

St James' C of E Academy

Newsletter



Spring 1 Week 2 2026

www.southamstjames.covmat.org

This half term we are focusing on the Christian value of Independence

This week has been a wonderfully busy one in school. We were delighted to welcome the Visitors for Health team, who met with pupils in both Reception and Year 6. They were full of praise for the children's excellent behaviour and positive attitudes throughout their visit. We also hosted staff from across the Trust and neighbouring schools who joined us to moderate work together, strengthening shared practice. In addition, we were pleased to welcome our Family Support Workers for their very first on-site drop-in session, which was warmly received.

Year 3 thoroughly enjoyed their visit to the library this week and returned full of enthusiasm for the books they discovered. Further year groups are looking forward to visiting soon as part of our school's involvement in the National Year of Reading, helping to promote a love of books across the school.

The highlight of the week, however, was undoubtedly the incredible concert our Young Voices group took part in. The children truly embodied our school vision to "Let your light shine", performing with confidence, joy, and teamwork. A huge thank you to Mrs Russell for all her hard work in rehearsing with the children and organising this memorable experience. *Please see page 3 for a full write-up.*

We hope everyone has a lovely weekend.

Let Your Light Shine

ATTENDANCE

Reception	100%
Year 1	92.86%
Year 2	99.07%
Year 3	96.67%
Year 4	100%
Year 5	96.58%
Year 6	90.82%

Well done to Reception and Year 4 who have this week's highest attendance!

USEFUL DATES

28/01/26	- Academy Governance meeting
09/02/26 & 12/02/26	Parents evenings
13/02/26	- PTFA Yes day
23/02/26	- Teacher training day
04/03/26	- AGC meeting
05/03/26	- World Book Day - details TBC
13/03/26	- Mothers day service in church 2:30pm
16/03/26	- Assessment week
20/03/26	- PTFA Easter cake break
26/03/26	- Easter service in church 9:30am
27/3/26	Last day of term
13/04/26	Children return to school
11/05/26	SATs week



Presentation Perfectionists

This half term, our Celebration Collective Worship will be spotlighting the importance of presentation across all subjects. Each week, the certificate will go to pupils who take real pride in the way they set out their work. We'll be recognising neat handwriting, careful layout, and attention to detail, as well as the effort put into making learning look its very best. It's about celebrating not just what we learn, but how we show it, encouraging everyone to value clarity, care, and creativity in their work.

- Year R - Hunter for trying hard with presentation and handwriting
- Year 1 - Noah for trying really hard with his letter formation in phonics and English.
- Year 2- Louis for taking great care in his maths presentation and layout.
- Year 3- Maddie for her consistently neat work.
- Year 4 - Alana for always trying hard in the presentation of her work.
- Year 5 - Jessie for consistently neat work and effort in presentation.
- Year 6 - Kayden for consistent care in his presentation across all his books.



Congratulations to Ruby for earning the most team points this week

WEEK THREE	Option One	Option Two	Vegetables	Dessert
19/01/26 09/02/26	Macaroni Cheese	NEW Chefs Special Lentil Curry with Rice	Vegetables of the Day	Oaty Cookie
	NEW Chicken 50% Enchilada Bake with Paprika Wedges	Tomato Pasta	Vegetables of the Day	Pear Crumble with Custard
	Sausage with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Vegan Sausage and Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Vegetables of the Day	Fruit Salad
	Mild Caribbean Chicken with Golden Rice	Caribbean Stew with Golden Rice	Vegetables of the Day	NEW Jamaican Ginger Cake with Custard
	Fishfingers with Chips & Tomato Sauce	Cheese Omelette	Vegetables of the Day	Cornflake Tart



LUNCHTIME SUPERSTARS



- Reception- Kamara for helping her friend
- Year 1- Arlo for helping tidy up.
- Year 2- Alex for playing nicely
- Year 3- Leo for his manners
- Year 4 Amelia for trying new foods
- Year 5- Fraser for being a good helper
- Year 6- Lacey for being respectful

Well done everyone—we hope that you enjoyed your treat and trip to top table today.



Team Points



Our students earn team points for their academic efforts and achievements across all lessons.

Well done to these children who have earned their Bronze and silver awards.

Bronze

Year 3 - Tayte, Bobbi-Jo,

Silver

Year 1- Joseph M, Joseph K, Noah

Year 3—Poppy

Year 5- Jadan

House teams can see their running total for the year on display in the hall. Keep up the hard work everyone!



INDEPENDENCE



We take ownership of our own learning. We try and complete our learning by ourselves first before we ask for support.

This half term, we are concentrating on our third SHINE value - Independence. We have already begun learning about this in Collective worship this week and pupils have begun to think about the ways in which they can be independent learners in school. We hope that these skills will support children to become more independent at home too.

For more information, our Shine Values posters are on the school website [here](#)



YOUNG VOICES 2026



Young Voices 2026 – A Night to Remember!

On Tuesday, Mrs Russell, with the support of her husband, took eighteen children from across Key Stage 2 to the BP Pulse Live Arena in Birmingham to perform in this year’s spectacular Young Voices concert. They were part of an incredible choir of 5,180 children from across the region, all coming together for an unforgettable musical experience.



The afternoon was spent in full rehearsal mode as the children prepared for their big moment. Under the expert guidance of Principal Conductor David Lawrence and Musical Director Craig McLeish, they practised lyrics, refined harmonies, and even learnt a brand-new song on the day. Our pupils have been working hard for months—learning songs, perfecting dance routines, and building excitement—and their enthusiasm only grew when Creative Director Andy Instone and his Urban Strides dance team burst onto the stage with their high-energy choreography.



The concert opened with a vibrant and surprising rendition of *Golden*, setting the tone for a fast-paced, joy-filled two hours of music and movement. The children were also treated to performances from two special guest artists: Aneesa Folds, known for her work with the Grammy and Tony-winning hip-hop improv group Freestyle Love (co-founded by Lin-Manuel Miranda), and Connie Talbot, who first captured the nation’s heart on *Britain’s Got Talent* at just six years old and has since become an internationally recognised performer.



Our Key Stage 2 singers represented the school brilliantly, singing their hearts out and embracing every moment of this extraordinary event. The adults who accompanied them were genuinely impressed—not just by the children’s hard work and musical talent, but by their enthusiasm, teamwork, and the confidence with which they let their



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THANK YOU WICKES!

Reception have enjoyed a lovely refresh to their textured outdoor area, thanks to the Wickes Community Project. Wickes have generously provided a variety of stones for the children to explore, along with some additional equipment that we'll be introducing over the coming weeks. The children are already excited to investigate the new textures, and are looking forward to seeing how each surface works as terrain for their cars!

We would also like to offer a gentle reminder that this space is an outdoor learning area specifically for our Reception class. As inviting as it may look, we kindly ask that siblings and other children do not play in this area, so that we can keep the resources fresh and ready for Reception to use.

Thank you for your support!

Christingle

The Children's Society

Let's come together to celebrate Christingle.


Christingle is a great way for communities everywhere to get together this Christmas to catch up, make some special memories, and have fun.

Come and join us!

Location:	St James Church, Park Lane, Southam	
Date:	Sun 25th January	Time: 9.45am (to make)
To find out more, contact:		
Church Office on 01926 812413 or southamstjames@gmail.com		

christingle.org

Scan the QR code to find out more.



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