



ST JAMES' FAMILY NEWSLETTER



3rd September 2026

Dear Parents and Friends of St James,

Welcome back to a new school year – and if you are a new parent, welcome to the St James family!

In this first newsletter, we are sharing dates for this term that are already in place. Please see overleaf for further information. More dates will be added over the coming days, and I will update the newsletter as these are confirmed.

Our first opportunities to come into school are our 'Meet the Teacher' events. There is one for each year group Year 1 – Year 6. These are held in the Studio at 2:45pm with a different year group team each day. You will find out about your child's curriculum, home learning expectations, which day PE, any information about statutory assessments etc. as well as having the opportunity to ask any questions. You will then visit your child's classroom and meet the team who will be educating and caring for your child this year. Our first one is tomorrow afternoon for Year 3 parents

- **Friday 4th September at 2:45pm for Year 3 parents**
- **Monday 7th September at 2:45pm for Year 2 parents**
- **Tuesday 8th September at 2:45pm for Year 1 parents**
- **Wednesday 9th September at 2:45pm for Year 4 parents**
- **Thursday 10th September at 2:45pm for Year 5 parents**
- **Friday 11th September at 2:45pm for Year 6 parents**

Coming up quickly after that is our annual Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday 25th September. This has been a huge success in recent years, raising hundreds of pounds for Macmillan Cancer Support. You will be invited into school at a particular time to join your child(ren) for tea and cake. With your support in both donating and buying cakes, we are sure this year's event will be equally successful. More details will be provided closer to the time.

Following soon after, we have our Harvest Festival in school on Tuesday 6th October and will be asking for donations closer to the time. This year, we will be collecting donations to the Three Pillars – an organisation set up by Aaron and the team at St James Church who offer hot meals and food parcels to over 100 families on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Our Parents' Evenings are at the end of this term – on Wednesday 14th October until 7:30pm and Thursday 15th October until 5:30pm. Please add these to your diaries as they are a very important opportunity to find out how your child is progressing and how you can support them at home. You will be sent a link to book appointment times closer to the date.

Mrs Buettner, the new Headteacher Designate who takes over the headship from Mrs Beach at the end of the academic year, will be pleased to meet you along with other staff who are available at the beginning and end of the day outside school. Please come and say hello and ask us any questions you have or contact the school office to make an appointment if you have any concerns and we will do our best to help you.

Best Wishes,

Sarah Beach (Headteacher) & Sarah Buettner (Headteacher Designate)

Please follow us on Instagram for updates and pictures of our school day - @StJamesNN5

Remember to follow St James on Instagram: @StJamesNN5

Or on our school website: www.stjamesnn5.org.uk

email: office@stjames.pdet.org.uk / phone: 01604 751475

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES / COMING UP

Friday 4th September	Year 3 Meet the Teacher – 2:45pm in the Studio
Monday 7th September	Year 2 Meet the Teacher – 2:45pm in the Studio
Tuesday 8th September	Year 1 Meet the Teacher – 2:45pm in the Studio
Wednesday 9th Sept	Year 4 Meet the Teacher – 2:45pm in the Studio
Thursday 10th Sept	Year 5 Meet the Teacher – 2:45pm in the Studio
Friday 11th September	Year 6 Meet the Teacher – 2:45pm in the Studio
Friday 18th September	First Celebration Gathering
Monday 14th September	Reception children in full time
Tuesday 22nd September	School Forum (Governors) in school 1:30pm
Wednesday 23rd Sept	Children's flu vaccinations
Wednesday 23rd Sept	Phonics Workshop for Year 1 parents 2:30pm
Friday 25th September	Macmillan Coffee Morning in school – EVERYONE invited (friends and family). More details to follow shortly
Tuesday 6th October	Harvest Festival in school – sorry, no parents invited due to space!
Wednesday 7th October	Communion in school – 2:15pm – all welcome
Wednesday 14th October	PARENTS' EVENING – till 7:30pm
Thursday 15th October	PARENTS' EVENING – till 5:30pm
Friday 23rd October	School closes for Half Term
Saturday 31st October	Diwali Parade in Northampton – meeting time tbc Diwali craft workshop – making lanterns for the parade also tbc.
Monday 2nd November	School CLOSED for staff training (INSET)
Tuesday 3rd November	School opens after the Half Term. Gates open at 8:35am

We are having a big drive on attendance and lateness this year.

Learning starts at 8:45am so the school gates are open from 8:35am to allow children to get a bagel (if they want one) and settle in class.

The school gates close at 8:45am and children arriving after 8:45am will need to be signed in at the school office. We will monitor lateness weekly and you may be asked to attend a meeting in school if lateness is regular.

Regular, on time attendance at school is essential for your child's progress and we want to work with you to make this as good as possible. Please come and talk to us if you would like any help improving attendance or lateness.