



# The St. James' Journal

## Newsletter

8th May 2026



### MR LEEMING'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a joyful and memorable week it has been here at St James'.

#### A Fantastic Visit from Author Stuart Reid

This week we had the pleasure of welcoming children's author **Stuart Reid** into school. His lively storytelling, humour, and infectious enthusiasm had the children captivated. Pupils were inspired by his love of reading and creativity, and many have already been talking about new ideas for their own stories, (see photos on page 3). A huge **thank you to our wonderful Friends (PTA)** for funding this fabulous opportunity. Your support makes experiences like this possible, and we are truly grateful.

#### Year 2s Shine in the "Animal Olympics"

A group of our Year 2 pupils took part in an exciting **Animal Olympics** competition this week where they were racing through assault courses. They did extremely well finishing in third place. Well done to all involved—you made us proud with your enthusiasm and brilliant effort.

#### Looking Ahead: Year 6 SATs Week

Next week marks an important milestone for our Year 6 pupils as they sit their SATs tests. We want to take a moment to recognise their hard work, resilience, and fantastic attitudes throughout the year. They have shown real maturity and commitment, and we know they will approach next week with the same positivity.

We are grateful to the volunteers from **St James' Church**, who will be providing breakfast for our Year 6 pupils each morning. This generous support helps ensure our children start each day calm, nourished, and ready to do their best. Please keep our Year 6 pupils in your thoughts and prayers as they take this next step in their learning journey.

#### New Starters

We are very much looking forward to welcoming our new Reception starters and their families next Wednesday for our Reception Introduction Evening. It's always a special moment in the school year, and we can't wait to meet everyone and begin building those important early connections.

#### Update us

Have you moved or changed your contact details recently?

Please inform the office asap.

#### Attendance

It is vital that your child is in school on time every day.

The class with the best attendance this week was:

**ACORN & SYCAMORE**





## Friends' Family Chocolate Bingo is just 1 week today!



Thank you for your chocolate donations last week, don't miss out on one of our favourite events of the year (everyone's guaranteed to win some chocolate too!) - buy your Bingo ticket & pre-order homemade hot food online this weekend please to help Friends plan, thank you!

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/stjamesfriends/index.cfm>

### Brian Beresford

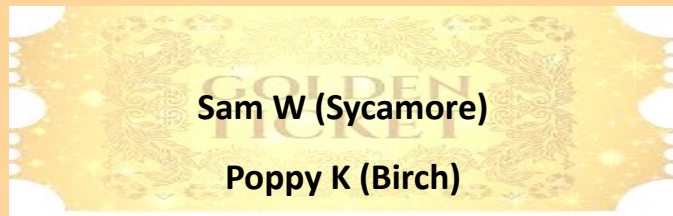
Many of you will know Brian Beresford, children's author, musician and a previous deputy head at St James'. After having a stroke earlier this year, Brian is raising money for the Stroke Association's 'Make May Purple' fundraising initiative. He will be writing 31 poems, based on his own personal experiences, in the 31 days of May. He has set up a *Just Giving* page here:

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/brian-beresford-1>

Brian says "£100 could pay for four people to receive support through the association's Stroke Support Helpline".

## Golden Ticket

Pupils who go **over and above** to demonstrate our school values will be awarded a 'Golden Ticket' and will be placed in the draw for prizes at the end of term. The following children have been awarded a Golden Ticket:



## STARS OF THE WEEK



### Acorn

Hallie F & Elarna S

### Ash

Dotty & Beatrice B

### Birch

Bella & Arlo

### Chestnut

### Rowan

Judit & Emmie

### Oak

Austin O & Imogen S

### Willow

Bobby & Harry W

### Hawthorn

Archie W & Isabelle B

### Alder

### Sycamore

Muhammad & Sienna

© dak

© dak



A Fantastic Visit from Author Stuart Reid



**CLASS NEWS:**

There has been a lot of exciting learning going on this week.....

