

# St James' Catholic Primary

## "Great News"

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026

### STAFF UPDATES

We are very sorry to be saying goodbye to Mr Partridge, our fantastic football coach, who is hanging up his boots after many years of dedicated service at St James'. We are incredibly grateful for the commitment, enthusiasm and energy he has shown to our school community, particularly through his work with our football teams. Under his guidance, both our boys' and girls' squads have enjoyed tremendous success, winning a variety of tournaments and representing the school with pride. His impact on our pupils — both on and off the pitch — will be greatly missed.

In a couple of weeks, we will also be saying farewell to Mrs Davies, who is leaving St James' to pursue a new career opportunity. We would like to thank her for her hard work, creativity and dedication over the past few years. She has made a valued contribution to school life, and we wish her every success in her new venture.

Please join us in wishing both Mr Partridge and Mrs Davies all the very best for the future.

From Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March, Mrs Snarr and Mrs Seton Jones will be sharing the Teaching Assistant role in Year 3, and Mrs Lodhi will continue in her role in Year 2.

### RSE PARENT CONSULTATION

Thank you to all the parents who returned completed questionnaires regarding our new scheme of work, *Life to the Full*. We were delighted with the strong response and truly appreciate the time you took to share your views. We are now carefully reviewing all feedback and will take your comments into consideration as we move forward with the implementation phase.

### PUPIL VOICE

We recently invited all pupils to share their views on our school dinner provision, and we were delighted with the overwhelmingly positive response. Many children commented on how fresh and tasty the meals are, and how much they enjoy the variety on offer. Their feedback will play an important role in shaping our new menu, which will be launched soon. **A huge thank you to our kitchen staff for all their hard work in preparing such delicious meals every day!**

Our special themed days continue to be a great success. This week's **Chinese New Year** celebration was particularly popular, with pupils enjoying a delicious menu of chicken curry with rice, chow mein, prawn crackers, Chinese chocolate buns and fortune cookies. The older children especially enjoyed the opportunity to practise using chopsticks, adding to the fun and authenticity of the day.

### CELEBRATE WORLD BOOK DAY - THURSDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

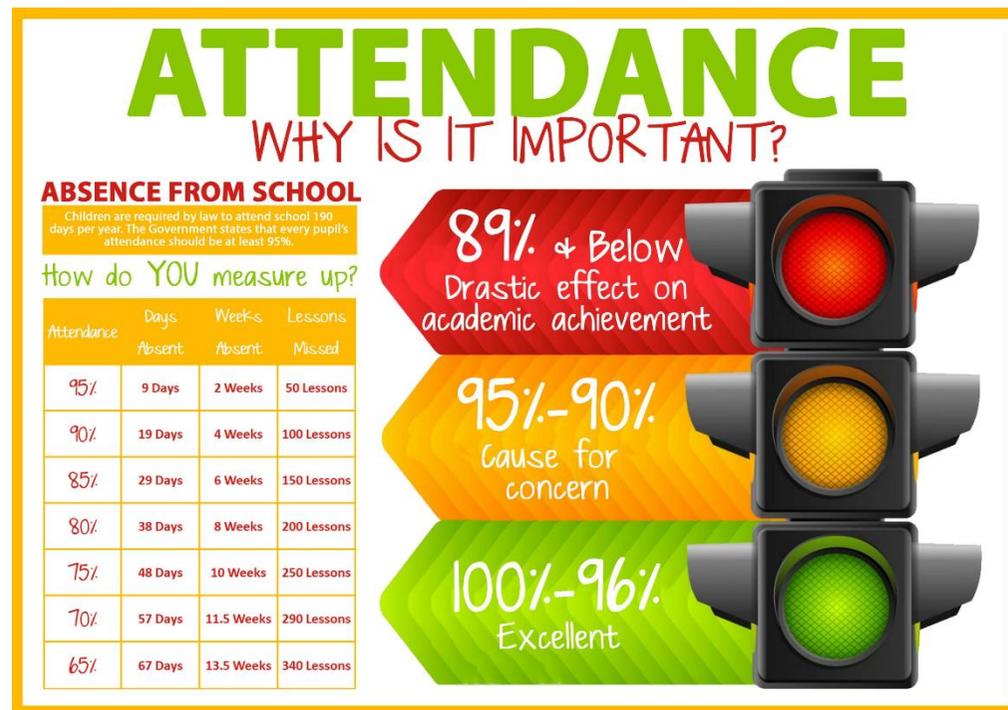
We're excited to mark **World Book Day** with a day full of reading fun! Children are invited to come to school dressed as their favourite book characters. The day will kick off with a **parade during the community assembly at 9:00 am**, followed by a variety of **book-themed activities** for everyone to enjoy. **Important note for Year 5:** Please keep costumes simple and avoid face paint, as students will still be attending their **swimming lessons in the afternoon**. Let's make it a day to remember, full of imagination, stories, and creativity!

