



Newsletter

15th November 2019

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Lots of comings and goings this week, with staff away from school on various courses. On Monday, Mrs Lawless and Mrs Doughty attended Read Write Inc training; this is the scheme we use to teach early reading and writing, including phonics. Mrs Morton, Mrs Hawkins and Mr Renzi have also been out of school for training about disadvantaged learners, PE and DT respectively, and after school Miss Kassim-Lowe, Miss Pillai and Mr Leach have all attended twilight training sessions for science and writing. It's important that our staff are able to keep their skills and knowledge sharp by attending on-going CPD—your children are the direct beneficiaries!

On Monday, Mr Renzi and Mr Tapley took their class to Sutton Hoo in Suffolk—an incredibly long day for everyone, but one which was enjoyed greatly and really brought to life the history which the children have been studying this term.

Today, of course, is Children in Need—thank you for your support of and donations for this charity. As part of the day, every class will be joining in with the Joe Wicks workout 'The Big Morning Move'. Later on today, we are also looking forward to Canaries' class assembly, and Kingfishers are being visited by Abigail Hobson, who will be telling them all about the Young Leaders Award, which they will be working on next term.

Next week is Road Safety Week; earlier this week, Derek from Sustrans came to speak to the children about the importance of being seen when out and about in the winter months. This is a good time for all of us to check that our winter coats have some sort of reflective element to them, and if not, we need to buy something—let's be safe by ensuring we can be seen.

On Friday morning next week, we will be opening up St James' University—all staff will be offering special courses for children to attend, ranging from yoga to puppetry to crafts to language speaking. There is a lot on offer and children will have the opportunity to choose their preferred course on Monday.

Wishing you all a very happy and peaceful weekend,

Maria & all the team at St James'



Parent View—a survey for parents

The Governing Body are keen to gain a view of the school from a parent's perspective. They have therefore asked if all parents could complete the Ofsted Parent View survey over the next few weeks. The results of this will be considered by Governors and will inform our next step planning. It's important that we gain a 360 view of our school, so your views are very important. Please remember that we are always looking for ways to improve, so if, for some reason, something is not working well, please do let us know so we can do something about it!

ParentView can be found here: <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/> You will need to login (and register if you haven't already done so previously). The easiest way to find our school is to use our school post-code MK40 4BD (there are lots of St James' schools out there!). Thank you!

Competition Time!

Competition Title	Details	Prize	Closing Date
Advent Calendar Enter a picture, poem or other creations	<p>Mrs Wilding will be creating a St James' Advent Calendar.</p> <p>You can create:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Christmas poem • A Christmas picture • Christmas prayer • Illustration of one of our school values <p>Make your entry bright and colourful on A4 or A5 paper, Remember to put your name on the back.</p>	Your craft work featured in our whole school advent calendar	Hand in entries to Mrs Wilding by Wednesday 20th November

Story telling day (written by Year 5)



On Friday 1st November, a man named Alex visited from Iroko theatre company. First, he told us a story of girl named Fantah and a seven headed monster using expression, drumming, gestures, chanting and signing. Afterwards, we create the sequel in our own words and even made up our own dance moves. We wore colourful, traditional Nigerian outfits. It was creative and fun and an experience of a life time.



2nd to 13th December Sustrans Santa Challenge



Our school is joining the **SANTA CHALLENGE**, a great virtual Christmas trip to Lapland in 2019!

So what is that?

This virtual race is where children and parents walk, scoot or cycle to school to compete in a local competition. Each time a child or parent cycles, walks or scoots to school, they will be credited with 2 miles. These miles will be used to map the school's journey to Lapland. We will be adding up all of the miles done by the schools taking part in Bedfordshire to see whether we can reach our goal of arriving at Lapland. Each school will have prizes it will award to pupils who have walked, scooted or

cycled the most during the two weeks.

More information to follow.

Mrs Hawkins



Year 2 enjoyed a multi skills festival at St Thomas More last Friday. Children had the opportunity to take part in different activities, which tested coordination, agility and speed. Well done to all the children in Canaries for behaving so well. A great morning!



JUST ONE Tree

We've been contacted by one of our ex-pupils, Jessica, who was also one of our Eco-Echo ambassadors, urging St James' to get involved with the Just One Tree campaign.