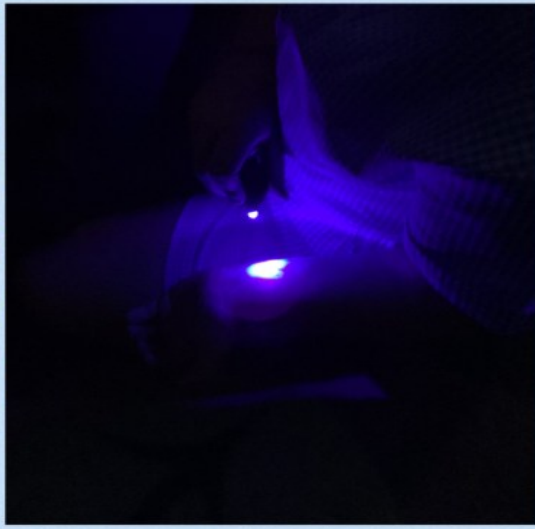


Alder Class took part in a creative writing workshop with author Stuart Reid where he explained how you could develop the detail in your fiction writing.



Birch class really enjoyed their trip to Abbeystead.





Ash Class have been looking at the importance of hygiene in their Science lessons. They used the special uv light to reveal the germs on their hands then had a competition to find who was the best at washing their hands. This experiment highlighted the importance of thorough handwashing to eliminate the spread of germs.



Last week Oak Class worked hard to create 3D superhero sculptures using pipe cleaners and play dough.





Willow Class are really enjoying their Forest School sessions.

Chestnut Class: Last week Year 4 had a fantastic day out at Abbeystead Countryside estate taking part in lots of outdoor learning activities. We loved learning about bogs, rivers and making art with flowers and meeting some incredibly lovely dogs!





Hawthorn Class had some fun in the sun learning all about capacity and volume in maths.

A huge well done to all of our Year 6 children in Sycamore and Rowan Class. You have worked incredibly hard this year and should be so proud of the effort, determination and resilience you have shown in preparing for next week's SATs. Remember, SATs do not measure everything that makes you special, talented and unique. They are only one small part of your journey. What matters most is that you try your best and believe in yourselves, just as we all believe in you. Thank you for your fantastic attitude and hard work. Have a lovely, relaxing weekend — you can do this!



**Rowan Class: Lights! Camera! Action!** In English lessons Rowan showcased their acting and filming skills whilst performing a well known scene from Oliver Twist. In PE the children have also been learning how to communicate effectively with a partner to share a top secret drawing as accurately as possible without seeing the image. The importance of a two way dialogue was necessary to achieve the best results.



**Acorn Class** have been very busy in all areas of our provision. They are imaginative and are learning to cooperate and communicate with each other.

Join Friends of St James' School for..

**NEW & IMPROVED!**



# Family Chocolate BINGO!

Food served from 5pm

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May  
at St James' School in the Junior Hall

Plus other games with spot prizes on the night!

## NEW! HOT FOOD & REFRESHMENTS

We'll sort tea! Treat yourself to a slice of Steve's delicious homemade pies again (Meat & Potato, or Cheese & Onion) served with mushy peas, gravy & red cabbage, or our popular Hot Dogs before getting down to business! A variety of cold drinks & snacks also available

Doors open 5pm  
Eyes down 6pm!

Come join the fun to win LOTS of chocolate and raise money for school! We've some yummy hot food choices for tea too - pre-order to save yourself money & help us plan!

**RAFFLE!** Win an epic Chocolate Hamper  
£1 per ticket, buy online or at the School Office

Scan me!



**TICKETS** Bingo: £3.50 per adult/child  
Portion of Homemade Pie & sides:  
£4 (Adult) / £2 (child)  
Hot Dog: £2

**Bundle & Save!** Bingo+Pie: £7 (adult) / £5 (child)

Book online at [PTAEvents](http://PTAEvents)

[www.pta-events.co.uk/stjamesfriends](http://www.pta-events.co.uk/stjamesfriends)

Have you pre-ordered your...

# Chocolate Bingo HOT FOOD?

FRIDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> MAY  
DOORS OPEN & FOOD SERVED FROM 5PM  
'EYES DOWN' 6PM!

*Slice of Steve's delicious  
Homemade Plate Pie:  
Meat & Potato  
Locally sourced meat  
from Farnsworths Butchers  
Or  
Cheese & Onion  
Cheese donated by Sue's Deli  
Both served with mushy peas,  
gravy & red cabbage  
Adult portion - £4  
Child portion - £2  
Or  
Hotdogs - £2*



Pre-order yours - look for our 'Bundle & Save' Bingo + Pie ticket to save £!

Go to PTA Events or scan here



PLENTY OF REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE TOO! [www.pta-events.co.uk/stjamesfriends](http://www.pta-events.co.uk/stjamesfriends)