parents/carers of children whom attend our club to advise us of dates for sessions required in the new school year. We require these if possible one week before the school closes to allow the bookings to be put on our system in time for 4th Sept. Thank you.

We will be sad to see our Year 6 children leave us. They have been an absolute pleasure to have at club and have proved to be fantastic role models for our younger age group, whom have enjoyed playing with them and their company. We wish you all success in the future in everything you do, you really all do deserve the best! Thank you all for being part of our happy family.

We are also sad to announce that Sharon is also leaving us at the end of term. She will also be greatly missed by everyone here. She has been with us for two years now and has been a great asset to our little team. We wish her every success in her new venture as a self employed dog groomer and carer, and thank her for all of her hard work and dedication which has helped make the club the fun and enjoyable setting we enjoy today. You will leave a big hole Sharon.

In due course we will inform everyone of the identity of our new staff member! Ooh the suspense :-)

END OF TERM PARTY- WED 17TH JULY

Fun and games until 4.30pm and then party food buffet until 5,30pm.

Cathy, Sharon and Jess.