

St James' C of E Academy

Newsletter



Spring 2 Week 3 2026

www.southamstjames.covmat.org

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

We've had a lovely and eventful week in school, filled with enriching experiences for our pupils.

On Thursday afternoon, our Year 6 children enjoyed a wonderful visit to the library. They represented the school brilliantly and took full advantage of the chance to explore new books, develop their love of reading, and discover different authors and genres.

KS2 also had the opportunity to take part in PSHE workshops led by the SCARF team this week. These sessions were highly engaging and supported our pupils in thinking about wellbeing, relationships, and their own personal development. The children participated with enthusiasm and showed great maturity throughout.

A real highlight of the week was the Year 3 Mother's Day service at St James Church. The children led the service beautifully and spoke and sang with confidence and care. It was a very special occasion, and we would like to say a heartfelt thank you to all parents, carers, and family members who joined us. Your support helped make the event truly memorable.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Mrs Hothi

Let Your Light Shine

ATTENDANCE

Reception 98.61%

Year 1 89.57%

Year 2 95.81%

Year 3 93.33%

Year 4 93.78%

Year 5 86.01%

Year 6 89.86%

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

USEFUL DATES

16/03/26 - Assessment week

26/03/26 - Easter service in church 9:30am

27/03/26 - PTFA Easter Egg raffle

27/03/26 - Break up for Easter holidays

13/04/26 Children return to school

11/05/26 SATs week

13/05/26 AGC meeting for Governors

14/05/26 PTFA School discos

18/05/26 Assessment week

25/05/26 May half term holiday

1/06/26 Children return to school

8/6/26 Phonics screening check

19/06/26 Sports day and family picnic

08/07/2026 Y6 transition and moving up morning.

09/07/2026 Y6 transition



Creative conquerors

This half term, our Celebration Collective Worship will be spotlighting the importance of being creative 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 - AO for his creative work in the construction area.

Year 1 - Edward for his amazing art skills!

Year 2- Lucy for her wonderfully creative ideas for her story.

Year 3- Richard for his excellent mirror image work.

Year 4 - Elliot for his wonderful design in art.

Year 5 - Harrison for his creative contributions in English lessons.

Year 6 - Josie for her lovely William Morris work.



Congratulations to Sapphire for earning the most team points this week

WEEK TWO

Option One

Classic Cheese and Tomato Pizza with Wedges

Spaghetti Bolognese

CHICKEN SHACK

BBQ Chicken or Quorn with Seasoned Potatoes and Sweetcorn Salsa

Meatballs in Tomato Sauce with Rice

Breaded Fish or Fishfingers with Chips & Tomato Sauce

Option Two

Mild Mexican Chilli with Rice

Vegan Spaghetti Bolognese

Creamy Chickpea and Coconut Curry with Rice

Cheese Whirl with Chips and Tomato Sauce

Vegetables

Vegetables of the Day

Vegetables of the Day

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Vegetables of the Day

Dessert

NEW Gingerbread Cookie

Chocolate and Beetroot Brownie with Chocolate

Fruit Salad

Sticky Toffee Apple Crumble with Custard

Vanilla Shortbread



LUNCHTIME SUPERSTARS



Reception- AO for settling in so well at lunchtime

Year 1- Neriah for trying new foods

Year 2- Clara for helping on the playground

Year 3- Richard for eating all his vegetables

Year 4 - Jasmine for being kind to a friend.

Year 5- Bella Lane for trying a new food.

Year 6- James for his lovely manners

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.

Year 1

Neriah

Gold

Grace

Year 5

Gold

Jess

Jessie

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



NEVER GIVE UP



We bounce back after challenges and tough times. We know that we can overcome difficulties.

This half term, we are concentrating on our fourth SHINE value - Never Give Up. 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 persevere as learners in school. We hope that these skills will support children to become more resilient at home and to 'keep trying'.

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

LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME

UPDATED INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

The Supreme Court has clarified the law on unauthorised leave, including holidays, during term time (Platt v Isle of Wright 2017). The Supreme Court has made clear that attending school 'regularly' means that the children must attend school on every day that they are required to do so. As such, the parents of any child who is absent from school without authorisation for any length of time are likely to be considered as committing an offence under s444 of the Education Act 1996.

The law states a leave of absence may only be granted by a school if an application is made in advance and if it considers there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application.

Schools must judge each application individually considering the specific facts and circumstances and relevant background context behind each request.

A leave of absence is granted entirely at the school's discretion. Generally, a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation would not constitute an exceptional circumstance.

Where a leave of absence is granted, the school will determine the number of days a pupil can be absent from school.

When making an application for Leave of Absence parents are advised to give sufficient information and time to allow the Head teacher the opportunity to consider all the exceptional circumstances and to notify parents of their decision. The school may also request further information on the application and supporting documentation where appropriate.

It is advised that if the resident parent has not received notification or a response regarding the leave of absence application, it is the parents' responsibility to ascertain if the leave is authorised prior to the start of the leave.

The school can only consider Leave of Absence requests which are made by the 'resident' parent ie the parent with whom the child normally resides.