### EXCELLENT ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Every day in school makes a difference to progress and attainment. Please try to arrange appointments outside the school day. Holidays during term time cannot be authorised and may result in a penalty notice fine. If you need any support with attendance, please contact the school office — we're here to help.

Our weekly *Golden Ticket* attendance reward, announced in Community Assembly, is proving a big hit! Most classes have already won, with prizes including Just Dance parties, extra Golden Time, parachute games, movie afternoons, art parties and the ever-popular own clothes day.

**Every day counts — together, let's make this our strongest term yet!**



### BREAKFAST CLUB - START THE DAY THE RIGHT WAY!

Our popular **Breakfast Club** runs **daily** with two convenient sessions: from **7:30 am until 8:45am-£2.50** or from **8:15 am until 8:45am - £1**. Children can enjoy a choice of **toast, bagels, or cereal**, plus a drink. More than just breakfast, it's a chance for them to **spend time with friends** and enjoy **fun activities** before the school day begins. Breakfast Club is the perfect way to **kick-start the day positively**, leaving children happy, energised, and ready to learn!

### AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS

Please remember that these sessions need to be booked in advance, at least the day before, using the app. All activities cost £1 per day. On the app you will have four options (for each of the activities on offer). The fifth option is for extended wraparound after 4:30pm. **Many of our clubs are now at full capacity so please book early to avoid disappointment.**

### WRAPAROUND CARE

Wraparound care is from 4:30pm-6pm. This costs £6 per session (which includes the £1 for after school club). Children will receive a choice of snacks and drinks each day e.g. wraps, sandwiches, bagels, crumpets, pizza, crackers, fruit and salad.

### TOP-UP PAYMENTS

In an emergency (e.g. an urgent appointment), you can book onto breakfast, after-school or wraparound clubs on the actual day. Simply pay the correct top-up on the app and inform the office.

After School Club Activities Spring 2 (Feb-April 2026)

DAY	Activity 1	Activity 2	Activity 3	Activity 4
MONDAY	Activity 1 Infants (EYFS/Y1/Y2) Makaton Sign with Songs	Activity 2 Juniors (Year 3-6) Running & Team Games	Activity 3 Year 4/5/6 Crochet & Knitting	Activity 4 Years 1-6 Art Club
TUESDAY	Activity 1 Infants Stay & Play	Activity 2 Years 2-6 Chat n Chill	Activity 3 Juniors Sports	Activity 4 Years 4/5/6 Cheerleading
WEDNESDAY	Activity 1 Infants Construction & Puzzles	Activity 2 Years 2/3 Crafts	Activity 3 Years 4/5 Crafts	Activity 4 Infants/Juniors Karaoke
THURSDAY	Activity 1 Infants Singing	Activity 2 Juniors Lego & Construction	Activity 3 Years 5/6 Football (Team only)	Activity 4 Juniors Origami or Brass
FRIDAY	Activity 1 Infants PE/Games	Activity 2 Years 2/3/4 Board Games	Activity 3 Years 5/6 STEM activities (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)	Activity 4 Years 2-6 Stay & Play

### FREE 30-HOUR NURSERY PLACES

We now offer free 30-hour Nursery places. Currently all children of Nursery age (3-4 year olds) are entitled to 15 hours per week. Some working families may be eligible for 30 hours funding. You can check your eligibility by going to Child Care Choices (click on view schemes).

[www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk)

Families who are not eligible for the 30 hours can still access these extra hours for a cost of £10 per afternoon session, including lunch time provision. The afternoon session will finish at 3:30pm like the rest of the school. We would encourage children to attend every afternoon. However, parents do have a choice of the number of afternoons they wish their child to attend. Due to staffing costs and pupil ratios, we require a commitment of a full term (12 weeks) and specific days without amendments otherwise you will still be charged for your child's place. All payable afternoon sessions, must be paid at least one week in advance.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DATE	EVENT
Thursday 5th March	World Book Day
Wednesday 11th March	Class Photos
Friday 13th March	Book Fair
Monday 16th March	Sleep Workshop for Parents
Tuesday 17th March	Parents' Evening
Wednesday 18th March	Cheerleading Competition
Friday 20th March	Lent Share Day/Comic Relief Day - Talent Show 2:30pm
Monday 30th March	Lenten Retreat
Tuesday 31st March	Lenten Retreat
Wednesday 1st April	Easter Egg Raffle
Thursday 2nd April	Attendance/Special Recognition Assembly Last Day of Term
Thursday 16th April	School Reopens
Friday 24th April	Sacramental Programme Parent Meeting 3pm
Friday 8th May	First Forgiveness at 6pm
Monday 11th May	Year 6 SATS Week