Just One Tree is a non-profit initiative removing CO2 from the atmosphere through global reforestation. Just One Tree supports established reforestation companies, namely the International Tree Foundation and Eden Reforestation Projects, who plant in areas severely affected by mass deforestation such as Kenya, Madagascar, Haiti & Indonesia. In doing so they have the greatest positive effect on global warming whilst simultaneously alleviating extreme poverty within impacted communities through train-

Thank you....we already have 20 trees in our forest!



ing, education and employment.

Just One Tree makes it simple for everyone to contribute to collective action on the climate crisis because Just £1 plants 1 Tree. We're sure you will agree that tree planting is absolutely essential at this critical time for the planet. We will therefore be joining children, parents and teachers across the country to demonstrate that an individual's actions can have a positive impact on the environment.

We want to try and raise enough money to plant a St James' Forest of 166 trees—that's one tree for every child in our school. To kickstart our campaign, we will be holding a **MUFTI day on Friday November 22nd**. There is no cost for this MUFTI day, but we do ask everyone to contribute to the Just One Tree campaign through our online fundraising page: <https://www.goldengiving.com/fundraising/StJames>

More information can be found at: <https://www.justonetree.life/>

We look forward to counting the number of trees that our school community can plant!



It's been a very busy time here at Breakfast and After School Club. The children have been very busy making new friends, cooking, crafting, building and playing outside. We have a theme night box coming here soon which will be the Pamper Activity. The children will enjoy this as they have been very creative in club and have run their own timetable for free massages! This went down very well with all, including adults.

Please keep an eye on our pavement sign and notice board outside our door for further upcoming planning.

If you have any questions please come and speak to one of our team here in club between 7.30-9am and 2.30-6pm.

See you soon.

Cathy, Jess and Kelly

Dawn until Dusk Ltd

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Accessibility

We are in the process of updating our Accessibility Plan—this is a plan for the next 3 years which addresses how we can further improve accessibility for children and adults with disabilities.

Please let us know of any changes/adaptions we can make to our school environment, curriculum, or resources we could purchase which might make a difference.

Email office@stjamesvaschool.co.uk, and put Accessibility in the subject line.

Many thanks.



Event	Date & Time	Class	Staff Lead	Notes
Bag 2 School Collection	20.11.19	All	PSA	
MUFTI Just One Tree	22.11.19	All	MS	See separate message
Vision Screening (Reception)	25.11.19	YR	DS	
Flu Vaccinations	28.11.19	All	DS	
Christmas Wreath making	28.11.19	All	PSA	
Head Teacher for a Day	29.11.19		MS	Details will be sent home in due course
Christmas Decoration morning	2.12.19 9.00-10.30am	All	CD	Help us get into the festive spirit!
Y2 Winter Wonderland concert	3.12.19	Y2	SP	
Y3 & 5 Music Performances	3.12.19	Y3, 5	GH, TKL	
Sports Hall Athletics	4.12.19	Y3 & 4	GH, LR	
Sports Hall Athletics	5.12.19	Y5	TKL	See separate letter
Pantomime	6.12.19	All	GH	Whole school trip, late return to school
Roald Dahl Day	11.12.19	Y2	SP	See separate letter
Christmas Jumper Day	13.12.19	All	LR	
Book Blink	13.12.19 3.00	All		Doors will close at 3.30
PSA Christmas Fair	13.12.19	All	PSA	
Christmas Bazaar	17.12.19	All	PSA	
Christmas Show	17.12.19 2.00, 4.00	YR, 1, 2	CD, FL, SP	
Christmas Service	18.12.19. 9.30am	All	LR, GH	Led by Y3,4; all invited to attend
Christmas Lunch	19.12.19	All	IL	
Carols Round the Tree	19.12.19 4.00	All	SM	
MUFTI	20.12.19	All		

Starting School September 2020

We have a number of dates available for tours of the school for prospective parents. If you know any-one who is getting ready for their child to start school next September, please do encourage them to contact us and book a tour of the school. We also offer tours for families in other year groups. Unlike many other schools, our tours do not take place on one-off Open Days, so offer an opportunity to see life in action at St James' on a 'normal' school day.