Where applications for leave of absence are made in advance and refused, the child is expected to be in school on the dates set out in the application. If the child is absent during that period, it will be recorded as an unauthorised absence. Where a leave of absence is requested, but additional days taken either prior to or after the request may be considered as part of the leave of absence.

Leave of Absences which are not made in advance cannot be authorised in line with legislation. This will result in the absence being recorded as 'unauthorised'.

All matters of unauthorised absence relating to a Leave of Absence will be referred to the Warwickshire Attendance Service, part of Warwickshire County Council. Penalty Notices are issued in accordance with Warwickshire County Council's Code of Conduct for Penalty Notices and in the first instance, as an alternative to prosecution proceedings.

The law relating to Penalty Notices changed with effect from 19 August 2024. Therefore, Penalty Notices issued for Leave of Absence taken from September 2024 will be issued in accordance with the updated legislation.

- Penalty Notices are issued to each parent of each absent child, (for example 2 children and 2 parents, means each parent will receive 2 invoices – 4 in total).
- First Leave of Absence offence: The Penalty Notice amount of £160 to be paid within 28 days, this is reduced to £80 each child if paid within 21 days.
- Second Leave of Absence offence within a 3 year period (from the date of issue of the first penalty notice): The amount of £160 paid within 28 days. No reduced amount.
- Payment plans will not be offered and/or payments received outside of the 28 day period will not be accepted. Where a penalty notice expires unpaid the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider criminal prosecution.
- Third Leave of Absence offence within a 3 year period (from the date of issue of the first penalty notice): A penalty notices will be not be issued and the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider instigating criminal prosecution proceedings under S444 of Education Act 1996.

• **Your child's progress academically as well as socially is our shared priority**



Children and Family Centres

Share your feedback

Your views can help create spaces where families can play, learn and grow together.

Sharing your ideas will shape support at the centres and help providers to understand what's important to you.



Scan here to share your ideas.

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/myvoice



Service provided by





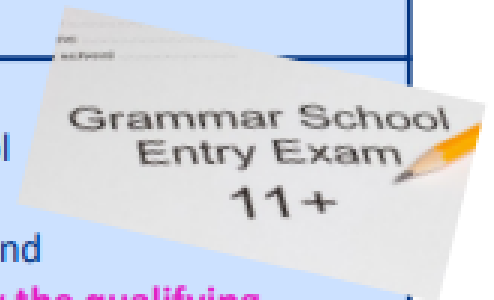
Our commitment: As part of our grammar school expansion programme we commit to ensuring all pupils no matter their background can access all that we have to offer.

Find out how we can support your child both before and during their time with us.

The percentage of pupil premium students has increased from 3-4% to nearly 10% over the last 5 years, but we want this to be even higher.

Did you know...

- Pupils in receipt of pupil premium (whether free school meals, service premium, looked after or previously looked after) are **prioritised in our admissions policy** and **may be admitted with scores of up to 20 points below the qualifying score.**
- Pupils in receipt of pupil premium will be provided with **free online materials** via Atom Learning to support their learning and help familiarise them with the style of questions in the 11+ tests. This is available from Year 3.
- We can also provide **additional materials in either electronic or paper format.**



Did you know that once you join us your child will...

- Benefit from **tailored support** via our Pupil Premium Champion
- Be provided with the **materials needed to support their learning.** This can include the basics such as pencil case, calculators, and uniform but can also include text books and tutoring.
- You will also receive **additional support towards school trips and activities.**
- We can also provide help with **transport costs** and **tailor our support** to your circumstances.

For further information please contact our Pupil Premium Champion at Becca.wall@lawrencesherrifschool.com

For admissions queries please contact lss@lawrencesherrifschool.com
Further information about the 11+ and Admissions can be found on our website under the Admissions tab [Home\(lawrencesherrifschool.net\)](http://Home(lawrencesherrifschool.net))



**Lawrence Sheriff
School**

Teaching School Hub





Lawrence Sheriff School

Clifton Road, Rugby, Warwickshire CV21 3AG

Home of Coventry and Central Warwickshire Teaching School Hub and
Swanswell Language Hub

Headteacher: Mrs T.J. Mpofo BSc PGCE NPQH



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4 March 2026

Dear Parent/Guardian

Free 11+ Preparation and KS2 learning support

Lawrence Sheriff School has partnered with [Atom Learning](#) to provide free access to **Atom Home** (worth £575.90/year) for children in Years 3-6 who are eligible for Pupil Premium.

What is Atom Home?

Atom Home is an online platform for ages 7-11 that supports KS2 learning and 11+ preparation. It offers practice questions, mock tests, video tutorials and more to build children's confidence in English, maths, and verbal and non-verbal reasoning.

Whether or not your child plans to take the 11+, we hope this is an enjoyable and effective way of supporting KS2 progress.

How to apply:

Pupil Premium students – please fill in the form on this page: <https://atomlearning.com/pupil-premium/twgsb>

Non-Pupil Premium students – there is a free trial available at www.atomlearning.com

For more information, please email pupilpremium@atomlearning.com.

Yours sincerely

MRS TERESA MPOFU
Headteacher